

The South African Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICA'S PREMIER STAMP MAGAZINE

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Trains and Boats and Planes...



- Marion Island - The Postal History of the First Year
- The First SA Machine Cancellations
- The SouthWest Africa Officials 1927-1955 Revisited

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JOHNSON PHILATELICS

DEALERS IN FINE STAMPS & POSTAL HISTORY

BASUTOLAND & BECHUANALAND



Basutoland 1844 Missionary Letter From Thaba Bosiu.



Bechuanaland 1900 BSA Police Soldier's Letter.



Bechuanaland 1895 Last Day Use BB Stamps.



Bechuanaland 1885 Warren Expedition Officer's Letter.



Basutoland 1875 Letter Carried By Runner From Thaba Bosiu.



Bechuanaland 1899 Colourful Card From Mohaleshoek.



Basutoland 1934 Letter With 1d Officials Correct Rate, Proper Use.



Basutoland 1855 Letter From Beersheba Via Smithfield.

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



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editorial board's choice
Winning Contributor

This issue's award of the SHEAFFER pen goes to George van den Hurk for his article on 'The First SA Machine Cancellations'

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From the mailbox . . .



Correspondence to the SA PHILATELIST should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed by the Editorial Board. Articles, letters and items of interest may be published and may be rewarded with a writing gift from SHEAFFER®

News from Wolfgang in Germany...



Since we left South Africa a couple of months ago we have been quite busy with renovations to our new home, and as you possibly know from your own experience this takes up a lot of time. Having this behind us, means that the office is also refurbished and we are ready to take up our philatelic business early in the new year.

Initially we will offer our material on the Delcampe website (www.delcampe.de), and will also attend to wantlists and other customer requirements.

We further consult and assist with material and collections that our customers intend or wish to sell in Europe, and we look forward to hearing from you should you require any assistance.

Our contact details in Germany: Philimpex Philately, Zugspitzstrasse 11 D-86854 Amberg, Germany.

Telephone: +94 8241 997 4884 and Telefax : +94 8241 997 4885

Our South African email address was terminated at the end of December 2011, so please use our new email address: info@philimpex.de.

Our website www.philimpexphilately.com is under construction and will be attended to as soon as time permits.

We wish you and your families good Health and Prosperity in 2012.

Kindest regards - Corin and Wolfgang Meiss



Australia Post mail truck fire

A large truck contracted by Australia Post to transport mail items from Perth to Brisbane over the weekend caught fire near Tweed Heads in New South Wales early on Sunday 18 December 2011.

Unfortunately the fire totally destroyed the truck along with the contents which were parcels bound for Queensland. It took about an hour for the fire to be contained, luckily the driver escaped unharmed and there were no other injuries resulting from the fire. Australia Post has requested an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Customers who were expecting to receive a parcel from Western Australia that was posted around Friday 16 December for a Queensland address may have been impacted by the incident. (Source: Australia Post published December 22nd, 2011)



WHAT ABOUT HAVING 'OPEN CLASS' POSTCARDS AT STAMP EXHIBITIONS?

Now that the dust has settled on the wonderful exhibition held in Cape Town during October, I feel I should explain the concept I created for my exhibit.

For some time now, a group of us collectors have felt inhibited by the philatelic rules for exhibiting postcards. My current exhibit was intended to show Southern African postcards depicting the region as it was 100 years ago. Some cards were enlarged and to these I purposefully added other ephemera, such as currency notes, cigarette and trade cards to complement the subject. The non-postcard items totalled about 7% of the material, which was obviously 'something different' for the judges. On reflection, I wonder if there is not a place for an 'Open Class' postcard section at future exhibitions?

Yours sincerely

DA Wengrowe
Hon. Life President, Postcard Society of Southern Africa
(Letter shortened)



RARITIES ERRORS & VARIETIES

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Address to the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa

Annual General Meeting,
Monday 5th December 2012.

As presented by Johan Van Wyk Deputy President on behalf of Dr Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, President of the Philatelic Foundation.

Greetings, fellow philatelists. I am sorry I cannot be with you in person to enjoy the fellowship, the commitment, the responsibility (and also the lunch!), that this event brings. Of each of these topics, it is the responsibility that is the most important aspect.

We are regularly bombarded with conflicting tales of how the hobby is booming in Asia and how auction prices are buoyant, yet these accounts are tempered with stories of diminishing attendance at stamp clubs and philatelic societies, of the difficulties facing this hobby, which seems to be the domain of ageing male collectors, how alternative entertainment is capturing the souls of today's youth, and so much more. Many of these stories have been around for decades yet the hobby has survived. I see it like the preservation of an endangered species where the efforts of a dedicated few assure the biodiversity, which allows future generations

to enjoy the African black rhinoceros or the Chinese panda. It would obviously be preferable if third party intervention was not necessary, but in the real world this is unavoidable. Foundation plays the same role for South African philately as the COP17 environmentalists or the World Wildlife Fund enthusiasts do for the world around us. The world is a better place thanks to these efforts. We have indeed been fortunate that resources exist for the perpetuation of the hobby in South Africa as a meaningful force in global philately. Indeed we are not only clinging to survival but are excelling at what we do and are making our mark on the world stage. The cash spin-off from the 'House of Philately' was indeed a godsend for the cause. Now all three parties (Foundation, the Post Office and Philatelists) have the responsibility to keep the legacy alive. Reports from the Congress of Federation show that organised philately is indeed pulling its weight. This itself is a combined effort from the South African Post Office philatelic interests, stamp collectors and the hobby's elected officials. Last year's Joburg 2010 International stamp exhibition was an event of which we can all be proud. The fiscal discipline exhibited by the exhibition committee was a benchmark any government department could learn from. *The SA Philatelist* is a truly world class publication. The hobby is looking at new opportunities to fund their survival. The amount saved from the budget of Joburg 2010 will cover

the deficit, which they would have claimed from Foundation.

Foundation will now play its part to try to build up the reserves again so it can fund the ongoing expenses and occasional milestone events that make this hobby such a stimulating distraction. Interest rates continue to be low. The Council met during the year to ensure that investments were placed to best advantage, securing 6.6% (I believe) in difficult times. Further details can be obtained from Harry Birkhead, the Treasurer, who has again been a stalwart for the movement.

The members of the Foundation team do not meet on a frequent basis as the issues are few; this does not in any way diminish the importance of the contribution of the committee and I thank and congratulate them all for their contribution to the cause. I hope that the efforts will continue unabated into the next year.

I would also like to wish the Organising Committees all the best for the national exhibitions in *Port Elizabeth in 2012* and *Johannesburg in 2013* (hosted by the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg). These are the showcase events that maintain our excellence in the philatelic world.



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PORT ELIZABETH CENTAPEX 100

are extending an early invitation to all philatelists to attend this exhibition in an exciting new venue in 2012.

PORT ELIZABETH NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 2012.

Founded in 1890 and reconstituted in 1912, this year has been accepted as the centenary of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society. The occasion will be celebrated in Port Elizabeth with the 2012 National Philatelic Exhibition known as CENTAPEX '100'. We

hosted recent nationals in 2002 (*Algoapex*) and in 2007 (*Pezapex*), both years incorporating **Junass**, the Junior National Stamp Exhibition.



CENTAPEX '100' will be held at **The Events and Exhibition Centre** at Bayworld in Humewood, Port Elizabeth, Junass 2012 will be incorporated into the exhibition and will be held at the same venue. The exhibition will run from Thursday, 18 October with the final day being on Sunday, 21 October 2012. Several local and international dealers will be present.

Accommodation venues are available in close proximity to the venue which is ideally situated within walking distance from restaurants and entertainment venues. Details to follow. To join in the celebration of this memorable philatelic event, kindly contact us for more information.

• **Vernon Mitchell** • **Rodney Maclachlan**

Phone: 041 360 1492 041 368 3150

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DID YOU KNOW?

Port Elizabeth's weather is rated as the fourth best in the world for a coastal city. So early booking for this important philatelic event is essential

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Phun with postmarks

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



Zululand

Zululand was invaded by British troops on 11.1.1879, but the Zulu King Cetshwayo defeated them at Isandlwana and attempted to do so at Rorke's Drift. In May 1879 a new and final invasion of Zululand took place. The whole of Zululand had been regarded as independent until then, but in 1886 two districts across the border with the Tugela and Buffalo Rivers became a British Protectorate in all but name. On 9.5.1887 the Chiefs were informed that their land had been annexed to the British Empire.

The Natal Government Gazette of 15 May 1888 contained a proclamation stating that a postal agreement between Natal and Zululand had come into force on 1 May 1888. According to this agreement all letters posted in Zululand would be prepaid by postage stamps issued by the Government of Zululand. Overprinted Great Britain stamps became available on this date, and were replaced by definitive stamps of Zululand on 18 April 1894. After annexation of Zululand by Natal on 31.12.1897, the stamps remained valid until 30 June 1898, when they were withdrawn from sale. At the time of incorporation into Natal there were 14 post offices in operation.

The earliest recorded date stamp was for Eshowe, shown in Figure 1. It does not show Zululand as the country, and has been recorded used from 19.9.1887 to 24.12.1888. The most widely used date stamp (used at 8 offices) is also shown in Figure 1 as a comparison (the hand-drawn impressions have been extracted from the *Postal markings of Natal* by Leon et alii). These date stamps were also used after incorporation into Natal.

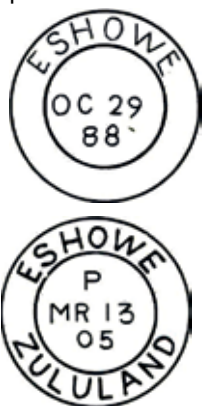


Figure 1. Double circle date stamps of Zululand.

Single circle date stamps as shown in Figure 2 are relatively uncommon. A range of styles were used.

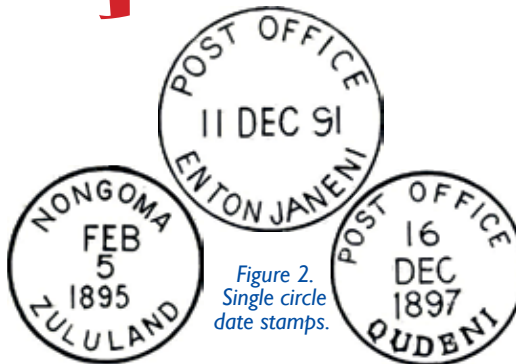
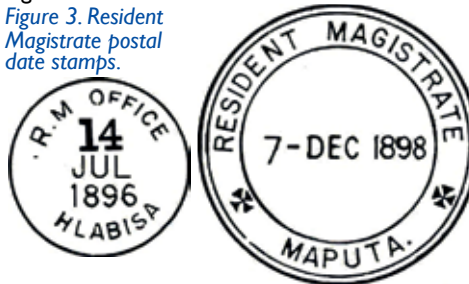


Figure 2. Single circle date stamps.

The postal service was provided by the Resident Magistrate at some offices, and postmarks from Hlabisa and Lower Umfolozi of the type shown in Figure 3 have been recorded between 1894 and 1897. A different type of postmark from Maputa after incorporation into Natal is also shown in Figure 3. These are not fiscal cancellations.

Figure 3. Resident Magistrate postal date stamps.



While strictly not a Zululand postmark, it is included because the wording NATAL does not appear. It contains the wording PROVINCE OF ZULULAND, and was used in Eshowe and Hlabisa. It first appeared in 1900, and recorded as late as 1917 for Hlabisa.

Figure 4. Unusual inscription of Eshowe date stamp while under Natal jurisdiction.



Zululand verteenwoordig 'n interessante versamelgebied aangesien dit van korte duur was, en maar 14 poskantore beslaan het. Die stempels lyk aantreklik, en daar is 'n groot verskeidenheid soos in hierdie rubriek genoem. Die moderne datumstempels hou nie, en ons het al vantevore hiervan melding gemaak. As ons gelukkig is hou 'n self-ink datumstempel 2 jaar, en as ons baie gelukkig is dan hou dit 5 jaar. In vergelyking word 'n stempel van Biesjesfontein in Figuur 6 getoon van die soort wat kort na Uniewording in gebruik geneem is, en die datum op die afbeelding is 1992. Dus 'n leeftyd van bykans 80 jaar! Dit word toegegee dat Biesjesfontein, naby Vanrhynsdorp, nie baie besig was nie want voorbeelde van die Kaapse datumstempels (geopen in 1906) is uiters skaars. Die poskantoor verskyn nie in die 2003 poskodelys nie, en is oënskynlik gesluit. Daarwas wel 'n registrasie kasjet met die Afrikaanse spelling Biesiesfontein.



Figuur 6. Datumstempel van Biesjesfontein wat meer as 80 jaar in gebruik was.

What type of date stamp do you prefer?

Recently a fellow stamp collector remarked that he prefers nice circular date stamps on used stamps in his collection. In the recent past we have had all shapes and sizes, as illustrated in Figure 5. Self-inking date stamps allow bi-coloured impressions, as discussed in a previous column. What do you prefer? Let us give the post office our preference.

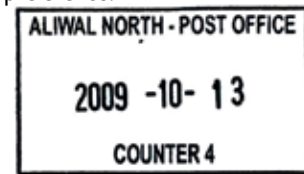


Figure 5. Modern date stamps come in a variety of shapes.



Answers received in response to the two airmail queries by Nicholas Arrow in *The SA Philatelist* (August 2011 - p121) edition.

From Peter Wingent via the *Aeroletter* - who deals with one query - **Why was a cover from England marked "By Imperial Airways / First direct air / dispatch London- / Port Elizabeth"?** I can do little better but quote Peter's response to Neville Polakow, who edits the *Aeroletter*;

"Re Nicholas Arrow's question 2 on page 5, regarding the cover from London FS to Port Elizabeth, I cannot add a great deal but I thought I should point out that from the single cover to Port Elizabeth, readers might gain the impression that IA tried to run a service just to that town.



READERS QUESTION...

And from George Cafetzoglou, who sent me a copy of a page in his collection. His cover is much more exciting than mine, as the SA stamps were cancelled in England, which would appear to have been in accordance with the appropriate regulations, whereas mine were only cancelled on arrival. Either way, they are very nice covers - George describes his as a very rare posting, which I am sure it is.



However, I do not believe that was the case because not only do I have a cover exactly the same to Port Elizabeth but also one to East London. Like Nicholas, I have been puzzled as to the purpose of the sending of the covers. Given that they were posted 4 Sept. 1935, I have often wondered if they were sent to confirm routing or transit times of mail to Port Elizabeth and East London following the rearrangement of the South African Airways' internal services in early August 1935. Unfortunately, I have never found documentary evidence to prove or disprove my theory but it is the only explanation I can think of! I wonder if any readers have similar covers to any other destinations in South Africa?

One to Beaufort West on the Rand - Cape Town 'Shuttle' service would go a long way to confirming my theory, since Beaufort West was a new stop on that route. Dennis Handover was Imperial Airways' Traffic Manager at this time."

I am bound to say that I find Peter's comments entirely believable, and parallel my own thoughts at the time of raising the query. IA were in the habit of sending out test letters, and I believe that this was one of them, although it is very confusing as it indicates that there was a direct service from England to PE when there was of course nothing of the sort.

George's cover: 10 May 1929 - Postage Union Congress London

TRANSATLANTIC SEAMAIL & AIRMAIL COMBINATION POSTINGS NORTH/ SOUTH and SOUTH/NORTH PASSAGES Seamail Postage 1½d, and SA Airmail at 4d per ½oz. A very rare postage prepayment of AIRMAIL by 2d London Printing Perf 14 horizontal pair: 'London Printing' 2d Union Buildings 'Defaced' at Hertford as per U.P.U. Regulations as 'Invalid Postage at Posting but for use at destination'. The 'crayon blue crosses' around the 2d Union Buildings were as per UPU rules. Hertford 8 August 1929, per steamer to Cape Town at 1½d / ½oz Airmail. Thereafter by train to Johannesburg and onto final destination NIGEL

The question is raised by Nicholas Arrow *SA Philatelist* April 1983:

In the above issue, an article entitled 'A sleeper awakes after 30 years' by Benjé Joseph appeared, dealing with a series of Postal Coach Trips which were undertaken in January to March 1952 as part of the Tercentenary Celebrations.

A copy of this article was sent to me by Benjé's son Ken, when I bought a cover from him. I now have acquired 6 covers all of which relate to these Coach Trips. I have raised a query with the South Africa Collectors Society in

England, and I have written one article and plan to write another.

Now for the difficult bit!

I wonder if anyone has a copy of the original artwork of the map that formed part of the article by Benjé, and if you have, whether you could email it to me. I could of course try to copy the copy which Ken sent to me, but I suspect it will not photocopy very well and to take a photocopy of a photocopy of a copy from a publication is never guaranteed of success.

Did that article from Benjé Joseph ever elicit any response at all? If so, please could

you let me know what, if anything, was said. I mentioned that I planned to write a second article, but frankly in its present draft state, it asks more questions than it answers and I would hope to be able to improve on that. Obviously, I would prepare a fresh, all embracing, article for the SAP. If you can't help, I would be quite happy to raise an article for the SAP which would ask all the questions that I would hope you will be able to answer from the past editions!

nicholasarrow@btinternet.com



MARION ISLAND- THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FIRST YEAR

Dr J.R. Frank RDPSA FRPSL, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

A bonus of philatelic authorship, however tentative its conclusions, is that fellow enthusiasts will draw one's attention to existing literature and the odd potentially useful acquisition.

My earlier Marion Island articles led to finding some, to me, obscure references which have enabled me to appreciate developments in Marion Islands' 'early days' more fully.

A fortunate purchase substantiated these events.

It is my intention to list and illustrate covers carried on the early mailings.

Historical Context

Marion Island was discovered in 1772 by a French expedition under the command of Marc-Joseph Marion Du Fresne. In 1777 Captain Cook rediscovered the two islands and named them the Prince Edward Islands. However, the name Marion Island was retained for the larger one while the other was called Prince Edward Island. The uninhabited islands were annexed by Great Britain in 1908.

On 17 December 1947 the South African Prime Minister, Field-Marshal J.C. Smuts, fearing Russian interest, ordered annexation of the islands to South Africa.

This was with British consent. In 'Operation Snoektown' the frigate HMSAS *Transvaal*, commanded by Lt. Commander Fairburn was dispatched to the islands to effect annexation.

Marion Island was annexed on 29 December 1947 and Prince Edward Island on 4 January 1948. HMSAS *Transvaal* departed for Cape Town on 6 January 1948, to be replaced by HMSAS *Natal* on 12 January 1948.

The supply ship *SS Gamtoos* left Cape Town on 12 January 1948, reaching Marion Island on 20 January 1948 with supplies, technical staff and a Medical Officer.



(Fig. 1)

Meanwhile the HMSAS *Good Hope* was sent to Tristan da Cunha to fetch meteorologist Allan B Crawford, who was also to be 'Acting Postmaster', and six Tristan Islanders to staff the weather station with a complement of eighteen, under the command of Lt. Commander B Grindley.

A letter from Allan Crawford, on Tristan da Cunha at the time, to Dr. Pirie in Johannesburg on 1 January 1948 mentions that he had "been personally requested by the P.M. to lead another couple of expeditions."

The First Mail and its 'Provisional' Cancellor

According to Lt.-Commander Grindley a 'provisional' canceller was produced by the Engineer Officer of HMSAS *Transvaal*, Lt. N.J. Rayner, to commemorate the annexation.

It was applied, in deep purple, to a "few covers mustered by the crew."

The day and month of the 36 mm

circular cancellation could be transposed, but 29 Dec. 1947 is the only date recorded.

Items dated Dec. 29 1947 were posted in Cape Town on the HMSAS *Transvaal's* return to port, but the postal authorities declined to accept the covers as the stamps had been cancelled with an unofficial postmark. They "were not eligible for transmission through the post."

My first 1d postal stationery postcard, addressed to Salisbury Island (Naval headquarters in Durban) bears the message: "This was the first stamp that was actually made on the SAS *Transvaal* just after the annexation. Later another rubber stamp like the one on this letter was made". (Fig. 1)

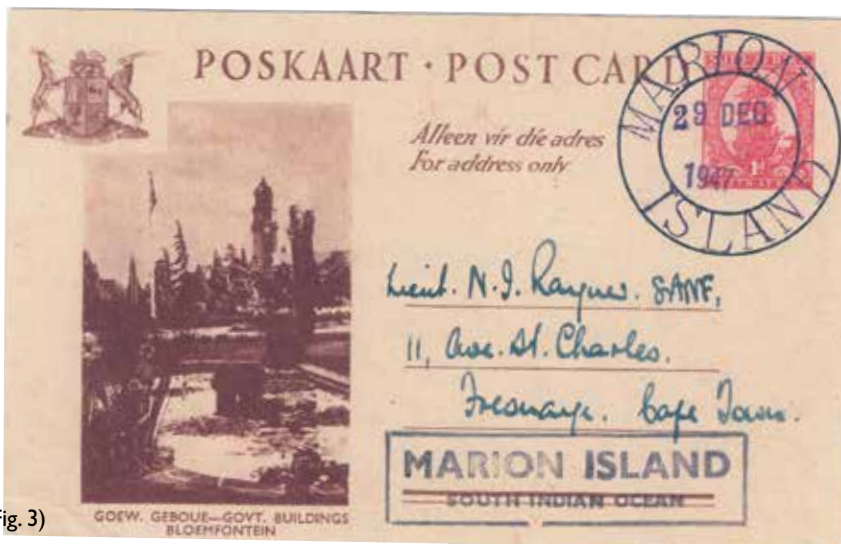
Mail dated 29 Dec. 1947 must have been left behind as my other two examples received Allan Crawford's oblong boxed cachet four weeks later.

Crawford arrives with the 'Marion Island' cachet.

As has already been mentioned Acting Postmaster AB Crawford arrived on HMSAS *Good Hope* on 28 January 1948. He brought with him a 36 x 15 mm boxed cachet, which he had made in Johannesburg at his own expense in 1945. It reads "Marion Island/South Indian Ocean" and was applied in purple or black ink, generally accompanied by a separate dated handstamp. This cachet was to indicate to the South African postal authorities that the item of mail had originated on the island. All mail had to be cancelled (i.e. postmarked) in South Africa. It is difficult to understand why the Acting Postmaster was not permitted to cancel the stamps on the island, as it had been annexed and was legally part of the Cape Province.



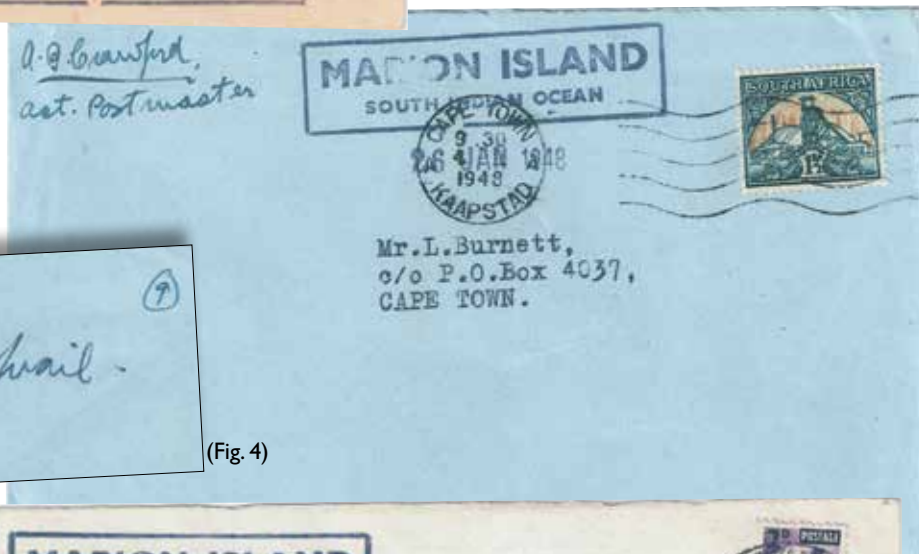
(Fig. 2)



(Fig. 3)

Second Mail (First Official Mail)

The cachet was put into use immediately, as is borne out by a cover bearing it in the same colour as the 'Commanding/Officer HMSAS Good Hope' cachet.



(Fig. 4)

It also bears the Cape Town Paquebot arrival cancel of 2 Feb. 1948 (Fig. 2) and was part of the mail which left Marion Island on HMSAS *Natal* on 29 January 1948.

The second South African Id postal stationery card (Fig. 3) also awaited Crawford's arrival.

The post card bears the purple Marion Island cancellation of 29 Dec. 1947 and Crawford's undated oblong cachet in black. This souvenir card does not carry a message and is addressed to Lt. Rayner!

Rosenthal and Blum relate in their book that when Allan Crawford arrived on Marion Island, John L Marsh, a Cape Town journalist attached to the expedition, gave him 'a handful of letters' to dispatch. Crawford endorsed these in manuscript 'A.B. Crawford/Act. Postmaster' and wrote 'First Official Mail' with a number on the reverse. (Figs.4 and 4a)

These were conveyed by HMSAS *Natal*, reaching Cape Town on 2 February 1948. The cover illustrated bears a date stamp of 26 January 1948 - soon corrected to 28 January 1948.

A correctly endorsed, dated and postmarked cover to Johannesburg from this mailing is shown in Fig. 5.



(Fig. 5)

Uncertainty about postal regulations is apparent in the case of the cover illustrated in Fig. 6. With its Marion Island cachet and handstamped 28 Jan. 48 date it undoubtedly was carried in the first official mail, but was not postmarked on arrival at Cape Town.

An interesting and rare usage is shown in Fig. 7 handstamped 29 Jan. 1948. The Crawford cachet had been used as a cancellation. The Cape Town Paquebot marking of 2 Feb. 1948 proves that it was brought in by HMSAS *Natal*. The crest of HMSAS *Good Hope* is shown on the flap (Fig. 7a)

A reference in *The South African Philatelist* (1948-p.32) refers to two covers endorsed 'posted on board S.S. *Gamtoos* while at Marion Island 29 January 1948'. As these were postmarked 2 Feb. 1948 it is certain that these were conveyed by HMSAS *Natal*. The S.S. *Gamtoos* returned to Cape Town on 7 Feb. 1948.

Third Mail

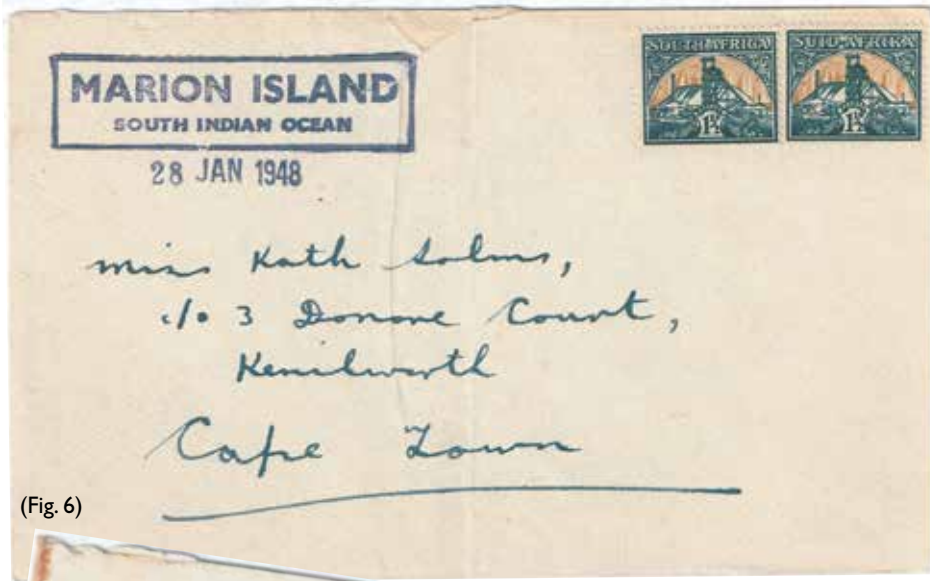
Crew mail from the S.S. *Gamtoos*, which departed from Marion Island on 20 January 1948, has been recorded. Hal Vogel reported a cover to Dr. Pirie. (S.A.P. 1982, p.131)

Fourth Mail

While the cover addressed to Adv. I. Isaacs, a leading philatelist at the time, shows an undated Marion Island cachet, its arrival date stamp of 21.2.1948 assigns it to the fourth mailing. This was by HMSAS *Good Hope* which left the island on 16 February 1948. (Fig. 8)

Fifth Mail

My third example of the first Marion Island canceller once again has the 'Dec. 29 1947' date configuration and must have been left over on the island to await mailing (Fig. 9.)



(Fig. 6)



(Fig. 7)



(Fig. 7a)

The provisional canceller is struck in violet on this rare genuinely used cover, which also has an undated oblong Marion Island cachet as well as a Cape Town Paquebot handstamp of 8 March 1948. The latter indicates that it was conveyed by HMSAS *Transvaal*, which left Marion Island on 27 Feb. 1948 and had its mail serviced on 8 March 1948. The mail carried by HMSAS *Transvaal* was otherwise handstamped 18 Feb 1948 or 27 Feb 1948. A nice example, addressed to Grindley, is shown on the cover of *African Stamps* (March 1958 - No.6).



(Fig. 8)

Unfranked mail is known from this voyage. Jurisich reported that Cape Town postal officials treated it as ("free") Military mail, applying the Paquebot handstamp and not raising postage due charges.

Sixth Mail

Although this mail has been reported handstamped 8 Mar. 1948, 14 Mar. 1948 or (?) 18 Mar. 1948, my undated example (Fig.10) is undoubtedly a genuine usage.

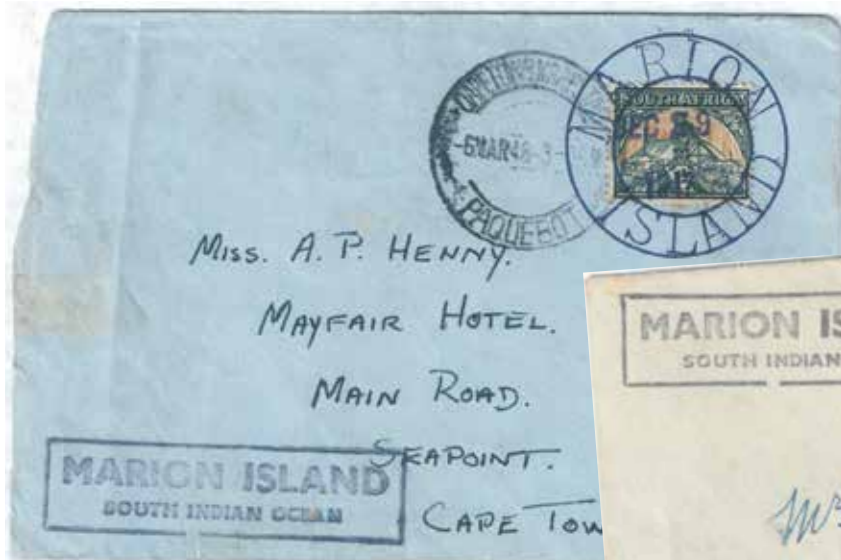
The M.S. *Norse Captain* effected this mailing, departing the island on 17 March 1948. The Cape Town postmark was that of 23 March 1948. I question whether the 18 March 1948 is correct, as it appears to relate to the next crossing.

Seventh Mail

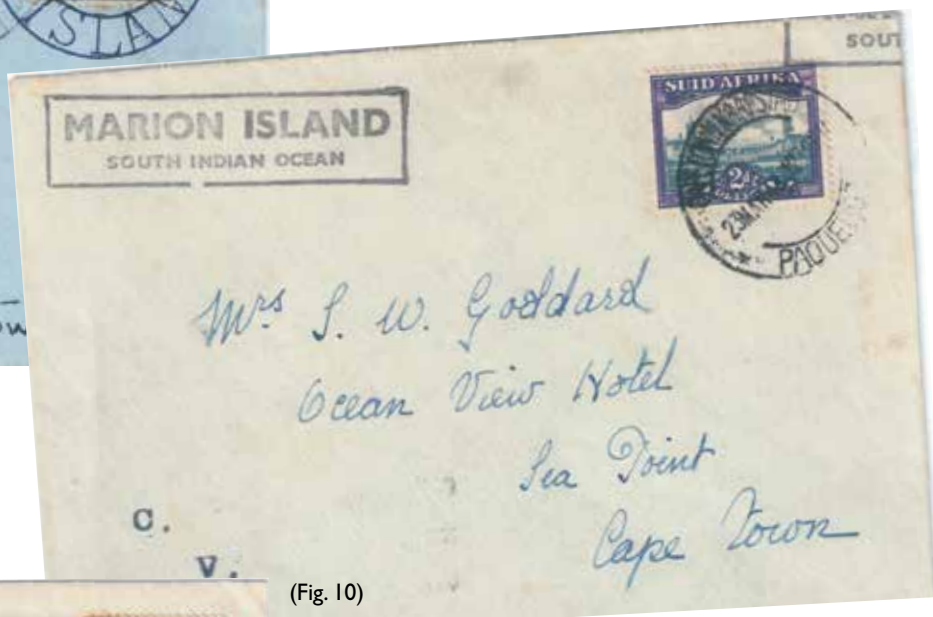
On 20 March 1948 HMSAS *Natal* was the last vessel to leave Marion Island before the onset of the Southern winter, reaching Cape Town on 25 March 1948. Mail handstamped 18 March 1948 was carried on this voyage.

Eighth Mail

Allan Crawford and his party left the island on 28 August 1948 on the minesweeper HMSAS *Bloemfontein*. The members of the expedition and the mail, dated 3 Sept. 1948 on arrival, were taken to Port Elizabeth. The handstamp date on the cover I illustrate (Fig.11) is one used by the Meteorological office on Marion Island. It differs from Crawford's in that the type of the date is significantly smaller and the month comes before the day.



(Fig. 9)



(Fig. 10)



(Fig. 11)

I would like to thank Danie van Zyl for his assistance in providing some important references

Conclusion

This concludes an overview of the postal activities during the initial annexation period of Marion Island, whose only inhabitants are scientists and support personnel. Hal Vogel surmised that some two hundred covers were processed during this period. It has been established that Crawford took the 'Marion Island/South Indian Ocean' cachet with him when he left the island in 1948. A letter from Crawford to Dr. Pirie mentioning this was in the 'Wordie' collection. Subsequently, Department of Transport handstamps were used to denote the origin of Marion Island mail, commencing in April 1949.

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ONE OF MY *Favourite* POSTAL HISTORY COVERS

by George Cafetzoglou RDPSA, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.

This postal wrapper (reduced) is a charisma-filled and well-travelled item full of postal history that displays a number of Rowland Hill's regulations as well as his fears with regard to defrauding the Post Office – an ever disturbing factor in his life. It is also one of a handful of covers known to have been defaced/cancelled by both Red and Black MXs (Maltese Crosses, misnomers for the Real Malta Cross); ref. I & II. It is also the largest franking, 1/-, to be cancelled by both colours, i.e. red and black.

Franked by three pairs of the 1840 2d Blue (no white lines) taken from Plate I (TW joined), and lettered AA/AB, GE/GF and BE/BF, this is in itself a rare franking, being a 'double rate 1/2 - 1 oz' letter from England to Corfu in the Ionian Islands, the seven island territory. At this time, these were under British Occupation/Protection sanctioned under the Treaty of Paris on 9 November 1815, after the end of the Napoleonic War signaled by the battle of Waterloo.

The letter left England sometime in June 1841 as it bears no date-stamp of departure, and arrived in Corfu on 3 July. The stamps were defaced by red MXs which in itself was a late usage, as black ink was already in general use throughout England by February 1841. (However, in Victorian England, 'waste not, want not' was the axiom and practice, and the Post Office had instructed that all material should be used).

These red MXs are smudged and unclear, the reasons for which will be shown later. What is important at this point is that this illustrates one of Rowland Hill's fears that red cancelling ink could be removed from a stamp allowing its re-use, and a subsequent loss of revenue to the Post Office. Cancelling tests were already called for in mid 1840, and the earliest

recorded use of a black MX is on a 1d Black cover dated 28 July 1840.

Addressed to Captain J.J. Burt, 34 Hut, ADC of the 2nd Bty (Battery) Guns, Corfu, the letter was received with an oblong, oval, fancy scroll-type Corfu and 3 Guglio 1841 canceller in black; ref III. This is Zaphiriou's type C, 43.5 x 14 x 18.75mm, in use 1830-1845 (Fig 1).

Unfortunately Captain Burt had already left for England, so the letter was re-addressed to Gosport to be returned to sender via Malta. Passage through Malta is recorded by a cds dated 30 JL 1841, type MLC-2 'showing cross at the bottom'; ref IV (Fig 2).

As there was a cholera outbreak in the Middle East at the time, the letter was "issued with clean certificate disinfected/slits shown both sides of the letter"; ref V. The requirement at

the time for British letters returned to sender from Corfu (Ionian Islands) was to "slit with perforating machine the letter twice, dip it in vinegar, and thereafter pass it over fumes, whose nature is not fully known, but assumed to be a mixture of sulphur and saltpeter". This was to be done in Malta. The necessary clearance of the letter after purification is the 'black PURIFIE AU LAZARET – MALTE – clear rosette at bottom' being sub-type B; ref VI (Fig 3).

On arrival in London the letter was defaced by five black MXs and dated with a London stamp of 9 AU/ 1841 in black; ref VII. The five MXs are contrary to regulations, as the requirement was for 'each stamp to be defaced individually'.

Following this was a process of re-addressing





Bombing Libya !

by Jan Bakker RDPSA, Afrikaanse Filateliste Vereniging

and Postage Due markings as follows:

- Gosport 10th; ref VIII
- London 1th, Cox & Co., Craig / Couts, London; ref IX.
- Forwarded to Maidstone 14th; ref X
- Forwarded and delivered to 10 Royal Crescent, Brighton, Sussex; ref XI.

The payment due on delivery is shown as ref XII at 1/8d, and is quite correctly rated according to regulations for letters returned to sender or forwarded. At the ordinary postage this was 1/-, plus four re-addressings at 2d each making 1/8d. (Postage due at double the deficiency was only introduced in mid 1854, and in any case this letter was 'Prepaid').

This cover, I believe, illustrates all the regulations relevant in 1841. These are due to the ingenuity of Rowland Hill, and in fact, almost without change, are still in use today. Postage Due is currently not practised as the cost of collection has been found to be greater than the 'taxing' in today's high inflation times. A rare cover and certainly quite unique in its overall use, travels and health escapades. Unfortunately they didn't know in 1841 that paper does not carry germs!



On 18 May 1899, a World Peace Conference began in The Hague. Worldwide there was a 'peace movement' after the horrors of the 1870 German/ French war.

The invitations came from the Russian Tsar, this is the reason he is shown on the left of the card. Who was going to be invited was a big problem. Eventually the Russians invited only those countries with diplomatic representation in St. Petersburg. Obviously there were a few exceptions and some countries declined.

The Dutch Queen Wilhelmina offered one of her palaces, *Huis ten Bosch*, also shown on the card. This is a First Day PPC.

There were no conference facilities in those days. There were 100 delegates from 26 countries and in addition, delegates from Poland, Finland, Armenia and Macedonia also arrived. They wanted to protest against their oppression. Just like the Vienna congress in 1815, it turned into a big party. They hardly reached any conclusions, mainly because most major countries thought it was an infringement on their own authority. Why was The Hague chosen? Possibly because Holland was not part of the big league.

The end result was that The Hague eventually became the seat of the Court of International Justice.

One of the main decisions of the conference was a 5 year-ban on aerial bombardment from balloons. Remember this was in 1899, one year before the first Zeppelin and four years before the Wright brothers' first flight. This may have been the reason why there was no aerial bombing during the Anglo-Boer War. During World War I the ban had expired and

bombardment over England with Zeppelins and over Germany by the English was within the 'rules'.

The idea of bombing towns was not new: H.G. Wells had published a book describing aerial bombardment of New York in his book *The War in the Air*, leaving New York burning and in ruins.

In 1911 Italy had a problem with Turkey. Italy wanted to colonise and Libya was just across the water. Why they wanted this piece of desert we will never know as oil was not discovered there until much later. The Turks objected and there was a low-key war. On 1 November 1911, Lt. Giulio Gavotti dropped 4 grenades on the Turks in Tacura Oasis. Not only had the five year ban expired, but the earlier conference had only prohibited bombing from balloons. He was flying an aircraft ! This may seem totally trivial, but it was the first aerial bombardment in history.

In 2011 we commemorated the first airmail (India) and the first airmail in England (Windsor) and in South Africa (Muizenberg), but the centenary celebrating the dropping of bombs is hardly something to commemorate or celebrate. Is it not a coincidence that recently we had NATO airforce bombing Libya - and the result? Gadaffi had to flee and on 20 October 2011, his convoy was spotted from the air by a French aircraft, operating from Italy, which bombed the convoy. He ducked into a culvert and was found a few hours later and lost his life. This happened a few days before the centenary and very close to the original spot. With the date 1 November we have to assume that this was a 'Western' date, as Turkey used the Julian calendar until 1923.



Fig 1.
Type C: 1830-1845: Black (43.5 x 14 x 18.75)



Fig 2.



Fig 3.

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The South West Africa Officials 1927-1955 Revisited



by M.J.H. Tonking, SA Stamp Study Circle

INTRODUCTION

The South West Africa 'Officials' issued between 1927 and 1955 are a philatelic challenge as so little is known about them. Scant reference was made in *The South African Philatelist* and little appears to have been written about them despite the unusual errors of all kinds. The following account is an attempt to describe the different issues and flaws and, by no means answers the multitude of unanswered questions.

BACKGROUND TO THE 'OFFICIALS'

Prior to 1926 government departments both in the Union and South West Africa were supplied with ordinary postage stamps, free of charge, for use on overseas mail. This system was open to abuse whereby the stamps could be used for private mail. In September 1926 postage stamps overprinted for official use on correspondence to countries outside the Southern Africa Postal Union was authorised. On 7 October 1926, Treasury Circular No. 33 ordered that they be brought into use on 1 December 1926 and that they were not to be 'sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed' of to the public. This directive was not always obeyed and sales to the public were approved by the Treasury on 13 April 1929 which was then effected in the Union on 6 June 1929. The first Union 'Officials' consisting of the ½d., 1d., and 6d. London Pictorials and the 2d. King's Head were issued on 1 December 1926 whilst the same values overprinted for use in South West Africa were issued on 16 March 1927 as reported by Eichele (1979). The following dates of issue are given by various catalogues: SASCC 1926 (December), SG 1926 (December), Michel 1926 (Dez), Scott 1927 with no month stated...

Post Office officials were instructed to keep their eyes open by UNION P.O. Circular No.447 of 17.1.1927 which read as follows: *'OFFICIAL POSTAGE STAMPS : Government Departments are now being supplied with postage stamps overprinted 'Official (Offisieel) for use on mail matter addressed to overseas destinations. These stamps are not at present intended for use*

on inland mail matter, the existing arrangements for the franking such matter remaining in force. Instances where articles for Union addresses are observed in the post bearing 'Official' postage stamps should be reported to the Assistant Post Master General, the department of origin and the place of destination stated''.

THE FIRST SWA 'OFFICIAL' ISSUE - MARCH 1927

Most references report that ten sheets or 1200 pairs of each of the four values (½d, 1d, 2d, 6d) were overprinted. In May 1927 *The South African Philatelist* reported that although they had not seen the stamps, a certain Mr. J. Ritchie had visited the Government Printer and was shown the special forme used for overprinting the 'Officials' which was done in a single operation. The overprint took the form of 'South West Africa 'OFFICIAL' and 'Suidwes Afrika 'OFFISIEEL' in black ink with English and Afrikaans on their respective stamps as shown in (Fig. 1) The London Printing was used for the ½d. value, the Pretoria Printings of the 1d. and 6d. values and the King's Head for the 2d. value. The overprint quality was good and few flaws are recorded.



Fig. 1

By the time approval had been given to sell 'Officials' to the public in April 1929 about half the sheets of the first Official issue had been distributed amongst the various Government Departments. Nonetheless James Venning, the Director of Posts of South West Africa, authorised the sale of the remainder to the public in May 1929, a month earlier than in the Union. There cannot have been too many left to sell and it is recorded that there were only 180 pairs of the 2d. value of which 120 pairs were sold to Mallet-Veale. The small overprinting of the first 'Official' issue accounts for the relative rarity of these stamps. It is, of course, not known how many were illegally obtained prior to the authorised sale to the public.



Fig. 2

THE SECOND SWA 'OFFICIAL' ISSUE - MAY 1929

Just as the sale to the public of the first issue commenced, the second issue appeared which consisted of the same four values. However in this case 100 sheets (12000 pairs) of the ½d, 1d, 6d and 200 sheets of the 2d value were overprinted. This meant that these stamps were relatively plentiful. The ½d, 1d and 6d values were Pretoria Printings whilst the 2d was a London Pictorial. The overprint forme was now altered with the stamps being alternately overprinted 'OFFICIAL' or 'OFFISIEEL' across the top of the stamps with the letters S.W.A. at the bottom 17mm below the top overprint on the ½d, 1d and 6d values and 13 - 14mm on the 2d. value. A full stop after 'OFFICIAL / OFFISIEEL' was only printed on the 2d. value. (Fig 3.)



Fig. 3

The 2d stamp was printed in two panes each consisting of 60 stamps (30 pairs), with the same overprint being applied to each pane which meant that all the flaws were exactly in the same positions on each pane. Problems were experienced with the full stop as it was missing on no less than eleven stamps in each pane. In three instances the missing stop occurs on adjacent English and Afrikaans inscribed stamps. This overprinting was made on Issue 3 of the 2d London Pictorials. It is recorded that a single sheet of the 1d stamp was overprinted on paper with the watermark inverted being the only instance recorded in all of the South West Africa 'Officials'.



Fig. 4

THE THIRD SWA 'OFFICIAL' ISSUE - AUGUST 1929

There must have been quite a run on the 'Officials' as only some three months later the third Issue appeared. The number of sheets overprinted is not known however it was probably as large as the next Issue was some



Fig. 5

two years later in 1931. The same values were again overprinted with the difference that the same overprint was now placed vertically reading from bottom to top. (Fig 4.) The 2d. verprint was now applied to Issue 4 of the London Pictorials with S.W.A. printed immediately below 'OFFICIAL / OFFISIEEL'. (Fig 5) Exactly the same overprint flaws occur in the same positions as on the previous issue, proof that the forme used, apart from the new position of S.W.A., was the same. One flaw of note appears on row 7/4 of each pane where the 'S' of S.W.A. was printed in line with the 'I' of 'OFFISIEEL' instead of the normal position under the second 'F'.

THE FOURTH SWA 'OFFICIAL' ISSUE - 1931

The fourth 'Official' Issue made in 1931 saw a significant change in the 'Official' overprints which from now on were in red rather than black ink and S.W.A. was no longer printed. This was the first Issue to be overprinted on the first South West Africa Definitive which was used for the remainder of the Official issues. The same four values used previously were now overprinted 'OFFICIAL' which measured 12mm and 'OFFISIEEL' which measured 14mm with letters 1.5 mm high on alternate English and Afrikaans stamps (Fig 6).



Fig. 6

On the 1/2d and 2d values the overprint is central at the bottom of the stamp, on the 6d value it is centrally placed above the middle and on the 1d value it is towards the top left corner. No major flaws have been recorded. The number of sheets overprinted is not known and it is also uncertain if there were a number of overprintings during the 14 year period before the final Issue in 1945.

THE ADDITIONAL 1 1/2d VALUE - 1 JULY 1938

On 1 March 1937 a 1 1/2d stamp was issued as an additional value to the first definitives. This stamp was overprinted for 'Official' use and issued on 1 July 1938 with 'OFFICIAL/ OFFISIEEL' in red ink on alternate English and Afrikaans stamps. (Fig 7). The letters were now 2 mm high and 'OFFICIAL' and 'OFFISIEEL'

measured 15.5 mm and 17 mm respectively. The overprinting was relatively weak and faded in appearance with a number of minor flaws, the most prominent of which was on row 10/2 where the last 'L' in 'OFFICIAL' became an 'I'. The number of sheets overprinted is not recorded. It is reported that a double overprint exists, which is also known to have been forged.



Fig. 7

THE FIFTH SWA 'OFFICIAL' ISSUE - 1945-1950

The same four values from the first definitives as well as the additional 1 1/2d value were now overprinted in red with thicker letters than the previous Issue. 'OFFICIAL / OFFISIEEL' measured 15 mm and 16.5 mm respectively and were printed on alternate stamps in different positions for each value. Apart from the difference in overprint length between this and the final 'Official' Issue the middle arm of the 'E' is longer (Fig 8.) It is reported that a single sheet consisting of two panes of the 1d value received a double overprint which is considered to be genuine. In about 1980 it was reported that one pane was sold to Stanley Gibbons and the other to Robemark. It could then be purchased for R400/pair !

There is some doubt about the double overprint reported on the 1 1/2d stamp. There were a number of minor overprint flaws, the most prominent of which was the row 2/1 flaw where there was a 'D' for 'O' in 'OFFISIEEL'.

The one real mystery concerns the 2d stamp which, contrary to the other values, was overprinted by John Meinert Printers in Windhoek around 1947. Why this was



Fig. 8

done and how the local printer managed to duplicate exactly the overprint is not known. It is unfortunate that John Meinert Printers' records were destroyed in 1999 so we will probably never know how many stamps were overprinted and why? The 2d value is rare which must reflect a small number overprinted.

It is recorded that the 1/2d, 1 1/2d and 6d stamps are known with a dark red overprint. The number of sheets overprinted is not known.

THE SIXTH AND FINAL SWA 'OFFICIAL' ISSUE - 16 NOVEMBER 1951

The final and most complex South West 'Official' Issue appeared on 16 November 1951 again overprinted on the first definitives. It was first reported by *The South African Philatelist* in June 1952 which stated that the 1d, 1 1/2d, 2d and 6d values were overprinted. In this case the overprint, again applied in Pretoria, had larger thicker letters with 'OFFICIAL' and 'OFFISIEEL' measuring 17 mm and 18 mm respectively. The shorter middle arm of the 'E' in 'OFFISIEEL' helps identify this Issue. The overprint was printed in the centre of the upper half of the stamp. No details of the number of sheets overprinted have been recorded.

Information from *The South African Philatelist* would indicate the following overprinting sequence :



Fig. 9

First Printing – 1d, 1 1/2d, 2d and 6d

The right panes were correctly overprinted with the English and Afrikaans overprints on the correct language stamps.

The left panes had the top five rows correctly printed however on the lower five rows the overprints were transposed with English and Afrikaans overprints on the wrong stamps. This was caused by the fifth and sixth horizontal rows both starting with the English overprint (Fig 9).

Second Printing – 1 1/2d and 6d

The left and right panes were identical and in the first instance incorrectly overprinted with the vertical rows having one language only. Since the stamp language in the horizontal rows alternated it resulted in overprint transpositions occurring in five horizontal rows of each pane. This resulted in any block of four stamps having one horizontal pair correctly overprinted and the other transposed. This error was soon spotted by

Vive L'amour

the Government Printer after a few sheets had been printed, corrected, and the majority of the order then correctly printed (Fig 10).



Fig. 10

Third Printing - ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d and 6d – July 1952

All five values were now correctly overprinted without flaws. This included the ½d stamp which is not reported as being overprinted in the first printing. There is however some confusion here as the Director of Posts advised that it was and then was not available with the first printing. Mr. J. Robertson in *The South African Philatelist* of October 1952 was adamant that it was only overprinted with the third and final printing.

All told there appears to be little information on the date sequence and number of sheets overprinted in the final 'Official' overprinting.

THE END OF THE SWA 'OFFICIALS'

On 26 January 1955 it was announced by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Windhoek that "postage stamps for use by Government departments on official correspondence and issued by the Postal Administration of South West Africa will no longer be overprinted 'Official/Offisieel. Existing stocks will continue to be sold until they are exhausted'" So ended the 'Official' overprint story about which so little is known.

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By way of introduction I am Peter Garrick, living in Fontainebleau, a quiet suburb of Johannesburg. I am not a philatelist but understand that there are specialists in that field who enjoy studying routes, rates and the circumstances of mail, rather than the stamps themselves.

These are Postal Historians. To them I submit my postcard and the story behind it, having unearthed it after some half a century in a long-forgotten shoebox in my cellar.

Born in Bristol, England, I was too young to enlist at the outbreak of the Second World War. I did so immediately I turned eighteen early in 1944. Helped possibly by the fact that my father was already serving in the RAF with the rank of Squadron Leader, I was offered a short service commission, and after a necessarily brief course in navigation, I joined the crew of a Lancaster bomber under the command of Flight Lieutenant Jack Stephenson and with the rank of Pilot Officer. Jack was a South African from Cape Town who had joined up in '39 and at the tender age of twenty-three was a comparative veteran. My first couple of sorties went well, but on our third raid we took a pounding and soon after turning for home, found we had lost power in both of our port engines. After passing Paris we steered ourselves for an emergency landing, and Jack brought us down successfully in a grassy field near the River Loire. Soon after the crash the wreck of the aircraft caught fire which spared us the task of destroying vital documents and equipment but which we knew would alert the enemy to our whereabouts. With the sound of German dogs baying less than half a mile away we split up to improve our chances of escape. Jack and I opted to swim the river whilst the others under our bomb-aimer Sergeant Dan McKay took to the hills. Jack and I turned west hoping to meet up with the advancing Allied

forces but, with numerous detachments of German troops in the vicinity, we were only able to move during the hours of darkness. Thus, more than a week later two hungry, tired and bedraggled airmen arrived at the Auberge St. Dominic in the battle-scarred town of Montreuil-Bellay, scene of much fighting between the German SS and the FFI, the Free French Forces.

This was a heaven-sent decision as mine host, Antoine le Clerq, was a celebrated bon vivant, a confirmed Anglophile and a devoutly patriotic Frenchman who enjoyed a healthy relationship with the Maquis, the highly effective resistance movement in France. After a splendid meal and a most welcome bath we were escorted at dawn to a cave in the hills above the town, a cave that was his wine cellar and therefore extremely well camouflaged.

The following four or five weeks could have been idyllic but for the ever present threat of discovery and our frustration at not being able to contribute to the war effort. On the credit side, we got to learn the difference between a Sauternes and a Médoc, a Beaujolais and a Burgundy, and developed an appreciation of the magnificent cheeses and truffles of the area.

I also met Celeste, Antoine's daughter, who at seventeen was every Englishman's idea of what a French girl should be. Need I say more? As she waited at table in the dining room of the Inn it was usually after 11 o'clock before we met for our nightly rendezvous in the potting shed at the bottom of Antoine's garden. There, of course, we discussed the progress of the war, the pitfalls of our respective languages and what we planned to do with our lives when peace finally arrived. Celeste often relayed tidbits of information picked up from customers at the Inn. One such piece of news that she acquired in August was that the Provisional Government had decreed that local authorities

Specialist Societies

should overprint their stocks of contemporary postage stamps with a device that would obliterate the portrait of the collaborator, Marshall Pétain. Surprisingly this work was entrusted to the local dairy concern and I was able to acquire a few of these stamps as souvenirs when they appeared on 8 September 1945. They had been overprinted with the letters 'R F' standing for République Française. Later I learned that more than 120 towns had taken similar steps with their stamps on hand. Popular motifs for disfiguring the image of Pétain included the Cross of Lorraine, 'V' (for Victoire), 'FFI' and the names of towns already liberated.

Things were moving, and Jack and I were told by the Maquis to be ready to move to Paris on 12 September from where we would be flown to England. Thrilled at the prospect of going home, I was overcome with a sense of guilt when I realised that Celeste was upset at the prospect of saying goodbye. In this state of confusion I thought I would try my hand at composing a piece of poetry, in French, that she would receive by post, but only after I had left Montreuil-Bellay. Not brash enough to write a love poem, what I did compose described the long cold nights (in the wine cellar) of which the dark shadows rekindled the fears of my youth and which in turn were dispelled as the rising sun warmed my heart. This is what I wrote and dedicated to Celeste: -

Matin

*Pour moi le moment quand l'aube se présent
Est particulièrement bon.
Après une nuit froid duquelle
Les ténèbres noires
Les peurs de la jeunesse rapellent,
Je deviens encore heureux
Comme le soleil se découche
Et, avec ses bras, me touche
Le coeur.*

I wrote this on the back of a postcard addressed to Celeste at the Auberge and on which I affixed both a 60- and a 70- cent stamp from my stock with the RF overprint. I dropped it into the courier early on Monday morning and the rest of the day was spent preparing for departure and saying *au revoir* to the friends we had made in the town. Celeste's mother, the indomitable Madame Vivienne le Clerq, was obviously aware of the relationship that had developed between her daughter and myself and allowed her to finish in the dining room at 9 o'clock that evening to give us a couple of extra hours together to say our farewells. I was somewhat shocked when I saw that she was crying when she joined me in the potting shed but then I noticed that in her hand she was clutching the card that I had posted only that morning. (Would that the postal services today were as efficient!) However, it turned out that the tears were not so much because I would be leaving her but rather that she was overcome at the thought of having a poem dedicated to her. Our embrace was mutually that much fonder as a result of this understanding!

Before dawn on Tuesday Jack and I were bound for Paris and back in London by Thursday. Dan and the rest of the crew also made it back and in January 1945 there was a boisterous reunion at 'The Crown' in Brewer Street close to Piccadilly Circus. After the war and influenced by Jack's glowing account of his country, I decided to emigrate to South Africa and joined one of the mining houses in Johannesburg. I settled in the city and have lived here for sixty-odd years. I should mention that my wife, Celeste, has been with me for all of that time and it was she who chose the house in Fontainebleau because, she said, the name reminded her of home. Our son Pierre celebrated his first birthday on 9 June 1946, and from the story you will be able to work out the significance of this date!

Thinking about it, the postcard might be more significant as an item of Social History rather than Postal History. What do you think?

- **The Great Britain Philatelic Society of South Africa.** Contact Tony Hitchcock. Tel 083 399 9789 email: hedgehog@iafrica.com
- **Transvaal Study Circle,** based in the UK. Journal: 'The Transvaal Philatelist'. The SA representative is Gawie van der Walt, email : cachetap@lantic.net
- **Cape & Natal Study Circle,** based in the UK. Journal: 'Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal'. The SA representative is Roger Porter. email : roger.n.porter@gmail.com
- **Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society.** Journal: *The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist*. The Secretary is N. P. Harris. email: mrnpbboer@aon.com
- **The South African Collectors' Society,** based in the UK. Journal: 'The Springbok'. Contact: Cedric Roché, email: croche@mweb.co.za
- **Orange Free State Study Circle.** based in the UK. Journal: 'OFS Bulletin'. SA Representative John Cheminais, email: johnc2@telkomsa.net www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk
- **The Royal Philatelic Society London.** Journal: 'The London Philatelist'. The SA representatives are Neville Polakow RDPSA FRPSL and Patrick Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL email: nevillep@intekom.co.za email: pflan@mweb.co.za
- **Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa,** based in the USA; Journal: 'Forerunners'. SA representative is Dr Uli Bantz, email: ulib@mweb.co.za
- **South West Africa Stamp Study Group,** Contact: Uli Bantz email: ulib@mweb.co.za
- **Rhodesian Study Circle.** Journal: 'Journal of RSC'. Contact Adrian de Bourbon email: apdeb@telkomsa.net
- **Bechuanaland and Botswana Society,** based in UK; Journal: 'The Runner Post'. The SA representative is Alan MacGregor, email: alan@rhodesia.co.za
- **South African Stamp Study Circle;** Contact is Keith Perrow, email: keith.perrow232@gmail.com
- **The Postmark and Postal History Society of Southern Africa.** secretary Marge Viljoen. Tel: 012 460 7339 mobile: 082 990 0176, email: thinkgraphics@telkom.net Ben Jansen. PO Box 835, Groenkloof, 0027

- Comic Corner

Stamps that make us smile

by Volker Janssen Fish Hoek and Royal Philatelic Society, Cape Town
First issue of 2012 - here is the 10th episode of :

Errors on Stamps...



On this 24 cent value of the commemorative issue of 1981 for the protection of 'Endangered Species' in AUSTRALIA we find a **Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine)**.

The error was that this species was not 'endangered' anymore in 1981 because it had already died out.

The last Tasmanian Tiger died fifty years before in 1931 in the Zoo of Hobart...



Rev Cassie Carstens, Afrikaanse
Filatelievereniging Pretoria

Get Collecting - it's fun!

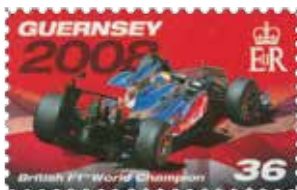


* And the winners.....?! **New Zealand**, of course! And they deserve it. A beautiful and unique 3D-stamp of the Webb Ellis Cup has been issued. The stamp was created using Motion-stamp HDR 3D effect in a printed image. Although Motion-stamp imaging has been around for a long time (first theorized in AD60) it has been limited to simple flip effects comprising two to three images. The poor Springboks have also been 3D'd = downgraded, donkey-dumb and 'deurmekaar' (muddled)!

* What have you pulled out of your **Christmas stocking** last year? The legend goes that a poor gentleman with three daughters could not pay their dowry to be wed. One evening the ladies washed their socks and hung them up to dry. That night St Nicholas came and threw gold and costly gems in every stocking – and that is why we hang socks to receive a present from Santa Claus. I hope your stocking had lots of love and fun, and even a few friends and stamps stuck in a corner. Keep looking – you will find more!



* There is no doubt that Sir Sterling Crauford Moss was the greatest driver never to win the world Championship, to comment on Lewis Hamilton (British Formula 1 World Champion 2008) "*Few drivers in recent years have been better prepared or tutored on the way up to Formula 1 as Lewis Hamilton, who has been under the tutelage of McLaren since he was a pre-teenage kart racer. I admire Lewis' sheer get-up-and-go and the fact that he never stops trying, no matter what setbacks he may encounter on the racetrack.*"



* Take a numerical journey from 1 to 21 in a quintessentially 'Kiwi' way. With each number,

you will discover unique and quirky aspects of New Zealand's culture, history and Kiwiana. I like the four stars of the **Southern Cross** – the well-known night-time navigational aid also for South Africans. These four stars are among the brightest in the southern sky and are visible all year round.

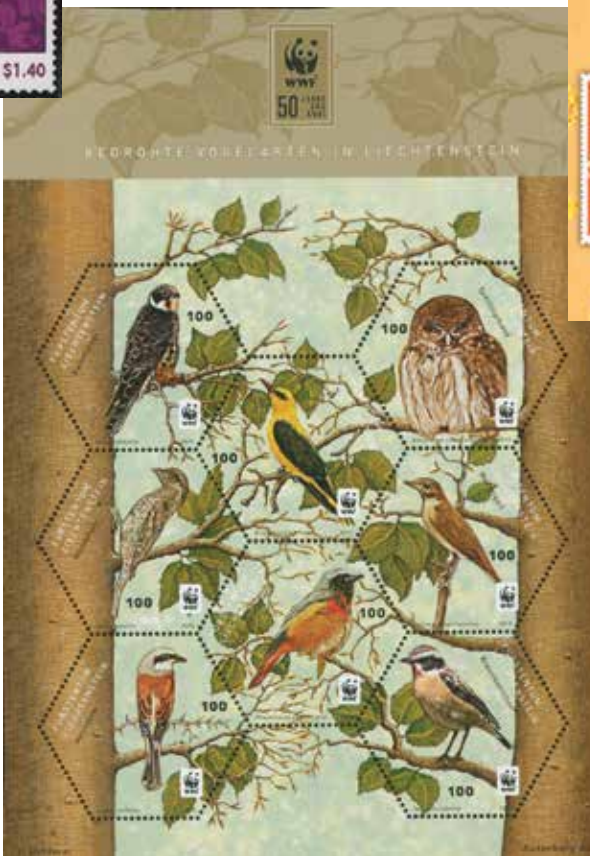


* When the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** was founded in Switzerland on 29 April 1961, none of the founders could have imagined that this small private nature conservation initiative would become one of the biggest environmental bodies operating world-wide with some 60 national sections and 4000 staff supporting more than 2000 nature and environmental protection projects in about 100 countries. In the last few years the scope of the WWF has evolved from species protection pure and simple to all-round environmental protection, and especially to campaigning against the anthropogenic greenhouse effect. Birds are particularly susceptible to human-caused changes in the landscape. Actual size 146 x 208mm with 8 stamps on the sheet



* My kinders ken nie van **granaat** nie - hulle is dom stadsjapies! Hulle weet nie dat jy 'n volrooi granaat uitsoek an pluk, en dan op 'n plat klip met 'n baksteen stukkend slaan nie. Hulle weet nie van die bloedrooi pitte handvol in jou mond stop en eet dat die sop by jou ken afloop en op jou hempie drup nie. (Hulle weet ook nie hoe jou ma raas omdat sy nie die rooi vlekke uitgewas kan kry nie!). 'n Granaat is nie net 'n Joodse of Bybelse vrug nie – ek is seker daar is boorde vol in die hemel! Sien jou graag eendag daar by die plat klip.

* The **didgeridoo** is a wind instrument that originated in northern Australia at least 1500 years ago. It is composed of a eucalyptus hardwood branch hollowed out by termites over time. Traditionally played by men for ceremonial and recreational purposes, the droning sound is produced by a vibration of the lips while using a special circular breathing technique.



* **The 2012 Year of the Dragon** stamp issue is certainly one to celebrate. The powerful dragon is the most vibrant of all 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac and when the Year of the Dragon begins on 23 January 2012, it will bring with it health, wealth, prosperity and success. The dragon is an important ancient symbol for the Chinese people, and it is believed to ward off evil spirits. Everything connected with the dragon is thought to be blessed, which makes this lunar stamp issue particularly special. Not only

do the stamps portray the dragon through different aspects of Chinese culture, they also celebrate the growing multicultural society in New Zealand.

The individual stamps in this issue are as follows:

• 60c – Year of the Dragon

Calligraphy is a traditional Chinese art form, and the Chinese character for ‘dragon’ expressed on the 60c stamp is from the Xi Xia Song stone monument. Carved in the ‘Lishu’ calligraphy style, the character has an authoritative feel that reflects the strength and confidence of those born in the year of the dragon.

• \$1.20 – Paper-cut Dragon

Paper-cutting is a much-loved Chinese folk art that became popular shortly after paper was invented. It is used for many Chinese weddings, ceremonies and festivals, and the skilfully crafted paper-cut dragon on the \$1.20 stamp indicates prosperity, amiability and celebration.

• \$1.90 – Dragon Lantern

Chinese lanterns are an important part of Chinese New Year, and the Chinese Lantern Festival marks the end of the 15-day Chinese New Year celebrations. The dragon lantern featured on the \$1.90 stamp was used in the Auckland Lantern Festival, which annually celebrates New Zealand’s multicultural society.

• \$2.40 – New Zealand Icon – Dunedin Railway Station

Situated in the South Island, Dunedin was one of the earliest settlements for Chinese immigrants



in New Zealand. Over the centuries New Zealand has welcomed many different cultures and this is depicted by the pair of swallows on the \$2.40 stamp, which in the Chinese culture symbolise hope, blessings and happiness in the land.

References

1. *New Zealand Post*: Special Edition October 2011
2. *New Zealand Post*: Christmas 2011 - Tokelau
3. *Guernsey Post*, October 2011, Vol 9 No 1
4. *Stamp Bulletin Australia*: No 313 November-December 2011
5. *Philatelie Liechtenstein*: 9/28, Sept 2011
6. *Israel Philatelic Services*: via East Rand Stamps
7. *New Zealand Post*: 10 August 2011
8. New Zealand (Word Stamp News)

Journal References

This column highlights major articles (about 3 pages or more) on Southern Africa philately and related aspects which have been published recently and which may be of interest to members; details of Journals listed can be found under ‘Specialist Philatelic Societies’.

Specialist Societies are listed on page 19.

1 - The Mauritania UPU Specimen Archive, by James Bendon, *The London Philatelist*, November 2011, pp.350-353. Announces the release of a major Specimen Archive covering material distributed by the UPU between early 1917 and late 1923, but with many gaps. In almost all cases the stamps remain in strips of three as distributed.

2 - Cape of Good Hope Private Postmarks, by Johnny Barth, *The London Philatelist*, December 2011, pp.379-383. Illustrates and discusses four postmarks ordered by the district postmasters in Worcester, Grahamstown and Swellendam.

3 - Otto’s ‘atypical’ six-pennies, by Barry Larking, *The Transvaal Philatelist*, November 2011, pp.73-85. Writer consolidates the main literature regarding the 6d stamps of Yardley’s type I (the eagle with spread wings) assumed to have been printed by Otto in Germany, other than those accepted as forgeries, and supplements with writer’s observations.

4 - Post Office and privately overprinted wrappers - a few notes, by Jeff Woolgar, *The Transvaal Philatelist*, November 2011, pp.89-91. Writer illustrates and discusses four different wrappers.

5 - Backwards and Forwards - A paper presented to the Double Head Centenary meeting on 11 November 2010, by Andrew Wilson, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, March 2011, pp.30-33. Writer illustrates and discusses a number of stamps from this ever popular series.

6 - BCA Revenues and Payment of Hut Tax, by James W. Bannister, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, March 2011, pp.35-36. Illustrates a Hut Tax Certificate with a bisect of the large 6/- surcharge on a £10 orange and red Revenue, Barefoot & Hall No.15, which Certificate is reputed to have been part of the Ferrari collection of world revenues.

7 - McNeil of Abercorn: filling in the gaps, by Anita McCullough, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, March 2011, pp.39-42. Writer is researching a book about “this Scots postmaster and telegraphist, also described as a caricaturist, photographer and postcard producer”, who was active mainly in the period 1903-1907.

8 - A Study in Green, or the curious case of the imperforate Halfpenny Double Head, by R.J. Looker, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, June 2011, pp.67-72. A fascinating study which proves that there was not one, but two sheets of 100 stamps each of this imperforate error listed as SG 120a.

9 - Post Office Wrappers: British South Africa Company, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and British Central Africa Protectorate, by John K. Curtis, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, June 2011, pp.73-75. Writer compiled from 2003 a database of offerings on eBay of worldwide wrappers, from which data from those four postal entities was abstracted. Over a 7 year period, of 10 wrappers issued, seven types appeared less than one per 10,000 listed, and three types never appeared at all on eBay. Writer rates these as scarce to very scarce.

10 - Serendipity and headaches, the lot of the postal historian, by Alan Drysdall, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, June 2011, pp.75-79. A series of interesting accounts about early North-Eastern Rhodesian personalities and the times they lived in.

11 - ADS Registration Labels - Part I, by Geoff Brakspear, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, June 2011, pp.81-83. The Rhodesian PTC acquired seven machines from Anker Data Systems in Germany, around 1973, to print labels and receipts for Registered items. Writer explains and illustrates how these machines operated.

12 - A Dozen Manifestations, by Paul Peggie, Sean Burke and Colin Hoffman, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, June 2011, pp.84-85. The Rhodesian 1d Postcard HG 11a was overprinted on the reverse with 12 images relating to the Victoria Falls which are all illustrated together with some comments.

13 - ADS Registration Labels – Part 2, by Geoff Brakspear, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, September 2011, pp.113-117. These machines were installed at Gwelo, Salisbury, Bulawayo, Causeway, Union Avenue and Umtali Post Offices and writer provides detailed descriptions of use at each post office, with illustrations of labels produced.

14 - The Southern Rhodesia 5/- Admiral SG 14, by Otto Peetoom, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, September 2011, pp.117-119. The Waterloo Archives provided details of 66 printings for the Admiral series of 14 values, and allocated two printings to the 5/- duty. The research outlined suggests that there are at least four distinctive and identifiable shades (printings ?) which are described in detail and illustrated.

15 - The stamps overprinted ‘B.C.A.’ in Museum Africa, Johannesburg, by Alan Drysdall, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, September 2011, pp.123-126. The

panes and blocks of these are similar to those in the Livingstone Museum, but show a few differences in the setting of the overprint which are highlighted and illustrated.

16 - Was the £1 'Error' not the First £1 Double Head Printed?, by Stephen Reah-Johnson, *The Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle*, September 2011, pp.128-131. The writer proposes that the £1 Error of Colour was in fact the first printing of that duty, but because of its similarity to the 10d duty colour scheme it was not issued and was reprinted in different colours to make it more readily identifiable.

17 - CGH: The Octagonal Postmarks, by Johnny Barth, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, December 2010, pp.126-136. Writer poses series of questions on availability of covers with certain postmark numbers.

18 - Some Cape Postal Notices 1806-1810: the Inland Post, by John Dickson, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, December 2010, pp.144-147. These Notices were extracted from the *Government Gazettes* of those years,

19 - Kaapse Plakkaat of 1785-1792, by John Dickson, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, December 2010, pp.149-152. These books are a collection of edicts and proclamations of the COGH covering the period 1652 to 1806, written mostly in Dutch. Edicts for 1785-1792 concerning postal matters are extracted and presented in Dutch with a translation in

English.

20 - The Zululand £5 Forgery, by Peter Whitmore and Clive Sergay, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, December 2010, pp.156-165. Writers propose that stamps with a 'thick' printing of the duty plate are classed as forgeries and discuss their detailed evidence which led them to that conclusion.

21 - Natal Telegraph Stamps, by John and Mark Taylor, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, March 2011, pp.1-3. Illustrates these Victorian stamps and also a usage.

22 - Briefstock Letters, by Johnny Barth, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, March 2011, pp.7-12. The main period for these was from 1750 to 1800; payment arrangements were private and no tariffs existed. Writer illustrates 12 letters from the Dutch period.

23 - Natal Soldiers' Letters: correspondence and confusion in 1862 and a comparison with the practices at the Cape, by John Dickson, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, March 2011, pp.17-31. The basic rate applicable to soldiers' letters was 1d, from anywhere in the world. However, the Natal Government felt it had the right to charge for local conveyance in addition to the basic rate of 1d. which was claimed as an Imperial rate by the GPO in London.

24 - CGH: Redirection and Official Redirection of mail at CGH to 1911, by Hugh Amoore, *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*, March 2011,

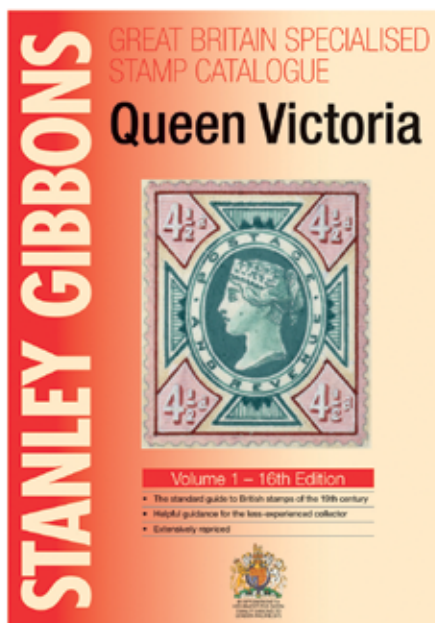
pp.32-42. Article deals with the ways in which mail redirected by the Post Office, or by the public, was treated and charged for at the Cape from the second British occupation to 1 September 1911.

25 - V.R.I. Id on Id: SG 113p and SG 124p, by a number of contributors, *The Orange Free State Bulletin*, December 2010, pp.3943-3944. Presents a discussion on the precise meaning of these listings, viz, doubly printed, one impression inverted. Was decided to approach the catalogue's editor for a ruling.

26 - Albertina Revisited - the Natal Government Railways in the OFS/ORC, by John Dickson and Richard Stroud, *The Orange Free State Bulletin*, March 2011, pp.3949-3963. A recent discovery in the Pietermaritzburg Archive Depot of original material bearing on the history of the Albertina Office allowed this subject to be revisited and the scope of the study to be broadened. From 1906, the Albertina station was known as Swinburne.

27 - V.R.I. Id on Id: SG 113p and SG 124p identified, by Bob Allison, *The Orange Free State Bulletin*, June 2011, pp.3977. The SG editor advised the items were listed in 2007 following their appearance in a sale at Spink on 26 October 2005, lot 1987. The double impression related to part of the stamp frame and was illustrated in the September 2005 *Orange Free State Bulletin*, p.3439.

Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Volume 1 - Queen Victoria - 16th Edition Available from January 27th



(a) General notes preface each section – including notes on condition.	(g) Notes on perforation trials.
(b) Essays, Die Proofs, Plate Proofs, Colour Trials, Imprimatus Reprints, Specimen and Cancelled Overprints and Controls all listed and priced.	(h) Guidance on 'plating' the line-engraved issues.
(c) Cancellations on line-engraved and Mulready's listed and priced.	(i) Helpful indexes and checklists to guide the less experienced collector.
(d) Plate varieties listed and priced throughout	(j) Prices for stamps on cover and in blocks of four.
(e) Watermark varieties and errors priced.	(k) Extensive bibliography.
(f) Details of 'states' on line-engraved.	(l) Prices carefully revised throughout to reflect the current market.

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Uit die tyd toe baanbreker-lugdienste hul vlerke oor die vasteland gesprei het ...

Met ses lugdienste, drie treine en een veerboot oor Afrika

deur Joh Groenewald RDPSA, Adjunk-lewenspresident, Filateliese Federasie van SA



Dit het ses lugdienste gekos, een veerboot en drie treine om in 1937 'n brief vanaf Dakar oor Afrika na Kaapstad te besorg.

Dit is die merkwaardige verhaal van 'n koevert in die versameling van John Yeomans, wat woon in West Sussex, in die suide van Engeland.

Hy versamel posmateriaal van Frans-Ekwatoriaal Afrika (Gaboen, Tsjaad, Middel-Kongo en Oubangi Chari) uit die Franse koloniale tyd, en het die koevert aangeskaf omdat hy die rugstempels van Brazzaville en Pointe Noire opgelet het.

Die koevert is op 13 November 1937 gepos aan boord van die Italiaanse lynboot *Giulio Cesare*, en het die skeepsposstempel oor die vyf Senegal-seëls, want die vaartuig was toe by Dakar in Senegalese gebied en seëls van die gasheerland is gebruik. Dit is geadresseer na Mowbray, Kaapstad.

Die rugstempels is :

- Pointe Noire 18 November 1937
- Brazzaville 20 November 1937
- Elizabethstad 25 November 1937
- Broken Hill 26 November 1937.

Aan die hand van hierdie karige rugstempel-inligting is die koevert se buitengewone tog uitgepluis deur Peter Wingent van Winchester, ook in die suide van Engeland.

Die koevert het Dakar op Maandag 15 November 1937 verlaat aan boord van die vliegtuig van *Aeromaritime* op die Wes-Afrika-roete na Pointe Noire. Daar was oornag op drie plekke, Conakry, Abidjan en Douala, en die pos het op Donderdag 18 November by Pointe Noire aangekom.

Van Pointe Noire aan die kus van die Franse Kongo is die pos per trein na Brazzaville in die binneland (rugstempel), en toe met die **veer-**



Die reisverhaal van hierdie lugposbrief na die Kaap het spuurwerk gekos.

bootdiens oor die Kongorivier na Leopoldstad in die Belgiese Kongo.

Sabena se binnelandse diens in die Kongo het die pos van Leopoldstad geneem na Luluaburg, wat in dié stadium die eindpunt van die lugdiens was. Van Luluaburg was die reis per **trein** na Bukama.

Bukama was op die roete van **Sabena se Europa-Kongo**-diens en hierdie diens het die koevert na Elizabethstad geneem (vertrek Bukama op Donderdag 25 November en aankoms op Elizabethstad later dieselfde dag).

Nou was dit weer die beurt van 'n Franse lugdiens, **Regie Air Afrique**, wat ter aansluiting met Sabena se diens uit Europa van Elizabethstad na Tananarive in Madagaskar gevlieg het. Die roete was oor Broken Hill in Noord-Rhodesië: die pos het op Vrydag 26 November 1937 van Elizabethstad vertrek en dieselfde dag op Broken Hill aangekom.

Hoewel die Suid-Afrikaanse Lugdiens se roete van Kisumu (Uganda) na Johannesburg oor Broken Hill gegaan het, was die SAL nie gelisensieer om pos op sy suidwaartse diens te vervoer nie. Slegs Wilson Airways kon die suidwaartse pos vervoer, twee maal per week vanaf Broken Hill - maar die een vlug, juis op 'n Vrydag, het om 05:45 vertrek en te vroeg vir die pos wat later die dag uit Elizabethstad aangekom het.

Synde lugpos en dus dringend, is die koevert sonder versuim van Broken Hill per **trein** na Lusaka, en vanhier het dit Sondagoggend 28 November 1937 om 11:15 met **RANA** (Rhodesia and Nyasaland Airways) se diens op die roete Lusaka-Salisbury-Beira vertrek, aankoms in Salisbury teen 13:15.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse lugposplakker voor op die koevert is moontlik aangebring op Broken Hill, Lusaka of Salisbury -- hierdie plakkers is bekend op pos van al drie plekke.

Maandagoggend 29 November is die koevert om 09:00 vanaf Salisbury met RANA se ander diens, Beira-Salisbury-Johannesburg, na Suid-Afrika, met die aankoms in Johannesburg teen 15:25 die Maandagmiddag.

Die laaste skof was met die **Suid-Afrikaanse Lugdiens**, wat Woensdagoggend 1 Desember 1937 om 07:00 van Johannesburg vertrek en teen 14:00 die middag by Kaapstad aangekom het.

Tot sover Peter Wingent, wat bekend is vir sy lugpos-speurwerk. Hy sê dit is seker die interessantste reisverhaal wat hy nog teëgekomp het.

John Yeomans het die Senegalese postarief nagespoor. Dit was 1F 75c as basistarief vir pos na nie-Franse buitelandse bestemmings, plus 7F 50c vir die derde gewigstrap lugpos van tot 15 gram. Die seëls bedra 9F 75c, wat dus 'n oorbetalings van 50c beteken.

Inderdaad 'n merkwaardige reis oor Afrika, meer as 70 jaar gelede.



Rugstempels gee leidrade oor die roete.



New South African Stamp Issues - 2011 - Part V

by Robin Messenger, South African Stamp Study Circle.

21 October 2011 - CELEBRATING 150 YEARS SINCE ARRIVAL OF INDIAN INDENTURED LABOURERS (not previously announced).

Denomination: Standard Postage (R2.50).

Designer: Thea Clemons.

Printer: Government Printing Works, Pretoria.

Process: Offset Lithography.

Stamp size: 30.5 x 24mm, incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 104 x 70mm.

Perforation: 13.8 x 14.1

Paper: Non- phosphorescent.

Gum: PVA.

Quantity: 30,000.

Cylinder numbers: None.

Printing sheet size: 460 x 550mm comprising 18 miniature sheets arranged in six rows of three.

First Day Cover: None.

Canceller: No 8.20A '21.10.2011 / Durban' *



9 December 2011 - CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI - Africa's First Winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

Denominations: 3 x Standard Postage (R2.50).

Designer: Photographs by Ranjith Kally, courtesy of Luthuli Museum. Bronze by Dumile Feni (1968) 'Portrait of Chief Albert Luthuli', courtesy of Iziko Museum, Cape Town.

Printer: Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, Netherlands.

Process: Offset Lithography.

Stamp size: Two stamps 29 x 38.5mm and one stamp 29 x 77mm.

Perforation: 13 x 13.52.

Paper: 102 gsm phosphor coated.

Gum: PVA.

Quantity: 20,000 sheetlets

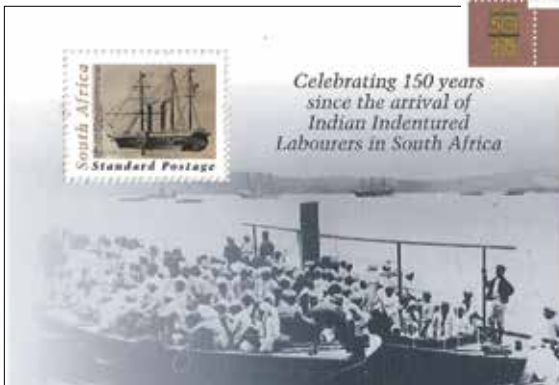
Sheetlet Size: 117 x 182mm, comprising two of the larger stamps and four of the others as arranged in the illustration.

Cylinder numbers: 8152 (blue), 8153 (red), 8154 (yellow), 8155 (black) and 8156 (copper).

Printing sheet size: 483 x 620mm, comprising six sheetlets arranged in two rows of three.

First Day Cover: None but sheetlets were also sold in a souvenir folder, for R40.00.

Canceller: No. 8.19 - 'STANGER / 9.12.2011'. *



25 November 2011 - 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF INDIAN WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA (not previously announced).

Denominations: 2 x Standard Postage (R2.50).

Designer: Thea Clemons.

Printer: Government Printing Works, Pretoria.

Process: Offset Lithography.

Stamp size: 30.5 x 24mm, incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 101 x 68mm, arranged in a vertical pair.

Perforation: 13.8 x 14.1

Paper: Non- phosphorescent.

Gum: PVA.

Quantity: 30,000.

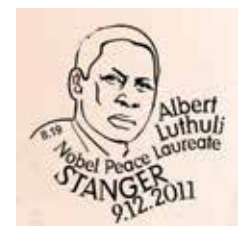
Cylinder numbers: None.

Printing sheet size: 460 x 550mm comprising 18 miniature sheets arranged in six rows of three.

First Day Cover: None.

Canceller: No 8.20B '25.11.2011 / Durban' *

* **Footnote:** Although there were no official First Day Covers for these issues, these cancellers were used on the cancelled stamps sold by Philatelic Services.



SOUTH AFRICAN NEW ISSUE PROGRAMME FOR 2012

January 6 - South African Native National Congress (SANNC) 100

February 24 - Alexandra 100th Anniversary

March 20 - South African National Symbols

April 2 - George Pemba 100th Anniversary (of his birth)

May 18 - Commercial and Medicinal Plants

June 5 - South Africa's Role in Astronomy

June 5 - Transit of Venus (5-6 June 2012)

July 12 - The Baby Big Five (booklet)

August 10 - SA Bird Series: Smallest Sunbirds

September 23 - World Heritage Sites Series: The Vredefort Dome

October 9 - South African Field Postal Unit (World Post Day)

(As published in SETEMPE Vol 16 No 3 - September-December 2011).

Acknowledgement: The above information was collated from SETEMPE, Vol 16. No 3, dated September - December 2011 and Newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group.



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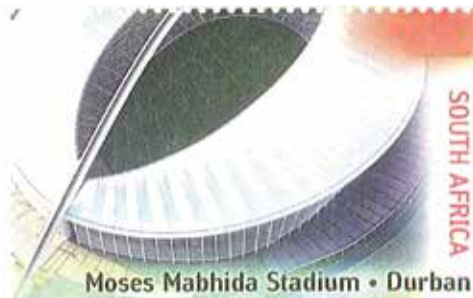
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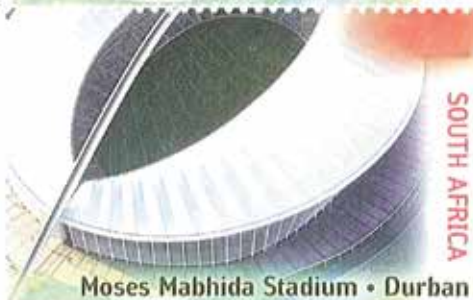
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The First South African Machine Cancellations

by George van den Hurk RDPSA, FRPSL,
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.

Recently I came across some interesting information relating to the early South African machine cancellations. The new information is contained in two publications, *The Bickerdike Machine Papers* by Geoffrey R. Newman, published by The Unitrade Press, Toronto, Canada, 1986 and *The Columbia Story*, Volume VII, *The Overseas History, Patents and Markings of the Columbia Postal Supply Company of Silver Creek, New York* by Morris, Payne and Holmes, published by The Machine Cancel Society, USA, 2001. It is surprising that the information relating to South African Machine Markings contained in these publications did not as yet, as far as I know, filter through to the South African philatelic press.

However, let me first make some comments regarding the article *The Boston Postmarking Machine in Cape Town* by Neville Gomm, in *The SA Philatelist* of December 2000, 76:6(843).

Fig. 1 shows a cover cancelled by a Bickerdike machine cancel C crown C with the town/date

stamp of MAR 29 1899. In *Maple Leaves* (Vol. 12 No.4, April 1968), Dr. M.W. Carstairs, explains that the Bickerdike dies consisted of three parts, the killer portion, the upper half of the date stamp and the lower half of the date stamp; the year date was fixed for the first three digits of the year, but the fourth could be changed; nevertheless, it was usual in Canada to use an entirely new dater die at the beginning of a new year, and this, of course was an absolute necessity at the turn of the century. I assume that on account of the Anglo Boer war no town/date stamps for the years 1900, 1901 and 1902 were shipped from Canada to South Africa because only in 1903 do we see the reappearance of a Bickerdike machine cancel in Cape Town. As both cancels were used for about one year, one wonders why the 1899 is so much more elusive than the 1903 cancel.

Neville Gomm mentioned in his article that he had been trying to establish what happened with the machine marking of mail in Cape Town between the latest recorded date of the Bickerdike-, and the earliest recorded date of the Columbia machine cancellations, a gap of

15 months, which according to Neville needed to be accounted for. Covers in my collection document a much smaller gap, namely, a Bickerdike cancellation dated 7 October 1903 followed by a Columbia machine cancel dated 3 February 1904 (Fig 2). It seems reasonable to assume that the Bickerdike machine continued to be in use until the end of 1903 and was replaced in February 1904 by a Columbia machine with the obliterator consisting of six wavy lines interrupted by 2 x2 vertical bars. In fact, Goldblatt records three different types

1898 and 1899 the G.P.O. London conducted trials with the Empire, Imperial/Boston and Bickerdike machines; according to the trial results the Bickerdike was the more effective machine and this was probably also the reason for the rejection of the Boston machine by the Cape Town Post Office, after what I presume were trials with the Boston in Cape Town in 1903. However, the Columbia machine was even more efficient than the Bickerdike, with the result that the Bickerdike was replaced in Cape Town by a Columbia in 1904.



Fig. 1 - The first post office to use a machine canceller was Cape Town in 1899

of Columbia cancellations. *The Columbia Story* records known use of the first Columbia canceller in Cape Town from 2 February 1904. It would therefore be interesting to ascertain how the mail in Cape Town was cancelled during the month of January 1904!

Gomm also illustrated in his article an example of a machine postmark used in Cape Town on 2 December 1903, and identified this cancel as an impression from a Boston machine. I am showing the same postmark used one day earlier on a postcard addressed to England (Fig 3). The machine was presumably supplied by the American Postal Machine Company for tests in Cape Town but has not been recorded by Jurgens and Goldblatt. The characteristics of the impression are very similar to the impressions of the machine of the American Machine Company used for tests in London for about five months during September 1886 until February 1887. The only difference is that the London impressions have two horizontal bars broken to provide an open space, whereas the Cape Town canceller shows an open space between four broken horizontal bars. During

The Bickerdike Machine Papers by Geoffrey R. Newman

The publication is based on fascinating new research material and adds significant depth and detail to the turn-of-the-century story of J. Brooks Young, the man behind the worldwide sales of the Bickerdike mail marking machines. Before the introduction of Bickerdike machines, John Brooks Young was the Canadian agent for the Imperial machines, also referred to as Boston machines.

Using the discoveries of Young's personal notebook, some of his family's old papers and many previously unknown letters in the

archives at Ottawa and Munich the Bickerdike story is told, which at times reads like an action-packed thriller, back and forth from Canada to Europe. The successful introduction of the Bickerdike machines in Canada was also for a large part due to the efforts of Robert Bickerdike, a prominent Canadian businessman and politician who approached the Postmaster-General of Ottawa, on behalf of Brooks Young. Bickerdike's core business was however livestock, exporting cattle to the United Kingdom, and he was so well-known in this field that he was called the 'Cattle King'. John Brooks Young was in charge of the Canadian Postal Supply Company and apparently in appreciation named the new machine after Robert Bickerdike.

The following is an extract from *The Bickerdike Machine Papers* relating to South Africa:

Cape of Good Hope

"On April 27, 1898 the Postmaster General for the Cape of Good hope wrote to the PMG, Ottawa: 'I have the honour to inform you that I have recently been approached by the Agent for the 'Bickerdike Stamp Cancelling and Post Marking Machine' with a view to the



Fig.2 - A Columbia machine cancel replaced the Bickerdike in Cape Town in February 1904



Fig.3 - Testing an Imperial "Boston" machine in Cape Town in December 1903

introduction of such machines into the Postal Service of this Colony". He went on to ask for a report about the machine. As usual, the letter was referred to Sweetnam, Chief Post Office Inspector for Canada, whose reply was used in turn by the Deputy PMG to respond to Cape Town on June 23, 1898, in part as follows:

"...for the past twelve months sixteen of the machines have been in use in the service of this Department and they have been satisfactory in every respect. Each machine stamps from four thousand to six thousand letters per hour and does the work neatly and thoroughly..."

South African Republic (ZAR)

On May 21 1898, in a letter addressed to 'The Postmaster General, Montreal, Canada,' the Postmaster General of the South African Republic mentioned that his Department had been approached by the Agent of the Canadian Postal Supply Co. with regard to a Bickerdike machine. The Deputy PMG replied on June 25, 1898 using the exact wording of his response to the Cape of Good Hope.

The Bickerdike Machine Papers: A wrong assumption and conclusion

Fig. 4 shows impressions of the cancellation dies as illustrated in *The Bickerdike Machine Papers* in respect of Cape Town and Pretoria. Unfortunately the author makes the erroneous assumption that the cancelling designs submitted by the Company to the Postmaster General in Ottawa were in fact in use in the towns mentioned. This is definitely not the case for Pretoria. Although the Postmaster General of the South African Republic requested information about Bickerdike machines in 1898 the design with

C crown C (Cape Colony), would never have been acceptable in the South African Republic. Pretoria only changed over from hand cancelling to machine cancelling with a Krag machine after 1910. Therefore the statements on pages 86, 101 and 105 that there were machines in service and installed in two African countries is wrong, as only the Cape Colony ordered and put a Bickerdike machine into service in Cape Town in 1899.

The Columbia Story, Volume VII. The overseas history, patents and markings of the Columbia Postal Supply Company, of Silver Creek, New York.

This publication is a comprehensive study of the history and use of the Columbia machine cancellations and deals with both the town/date stamps (dials) as well as the obliterations in great detail. It is a seven-volume study. Volume VII covers the evaluation and use of the Columbia machines in the British Empire, Europe and Central and South America. For collectors of South African machine cancellations the chapters of interest are Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal and the Union of South Africa. For illustrations in this article I have made use of covers from my personal collection.

Cape of Good Hope – Cape Town

The illustration of Fig. 2 shows the use of a Columbia machine in Cape Town on 3 February 1904, (first recorded use 2 February 1904). The obliterator consists of 3 groups of 6 wavy lines interrupted by 2x2 vertical bars. The town/date stamp is inscribed C.G.H. at the bottom. Goldblatt distinguishes three types; however *The Columbia Story* specifies only one type.

In 1904 we also see the introduction of a Columbia machine cancel consisting of seven horizontal bars inscribed (small) C crown C; the Cape Town town/date stamp (dial) is inscribed at the bottom C.G.H. First recorded use according to *The Columbia Story* is 12 October 1904. Jurgens states that in 1904 the seven horizontal bars measured 62 mm and that cancellers used in 1907 measured 60 mm, but I have not been able to verify this. *The Columbia Story* illustrates three town/date stamps (dials) inscribed C.G.H. used in combination with the small C crown C canceller over a period from 12 October 1904 to 25 April 1907.

The recorded use of the small C crown C canceller in combination with a town/date stamp without C.G.H. or control number (blank) is according to *The Columbia Story* from 24 December 1907 to 30 May 1909; Goldblatt



Fig.4 - 1899 Bickerdike unaccepted machine cancel design for Pretoria with Cape (crown) Colony obliterator

shows a last recorded date of 8 June 1909.

The use of the small C crown C canceller in combination with town/date stamps with a control number (1 to 10) at the bottom requires more research. An example of this type of canceller is shown in Fig 5 with control number '9' dated 27 May 1908. Apparently cancellers with a control number are elusive and one has to combine the information of

TRANSSVAAL. *The Columbia Story* distinguishes between six different types of town/date stamps (dials), which are illustrated and were in use from 20 October 1904 until 1 March 1909. Fig 6 shows a multiple strike of this single impression machine. The explanation of *The Columbia Story* is that these markings are not uncommon and that this type of impression can occur when the trip actuator fails to function. Whether the mechanism was

at fault or intentionally disabled to cause a repeater type cancellation is unknown.

In 1909 we see the introduction of the Columbia with continuous impressions i.e. for a short period the canceller with eight horizontal bars, 23 mm in height and 76 mm in length as shown in Fig 7. According to *The Columbia Story* the recorded use was from 17 April 1909 until 17 December 1909 with 4 different town/date stamps. Fig 7 shows a later date of 22 January 1910.

From March 1910 to February 1912 we see the use of the Columbia machine with eight bars, twice interrupted with inscription 'TRANSSVAAL'. *The Columbia Story* shows the three main types, i.e. 'TRANSSVAAL' facing right, facing left, different size of lettering, and

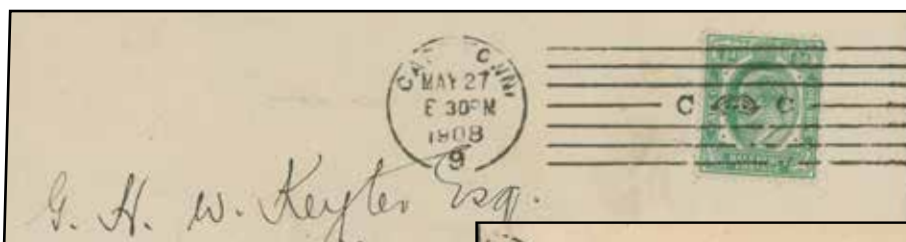


Fig 5 - Columbia small C crown C machine cancel with control number '9' in town/date stamp

Jurgens, Goldblatt and *The Columbia Story*, especially for some of the control numbers not listed in the latter. Another notable omission is Goldblatt's 'PAID' town/date stamp, ref. MRD3, the earliest 'PAID' machine cancel used in South Africa.

At the end of the colonial period in 1909 we see the appearance of cancellers with seven horizontal bars without breaks or inscription and town/date stamps with control numbers: '6', '10' or 'blank'; Goldblatt also lists a number '5'. These are also scarce cancellers.

Transvaal – Johannesburg

The Columbia cancel introduced in Johannesburg on 20 October 1904 has the same characteristics as the cancel introduced in Cape Town on 2 February 1904 shown as Fig 2. Obviously the town/date stamps are different as they are inscribed JOHANNESBURG/

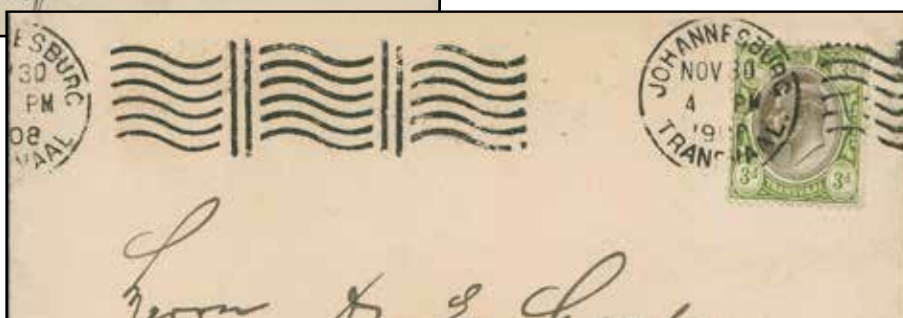


Fig 6 - Johannesburg 1908: multiple machine cancel strike of the single impression Columbia machine

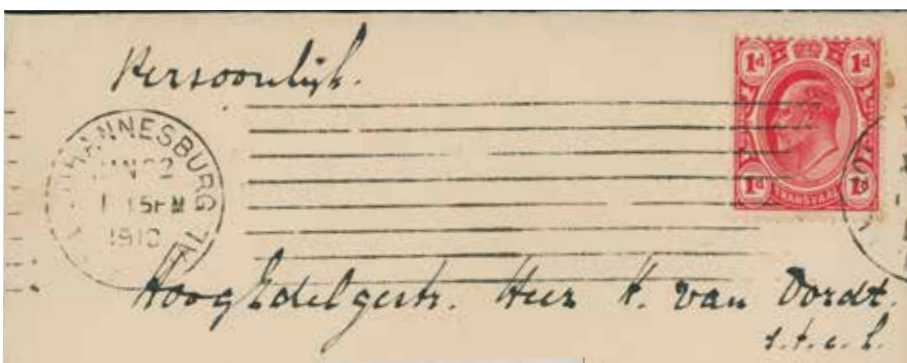


Fig.7 - Johannesburg 1910: introduction of the Columbia machine with continuous impressions

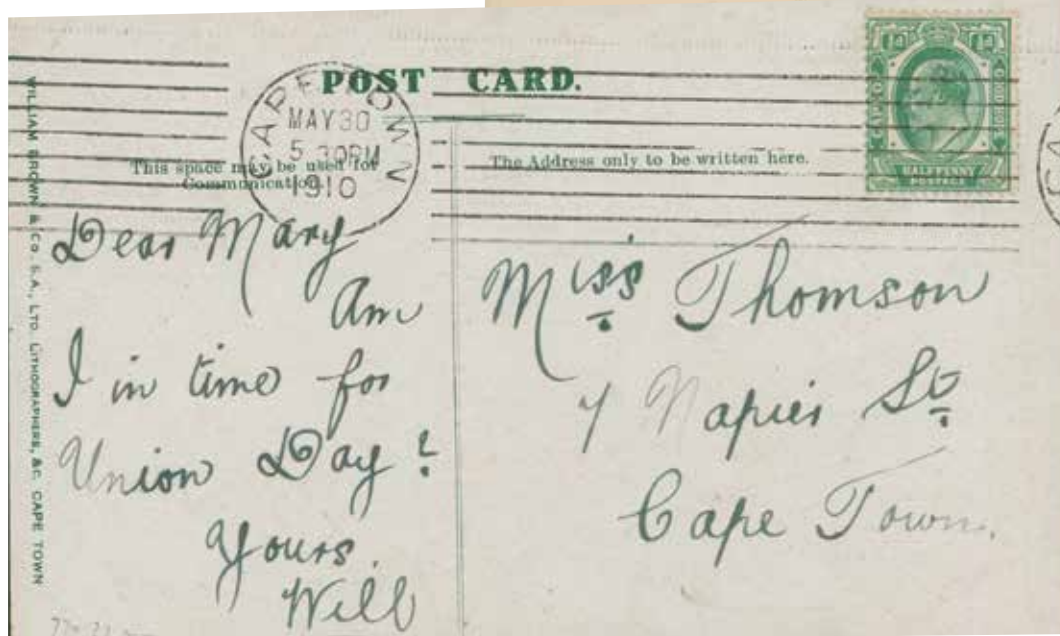


Fig.8 - Cape Town 1910: Columbia continuous impression of machine cancel with eight horizontal bars measuring 76 x 22 mm



Fig.9 - Johannesburg 1921: late use of the Columbia eight bar machine canceller

the different town/date stamps used in combination with the obliterator.

Union of South Africa

This chapter needs some extensive revision as may be evident from following comments:

- Bloemfontein – Type 8R, 8 horizontal bars

According to *The Columbia Story*, page 76, a Columbia repeater was used in Bloemfontein in 1913; however, this is not shown in the chapter dealing with the Union of South Africa, page 151, where the use of a Columbia machine is recorded between 11 October 1922 and 25 December 1925. In this regard I would also like to draw attention to the different measurements of the Bloemfontein town/date stamps (dials) shown on page 151 of 23.5 mm, and on the postcard shown on page 156 where I measure a diameter of ca. 25 mm. This leads to the question whether the canceller on the postcard is in fact an impression from a Columbia machine; in South Africa town/date stamps (dials) for the Columbia machines measure 23.5 mm whereas Krag machines in South Africa usually employ town/date stamps with a diameter of 25 mm or more.

- Cape Town - Type 8R, 8 horizontal bars – recorded dates: 26 January 1910 to 22 April 1912

Illustrations of covers in *The Columbia Story* on page 152, measure between 78 and 79 mm; this does not correspond with Type 8R (page 151).

An example from my personal collection, Fig.8, dated 30 May 1910 measures 76 x 22 mm, which also does not correspond with

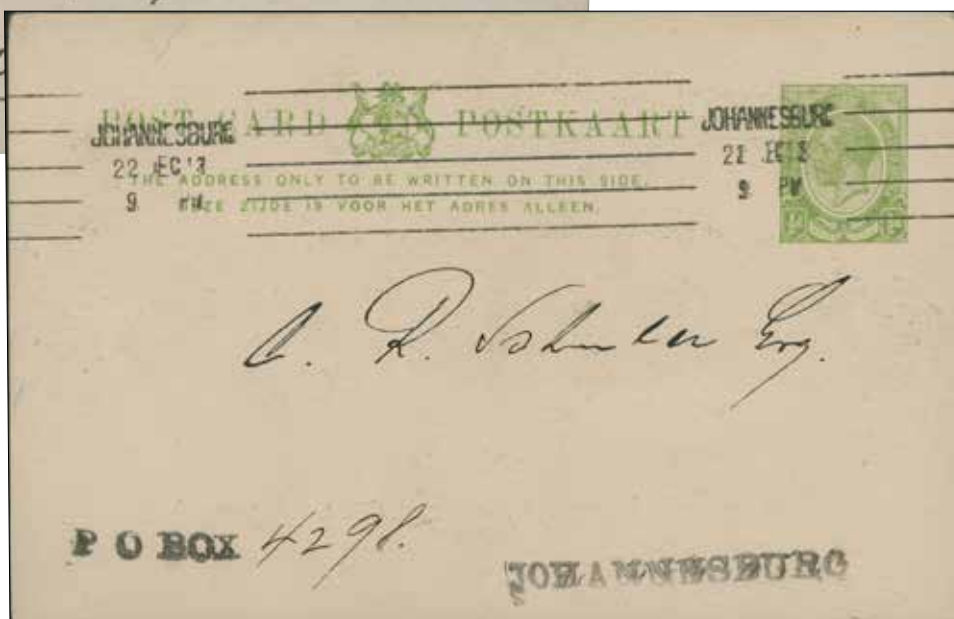


Fig.10 - Johannesburg 1913: Columbia type 5R. The shorter version with five horizontal bars measuring 65 mm.

Type 8R (page 151).

- Johannesburg – Type 8 R, 8 horizontal bars – recorded dates: 23 February 1914 to 17 September 1919

Illustrations of covers in *The Columbia Story* on page 154 measure 76 mm in length which corresponds with items in my collection, however, this does not correspond with Type 8R (page 151).

I found a much later date of use for Johannesburg, probably a temporary re-introduction, dated 23 March 1921, Fig.9.

- Johannesburg – Type 5R, 5 horizontal bars – recorded dates: 20 September 1913 to 23 November 1917

For the type 5R canceller with five horizontal bars *The Columbia Story* records a length of 78 mm which corresponds with items in my collection; however, there exists also a shorter version measuring 65 mm as shown in Fig. 10, dated 22 December 1913.

Also not recorded is Type 5R with town/date stamp “JH’BURG” for Johannesburg as shown in Fig. 11, dated 5 September 1913.

- Johannesburg – Type 8RS – 8 horizontal bars with inscription UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA and UNIE VAN ZUID AFRIKA – recorded dates Ba/Bb date stamp 8 July 1912 to 5 September 1912; with TRANSVAAL date stamp 24 February 1913.

A cover in my collection with the Ba/Bb town/date stamp is dated 25 November 1912.

Summary and comments

Cape of Good Hope/Cape Town; the first cancelling machine was a Bickerdike taken into use in March 1899. After an interruption the machine came into use again for one year in 1903. The Bickerdike was replaced by a Columbia type machine in February 1904 and the last known use is reported on 23 November 1909.

Transvaal/Johannesburg; the first cancelling machine was a Columbia taken into use on 20 October 1904. Last reported known use on 12 February 1912.

Union of South Africa

Cape Town; last reported use of a Columbia machine: 3 February 1912.

Johannesburg; last reported use of a Columbia machine: 23 November 1917. Also a re-introduction reported on 23 March 1921.

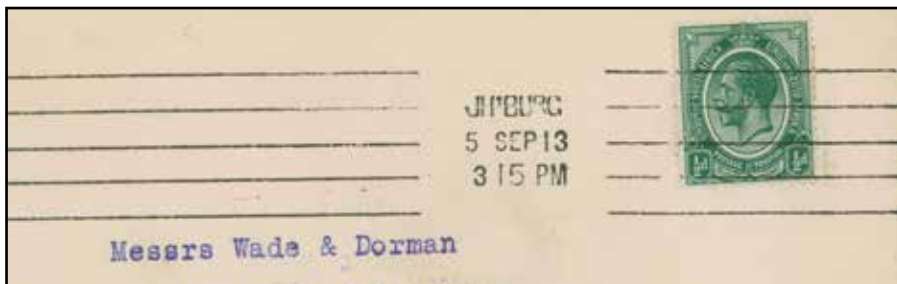


Fig.11 - Johannesburg 1913: Columbia type 5R. Town/date stamp 'JH'BURG'

The Columbia Story continues with the remark: "the capital of Transvaal, Pretoria, does not appear to have used a Columbia machine prior to unification, but a Krag machine was used."

Fig 12 shows a postcard with probably the first machine impression of a Krag machine used in Pretoria dated 28 May 1914.

It would be interesting to do further research with regard to other towns in the Union and establish first dates of use of Krag machine impressions.

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- Morris, Reg; Payne, R.J.; Holmes, T.B., *The Columbia Story*, Vol. VII, The Machine Cancel Society, Warren, USA, 2001.

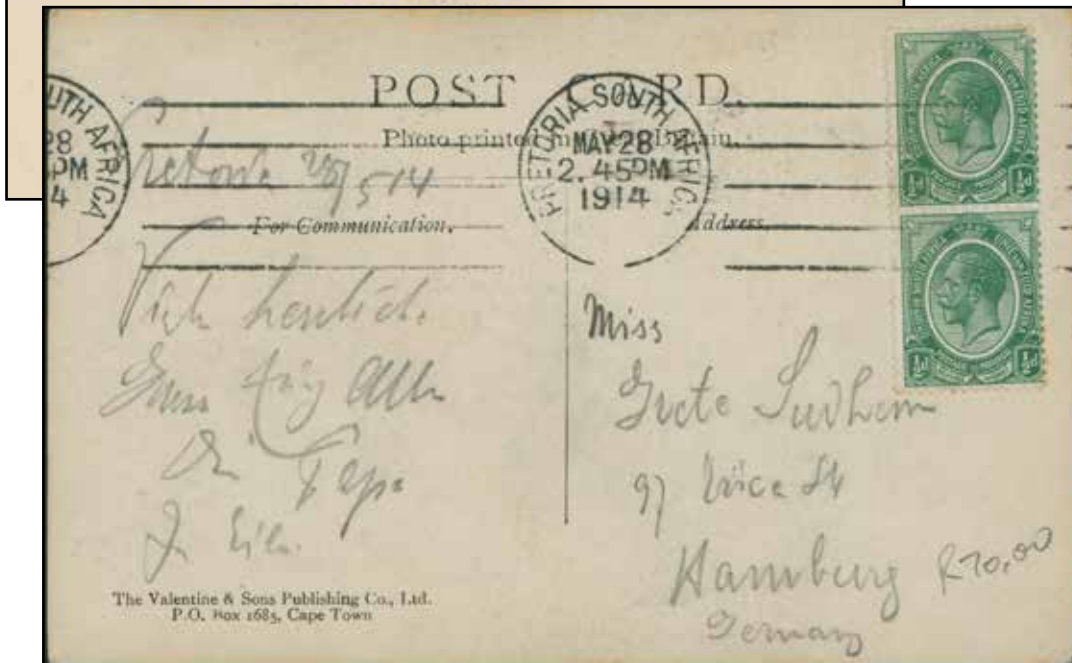


Fig.12 - The first machine postmark in Pretoria was from a Norwegian Krag machine.

- Jurgens.A.A., *The Handstruck Letter Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope*, Cape Town, 1943.

Following the above mentioned information a start can be made to establish and record the replacement of the Columbia machines with the Norwegian Krag machines. According to *The Columbia Story* the diameter of town/date stamps (dials) used in respect of Columbia machines does not exceed 23.5 mm and it would appear that the diameter of town/date stamps (dials) used for Krag machines in South Africa always measure 25 mm or more. It would therefore seem feasible to identify Krag machine impressions on the basis of the

diameter of town/date stamps.

Pretoria; According to *The Columbia Story* the Secretary of the Post Office in Johannesburg sent the following letter to the Secretary of the General Post Office, London, on 13 October 1908: "It is contemplated to introduce an electric stamping machine in the new Post Office now building in Pretoria. In Johannesburg a Columbia machine has been in use for some years with fairly satisfactory results...."

- Goldblatt, Robert, *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, Reijger Publishers, Cape Town, 1983.
 - Gomm, Neville, *The SA Philatelist*, 76:6 (843), 2000.
 - Carstairs, M.W., *Canadian Machine Cancellations*, Maple Leaves, Vol. 12, No.4, April 1968.
- www. Machine Cancel Society.



HIGH SPIRITS OF THE 100 YEAR OLD DOG....



submitted by Wendy McWilliams, East London Society and written by Charlie Miles.

Seen in the photo - from left to right: Dave Preston, Marian Nell, Vasco de Abreu, Trevor Steinke, Graham Wilkinson, Paul Simmons, and at back: Wendy McWilliams - President, Charlie Miles, Pierre Nell, Piet Groenewald.

One of the oldest clubs in South Africa which recently celebrated their 100th anniversary, had a wonderful year-end meeting with members and wives. The photo by Bernard Lindstrom shows some of the jovial and happy stamp revellers of the 100 year old East London Society.



Vrolik en feestelik.

Die Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (AFP) AFP vier 60ste Verjaardag

deur Gina J CWilgenbus

Op 9 Augustus 1951 is besluit om 'n Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging in Pretoria op die been te bring. 60 Jaar later is Die Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (AFP) 'n klein, maar baie aktiewe vereniging met 'n ledetal van 45.

Hulle het die afgelope jare 'n bydrae gelewer met informele byeenkomste, aktiewe betrokkenheid en meeleving van die kerngroep lede, unieke en leidinggewende uitstallings, seëlskoue, skakeling met ander verenigings, 'n maandelikse nuusbrief, betrokkenheid by Tematika SA, RSA Possêel Studiegroep, Centurion Stamps en die daarstelling van die studiegroepe TBVC en Tshwane. Die Centurion Biblioteek se Filateliese naslaanafdeling is die tuiste van die AFP se boekeverzameling en argief van 'n wye verskeidenheid nuusbriewe en filateliese publikasies.

Die vereniging beskik oor agt bekere wat jaarliks gewen kan word vir oa. Unie en RSA, Tematies, Moderne versameling, Vertoonklas, Damesbeker, Alfabet Kompetisie, Eenraam en Lande. Dit is 'n goeie aanduiding van die wye spektrum van belangstellings en versamelings in die groep.

Dag en datum, 9 Augustus 2011, vier hulle hulle 60ste verjaarsdag met 'n vonkelmidbyt in die NG Kerk Wierdapark-Suid se kerksaal. Vrolik en feestelik.

Ds. Frik Grobler open die verrigtinge met gebed en nadat ds. Cassie Carstens (GAFF), as voorsitter van die AFP, almal welkom geheet het, pleit hy vir deelname en die voortbestaan van die stokperdjie. Die belangrikheid van onderlinge samewerking tussen die verskillende plaaslike en nasionale klubs word ook weer onderstreep. Johan van Wyk verteenwoordig Filateliedienste en het al 32 siele teenwoordig laat skater met sy humoristiese beskrywing van die pad wat 'n seël moet loop om van 'n idee in iemand se kop, 'n volwaardige seël te word. 'n



Heildronk is op die vereniging ingestel deur Alex Visser van die Pretoria Philatelic Society. Ons handelaars is verteenwoordig deur Paul van Zeyl en sy vrou Kathy en glo dit as julle wil, maar hy wil toe sommer koeverte wat Danie van Zyl spesiaal vir die geleentheid ontwerp het, begin opveel. So tussen die eet en drink deur het lede ywerig probeer om almal teenwoordig se handtekeninge in die Gedenkbundel, saamgestel deur Isak en Petra Heath, bymekaar te kry.

'n Baie aangename oggend! Keurige kos en goeie geselskap. Wat meer kan mens vra? Hans Stronkhorst (GAFF) - ondervoorsitter van die AFP het kort en kragtig die bedankings behartig. Baie lede het gekom en baie lede het gegaan, en elkeen op sy manier en gebied het 'n bydrae gelewer.

Die AFP innoveer nog steeds, pas altyd aan by veranderende omstandighede en tegnologie en gaan die toekoms vol vertroue tegemoet. Die lede neem vol entoesiasme deel en verras met hulle idees en uitstallings.

Drie hoeras vir die AFP!

- (ginajcw@gmail.com)



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Lot 59 - 1858 Second Issue, 10k. blue and brown imperforate with clear to mostly large margins, in mixed franking with second issue 20k. orange and deep blue both tied to 1858 entire from Reval (Estonia) to Port Kunda by framed "Revel/20 Apr. 1858", **Sold for €292,605**

Lot 23 - 1858 First Issue, 10k. blue and brown, a very fresh and fine example with very good margins, on 1857 (31 Dec.) entire from Taurrogen to St. Petersburg, tied by pen cross and showing, on reverse, red oblong despatch datestamp of Taurrogen and arrival c.d.s. for 4 January 1858, **Sold for €210,705**

Lot 24 - 1858 First Issue, 10k. brown and blue, a very fresh example with virtually complete to mostly large margins, on 1858 (1 Jan.) entire from Kovno to Warsaw, tied by pen strokes and showing fine strike of "Kovno/1858 January 1" circular datestamp, the first day of official usage, **Sold for €175,605**

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China in Space

Jeff Dugdale

The citizens of many countries other than Russia or America, including some unlikely ones such as Afghanistan, Mexico and Saudi Arabia, have been launched into space in the last fifty years, the numbers of nations proliferating with the advent of permanently manned space stations like MIR and the ISS. However, it was only in October 2003 that a 'taikonaut' from the most populous country in the world, China, made it into space.

China has had a long-standing interest in cosmology, astronomy and rocketry. As Edward H. Schafer tells us in his Ancient China, "The men of Ancient China searched earth and sky to discover the truth about the world and its workings, directing their probing mainly towards the rediscovery of the supposedly reliable methods of ancient masters." The Imperial Bureau of Astronomy patiently observed and recorded over a period of two thousand years.

A stamp from Venda depicts the invention of gunpowder in China used in a 'firespitting lance' in the 13th Century (fig 1), whilst the stamps from Burkina Faso, Benin, Lesotho (fig 2) and Liberia (fig 3) credit the Chinese with the invention of rocketry in the 13th or 14th Century.

The Chinese first went into space on their own in April 1970 with the launch of Dong Fang Hong I (translated as 'the East is Red'), some thirteen years after the Soviet Sputnik. It was delivered by a Long March I carrier rocket from a launch site near Lop Nor, 1600 km west of Beijing.



fig 1



fig 2



fig 3



fig 4



fig 5

This launch made China the fifth country in history to launch on its own and it carried a small satellite that included a transmitter, which broadcasted 'The East is Red', a song paying tribute to Chairman Mao Tse Tung.

Then followed a whole series of launches, sporadic at first then increasing in regularity via Long March rockets so that by the end of the 20th Century, the Chinese had successfully launched some 80 payloads. Therefore, it should come as no surprise to space watchers that China is now putting its

own citizens into space under its own steam - but how did they get to this sophisticated level?

As early as the 1980s there were rumours about the development of a Chinese manned space flight programme, flatly denied for ten years. Then in the mid 1990s, two Chinese scientists appeared in

'Starry Town', the Moscow suburb in which the cosmonaut-training centre is situated. At first, it was assumed that these men were cosmonaut candidates as the Soviet Union had a long record in launching citizens of its satellite states such as Viet Nam, Afghanistan and Cuba as well as friendly states like France and Japan. However, it transpired that these personnel were in fact training to be trainers of their own spacemen. A new word for Chinese astronauts was created by the Western media - 'taikonauts'. 'Taikong' is a Chinese word for Space.



fig 6

At about the same time the Chinese purchased a stripped down Soyuz space ferry from the Russian Energia Corporation, which was responsible for many items of space hardware. Soyuz in various guises has been the standard carrier to space stations since the 1970s (fig 4). From this, the Chinese developed their own orbital capsule given the name of Shen Zhou, or 'Divine Vessel' or perhaps 'Chariot of the Gods'! Four unmanned launches of Shen Zhou took place between November 1999 and December 2003 and stamps showing the Shen Zhou carrier and orbiter were issued by China in January 2000 (fig 5).

Like any country keen to publicise major achievements, the People's Republic of China has used its postage stamps and other



fig 7

philatelic media to commemorate its manned spaceflight programme. Satellite states like North Korea and Mongolia have also contributed philatelically. In addition, a group

of African countries, not necessarily because of a homage to Communist achievement, also allowed stamps to be issued bearing their names, which brings in revenue, even if the stamps are never or hardly ever used on postage in those territories. Many of these issues are simply produced as souvenirs for the public or for the 'astrophilatelist', as the collecting of space topics on stamps is particularly popular in the Far East.

Shen Zhou 5 was launched on 15.10.03 carrying the first Taikonaut Yang Liwei and returned the next day. The Chinese State Post Bureau issued two stamps on cover, showing a cancel for the day of return and patriotic images of Yang Liwei. The names 'Heroic Bearing' and 'Triumphant Return' were allocated to the designs (fig 6).

Shen Zhou 6 was launched on 12.10.05 carrying Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng returning on the 16th.

Samoa was one of the countries that produced a souvenir issue (fig 7), not intended for use on mail.

Shen Zhou 7 was launched on 25.9.08 (and not as expected during the Beijing Olympics) carrying Zhai Zhigang, Liu Buoming and Jing Haipeng, returning on the 28th. Zhai was backup pilot for SZ5 and became the nation's first spacewalker on this mission. To commemorate this flight, the China National Philatelic Corporation issued a Presentation Pack, showing the astronauts on labels beneath I.20-yuan definitives, from left Zhai, Liu and Jing with signatures below (fig 8). To date there has been no official State Bureau issue to commemorate SZ7, perhaps because of the plethora of issues for the Olympic Games in the second half of 2008.

In 2012, the Chinese plan to launch two Shen Zhou craft simultaneously and perform a docking in orbit, thus creating their own small space station. They also plan to launch a female taikonaut.

(Article shortened - for the complete story visit the website below)

For those interested in space on stamps, why not join the Astro Space Stamp Society <http://www.astrospacestampociety.com>



fig 8

Smalls

SMALLS ADVERTS

Small advertisements are accepted from Federation affiliated members at no charge. Ads can be inserted for two consecutive issues. Maximum 30 words. Material must be typed or printed for clarity, and the home society of the advertiser indicated. (Not necessarily for publication). Dealers and non-affiliated advertisers will be charged for classified advertisements at the rate of R50 per column cm per issue. Copy should be sent timeously - see page 3 box for deadlines and addresses. In all instances insertions will be at the discretion of the Committee.

WANTED: Whatever is law related: Human rights, court, magistrate, prison, police, etcetera (e.g. crime committed against mail, prohibited mail, postage rate privileges). Exclude, except for special reason, (1) fiscals; (2) incoming mail where the name of the addressee is the only connexion; (3) post-1960 stamps of Commonwealth countries. Contact monusf@iafrica.co.za or tel 011 888 5215 or 15 Dale Brook crescent, Victory Park, 2195.

FOR EXCHANGE: Collector: exchange doubles + new issues stamps mint and used, FDCs, CM & banknotes, coins, Phonecards and other collectibles, sale possible. Eg, Fr, Gh, Alexe, P.O.Box 32, Plopeni 105900, Jud. Prahova, Romania. e-mail: numismatic.philatelice@gmail.com

WANTED: 24 year old Andrew starting stamp collection - looking for SA contact. Andrew Pavlyuk. Kolomijska 3/18. Lviv, 79049 Ukraine email: freedomtravel9@gmail.com

WANTED : L'Agulhas/Agulhas Postmarks, Putzel Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6b. Details to Chris at : Belvadere@worldonline.co.za

FOR EXCHANGE: Russian, Yuriy Baranov, is thirty years old and enjoys collecting stamps. Postal address: 305007 Russia Kursk Olshanskogo St 47b - 30.

WANTED : Struisbaai Postmark, Putzel Type 1. Earlier marks including Struys Bay would be welcome. Details to Chris : Belvadere@worldonline.co.za

ERRATUM R.S.A. SEVENTH DEFINITIVE SERIES - CHECK LIST - published in the December 2011 issue. Pages 217 - 219. The values of this issue reprinted on 02.08.10, 10c, 20c, 30c, 50c, 70c and R3, are shown in the tabulation as having been printed by Enschedé. This is in error as they were in fact printed by Cartor.

Philatelic Summit in Malmö - Sweden

On 27-29 April 2012

The 'Malmö 2nd International Philatelic Summit', arranged by Postiljonen, is an international philatelic seminar addressing collectors of all philatelic areas who want to deepen their knowledge of philatelic exhibiting.

The first philatelic summit in Malmö held two years ago, in 2009, with 80 participants from 21 countries made the event a great success. The seminar outline is set to deal with treatment, which is the judgement criterion that evaluates how well a philatelic collection expresses a collector's knowledge and research about the displayed subject.

Eight internationally well-known and recognised philatelists are invited as lecturers to the comprehensive three-days program held at Hotel Savoy in Malmö. The program includes a rarity auction, the Postiljonen Jubilee Auction #200. The official invitation with the detailed program and registration form can be found at www.postiljonen.com

Societies that wish to publish forthcoming exhibitions or events are welcome to submit information



WITWATERSRAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

For further information contact the President
Herbie Schaffler - 082 722 7604.

Dates for Society Meetings for 2011

Wed 8 February 2012 - *Thematic Evening*

Wed 14 March 2012 - *Postcards and Picture Postcards*

Wed 11 April 2012 - *First Competitive Evening*

(To be confirmed - *Annual Dinner*)

Wed 9 May 2012 - *One Page Evening*

Eurocircle Stamp Study - on Wednesdays:

• 29 February 2012 • 28 March 2012 • 25 April 2012

• 30 May 2012 • 27 June 2012 • 25 July 2012

• 29 August 2012 • 26 September 2012

LOCAL EVENTS

exhibition news invited
for all future local events

STAMP FAIRS: Fairs, all featuring 'mini-auctions' as well, run by SAPDA members in the Gauteng area, and one in KZN. SAPDA views these Fairs as a development and testing source for new member growth. Dates, locations & contact persons/detail are:

• **PRETORIA STAMP FAIR:** 1st Saturday of every month; Denis Adami Hall, Wren St, Queenswood, Pretoria. Contact Paul van Zeyl at 076 1249055

• **TSHWANE EXHIBITIONS:** Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging Pretoria. Every first Saturday at the Denis Adami Hall, Wren Street, Queenswood, Pretoria. Contact rev Cassie Carstens 012 653 2279.

• **SANDTON STAMP FAIR:** 2nd Saturday of every month; Ernest Ullmann Recreation Centre, Alma St, Morningside, Sandton. Contact: Clinton Goslin at 083 2729367

• **KZN STAMP FAIR:** Last Sunday of all months, except December; Kloof Country Club, Victory Rd (off Abrey Rd), Kloof. Contact: Anne Southwood at 033 3434803

• **EAST RAND STAMP FAIR:** Last Saturday of all months, except December; Ashbury School, corner of Orchards Road and von Broembsen Road, Crystal Park, Benoni. *Boksburg fairs at Ashbury - We are moving back to old venue Elizabeth off Atlas road on March 31st and thereafter for rest of year* Contact: Steve Catlin 016-341-3712 and Kenny Napier 083 444 0249

MAJOR PHILATELIC EVENTS

JUNE 2012

INDONESIA 2012,
18-24 June 2012
World Stamp Championship
and Exhibition,

Under Patronage of Federation Internationale
de Philatelie (FIP) and Auspices of the
Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP)
Commissioner: Emil Minnaar RDPSA



SEPTEMBER 2012

DOHA 2012
World Philatelic Exhibition - Doha, Qatar

TBC 2013

THAILAND -
Bangkok 2013
World Philatelic Exhibition

Philately of the Orange Free State by R.W. Hisey & R.T. Bartshe

Vol. 3. THE REVENUES AND POSTAL STATIONERY

2009. A history and study of the revenues, military and police franks and postal stationery of the Orange Free State and its occupation. New updated treatment of the subject.

In full color, hardbound, 205 pages.

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2004. A history and study of the telegraph system and stamps of the Orange Free State and its occupation. Covering the stamps, offices, routes, rates, postmarks, forms, etc.

The first comprehensive work on this subject. Vermeil at Stampshow 2004.

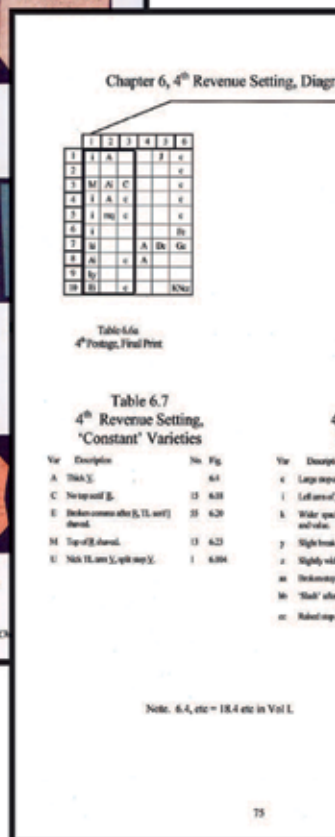
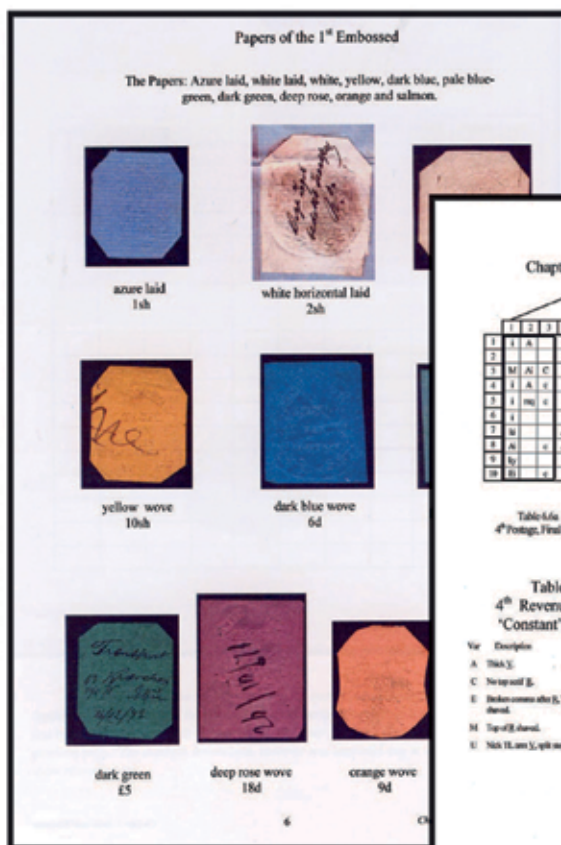
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All publications payable by US or UK checks made out to R. W. Hisey, US cash, or PayPal to bobhisey@comcast.net
Ordered from and paid directly to Bob Hisey, 7227 Sparta Rd., Sebring, FL 33875; bobhisey@comcast.net.



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