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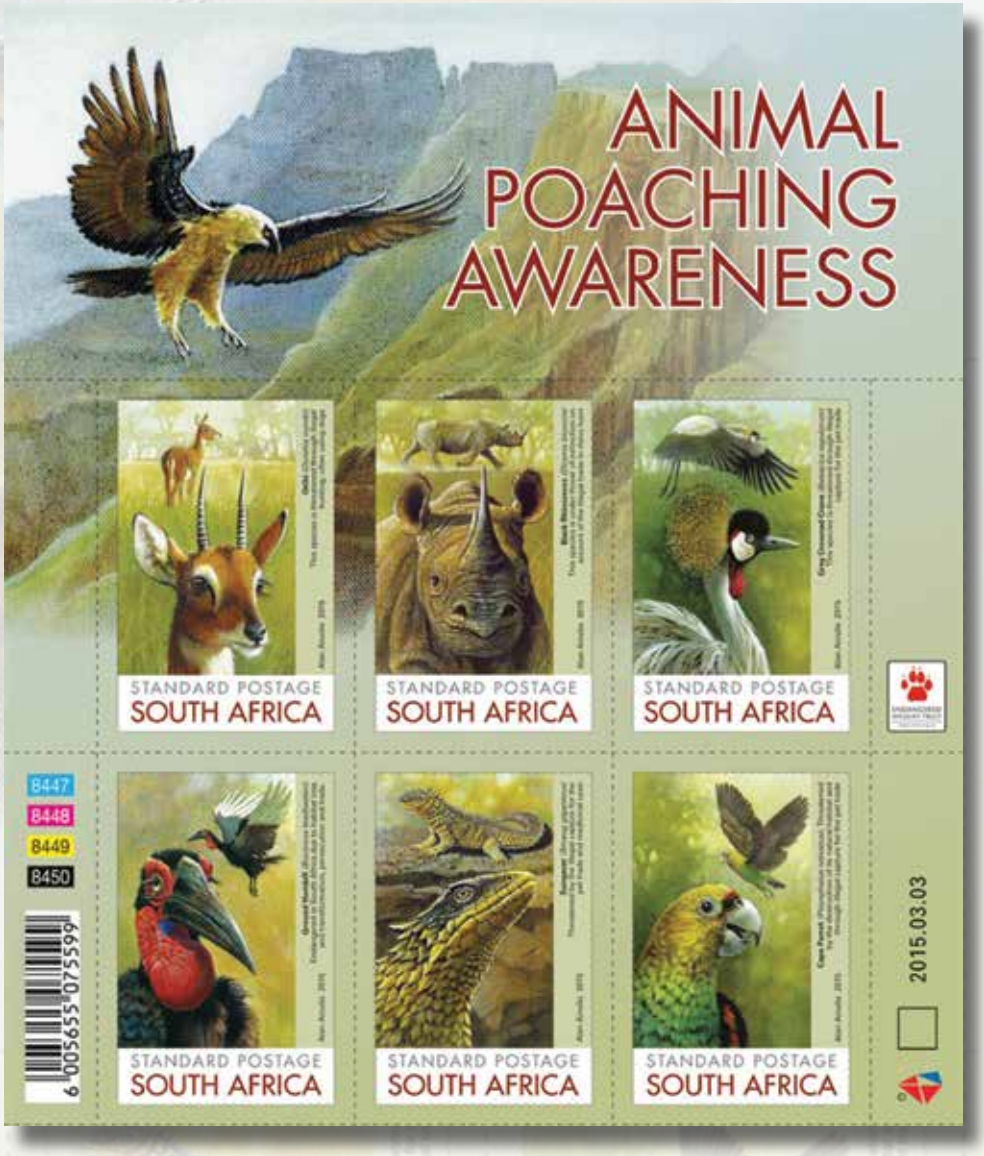

1935 SILVER JUBILEE

The headplate flaws revised with comments & observations

FORGED!

Natal fiscals are not known used in the Transvaal during the 'Interprovincial' period

NATIVE TAX STAMP IN THE UNION OF SA

Puzzled by the 2/6d Native Tax Stamp overprinted for revenue purposes, when a pair of regular stamps led to further confusion regarding the background of this mysterious stamp issue

NEW ISSUES

South African artist depicts the beauty of nature and creates awareness of the danger of poaching

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The South African Philatelist

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Correspondence to *THE SA PHILATELIST* should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest may be published and stand the chance of being rewarded with a PILOT writing gift.

Sponsored by PILOT More than a Pen!

Geluk met gawe nuwe voorkoms

Geagte Redakteur,
Gelukwense met die nuwe voorkoms van *The SA Philatelist* – dit is voorwaar 'n plesier om die blad met die aangenamer en meer gemaklike voorkoms ter hand te neem.
Die pragtige voorblad van Februarie 2015 wys: dit gaan oor seëls !
Ja,die tydskrif weerspieël die nuwe lewe en energie in die Filateliese Federasie. Mooi so !

Joh Groenewald, George

Editorial comment:
Thanks also to those Societies and readers who responded positively to our 'new look' publication.

In the June 2014 issue of *The SA Philatelist* 'Seeking an Answer'

Jim Findlay RDPSA, responded to the question *"seeking an answer"* raised by Diederik Viljoen in the August issue of 2014, following a further two copies of EPP no.59 from DJ Watts. This adds to our information.

Enlarged view of cancellers on cover at right

Jim Findlay had explained that air mail postage for 'On Service' or 'On Active Service' was 10d while surface mail was postage free. The postmark is Egyptian and the Egyptian postal authorities insisted that all mail went through their system. An Egyptian post office was attached to all the SA APOs and the only time you can get a SA APO postmark on mail from Egypt is if it was registered. Egyptian Pre-Paid 59 Post Office was allocated to SA APO 36 from 16.06.1941 to 20.05 1942. On 8 August 1941 this was located at El Alamein, Egypt.

Philatelic Society of Greater Southern Africa Exhibition and Seminar 14-17 May 2015

DENVER, COLORADO, USA

Almost fifteen years ago, the Philatelic Society of Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA), held an anniversary exhibition and meeting in association with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver.

In 2015, the PSGSA will again convene at the **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver** and as part of the 2015 events, Tim Bartshe and Colin Fraser are organizing a full day seminar covering a number of themes relating to African Philately. This seminar will be held on 14 May, 2015, the day prior to the opening of the show.

In the evening there was a no-host dinner with a noted philatelist as the guest speaker.

We would like to send an invitation to participate in this event either as an attendee or as an exhibitor.

In 2002 we presented over 100 frames of British African material and displayed some of the greatest material in North America. The 2015 Jury comprises Rich Drews (Chair), Colin Fraser, Kathy Johnson, Peter McCann and Chris Dahle.

The exhibition will have a full complement of dealers and will be held from 15 to 17 May, 2015. It is a fully accredited American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately national exhibition. Full details of the exhibition, including application forms, can be found on the web site: www.rockymountainstampshow.com

CAPEX 2015

14th to 17th October
CAPE TOWN CITY HALL

The Organising Committee has filled all the portfolios and planning of this year's National Exhibition is well advanced.

The Cape Town City Hall has a long and interesting history, most notably in recent times as the place from where Nelson Mandela made his first official appearance following his release from prison.

Major upgrades to the various rooms are well advanced and provide ample space to accommodate all aspects of the event such as a main exhibition hall, dealers stands, Junass, specialised society meetings and Congress. Catering has been arranged for the duration of the exhibition.

As an added attraction we will have artistic material on loan from the Charles Davidson Bell Trust. Bell is well known in South Africa for his many achievements in land surveying, paintings and designing. His designs for the Heraldic Arms of the South African College (now UCT) and the three anchor badge for the South African Mutual Life Society (now Old Mutual) are still in use. As far as philately is concerned, we have Charles Bell to thank for the Cape of Good Hope Triangular Stamps, and it is a great privilege to be able to feature his works at our National Exhibition.

Ample parking will be available opposite the City Hall on the Grand Parade.

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Collections in Museums: safekeeping vs permanent immobilization?!

In his latest QSA (e-auction) musings, SAPDA dealer Paul van Zeyl has again raised the question: "... are we doing posterity a favour by locking our prized stamp and postal history collections away in a museum for safekeeping purposes and periodic airing, or is this just an ego ruse which permanently immobilizes a collection as well as having the potential of destruction-by-neglect?" Paul holds the latter opinion and claims that the neglect of museum-deposited stamps (e.g, Transvaal by JH Curle, RDPSA) and postal history (e.g, WW2 censor markings, JH Harvey Pirie, RDPSA) collections have already led to their deterioration. Further, he revives a point made by Stanley Phillips years ago (in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, Dec 1951, p45) about the importance of older collectors re-offering their material to newer ones. Phillips also used the example of Curle's Transvaal collection. Curle had struggled to acquire several of the Transvaal rarities outside of the British King's collection, and complained to Phillips about how difficult this task had been. Phillips then explained to him that this would be less of a problem for later collectors if, after Curle's passing, his collection would be re-offered to newer collectors. Curle did not accept the life-giving benefit of Phillips' view, he insisted on creating a memorial-type collection … so that all his treasures have now effectively become permanently immobilized. Paul expressed the further concern that Curle's Transvaal example may be followed in our times. If this happens, he predicts that Transvaal philately would regretfully face a bleak future. His perspective on the comparative futures of societies was that specialist societies such as the trade-positive Rhodesian and Bechuanaland ones were already, comparatively speaking, much more active than the Transvaal Study Circle from whose members little significant Transvaal material was finding its way back onto the market.

Curle Collection; Bisected 1/- imperforate

What are readers' views?!

Comments by SAPDA dealer Paul van Zeyl

EXHIBITION NEWS

WORLD STAMP SHOW IN NEW YORK : CRITICAL MILESTONES

Printed Bulletins and Entry Forms are now available from the National Commissioner Peter van der Molen, at molens@pixie.co.za

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR EXHIBITS:

- **31 August 2015:** Exhibit applications MUST be in the hands of the Commissioner General.
- **November 2015:** Notice of acceptance or rejection to be sent to all commissioners
- **1 January 2016:** Commissioners to request their accepted exhibitors to send their title pages to the Commissioner General by electronic means.
- **29 February 2016:** Commissioners to remit participation fees to the Commissioner General or another designated member of the NY2016 Organizing Committee.
- **25-27 May 2016:** Commissioners arrive at the Javits Center in New York. Exact dates to be determined later.

SINGAPORE 2015 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

ACCEPTED COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT LISTING

Commissioner: Emil Minnaar, in attendance as a Juror - Howard Green.

Exhibitors:

- **Emil Bührmann** RDPSA, *Cape of Good Hope : The Hope Rectangular Design during the Victorian Period*
- **John Friend,** *The Stamps of St Helena (1884-1935)*
- **Herbie Schaffler** RDPSA, *North German Confederation (1868 to 1872)*
- **Ian Matheson** RDPSA, *Revenue Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope*
- **Gila Barit,** *Namibia: The Overprints of the 2000s and their origin*
- **Avi Barit,** *Basutoland 1961 Decimal Overprints*

The SA Philatelist Publication

Closing dates for advertising copy

June issue	Vol. 91: 3.	930 : 06/05/ 2015
August issue	Vol. 91: 4.	931 : 06/07/ 2015
October issue	Vol. 91: 5.	932 : 07/09/ 2015
December issue	Vol. 91: 6.	933 : 05/11/ 2015

Collecting Cape of Good Hope

by Emil Bührmann RDPSA, Stellenbosch Philatelic Society

Part 2 - The Triangular stamps (1853 – 1863)

Triangulars rank as one of the most iconic early classical stamp issues in the world. With exceptions, triangular stamps are not rare but command relatively high prices due to popularity and collectability.

Only stamps in a good condition (margins not cut into, and in the case of used stamps with light postmarks) should command a premium price. Novice collectors are often talked into acquiring inferior copies at inflated prices. Be aware that there are many repaired copies in circulation, especially woodblocks. Fakes and forgeries are relatively easy to identify and should not pose a problem for most collectors.

Historical Background

In 1848 the first attempt to introduce a reduced letter rate and stamps was rejected by the Cape Governing Council. In 1852 an appointed board of enquiry on postal reform recommended the introduction of postage stamps. The report stated:

"In order to obviate errors in sorting letters or stamping, we would suggest the adoption of a device and shape so different from those of the English postage stamps as to catch the eye at a glance, and we would propose that of a triangle with the figure of 'Hope' in the centre ..."

Mr Charles Bell's design was accepted and Perkins Bacon and Co. were instructed to print 1d and 4d stamps. The first stamps were issued on 1 September 1853.

The Perkins Bacon Issues

Pre-payment of overseas postage only came into effect in 1858 and that explains why the 6d and 1/- stamps were only issued four years after the 1d and 4d values. Stamps were arranged in pairs forming squares and each pair was struck from two separate dies. The differences between the dies, re-entries, constant marks and details of the printing plates are discussed in detail by Stevenson (Ref 2) and are outside the scope of this article. Stevenson also discussed the handmade paper used and the reason why some sheets were blued.

The 1d was printed from the same inks as the contemporary 1d of Great Britain. It is therefore possible to link the Cape stamps with the colours of the British stamps. A chart illustrating this point is contained in the *Robson Lowe Africa in Switzerland* sale of 26 October 1976 catalogue.

Stamps supplied

Value	Printings	Quantity 000s
1d	26	5,850
4d	29	7,010
6d	2	920
1/-	2	380

General notes

Unused multiples are generally scarce. Most stamps and shades are readily available in used form. Covers in good condition other than to the UK, Holland and Germany are difficult to find. Inland covers to the OFS and Transvaal are particularly hard to find. So are soldiers' letters and newspaper postage usage.

SG 1 probably the most desirable of all Perkins Bacon mint multiples. Source: Mrs. AD Indhusophon.

The 'Woodblock' Provisionals of 1861

The Cape followed a policy of holding two years consumption of stock in order to prevent any shortages. In 1860 a large order of 1d and 4d stamps was delivered but laid unclaimed in the Cape Town docks. It was decided to augment supplies to prevent shortages by printing stamps locally. This gave birth to one of the most famous issues in philately. Saul Solomon & Co., a local printer, was requested to engrave new dies on steel for the two values.

Between February and April 1861 a total of 113,256 four pence and 125,012 one penny stamps were produced. Both Allis (Ref 1) and Stevenson supply considerable detail on the five 4d and four 1d printings. The printer could not obtain colour consistency between the printings and this gave rise to three distinct 1d and five 4d shades.

The unique tête – bêche pair. The only example recorded, ex Dale Lichtenstein.

The only known block of four unused of the 1d woodblock vermilion shade, ex Lichtenstein.

Errors of Colour

In the process of fixing the metal stereos to the printing plates, a 4d stereo was inadvertently affixed to the 1d plate and vice versa. One 4d stereo was also damaged in the left hand corner during preparation and a series of parallel lines were drawn. This gave rise to the so called 'retouched' corner variety.

Allis made a careful study of the errors and concluded that the first and last printings did not contain the errors. He calculated that 1,568 4d red errors and 1,194 1d blue errors were printed. The red errors are considerably rarer than their penny blue counterparts. This is attributed to the fact that 1d stamps were in the main used for the newspaper rate, where their survival was much lower than on letters.

1883 Reprints

Solomon reprinted about 12,000 stamps of each value for distribution to Postal Administrations for official purposes. The 1d was printed in a bright red and the 4d in deep indigo blue, both on white wove paper (originals were laid paper). Copies have found their way into the trade.

A world rarity. The only decent one penny error of colour mint stamp recorded to date. Source: Lady Hope Collection.

The De La Rue Issues

The Crown Agents were dissatisfied with Perkins Bacon due to their perceived lax and negligent behaviour and work was transferred to De La Rue. As the work on the new rectangular designs was not complete, Cape stamps continued to be printed from the Perkins Bacon plates. The first deliveries to the Crown Agents were on 21 January 1863.

Arguably the most important Cape Philatelic piece: 4d error of colour on cover. Source: Joseph Hackmey Collection.

Stamps Supplied to Crown Agents

Date	Face Value	Quantity 000s
2 Dec 63	1d	493
13 Apr 64		730
	Total	**1,223**
17 Apr 63	4d	47
2 Dec 63		481
13 Apr 64		736
	Total	**1,264**
21 Jan 63	6d	95
21 Jan 63	1/-	38

Source: The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, John Easton 1958.

Original Perkins Bacon Master Die Proof Source: The Lady Hope Collection

Two Earl of Crawford 1/- Colour Trails. Source: the Lady Hope Collection.

Notes

The 1d, 6d and 1/- stamps are readily distinguished from the earlier issues as the colours used by De La Rue were different. The 4d is more difficult to identify, the most prominent feature being that the De La Rues are of a duller blue shade. As many shades exist certain stamps are difficult to identify. Both Stevenson and Allis supply additional detail. Two shades of the 4d slate and steel blue as well as well as a pale emerald green printing from the 1/- and the bright mauve 6d are the most desirable copies to collect.

Remainder stock was sold to the London trade and unused copies in multiples are not rare except for the mentioned shades. However the 6d and 1/- used on cover are difficult to find and not many collectable covers have survived.

A trial printing on CC watermarked paper of the 1d exists in unused state only. No more than six examples probably exist.

Archival Material

No attempt is made to provide a comprehensive list and the information supplied is to give prospective collectors some pointers.

Very rare single stamp usage of the De La Rue 6d Bright Mauve to discharge the letter rate to Natal in 1865.

Original sketches by Mr Bell, illustrated by Allis on page 24.

Die Proofs
Die proofs of all four values exist. More than 20 in total have been noted by the author.

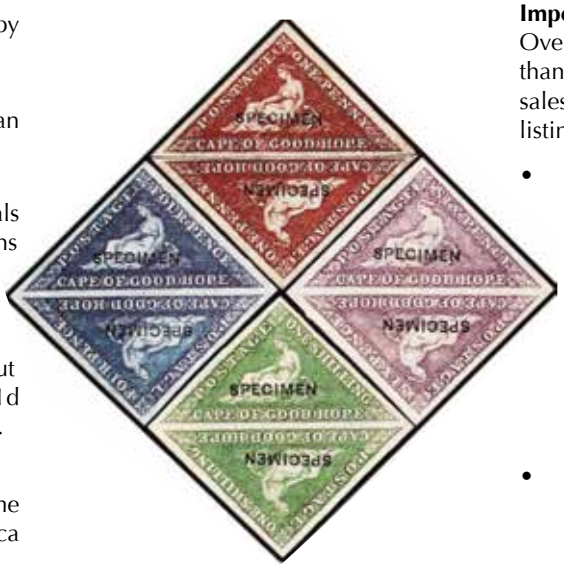
Earl of Crawford Colour Trials
Apparently three sets of ten colour trials of the 6d and 1/- were printed by Perkins Bacon. It is not sure if all three sets survived.

Plate Proofs
Proofs exist in black on wove paper without watermark and in the colours of the issued 1d and 4d stamps without gum or watermark.

Modern die proofs
A variety of proofs in various colours, some with defaced values, were produced circa 1900 – 1926.

Overprinted 'Specimen'
De La Rue 'Specimens' exist and are very rare. Two copies of the famous Perkins Bacon 'cancelled' specimens have also survived.

Four Pence Black
This appears to be a trial printing and about 12 copies have come to light.
It is regarded as one of the Cape rarities.



The rare De La Rue Specimen set

Reference Works
The two important books are:

1) Gilbert J. Allis: *Cape of Good Hope, Its Postal History and Postage Stamps*. Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 1930.

2) D. Alan Stevenson: *The Triangular Stamps of Cape of Good Hope*. HR Harmer Ltd.

Important Auction catalogues
Over the decades there have been more than a dozen single country Triangular sales and space does not permit a full listing.

- The Sir Maxwell Joseph Collection offered by Sotheby's in 1982 is the finest Cape collection ever put together and the catalogue for example contains no less than 300 woodblock copies in full colour. The catalogue contains about one thousand triangular lots, most illustrated in colour. It is a must for any serious collector.
- The Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F. Lichtenstein Collections, Cape of Good Hope, Harmers of New York, November 25 1989.
- Mrs AD Indhusophon Grand Prix Collection, Spink, 26 May 1999.
- The 'Lady Hope' Collection, Feldman Galleries, 19 November 2003.
- The 'Bonaventure' Collection of Triangular Issues, Christie's Robson Lowe, 9 September 1993.
- The 'Maximus' Grand Prix Collection, Sotheby's, 7 September 1989.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE ROYAL MAIL SERVICE

by Dr JR Frank RDPSA FRPSL, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

An attractive Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp item, showing the Cape's 1847 undated Crown postmark (Goldblatt Type 4) and endorsements regarding its conveyance, is always of interest. However, this entire proves the introduction of the Royal Mail Service.

The endorsements indicate that the entire was sent 'prepaid' by OT Trüter Jr. 'per steam packet' *Bosporus* (sic) via England to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The reverse bears a receiver of 13 March 1851, a red oval strike of 'Engeland over Ostende' and an Amsterdam receiver of 15.3.1851.

The Cape Town port charge of 8d and the 1/- packet rate are indicated, as is the total charge of 1/8. The Dutch charge appears to have been 190 cents.

The Bosphorus (G.S.S.S.C.)

Sent 31 Jan 1851. Entire from Cape Town to Amsterdam, via England and Ostend, Belgium.

Reverse of entire showing transit markings and Amsterdam receiver.

Reference:

Newall,P. 1999, Union Castle Line, *A Fleet History.*

The arrival dates of the entire rang a bell. This was likely to be the earliest northbound mail of the General Screw Steam Shipping Company by the *Bosphorous*. The contents of the entire, datelined 31 January 1851, confirmed this.

The writer states, in translation from the Dutch, "I want to make use of the favourable opportunity of the *Bosporus* (sic) (the first packet boat to establish a regular monthly service to the Cape) which leaves to-morrow from Table Bay. It is anticipated that the *Bosphorous* "can complete the journey in less than 35 days." The remainder is commercial news.

Communications between the United Kingdom and the Cape of Good Hope had been left in the hands of the Admiralty, which made them very irregular and unreliable. The 'Packet Ship' side of the Post Office was conducted by the Admiralty at the time. In fact, this impeded commerce in the cash strapped colony.

It was only in November 1850 that the Admiralty signed a contract for a regular monthly service between Plymouth and Cape Town with the General Screw Steam Shipping Company (G.S.S.S.C.).

The first ship to provide this service, the *Bosphorus*, arrived in Table Bay on 27 January 1851, after a 40 day voyage.

The return journey was commenced surprisingly quickly, on 1 February 1851, according to this missive. The postal markings indicate that the journey to England took at most 41 days.

The entire was then probably carried by the Dover-Ostend service to Belgium and subsequently by rail from Ostend to Amsterdam.

The item is of particular interest as it was carried on the first return voyage of the G.S.S.S.C., which held the packet mail contract until its collapse in 1854.

Part 12

DECORATED POST OFFICES

by Prof Garry Osthoff, OFS PS Bloemfontein

Tsomo

Tsomo was founded in 1877. It originated as a military station known as Tsomo Post on the banks of the Tsomo River. In 1775-76 the river was described as the Great Zomo or Great Water-eye and is derived from the Khoikhoi tsu (sore or pain) mû (eye).

The alienation of Xhosa ancestral lands began during the 1770s when the Dutch annexed the border areas between the Gamtoos and Bushman's Rivers and began a gradual process of agrarian settlement that misrepresented indigenous concepts of land ownership. These incursions began to take on a more military aspect after the British annexation of the Cape Colony in 1806. After the annexation the eastern frontier of the Cape became the arena for a series of increasingly bitter land wars. The greater part of European settlement in the region occurred between 1848 and 1866, with several revolts by the amaNgqika, amaGcaleka and amaMfengu, the original inhabitants. In 1857 the so-called 'cattle killing' led to the starvation, and ultimate death of some 70,000 Xhosa people. This effectively brought their armed resistance to European colonialism in the Eastern Cape to an end. Barring a brief uprising in 1877 and 1878, when the amaGcaleka turned upon their amaMfengu neighbours, the British annexation of lands east of the Kei River was able to proceed unimpeded. Originally the Transkei included the territories of Idutywa Reserve, Mfenguland and Gcalekaland.

Following their annexation they were restructured into the divisions of Butterworth, Tsomo and Nqamakwe for Mfenguland; Kentani and Willowvale for Gcalekaland; and Idutywa for the Idutywa Reserve.

The post office is situated on the main road to Queenstown. It is a small, symmetrical, Baker-style building. A triple arched loggia forms the entrance, which is flanked on each side by a Ceramic Studio tiled panel by Isa Cameron, dated 1938. The panels are in Delft blue. On each side of the loggia is a fine, salt-glazed pot by J. Kirkness Ltd, Pretoria.

The tiled panel to the left of the entrance depicts a violent scene between two groups of warriors and cattle driving. The shape and size of the shields and spears identify them as Nguni, in this case, Xhosa. The scene probably illustrates the battle between the amaGcaleka and amaMfengu of 1878. At least two of the animals may be identified as Nguni by the large spots. The shields of the warriors are also made from the skin of Ngunis. The warriors wear earrings and anklets, while the cattle are driven by younger boys without spears and war dress.

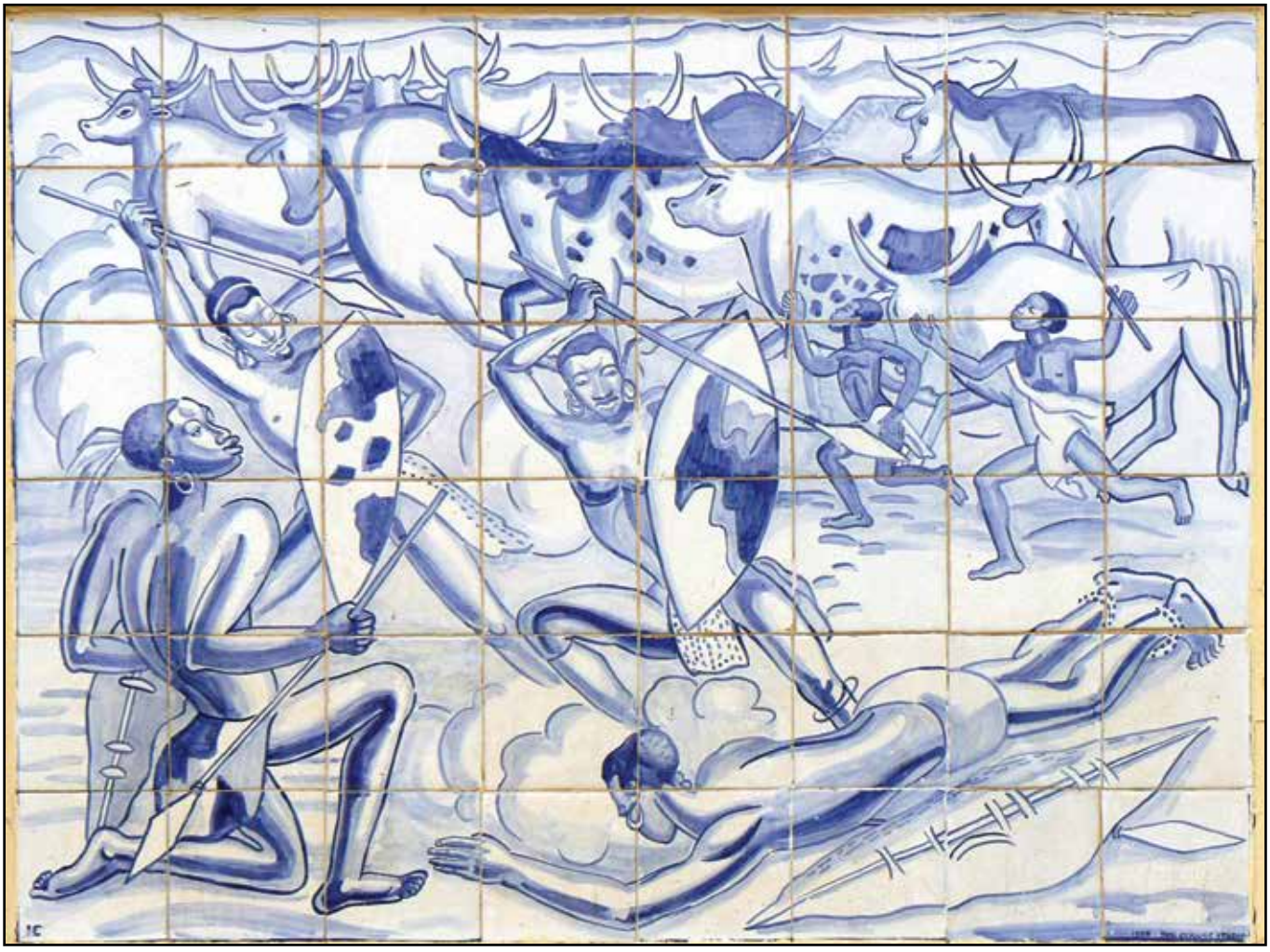
The second panel depicts a scene of a seated teacher. It is possibly a missionary or an ex-soldier. He wears long puttees around the legs and a sun helmet or pith. In the background are two female assistants, one of whom rings a school bell. They are surrounded by pupils, some of whom carry chalkboards. Some of the children are scantly dressed in animal skin, while others wear clothes of fabric. In the middle are two structures. One is a traditional hut with the roof lifted above the wall by poles for ventilation, probably a storage facility. The other is a rectangular building with a pitched roof, probably the school. On the right is a maize field in seed and at least one ear can be seen, which indicates late summer. A lean mutt fills the left side. The whole scene is situated in a landscape of hills with trees and more huts in the background, with two white egrets flying past. The peaceful scene with settled school indicates that some time has passed since the last hostilities. The pith helmet confirms this and dates the scene after 1878, when this head gear was first introduced to Southern Africa.

The map shows the Eastern Cape in the 1800s. In red circles are three towns with post offices that are decorated with ceramic tiles that portray various scenes that involve the border wars, i.e. Tsomo, Balfour and Riebeeck East.

References: Telford A.A. (1972) *Yesterday's Dress. A history of costume in South Africa.*

Raper P.E. (1989) *New dictionary of South African place names.*

Acknowledgement:
Dr Petro Esterhuyse, University of the Free State for anthropological information.



Stroud Solves Concentration Camp Cover Confusion

There is good news for collectors of South African postal history - Richard Stroud's outstanding reference work on the concentration camps of the Anglo-Boer War is now locally available.

The book, *The Postal History of the Burgher, Refugee and Concentration Camps of the Anglo-Boer War during 1900 to 1903*, has been well received in Europe since its publication at the end of 2014.

Representing over ten years of research, the book is dedicated to John Sandilands RDPSA of Pretoria, who was the initial co-author but who died in October 2006.

The book is well set out, in a standard pattern for the 44 concentration camps for which postal material is described and illustrated. Each camp is described in terms of its location, opening, superintendent, population at various stages, and other relevant information. Then follows the philatelic aspect, being the postal office concerned, censor cachets, administrative camp cachets and further details.

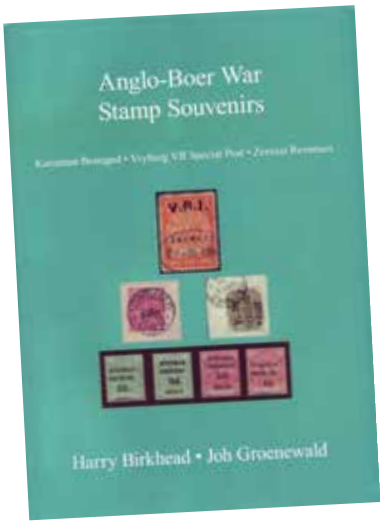
Extensive background material is given in appendices, for instance about medical and nursing matters, death rates, schools, hospitals, relief committees, with names of doctors, nurses, teachers and so on. Native camps are also listed.

This means that one can easily access the basic information about any camp cover or front in your collection, and 'place' the cover.

As we know, even after 100 years Anglo-Boer War philately has scope for discovery, so one should check the information: the book lists a number of 'philatelically unknown' temporary or mostly transit camps, some rather short-lived, having been a camp for perhaps two or three weeks only. This fine book of 272 pages published by the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society is in A4 format, wire-bound, and costs R475. Orders may be directed to the society's treasurer in South Africa, Nigel Hosking, at nigelh@bell.co.za -- JG

From the Volksrust camp the grandmother of Nic Zerbst of George wrote to her husband, held as prisoner of war in the Ahmednagar camp in India. The grandfather, in turn, wrote back, marking his envelope for the section of Volksrust Camp were women and children were held who had been rounded up in the Piet Retief district. Illustrations courtesy Nic Zerbst

A new publication: Anglo-Boer War Stamp Souvenirs



The fifth and final book in the Birkhead/ Groenewald series on the local stamp issues of the Anglo- Boer War, *Anglo-Boer War Stamp Souvenirs*, was published late last year. The book deals with the Cape of Good Hope stamps overprinted 'Kuruman Besieged', the Vryburg 'VR Special Post' stamps and the ZAR revenues handstamped 'VRI' and used at Zeerust.

The Cape stamps cancelled at Vryburg and initialled 'CSQ' at the centre of the circular postmark are also detailed.

As with the previous books published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa on the local stamps issued at Wolmaransstad, Schweizer-Reneke, Rustenburg and Lydenburg, the research of the authors has provided new facts and perspectives on these issues, which are labelled 'souvenirs'.

Joh Groenewald says in the two years prior to the passing of Harry Birkhead in April 2013, the authors had critically re-examined the relevant material in the Birkhead collection, perused material from other collections and checked all the amassed archival references and other data.

Companion volumes on the wartime philatelic issues sanctioned by the ZA Republiek government are in Afrikaans and deal with the Machadodorp postcards, the Vryburg ZAR on Cape overprints and the Petersburg stamps.

Enquiries may be directed to johgroen@mweb.co.za -- EM

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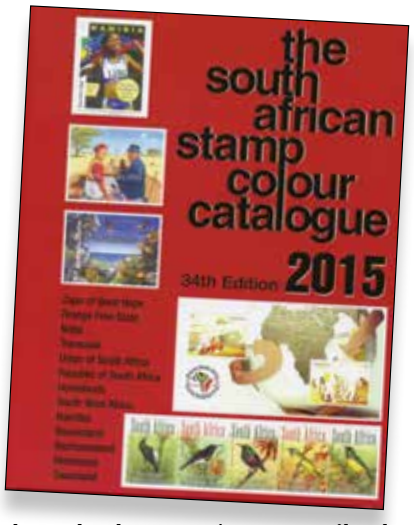


Glen Carpendale (tel: 012 333 9385) offers a few preliminary comments on what he has seen, and comments on the prices. These comments were done after only an hours study and it is a rough guide, not an in depth study...

1). The new catalogue **lies flat** and is a pleasure to use. 10 out of 10 for that.

2). Layout is the same, very few, if any changes here.

3). **Cape of Good Hope:** Triangulars are up, Rectangulars are the same.

4). **Griqualand West:** - same prices

5). **Mafeking:** - same prices

6). **Natal**, **Nieuwe Republiek, O.F.S., Transvaal, Pietersburg, Lydenburg**, etc - all the same.

7). **Zululand:** all the same except the £5 which is up by R15,000.

8). **Union of SA:**

- **Kings heads** ** are up. The £1 from R18,000 to R22,000,
- **The Pale Olive £1** ** up from R20,000 to R26,000
- **Kings heads £1** * are up from R10,000 to R13,000
- **The Pale Olive £1** * up from R12,000 to R15,000.
- **1927 London printings** up ** from R19,000 to R29,000 and mounted from R9,720 to R13,670
- **1925 Airs** the same,
- **1929 Airs** up,
- **1930 Rotos** are up.
- **1933 Unscreened** printings are slightly up, as is the **1948 Screened printing**
- **Union Commemoratives** are the same.
- **Union Booklets** are exactly the same.
- **Postage Dues** and '**Officials**' are the same.
- **RSA:** some definitives are slightly up but mainly the same, commemoratives are up.
- **RSA Definitives** are either the same e.g. Proteas and others are up e.g. The buildings Control Block.
- **The 1988 40c Bible Stamp** is up from R9,000 to R12,000
- **Modern R.S.A.** is up ± 15%
- The R5 coin in the Mandela inauguration FDC is still at R1,200, but the market price has fallen substantially.

Homelands are all up in value.

B.S.A.Co: Early Definitives are up a lot, also Double Heads are up. The 1905 Vic Falls is the same. Admirals are up.

Southern Rhodesia: up

Northern Rhodesia: is also up.

Federation of R&N : is up.

Modern definitives are up but commemoratives are the same.

Basutoland: George V is the same, George VI & QEII are up.

Stellaland : is up.

Bechuanaland is up and so is **Swaziland**.

German SWA : is up, **SWA** Kingsheads are up.

London printings are up, Wars are the same, Commemoratives are up.

More modern SWA after 1961 is mainly up, but not all.

Postage dues and 'officials' remain the same.

Namibia: is much the same, with not many changes.

In general, I give it the thumbs up, and would say it is an improvement on previous catalogues. Prices are more realistic and if anything, are a bit high in a few places, but dealers can always give a discount.

The cost is R625 plus R60 postage and I do have stock.

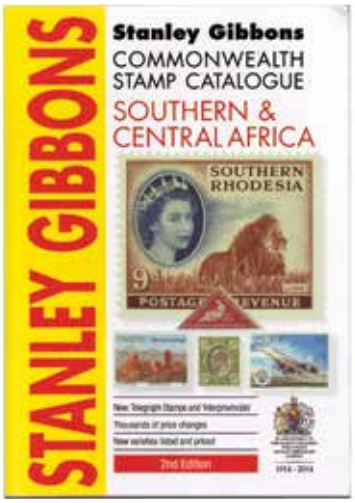
If you are using a pre-2009 SACC, please note that the catalogue numbers have changed, which can cause collector and dealer confusion when ordering.

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue – Southern and Central Africa

This the Second edition published in December 2014 and priced at £32.95 is available from their local agent: *Mr Thematic: email: chrisb@asapcc.co.za P.O.Box 4061. Honeydew. 2040. Cell: 082 566 3378*

Size is 240 x 170mm, soft bound with approximately 3,300 illustrations.

Listings for issues up to 1970 have been extracted from the 2015 *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps* 1870-1970, with later issue having been revised and updated especially for this catalogue.



Key features are:

Comprehensive priced listings of the stamps of present-day Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique (from 1995), Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Includes earlier stamp issuing authorities: Basutoland Bechuanaland. British Central Africa. British South Africa Company, Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand West, Natal, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Orange Free State, Rhodesia, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, South West Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Stellaland, Transvaal and Zululand.

Also includes Anglo-Boer War provisional issues for Mafeking and other towns and the 'Homelands' of Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Transkei and Venda.

On cover 'multipliers' provided for all stamps to 1945, to allow calculation of prices for stamps on cover.

Watermark varieties, shades, plate flaws, Major errors, postage due stamps and booklets all listed and priced.

Includes priced listings of Transvaal Republic stamps used in Swaziland and British stamps used by the Army in South Africa.

Several new varieties have been added since the last edition, including the 'Lake' and 'Bay' flaws on the 1965 New Constitution stamps of Bechuanaland and the 'Dart in Gnu's back' on the 1930 1/- of South Africa.

The South African 'Interprovincials' - the stamps of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal used in their own province or in any of the other three between the establishment of the Union and the issue of its first stamps, are now fully listed and priced.

New for this Edition

Government telegraph stamps of Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal, British military telegraphs used in Bechuanaland and South Africa and the 'Reuter's Telegraph Service' stamps of Matabeleland are all listed for the first time.

New issue listings updated as follows:

Botswana (up to January 2011)
Lesotho (up to April 2010)
Malawi (up to July 2013)
Mozambique (up to February 2011)
Namibia (up to June 2013)
South Africa (up to December 2013)
Swaziland (up to April 2012)
Zambia (up to November 2010)
Zimbabwe (up to July 2013)

Bechuanaland and Botswana Commemorative Stamps

by Otto Peetoom, Bechuanaland & Botswana Society. Email: ottopeetoom@btinternet.com

The Bechuanaland Protectorate

Their stamp issuing policy was essentially under the control of the Crown Agents who included Bechuanaland in the various Commonwealth Omnibus issues starting with the 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee.

During the Reign of King George VI it included the 1937 Coronation, 1945 Victory (not the standard Crown Colonies design, but overprinted on the South African issue), 1948 Royal Silver Wedding and 1949 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

In addition Bechuanaland issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the 1947 Royal Visit and used the same designs adopted by Basutoland and Swaziland. South Africa produced its own designs and the stamps were overprinted S.W.A. for use in South West Africa.

Starting with the Reign of Queen Elizabeth the country issued the various Crown Agent Omnibus stamps which are the 1953 Coronation, 1963 Freedom from Hunger, 1963 Red Cross Centenary, 1964 400th Birth Anniversary of William Shakespeare, 1965 I.T.U. Centenary, 1965 International Co-Operative Year and the 1966 Churchill Commemoration.

1960- 75th Anniversary of the Protectorate

1965 New Constitution

Bechuanaland's first exclusive commemorative stamps were a single design in a set of three values issued on 21 January 1960 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Bechuanaland Protectorate that came into being in 1885.

Before Independence, two further commemorative issues followed, a set of four using a common design for the New Constitution on 1 March 1965. Finally four different designs honouring the men who fought in World War II as the *Bechuanaland Royal Pioneer Corps*, issued on 1 June 1966.

Botswana Commemorative Issues

Following Independence in 1966, only one set of four stamps was issued to celebrate the Independence of the country.

A conservative policy was adopted that avoided a flood of un-necessary issues that is the hallmark of many Independent African States. That started with Ghana in 1957 and is mirrored by Independent Lesotho.

Miniature Sheets

Issuing miniature sheets to accompany a set of commemorative stamps became a Universal Philatelic gimmick that was an innovation boosting the income of Philatelic Bureaux. Miniature sheets essentially have no postal use and are simply an instrument to ensure that a stamp collector buys the same set of stamps twice.

The miniature sheets steadily evolved into a philatelic curse of today and at first they only included the same values that were issued in sheet format. Then they either included some of the values of a set or a totally different design to the rest of the set. Another gimmick was to use the same designs but give each stamp a much higher denomination. Over the years the sheetlets steadily grew in size and from initially being square or rectangular, larger and strange shapes were introduced.

Botswana Miniature Sheets

Although Botswana Post indulged itself with the miniature sheet market, they extended a conservative policy that avoided the over-kill that other African states resorted to. Since Independence in 1966, in forty nine years Botswana issued 49 miniature sheets which is an average of one per annum.

In reality the numbers ranged from one per year to as many as four in 2001 and there were several years in which no miniature sheets appeared.On 30 September 1968 the first Botswana miniature sheet made its debut to commemorate the opening of the *National Museum and Art Gallery*.

MS No 1 *1968 The Botswana National Museum*

The Botswana National Museum, also known as the National Museum and Art Gallery, is located in the capital Gaborone and is a multi-disciplinary institution that includes the National Art Gallery and Octagon Gallery. It displays traditional Botswana crafts and paintings and aims to celebrate the work of local artists.

The museum was established in 1967 by an Act of Parliament and it officially opened to the public in 1968. The museum celebrated a year-long 40th anniversary in 2008 under the banner of Museum as Agents of Social Change and Development, mirroring that used by the International Council of Museums.

1966 Bechuanaland Royal Pioneer Corps

The museum is also involved with the preservation of Tsodilo, the country's first World Heritage area, among other efforts. It is the caretaker of Tsholofelo Park, the burial place of the Negro of Banyoles, known as El Negro in Botswana, following the body's return from the Darder Museum of Banyoles, in Spain.

Christmas stamps accompanied by a miniature sheet

Botswana introduced an annual set of Christmas stamps that was usually issued during November, but in some instances in late October or in early December. The first set made its debut on 11 November 1968 and the first miniature sheet followed with the second Christmas issue on 6 November 1969.

The designs of the Christmas stamps slowly evolved from local people observing the **Christmas star** to **Nativity scenes** and from 1974 the annual set depicted the **Flora of Botswana**. From 1978 the Christmas issues always included a symbolic emblem representing the Christmas star. Three exceptions to the flora theme are 1983 Dragonflies, 1984 Butterflies and 2005 Doves and Pigeons.

1970 Christmas Miniature Sheet

The Annual Christmas stamp policy includes six miniature sheets for 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974 and 1987.

The last annual Christmas set has a plant theme and was issued on 30 November 1998. A few erratic sets followed in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and no Christmas stamps have been seen since.

A Review of Pictorial and Interesting Miniature sheets

MS No 3 1970 *Death Centenary of Charles Dickens*, this subject somehow does not really tally with Botswana, however the accompanying miniature sheet is enhanced by various 'Dickens' scenes around the margins of the sheetlet.

MS No 6 1972 *Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner Post*- This sheetlet reflects the entire historical route and includes images of the Mafeking 638 Barred Oval Numeral Canceller (BONC).

A miniature version of the foregoing sheetlet was issued in 1988 to mark the Centenary of that Runner Post **(MS No 21)**.

MS No 10 1975 *Rock Paintings in the Tsodilo Hills*, a rather oversized six inches square sheetlet (150cm) which portrays the rock painting designs of the stamps with the hills as a background on the selvedge plus a small map of the country which indicates its location.

MS No 11 1976 *First National Currency,* the selvedge of the miniature sheet offers an informative description and explanation of the new P: Pula (rain) and t: Thebe (shields) currency.

1986 20th Anniversary of Independence

MS No 19 1986 *20th Anniversary of Independence*, the miniature sheet includes four 20t values and was only issued in this format.

MS No 30 1999 *Southern Africa Community Day*, one value and only issued as a miniature sheet.

MS No 32 2000 Moths

MS No 32 2000 *Moths* - The first oddly shaped miniature sheet which represents a giant moth that includes all five values.

Please note that due to greatly varying sizes of miniature sheets, they are not all shown at the same size ratio

2000 - 03 Wetlands series 1 to 4

MS No 33

2000 Series 1 - *Okavango Delta*

MS No 37

2001 Series 2 - *Chobe River*

MS No 38

2002 Series 3 - *Makgadikgadi Pans*

MS No 40

2003 Series 4 - *Limpopo River*

These colourful miniature sheets paint a complete picture of the stamps and selvedge to an extent whereby the individual stamps are more or less surplus to requirement.

2000 Series 1 - Okavango Delta

1995 A change of policy for Miniature sheets or sheetlets

1995 *Endangered Species - the Brown Hyena*, the four stamps were printed in sheets of fifty and in addition se-tenant strips of four were arranged in a sheetlet of 16 with pictorial selvedge. The foregoing is not regarded as being a miniature sheet.

Botswana Post joins the trait of exploiting the stamp collector as the connoisseur who desires all the available permutations requires a set of single stamps, a se-tenant strip plus a complete sheetlet. It requires the purchase of six sets at a cost of 15 Pula instead of one set at P2 50t.

MS No 27 1997 *Golden wedding of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip*, for the first time the miniature sheet depicts a different design with a top value of ten Pula.

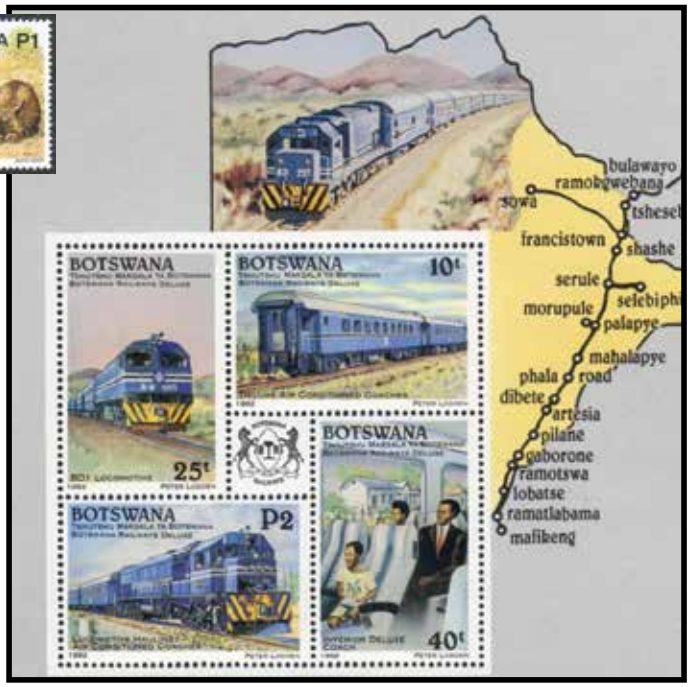
MS No 28 1998 *Diana, Princess of Wales Commemoration*, a set of four cost P5 85t and the miniature sheet includes the same designs, but each with a face value of P2 50t costing ten Pula in total.

MS No 29 1998 *Botswana Weavers,* a miniature sheet with a different design and face value of P2 50t.

MS No 35 2001 *Kgalagadi Transfrontier Wildlife Park*
This miniature sheet only includes two of the four values.

MS No 42 2005 *Endangered Species - Black-footed Cat*. Two se-tenant sets of four incorporated into a large miniature sheet, thus one had to buy two additional sets instead of one.

MS No 47 2011 *Endangered Species - White Rhino*. A large miniature sheet with all four designs in the shape of a huge Rhinoceros.



1992 Deluxe Railway Service

2004 Joint Issues of Southern Africa Postal Operators Association Members - This marks the beginning of pictorial miniature sheets with unusual shaped stamps and identical designs were issued by other African countries.

MS No 41 2004 *First SAPOA National Birds,* eight hexagonal designs - Also issued by Angola, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MS No 44 2007 *Second SAPOA National Animals,* five square designs - Also issued by Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MS No 45 2010 *Third SAPOA World Cup Football,* nine circular designs - Also issued by Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

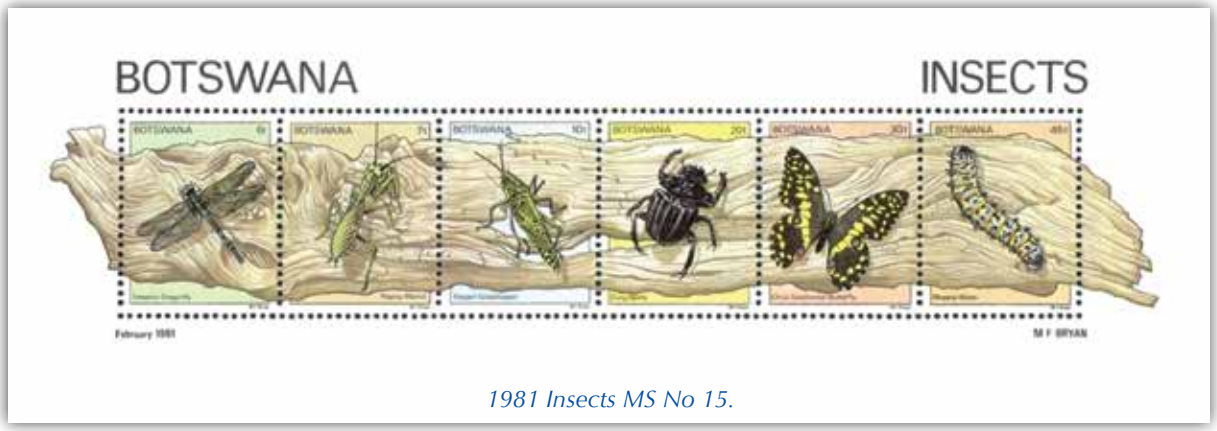
No	Year	SG - MS	Botswana Miniature Sheets - Details	Value*
1	1968	248	Opening of National Museum and Art Gallery	£ 1.00
2	1969	260	Christmas	£ 1.00
3	1970	269	Death Centenary of Charles Dickens	£ 2.75
4		275	Christmas	£ 1.00
5	1971	289	Christmas	£ 1.00
6	1972	298	Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner route	£11.00
7		303	Christmas	£ 1.25
8	1974	340	Christmas	£ 1.75
9	1975	345	Tenth Anniversary of Self Government	£ 1.00
10		350	Rock Paintings, Tsodilo Hills	£12.00
11	1976	366	First National Currency	£ 1.00
12	1977	405	Historical Monuments	£ 2.50
13	1978	434	Okavango Delta	£ 1.50
14	1979	448	Handicrafts	£ 1.00
15	1981	485	Insects	£ 2.50
16	1983	549	Traditional Artefacts	£ 3.75
17	1985	576	5th Anniversary of SADC Conference	£ 7.00
18		594	Centenary of Bechuanaland Protectorate	£14.00
19	1986	603	20th Anniversary of Independence	£ 3.75
20	1987	643	Christmas - Grasses and Sedges	£ 4.25
21	1988	656	Centenary of Mafeking - Gubulawayo Runner Post	£10.00
22	1989	677	Slaty Egrets	£ 3.25
23	1990	701	Traditional Dress	£ 9.00
24	1992	737	Deluxe Railway Service	£14.00
25		760	Olympic Games - Barcelona	£ 6.00
26	1993	775	Railway Centenary	£ 5.00
27	1997	876	Royal Golden Wedding	£ 4.00
28	1998	889	Diana, Princess of Wales Commemoration	£ 2.50
29		894	Botswana Weavers	£ 3.00
30	1999	903	South African Development Community Day	£ 4.00
31		910	Miss Universe	£11.00
32	2000	920	Moths	£ 7.50
33		938	Wetlands 1st Okavango Delta	£ 7.50
34	2001	939	Hong Kong 2001 Exhibition Overprint on MS938	£ 7.50
35		948	Kgalagadi Wildlife Park	£ 3.50
36		953	Traditional Baskets	£ 2.75
37		963	Wetlands 2nd Chobe River	£ 7.00
38	2002	999	Wetlands 3rd Makgadikgadi Pans	£ 8.25
39	2003	1008	Beetles	£ 6.00
40		1014	Wetlands 4th Limpopo River	£ 7.00
41	2004	1027	First SAPOA National birds	£ 13.00
42	2005	1044	Endangered Species Black-footed Cat	£ 8.00
43	2006	1061	40th Anniversary of Independence	£ 8.50
44	2007	1079	Second SAPOA National Animals	£ 7.00
45	2010	1146	Third SAPOA World Cup Football	£ 13.00
46		1157	Night Animals	£ 10.00
47	2011	1174	Endangered Species White Rhinoceros	£ 5.00
48	2014	1210	Lions of the Chobe	£ 6.00
49		1217	Philkorea Stamp Exhibition Overprint on MS1210	£ 5.00

* Values from Stanley Gibbons. Southern & Central Africa Catalogue 2nd Edition 2014

1972 Runner Route

Miniature Sheet Printers

De La Rue MS 1
Harrison MS 2, 5, 22, 24, 25
Questa MS 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 27
A & M MS 6
Enschedé MS 9, 29, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47
J. Waddington MS 12
SA Govt. Printer, Pretoria MS 15, 19
Mardon MS 16, 17, 18
National Printing, Zimbabwe MS 20, 21, 23, 26, 30
Cartor, France MS 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 42, 46
Southern Colour MS 31,48, 49
Walsall MS 3



1981 Insects MS No 15.

All Botswana stamp issues may be viewed at www.bechuanalandphilately.com

THE 2/6d NATIVE TAX STAMP IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

The author has been puzzled over the last 20 years by the 2/6d Native Tax Stamp overprinted for revenue purposes. When a pair of un-overprinted stamps was acquired it led to further confusion regarding the background of this mysterious stamp issue. The author has only seen two pairs of un-overprinted Native Tax Stamps over the last 20 years (Figs 1 & 2). When copies were seen of these stamps overprinted for revenue purposes for Bechuanaland and Basutoland, it was realised that there must be an explanation for the conversion of this stamp into a revenue stamp.

In an article entitled *'Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa'*, published in *The SA Philatelist*, September 1956, LJ Dodd indicated a "Series 3a Provisional Stamps" and described this issue as follows: "During the period 1938 to 1942, a 2/6d unilingual stamp used for Native Tax, was overprinted 'Inkomste' or 'Revenue' and used for general purposes (Fig. 3). The earliest cancellation seen is January 1942." He linked this to Series 3 that was issued for the years 1938 to 1942 with the head of King George VI. In another article published in *The SA Philatelist* in December 1959, Dodd wrote that: "An indication that the shortage of paper was causing concern to the Government Printer is the fact that a Provincial (sic provisional) stamp came into use about 1942, made by overprinting the 2/6d Native Tax stamp with the words REVENUE or INKOMSTE".

The following was reported in *The SA Philatelist* of August 1942: "Collectors of revenue stamps will be interested to learn that a shortage of the 2s. 6d. denomination has been met by issuing 'Native Tax' stamps of that denomination overprinted 'Revenue' or 'Inkomste'. What is also interesting is that a 2/6d revenue stamp was also issued as part of Series 3 despite the fact that the Native Tax Stamp for 2/6d overprinted 'Revenue/Inkomste' was available.

Research that was recently done in the State Archives in Pretoria revealed that a system of Native Tax Stamp Cards was approved in 1938 and introduced in 1939. In a letter from a RJ Chake from Pretoria addressed to The Secretary of Native Affairs in July 1946 he stated the following:

"May I have the honour to hereby draw the attention of, Your Honour, to the fact that sometime back during the years 1938 on the recommendation of a Commission which sat in connection with the mode of Collecting Tax from natives, a 'Native Tax' Revenue stamp was issued at 2/6d each together with 'Native Tax Cards' in order to enable our people to pay-off by instalments whatever amounts they individually owe to the Crown as Tax. It is now about 7 years ago and to my surprise I have not seen these 'Native Tax Cards' in the possession of 'Africans' but have seen a lot of the 'Native Tax Stamps' in the Post Offices, and have noticed that these Stamps were also used for 2/6d Revenue Stamps by Office bearers. I therefore, Your Honour, hereby apply to you for either 500 or 1,000 Native Tax Cards for introduction of the simple method of easily paying Tax to our people."

Figs.1 & 2: Pairs of Native Tax/Naturelle belasting stamps cancelled in the Port Elizabeth Post Office on 27 February 1945 (above) and another pair also cancelled in Port Elizabeth (below). Only these two pairs of 'un-overprinted' Native Tax stamps have been seen by the author over the last 20 years.

Fig.3: Pair of Native Tax Stamps overprinted for revenue purposes early in the 1940s. Further research is necessary to determine the exact date that these stamps were overprinted.

Fig.4: Native Tax Stamp overprinted BASUTOLAND / REVENUE / 2/-. Based on examples seen this must have been one of the first overprints that was probably done circa 1945.

Fig. 5: Native Tax Stamp overprinted 'BASUTOLAND / 10/- / REVENUE. Date of overprint still unknown at this stage.

This system of collecting Native Taxes by means of a Stamp Card was based on Act No. 41 of 1925. This system was introduced in 1939 following the motion: "That a uniform system be adopted in all Magistrate's offices for crediting Native Tax Cards and that existing cards be suitably amended and reprinted". The Native Tax Revenue Handbook was the guiding document to implement the system.

Many challenges were encountered with the Native Tax Card system. In a letter from the Native Commissioner in Eshowe on 18 December 1945 to the Chief Native Commissioner in Pretoria, it was indicated that a Native has affixed postage stamps to the value of 15/- to his card instead of the special Native Tax Stamps. The Postmaster General was then requested to replace the stamps with Native Tax Stamps or refund the person involved.

In a Circular dated 15 August 1947 regarding the 'Abolition of the Native Stamp Tax Cards', the Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. G. Mears, wrote that the ratio of the value of stamps sold is vastly disproportionate to the value of receipts issued under the scheme and that many taxpayers abandoned the scheme after the purchase of stamps of insufficient value for conversion to tax receipts.

At a conference of Native Commissioners held in Johannesburg on 11 December 1946, the following motion was adopted unanimously:

"That the Department be requested to abolish the Tax Stamp Card method of collecting General Local Tax." The conference expressed the view that in spite of the wide publicity which had been given to the scheme neither taxpayers nor employers appeared to understand it.

After the abolition of the system it was found that there was no longer a requirement for post offices to retain a stock of Native Tax Stamps. The remainder of the stock of Native Tax Stamps was forwarded from post offices, Magistrates Offices and other offices linked to native taxation to the Inland Revenue Department in Pretoria.

The Department of Inland Revenue must have realised earlier on, before the Card System was abolished in 1946, that they

were sitting with a surplus of these stamps because stamps overprinted for revenue purposes in the Union of South Africa were recorded as used on documents in 1942.

The following overprints on the 2/6d Native Tax Stamps of the Union for Basutoland and Bechuanaland are recorded in the inventory records of the Government Printer in Pretoria over the period 1951 to 1953:

- 1 Sheet x 60 2/6d Native Tax Stamps overprinted 'Basutoland Revenue 6/-' in July 1951. (Fig. 6)
- 1 Sheet x 60 2/6d Native Tax Stamps overprinted 'Bechuanaland Protectorate 6/- Revenue" in May 1952. (Fig. 7)

Fig. 6: Native Tax Stamp overprinted Basutoland / Revenue / 6/- These stamps were overprinted by the Government Printer in Pretoria in July 1951.

Fig.7: Native Tax Stamp overprinted: Bechuanaland / Protectorate / 6/- / Revenue. These stamps were overprinted by the Government Printer in Pretoria in May 1952.

Fig.8: Native Tax Stamp overprinted BASUTOLAND / 6/- / REVENUE. These stamps were overprinted by the Government Printer in Pretoria in September 1953.

- 1 Sheet x 60 2/6d Native Tax Stamps overprinted 'BASUTOLAND 6/- REVENUE' in September 1953. (Fig. 8)

The total number of sheets overprinted are not known at this stage and further research will have to be done in this regard.

In conclusion the following can be confirmed regarding the 2/6d Native Tax Stamp:

- That originally these stamps were printed for the sole purpose of being used with the new Native Tax Card System introduced in 1939. Due to the fact that the system was a failure it was abandoned in 1946 and a surplus of these stamps were in stock.
- That for the convenience of clients these stamps were also available in the countrywide network of Post Offices.
- That due to a shortage of 2/6d revenue stamps these stamps were overprinted 'Revenue/Inkomste' circa 1941/1942. This confirms that a portion of these stamps were already overprinted for revenue purposes long before 1946 when the Native Tax Card System was stopped (Fig. 13). The earliest date of usage of the overprinted stamps, used as revenue stamps in the Union of South Africa, is January 1942.
- That the surplus of stamps available also led to the decision to overprint these stamps for ASSIZE/YK purposes (Figs. 10 & 11).
- That these stamps were also overprinted for revenue use in Basutoland as early as circa 1945 (Figs. 4, 5 & 12).
- The Receiver of Inland Revenue must have realised by the 1950s that stocks of these stamps were still available and the Government Printer in Pretoria was instructed to overprint these stamps for use as revenue stamps in Basutoland (1951, 1953) and Bechuanaland (1952).
- The Native Tax stamp was originally intended to be used for Native Tax purposes with the Native Tax Card system introduced in 1939. Throughout the period 1939 to 1946 it became clear that the system was a failure and alternative usage of these stamps had to be considered. Further, due to the shortage of paper at that stage, that led to the Bantam issues, the Department of Inland Revenue could not afford to destroy the surplus stock of these stamps. The surplus stock was then mainly overprinted for revenue purposes in the Union of South Africa,

Fig.9: Pair of Native Tax Stamps overprinted Basutoland / Revenue / 6/- and cancelled 6 September 1952.

Fig. 10: Native Tax Stamps overprinted 'ASSIZE / A YK / 2/6' for ASSIZE / YK purposes.

Fig. 11: Example of the ASSIZE/ YK overprint on the Native Tax Stamp, used with other ASSIZE-stamps. Date unknown.

Basutoland and Bechuanaland. However, what is interesting is that not one example of a Native Tax Card with these stamps correctly used, has been observed over the last 70 years.

Fig. 12: (below) The Native Tax Stamp overprinted BASUTOLAND / REVENUE / 2/- used with other Basutoland revenue stamps and cancelled 3 August 1945. This is indicative of the fact that this version of the overprint on the Native Tax Stamp was probably one of the first.

Fig. 13: (above) Pair of Native Tax Stamps overprinted for revenue purposes used with 4 x 1/- Bantams cancelled 4 December 1945.

Sources:

- L.J. Dodd, **The Revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa**, *The SA Philatelist*, September 1956 and December 1959.
- **State Archives, Pretoria**: Union of South Africa, National Treasury, NTS 2548, File 622/293.
- **Post Office Archives**, Pretoria: Inventory Records of the Government Printer from 1949.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Regarding Rennie's Steam Service:

Editorial Board,

The article on Postal History, of Rennies Steam Services by RN Porter (December edition), was most interesting.

An extract from the book, *'Forgotten Shipwrecks of the Western Cape'* about the wrecking of the mail-steamer *Waldensian,* and of her Captain Joss, may be of interest:

Michael Walker

Editorial note:

Michael Walker's sent a page from the book 'Forgotten Shipwrecks of the Western Cape' which was forwarded to Roger Porter - it deals mostly with the superstition of the sailors about having more than one clergyman on board; "And, as the Waldensian Steamer, under the command of Captain WA Joss, had among her one hundred and twenty passengers and crew, EIGHT ministers of the Dutch Reform Church, as well as a compliment of Christy Minstrels - this was too much for even the most hardened of seamen, especially when the Reverend Lion Cachet recorded a prophecy that the ship would run aground, as had been the fate of her sister ship 'Madagascar' four years earlier...

The ship was wrecked because it had been 'set-in' by the current and some local deviation in the compass...." it makes for fascinating reading.

Response from Author:

The information from the book *'Forgotten Shipwrecks of the Western Cape'* sent by Mr. Michael Walker has thrown more light on the incident of the loss of the *'Waldensian'* on 13 October 1862 as described in *The SA Philatelist* of December 2014. The explicit description of the superstition of doom among seamen regarding clergymen travelling on board a ship was of particular interest. However, what had been assumed in the December article was that the mails rescued from the *Waldensian* were transported overland to Cape Town. This may be incorrect.

There were 128 souls on board, eight of which were crew. The account details that passengers were taken by the vessel *Kadi* and the crew by the steam tug *Albatross* to Cape Town. The *Albatross* was frequently used to take the mails on the coastal run between Cape Town and Port Natal when either of Rennie's steamers were undergoing repairs and were unavailable to meet the conditions of the mail contract. It is therefore probable that the mails from the wrecked *Waldensian* were taken by the *Albatross* from Struisbaai to Cape Town in time to meet the Union steamer *Athens* before its departure on 21 October.

The *Albatross* had the advantage that it would be faster than the overland route for the mails to reach Cape Town in time, the vessel could manoeuvre in small spaces during times of inclement weather, it carried fewer passengers and that the mails could be secured.

Roger Porter

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Ann's Villa

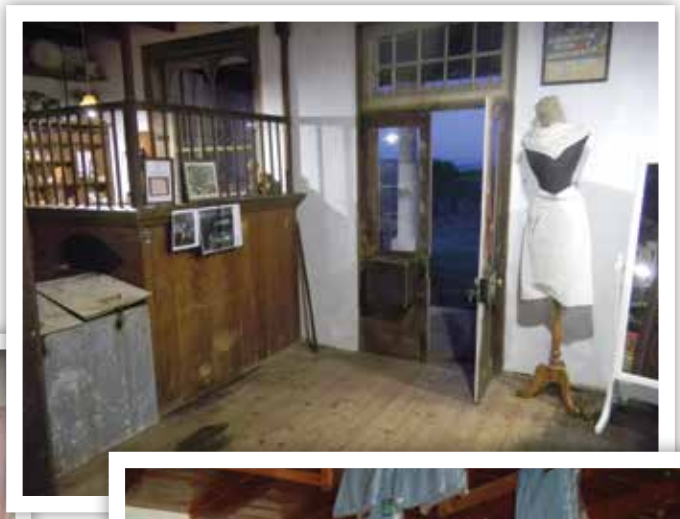
1864

by Dr Helen Lunn, hglunn@gmail.com

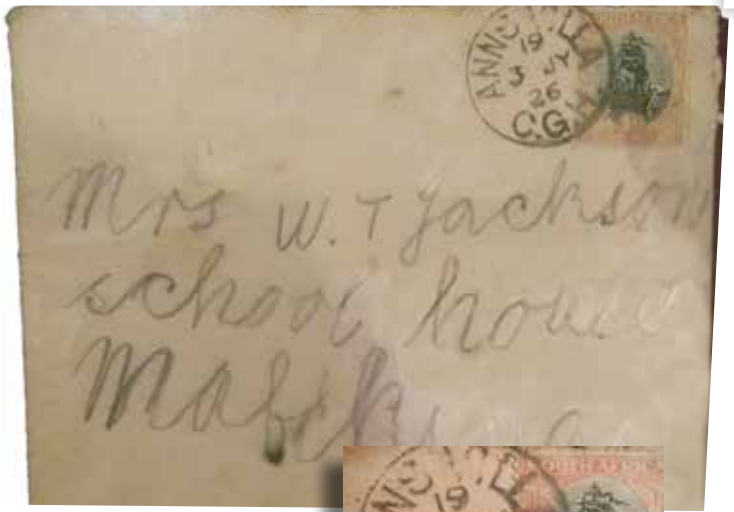
Anns Villa date stamp is redrawn here, hence the little hand. The impressions on stamps are too weak to warrant publication.

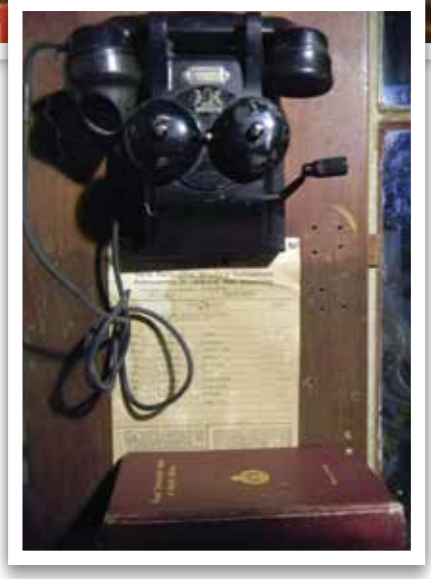
Ann's Villa (www.annsvilla.co.za) is a hamlet situated at the foot of the Zuurberg Pass, Eastern Cape. In 2015 it will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. The features that make the Villa unique and interesting are many...

- It is recognisably the same building that existed in 1864
- It is home to a registered 1855 blacksmith museum housed in the original smithy at the Villa
- It has the complete shop built in 1864 in its original location
- It has the original Post Office located in the shop where it has always been.



The Villa is a declared national monument and despite being relatively in 'the middle of nowhere' stands testimony to the history of the region. It was built shortly before the diamond rush started in 1871, and was on one of the four routes to the interior.





Helen Lunn tells us a little about the envelope; *"The little boy who posted the letter from Ann's Villa, was sent to the Villa to recuperate with his grandmother. He was the son of Phoebe Jackson, née Hall, who was the daughter of Elizabeth and George Hall. His mother obviously kept the letter which was given to me by her granddaughter, Katherine Berger, in 2004. So the envelope has travelled a long way through time to return to the post office at the Villa. What I like about the letter is the address on it written in pencil and as vague as can be, but it found its destination!"*

It serviced the local community with everything from loans for the purchases of farms, repairs to everything on the farms, and acted as a central point from which to transport and receive goods. In the 1880s a school house was added to the small hamlet and there are still adults in the area who recall receiving their earliest education there.

From the beginning, the Post Office at the Villa performed a central role in keeping the community connected. When telephones were introduced (date unknown) it became the central exchange for the area via the party line system. Everything from newspapers which were delivered via the post, to family news, arrived through the post. Telegrams announcing births and deaths and more dramatic news were the 'instagrams' of yesteryear. Without the small rural post offices it is unlikely that most small communities would have survived.

Proposal for stamp issue:

It is suggested that as Ann's Villa still has one of the original post offices reminding us of the role performed in the past of the PO, a stamp issue celebrating the role of the historical small rural post office might be a suitable subject for consideration.

Postmark:

It was also suggested that for the week leading up to and including heritage day, Ann's Villa post office be permitted to accept and postmark post which would then be taken to **Paterson Post Office** for postage. Allowing the use of the post mark with specified dates would have two possible outcomes.

One would be 'new stories' about the unique event which would be good publicity for the PO.

The other would be the value implicit in the limited number of franked items with the Ann's Villa postmark. It would be a type of limited edition postmark which would make it highly collectable.

Celebrating the role of small rural post offices would also serve to highlight the continuing and significant role that rural post offices continue to play.

BORDERS . . .

by Jan Bakker RDPSA, East Rand Philatelic Society

Some time ago I described a postcard showing the point where three Empires met. But how many people know of the point where four countries came together?

When I ask people which countries were involved, many offer Belgium (correct), then Germany (not totally correct) and then they run out of ideas. Some will suggest Luxembourg (only 150km out) or France (200km out). Then there is silence.

Let me explain how it occurred. The point is the southernmost tip of Holland, on the appendix sticking out into Belgium, at a place called Vaals. It is near the highest point in Holland, all of 300m above sea level. By comparison Johannesburg is 1800m above sea level. Currently only three countries meet there.

After the fall of Napoleon in 1813, the Congress of Vienna was held to decide borders and compensation. At the place in question there was a very large zinc mine near the village of Moresnet but due to its importance the delegates did not wish to allocate this area to Holland or to Prussia. As Belgium did not exist at this time, the two countries agreed to a 'neutral Zone' under the supervision of two commissioners from each country: Holland from 1817 until 1839, Prussia/ Germany from 1817 to 1920, and later Belgium from 1835 to 1920.

The last of these 'countries' was perhaps the smallest state in the world, vying with Monaco, the Vatican and San Marino for the title. However, things were not stable and after WWI, the whole area was given to Belgium as compensation for the occupation. Prussia had become Germany, which occupied Holland in 1914.

So philatelically, what does this mean? Stamps issued in Holland, Belgium and Prussia were valid in Moresnet, which also used the currencies of its neighbours. Local letters were mailed with the stamps of the country of destination and thus used the local domestic rate. In the 1860s it was still possible to collect 'the whole world' but unfortunately collectors were rather gullible and naïve and bought anything that was offered for sale. (There were very few stamp magazines to guide them and no internet). In consequence, rogue dealers invented stamp issuing countries and bogus issues were common.

In 1867, a well-known dealer, M. Moens, issued four stamps as an April Fool's joke to show how easy it was to fool collectors and to see the reaction of the trade. These were two bi-coloured stamps for correspondence with Germany and two stamps for letters to other countries: 10 centimes lilac and green, 20 centimes orange and red and 12½ centimes red. Reaction to these was muted but on 5 October 1886 Moresnet officially issued

Translation of cachet: *Highest point/ of Netherlands/place of four countries/ Vaals/Wilhelminatower.*

The whole area was split into three parts: the north under Dutch juridical supervision, a part under Prussian juridical supervision and a neutral area, which contained the village of Neu-Moresnet and the zinc mine. The whole area was only a few square kilometres but contained possibly the richest zinc mine in Europe. However, after 20 December 1830, when Belgium declared UDI from Holland there were now four countries involved : Holland, Prussia, Belgium and the neutral zone of Moresnet., The last area was known as 'het vier landen punt', see the cachet on the card.

a set of eight stamps rated in pfennig. These were initially imperforate, but later appeared perforate. (Perforate stamps are all believed to be mint, and used examples are claimed to be forgeries.)

The stamps were supposed to be for franking packets to Achen in Prussia (about 10km away), but the commissioners soon moved in and prohibited the use of these items. The old French laws of 1799 were still operative and the postal system was a state monopoly. The use of these stamps was stopped on 19 October 1886 having been valid for only two weeks.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN *Christmas Stamp Fund*

by Franco Frescura, University of KwaZulu-Natal

INTRODUCTION

Tuberculosis (TB) is a highly contagious disease, primarily of the lungs. In addition miners' *phthisis*, or *silicosis*, caused by the inhalation of quartz dust, is often accompanied by secondary tubercular infection. The disease itself is ancient and evidence of its existence has been found in the remains of bison, dated to 15,000 BCE, and in prehistoric humans dated to c 4,000 BCE. The term *phthisis* is of Greek origin and its use can be traced back to c 460 BCE. Its meaning is, quite literally *consumption,* and is a direct reference to one of the outward symptoms of TB, involving a chronic weight loss.

Because of its association with phthisis during the early 20th Century, the spread of TB on the Witwatersrand gold mines became a matter of concern. Although miners were a high-risk group, the disease was contagious, and liable to spread to other sectors of the population, regardless of social standing and economic background. As a result, its prevention and eradication became the focus of public awareness campaigns, which also sought to raise funds for free medical treatment for all sufferers.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTMAS STAMP FUND

In 1929 Mrs Maja Egil Christiansen, a Danish national residing in Durban, put forward the idea of selling Christmas labels, to raise funds for the erection and maintenance of a children's TB sanatorium. The idea was, no doubt, inspired by events in her own country where, in 1903, a postal clerk, Einar Holboll, suggested adding an extra stamp sold in aid of charity, to letters and greetings cards mailed during the Christmas season. The money raised could then be used to assist children who had contracted the disease. The plan was approved by the Danish authorities, and in December 1904 the country issued the world's first Christmas postage stamp.

The practice of using colourful and well-designed labels on postal items arose during the latter years of the 19th Century, when envelopes left open for postal inspection were charged half the current rate for letters in sealed envelopes (Fig 1). Inspection by the post office was nominal at best and the public took advantage of this rebate and started closing the envelope flaps with stamp-like labels, or seals, to maintain their privacy. Inevitably Christmas charities began to design and sell their own seals to raise funds, and in subsequent years these became popularly known as *Christmas Stamps*, although they were only charity labels with no postal standing. Many, who did not care about the rebate, merely applied these labels to the front of their letters to show publicly their

Fig 1.Italian charity label closing flap of letter.

support for a cause. But by the 1960s the halcyon years of poster stamps, as these were sometimes known, was over, as their designs began to reflect the cheaper and more accessible methods of litho printing. The days of fine engraving, art nouveau ladies and recess printing were gone (Fig 2).

The symbol used by the international movement against TB was the Cross of Lorraine, a double-barred cross, originally carried by Knights Templar during the Crusades. It was adopted as the symbol of the world-wide movement against TB at the International Conference on Tuberculosis held in London in 1902, and appeared for the first time on a Christmas stamp, issued by the US Postal Service, in 1920. In South Africa the cross was featured on Christmas seals from 1933 onwards. However, this choice was not without local criticism. Writing in the 1950s Credo Mutwa pointed out that, in Black iconography, the two-barred cross was considered a symbol of death, which deterred many possible patients from seeking medical assistance. In all fairness, by the time Mutwa had penned this opinion, the symbol had been in use in South Africa for over a generation, which means that its image probably preceded its reputation.

In 1929 Mrs Christiansen's ideas were put before the Tuberculosis Hospital Fund of Natal. The outcome was the establishment of the South African Christmas Stamp Fund, and the publication of the first Christmas seals in November 1929. Unfortunately the organisation's archives were destroyed in about 1995, when its head office was transferred from Durban to Johannesburg, and many of these facts have been extrapolated or drawn from secondary sources.

In 1947 a number of anti-tuberculosis associations throughout the country amalgamated under the leadership of Charles E James, then Chair of the Natal Anti-TB Association to form the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA). South Africa was widely regarded as one of the worst TB areas in the world, and by 1973 the association had about 200 branches and action groups, with 120 care groups dedicated specifically to black urban communities, and over 300 located in the rural areas.

Although the Christmas Stamp Fund (CSF) and the Natal Anti-TB Association, later SANTA, were nominally separate organisations, each having its own management structures, the two bodies had their offices in the same building, and it is difficult to believe that they did not cooperate in matters of common concern. Thus, although the CSF was primarily concerned with the raising of funds towards anti-TB activities, in the context of SANTA's overall financial structuring its contribution must have been relatively modest. Nonetheless the sale of these labels played a fundamental role in shaping the

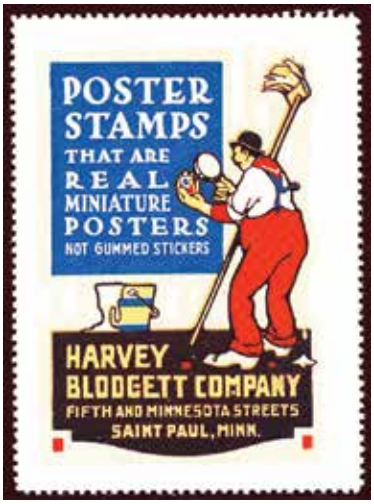


Fig 2. US poster stamp advertising a printer of poster stamps, c1930.

organisation's public image as well as the general perception and awareness of TB.

The first stamp which went on sale at all Union Money Order offices on 15 November 1929, sold a total of 168,362 units at a penny each, giving the organisation a total of £786.9.6. Of this amount £174 was raised in Durban, while Cape Town contributed over £52. The committee continued its activities until 1995 when it was finally wound up, by which stage its annual income from the sale of charity sheetlets had dropped to less than R6,000. Presumably much of this can be attributed to changing public perceptions of the disease, as well as the failure of the organisation to adapt its volunteer work force to the changing national demographic of a post-1994 South Africa.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS AND THE POST OFFICE

It seems probable that the Christmas stamp programme received the support of the Post Office virtually from the outset, although its exact nature has been difficult to determine, and was probably subject to changing circumstances.

The first stamps, issued in 1929 and 1930 respectively (Figs 3 & 4), were a cheaply

Fig 3. 1929 Christmas label.

designed and produced product. They were badly printed on poor-quality gummed paper which was brittle and susceptible to the ravages of tropicalisation. Their design, which was almost identical in both years, did not understand the principles of miniaturized artwork. The stamps were distributed to Post Office Money Order offices throughout the country and sold to the public over the counter. Equally important, they were announced to post office employees by Post Office Circular No. 596 of 25 November 1929 which told them that proceeds from their sale would *accrue to the Radium Fund or other approved charity.*

Although these labels were not recognised for postal use, they were accorded *semi-official* status and were subject to the same Post Office accounting procedures as any postally valid stamp.

Despite bearing no value, they were sold for 1d each, and there is reason to believe that they may have been considered as antecedents for future issues of a semi-postal nature. Certainly we know from Post Office records that the following returns were made for the first, 1929 issue.

Total numbers printed	:	489,000
Total number sold in 1929	:	168,362
Total surplus	:	303,360
Probable wastage	:	17,278
		or 3.5% of total
Income from sales	:	£786 9 6
Less Post Office charges	:	£84 19 4
		£701 10 2
Printing & production costs	:	£149 0 3
Net profit	:	£552 9 11

Fig 4. 1930 Christmas label.

PRODUCTION ISSUES

The relationship between the Christmas Stamp Fund Committee and the Union Post Office was renewed the following year, although details of their financial arrangements are not known. What is clear, though, is that from 1931 onwards, the Post Office must have taken a more direct interest in the design and production of the labels. The first two issues, in 1929 and 1930, bore similar designs whose printed area was 22.5x31mm, but from 1931 onwards, these measurements were reduced to 21.5x26.5mm, one of the standard sizes used by the Government Printer to produce the Union's definitive stamps.

In 1931 the printing was carried out by the Durban firm of Robinson & Co by screened rotogravure, but the sheets were not rouletted as before but were perforated on a comb 14 machine, again one of the standard sizes used to perforate Union definitives. However, Robinson & Co would not have had the machinery necessary to carry out this work and, as far as is known, perforating technology at this level is a security feature that has always been the monopoly of the Government Printer. It must be concluded therefore, that the printing of the labels was carried out in Durban, but that the consignment was then sent to Pretoria for finishing. As the facilities at the Government Printer were not made available for outside commercial work as a matter of Government policy, it can also be concluded that the design and printing of the labels was done in Durban to Post Office specifications, and that the perforating was done subsequently in Pretoria under instruction of the Post Office.

Given the technical limitations of rouletting technology, it seems likely that, in 1929 and 1930, the size of the sheets did not exceed 60 labels, laid out in a 6x10 format. Anything larger might have resulted in unacceptable levels of wastage. Unfortunately, the largest positional piece found in the SANTA archive was a horizontal marginal strip of five, which yielded little information.

After 1934 labels were printed in sheets of

Fig 5. Têtê-bêche blocks of the 1953 and 1955 issue Christmas labels

120, in a 6x20 format. Details of the sheet design varied from year to year. Sometimes positional arrows were placed at the centre of the sheet, on both the horizontal and the vertical axis, in others these were omitted. To facilitate booklet manufacture in most years the top three horizontal rows were printed upright, while the lower three were inverted, giving rows 3 and 4 a têtê-bêche format (Fig 5), but in at least six issues this was not done. In some years the selvedge was used to carry anti-TB messages, in others not (Fig 6).

In 1964 and 1965 the SANTA labels were redesigned and produced in the Republic's

new commemorative stamp format, which had been introduced in 1961 (Figs 7 & 8). Unfortunately there was no alteration to SANTA's marketing strategy, and the design of the booklets must have been done by someone who lacked knowledge of packaging.

From a booklet point of view this must have been catastrophic, producing a product which few people could have liked. In 1966, in a bid to recover sales, SANTA switched to a miniature sheet format of 2x5 labels, which appears to have been popular with the public, although few labels from this period have been seen on cover. Sheets were rouletted even though their design continued to reflect graphically the use of perforations. It seems likely therefore, that at this time the Christmas labels ceased to be produced by the Government Printer. SANTA however, continued to be the Post Office's *designated charity*.

THE SANTA ARCHIVE

Two years after leaving the Post Office, I was requested by SANTA's Management to dispose of their archives on their behalf on the collector's market. This raised about R12,000. The data recorded below is based upon the material that was delivered to me for disposal. Regrettably their records did not include any of their operational files, and details of designers, artwork, printing specifications and all relevant correspondence had apparently been destroyed some years previously. Similarly no original artwork has ever been found.

The archive included a range of stamps, in sheet and booklet format, as well as stocks of the post 1966 decorative sheets, which should be the subject of a separate study. The years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1941 and 1944 were not represented, and it must be assumed that all stock of those issues was sold out. The material had previously been stored in Durban, presumably not under ideal conditions, and much of it was badly tropicalised. Labels from 1929 and 1930 were in particularly bad condition. Sheets were generally brittle and tended to separate at the perforations, and before any research could be done, they had to be pressed and kept flat for a length of time. Storage was a problem, even in the short-term, and all but the most careful of handling was hazardous.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

The seemingly innocuous design and production of charity labels does not appear to have been without its share of controversy.

Fig 6. Use of selvedge for advertising in the 1946 issue Christmas label

In 1942 the label featured a kneeling woman and child in an obvious reference to the birth of Jesus. While the baby proclaimed his divinity by disporting a nebulous halo, the lady had no such attachment (Fig 9). Some Catholics saw this as a mark of disrespect towards Our Lady and wrote letters to the press, whilst others decided the design depicted a nun with a sick child and had no objections. In the war years most people had other issues uppermost in their minds, after all.

In 1950 the Christmas Stamp Committee issued a drab design showing a nurse standing on a landing welcoming two toddlers crawling up stairs towards her (Fig 10). Presumably the toddlers had TB, for why else would they be trying so hard to get into hospital, but then why should this nurse be forcing them to crawl up the stairs in the first instance?

Fig 7. 1964 Christmas label

Fig 8. 1965 Christmas label

Fig 9. 1942 Christmas label, showing a nebulous halo over the child's head

Unfortunately, the Committee liked this design so much that in 1950 the label went to three printings, each technically worse than the last. They even reprinted the same design in 1962, just in case the lesson had not been learnt twelve years before!

In 1951 two versions of the same stamp were issued, both featuring a small child in a night shift standing on a brown globe which resembles a basketball. One, found only in sheets, had 1d inscribed on the globe; the other with no value, has only been found in booklets (Fig 11). The reasons for this discrepancy are not known, but it might be the result of a change in marketing policy. The labels for 1929-1932 were not given a value, but those from 1933-1949 were inscribed 1d. In 1952 they reverted to being value-free. It seems probable that sometime in 1951 a decision was taken to do away with the inscribed value, but the artist was not informed. When the first sheets were delivered the mistake was realised, but instead of delaying their decision for another year, the Committee decided to order a reprint of the label minus its value. Those sheets were then used in the manufacture of booklets. It is possible that the labels in sheet format were never issued.

In 1958 the Moderator of the NGK in the Transvaal, the Rev AM Meiring, declared that the label designed by the Christmas Stamp Fund for that year should not be circulated, because although the depiction of the Virgin Mary on the stamp with a halo that was larger than that of the Child Jesus was completely in the Roman Catholic tradition, *it was offensive to the Protestant point of view* (*The Star*, 1958). On the other hand Monsignor F Mason, Vicar-General of the Pretoria Arch-diocese of the Roman Catholic Church thought it was *a very nice stamp* (Fig 12). The dispute reached as far as the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Dr Albert Hertzog. Ultimately the Committee reprinted the 1957 label and inscribed it 1958, giving the public a choice of which stamp they wished to buy (Fig 13).

The English roots of the Christmas stamp programme were probably typified by the fact that the Natalians who ran it took sixteen years to translate *Christmas* into the Afrikaans *Kersfees*. It started off correctly in 1929 as *Kersfees*, but then degenerated into *Krismis*, then *Kersmis*, and finally settled upon *Kersfees* in 1944 (Figs 3, 4 and 14).

BOOKLETS

The earliest booklet found in the archives was for the 1935 issue, with a value

Fig 10. 1950 Christmas label

Fig 11.1951 Christmas labels with inscribed value

Fig 12. 1958 label, also known as the Madonna with the large halo

Fig 13. Alternative 1958 Christmas label

Fig 14. 1944 Christmas label with standardised spelling of KERSFEES

of 1/- (Fig 15). Given the design of its cover, this was probably the first year that Christmas labels were sold in this format. It is uncertain at what stage additional booklet values were created, but there were certainly 6d and 1/- booklets in 1939. Thereafter a complete range of booklets was made available, including the 6d, 1/-, 2/6d, 5/- and 10/- values. With decimalization in 1961, the cheapest booklet was priced at 10c and the most expensive at R1.

The first booklets were saddle-stitched on the left-hand side, but within a few years they were stapled, and later glued together. Booklets for 1938-40 carried advertising on the back cover, paid for by the Vacuum Oil Company of South Africa. In 1938 they featured *Pegasus 8 in 1 petrol*, in 1939 we were introduced to *Pegasus* and *Mobiloil*, and in 1940 we were told that *Mobiloil Gargoyle* was the *World's largest selling motor oil* (Figs 16 & 17). Thereafter this advertising space, which might have generated valuable revenue for SANTA, was taken over by them to publicise their role in the fight against TB.

CONCLUSIONS

The status of South Africa's Christmas labels has always been difficult to determine. It seems likely that, at some stage, it was planned to raise them to the status of *official* charity stamps, a concept which was first used in South Africa in 1938 and again in 1939. Certainly their link to the Union Post Office and the Government Printer in Pretoria makes this highly probable. The latter was prohibited from printing any material of a commercial nature, and would not have done so without a strict undertaking being given by the Post Office. Added to this is the fact that some early issues were printed on multiple Springbok-head watermarked paper, which was normally reserved for Union postage and revenue stamps. Some early Union catalogues and handbooks had no compunction about listing them, as an addendum at the back of the book perhaps, but they enjoyed a degree of philatelic recognition nonetheless.

The reason why they did not take the final step, from charity label to official stamp, has never been documented or fully understood. The wanton destruction of their original archive in Durban has, sadly, left many questions unanswered.

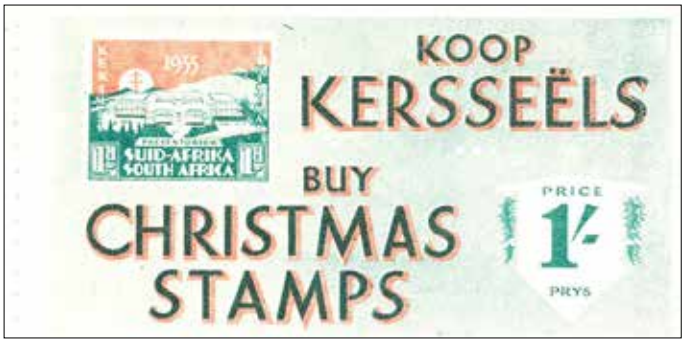


Fig 15. Booklet cover for the 1935 issue, saddle-stitched on the left-hand side.

Fig 16. Advertising on the back of the 1938 booklet.

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- Kaplan, Alec, Legator, Sam and Sheffield, William N. 1952. *Handbook/ Catalogue of the Union of South Africa.* Johannesburg: PFSA.
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- Watkins, David. 1976. *The First Christmas Seals.* Philatelic Magazine, December 1976: 211.

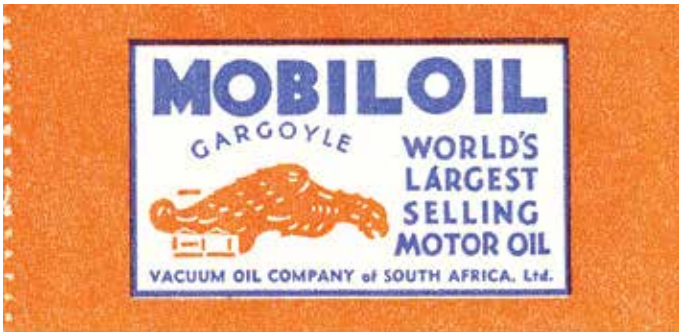

Fig 17. Advertising on the back of the 1940 booklet.

Phun with postmarks

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

REAL FUN WITH POSTMARKS

In this column I will look at a range of interesting aspects of post offices and cancellers, many new on the postmark scene.

Where is Phomolong?

The question was raised when postmarks of Phomolong were found with regionally different postal codes. Postal codes are divided into regions, and the first digit relates to the region, as shown in Figure 1 for the recorded date stamps of Phomolong. Free State is digit 9, whereas Gauteng is digit 1. Historically we found that offices in pre-1910 provinces had the same name, and these did not change after 1910, except that the province was included, for example Middelburg Cape and Transvaal, and Heidelberg Cape and Transvaal. But why would new offices use a name that had already been used? It is difficult enough to have offices which have similar names, as I discussed in SAP February 2011, but why have exactly the same name?

Part of the answer may be that Phomolong in the Free State was opened in Hennenman on 2.1.1999, but no record could be found that it had been closed (exists on an October 2014 office listing provided by SAPO) although the date stamp in Figure 1a was only recorded used from 31.3.1999 to 14.7.2003. The Gauteng office was opened on 22.11.2010 in Midrand, and postmarks have only been recorded from 13.6.2012 to date. It is thus hypothesized that the Free State office was closed and hence the name became available. I would appreciate confirmation of the hypothesis.

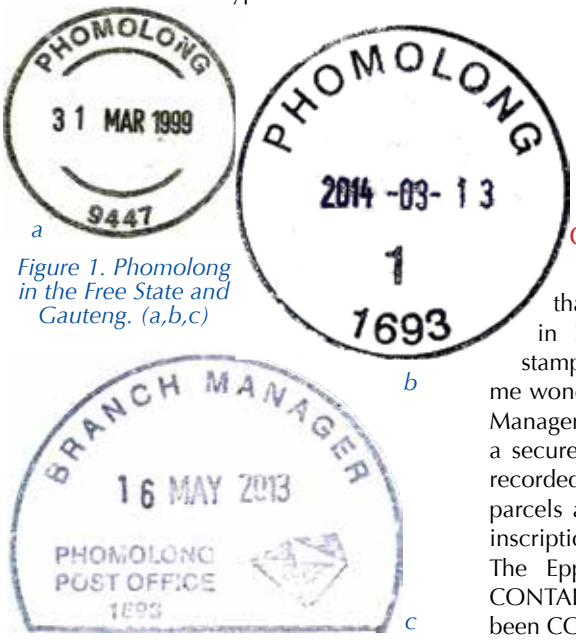

Figure 1. Phomolong in the Free State and Gauteng. (a,b,c)

Survivors

Many of us remember that as we approached 1.1.2000 there were fears that the world would grind to a halt at midnight since technology could not handle the year 2000. The post office was one organization that was affected by the Y2K phenomenon, as many date stamps could not roll past 1999. About 3,500 new date stamps, also sometimes termed the Swiss style as shown in Figure 2A, were made to replace the old date stamps. It was generally accepted that no date stamps made before about 1980 would be found after 2000. From about 1980 provision was made for 2000 in all date stamps manufactured, as they were typically of the numeral type shown in Figure 2B. The original thinking has been shown to be incorrect, as the initiative of postal staff, particularly in the face of not having functioning date stamps (damaged or lost), has been exemplary. Figures 2C to E show three of a large number of date stamps which David Allison has termed 'survivors'. The Butterworth date stamp received new date wheels as may be seen from the pre and post 2000 dates, whereas the Witsieshoek date stamp carried on normally.

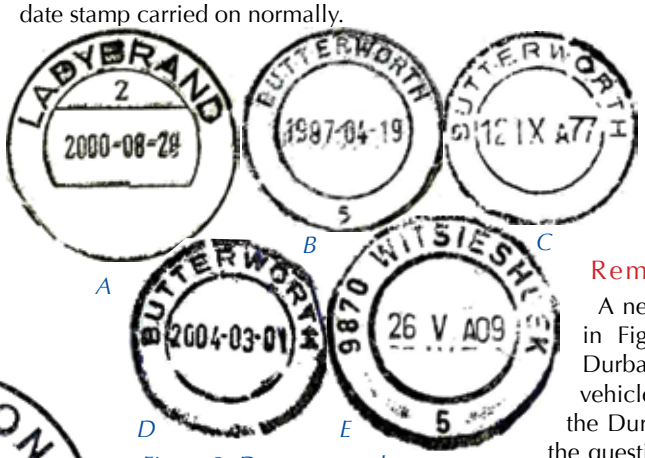

Figure 2. Date stamps that handle the year 2000.

Of cages and containers

Two recently seen date stamps that solicit a chuckle are shown in Figure 3. The Graaff-Reinet date stamp is inscribed CAGE, which had me wondering until I approached a Branch Manager. It is nothing sinister as the cage is a secure area in the back office where all recorded items such as registered letters and parcels are handled. I have seen a similar inscription on Botswana date stamps. The Eppindust date stamp is inscribed CONTAINER, which probably should have been COUNTER.

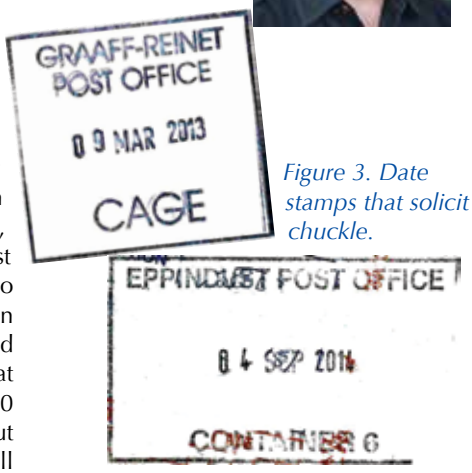

Figure 3. Date stamps that solicit a chuckle.

The riddle of the missing T

Estcourt recently received a new steel date stamp of a style that is currently popular. It has the counter code above the date, which is in the reversed date style and the postal code at the base. This date stamp (Figure 4), however, is inscribed Escourt, with a missing T. This is probably not a formal name change but an inadvertent oversight, or was the engraver thinking of his lunch of cold meat?

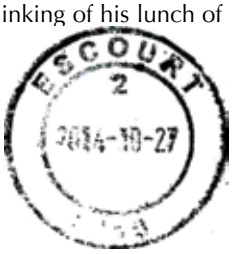

Figure 4. Estcourt with the missing T.

Reminders

A new cachet/date stamp, shown in Figure 5, has emanated from Durban. It is a reminder that vehicle licenses can be renewed at the Durban Post Office, which begs the question, why not all post offices?

In the past, slogans applied by machine cancellers were used for advertising purposes. This date stamp is applied by hand, and is this an indication of the demise of machine cancellers or ineffectiveness? We will pr

Figure 5. A first date stamp w

South African Stamp Issues - 2015 - part 1

by Robin Messenger, South African Stamp Study Circle.

5 February 2015 – SOUTH AFRICAN AVIATION CORPS CENTENARY

Denominations: 5 x Airmail Postcard rate (R6.05).
Designs: Lize-Marie Dreyer. Designs showing badges, medal and tunic associated with the Aviation Corps and the Henry Farman Bi-plane.
Printer: Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand.
Process: Offset lithography.
Stamp sizes: One each of 52 x 25mm, 37 x 25mm (in top row); one of 52 x 37mm and two 37mm square (in bottom row). See illustration.
Perforation: Die cut simulated of approximate gauge 12. Stamps are separated by 6.5mm gutters, in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of individual stamps. These roulettes extend to the margins of the sheetlet and also through the backing paper.
Paper: Avery Dennison Kraft Back PSA.
Phosphor: 3mm yellow-green bands following the inscription: 'SOUTH AFRICA AIRMAIL POSTCARD', along the left margins of the two stamps in the top row and the bottom margin of the three stamps in the bottom row.
Gum: WLK6 pressure sensitive adhesive.
Sheetlet size: 178 x 97mm
Quantity: 100,000 sheetlets.
Cylinder numbers: 8443 (blue), 8444 (red), 8445 (yellow) and 8446 (black).
Printing sheet size: 505 x 710mm comprising 12 sheetlets arranged in six rows of two.
First Day Cover: No. 8.78 of standard size (190 x 102mm) of which 2,000 were produced.
Canceller: No 8.65 - ' KIMBERLEY | 05.02.2015'.

3 March 2015 – ANIMAL POACHING AWARENESS

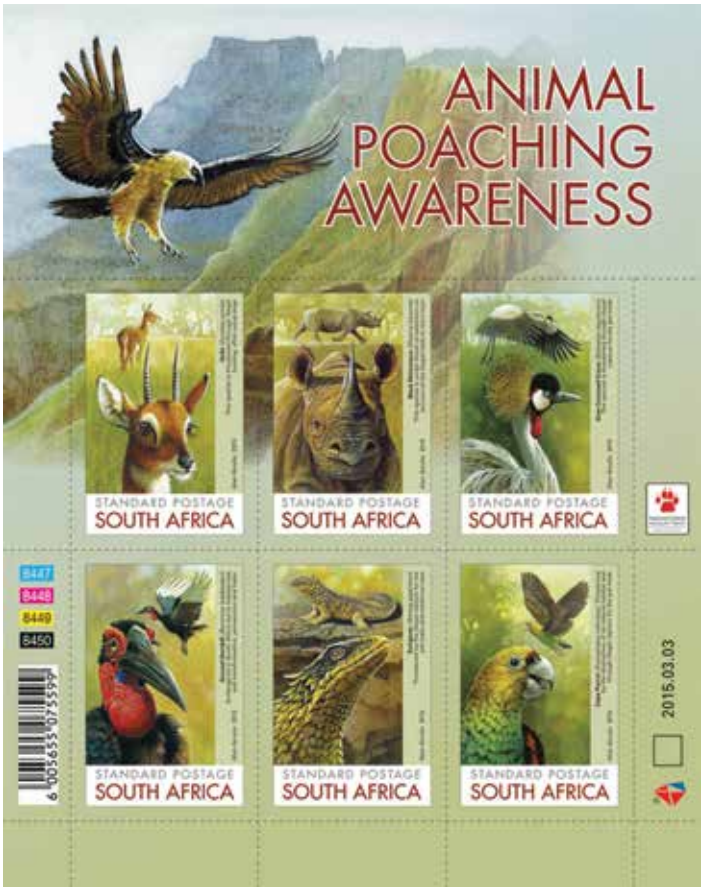

Illustration above is taken from the original artwork

Denominations: 6 x Standard Postage rate (R3.00).
Designer: Alan Ainslie. Designs showing South African threatened fauna. Top row: Oribi , Black Rhino and Grey Crowned Crane. Bottom row: Ground Hornbill, Sungazer Lizard and Cape Parrot.
Printer: Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand.
Process: Offset lithography.
Stamp sizes: 28 x 43mm.
Perforation: Die cut simulated. Stamps are separated by 5.5mm gutters, in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of individual stamps. These roulettes extend to the left, right and bottom margins of the sheetlet and also through the backing paper.
Paper: Avery Dennison Kraft Back PSA.
Phosphor: 3mm yellow-green bands following right and bottom margins of each stamp.
Gum: WLK6 pressure sensitive adhesive.
Quantity: 50,000 sheetlets.
Cylinder numbers: 8447 (blue), 8448 (red), 8449 (yellow) and 8450 (black).
Printing sheet size: 504 x 708mm comprising 12 sheetlets arranged in four rows of three.
First Day Cover: No. 8.79 of standard size, 2,000 were produced.
Canceller: No 8.66 - 'STOP ANIMAL / POACHING / 5 March 2015 • Skukuza'.

Acknowledgement:
The above information was supplied by Connie Liebenberg, Research Officer of the RSA Stamp Study Group, and Thea Clemons of Philatelic Services, together with personal observations.

Thematically Yours

by ***Rev Cassie Carstens****,*
Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging, Pretoria

Get Collecting - it's fun!

* The United Nations Postal Administration issued a set of 12 stamps depicting endangered marine life. This was the 22nd set of stamps in UNPA's multi-year series on Endangered Species, and the first on marine life. The artist, Amadeo Bachar (USA), completed a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and a Masters Certificate in Scientific Illustration. Depicted on this stamp is a **great white shark** *(Charcharodon carcharis)*

* The **Roman Connection** in Europe and Britain is not restricted to the well-known Asterix and Obelix! Julius Caesar and his legions conquered Gaul more than 2,000 years ago – the Celtic and Roman worlds were in a violent collision. *Armarica* was the name given by the Romans to the region encompassing Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, and also some areas in northern France. The people were known as Gauls. Recently some 70,000 ancient coins were found in a field in Jersey.

* **Dragons** are, without doubt, the most popular and recognisable of mythical creatures. Tales of dragons have existed for thousands of years the world over and if asked, most people would be able to describe one in a reasonable amount of detail. This is quite remarkable for a creature that does not actually exist! Different countries and cultures have their own dragon legends with portrayals ranging from fire-breathing monsters lurking in dark caves to scaly sea dwelling serpents and huge winged creatures with pointed tails.

* **Assassination on 28 June 1914** of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand by Serb nationalist Gaurilo Princip in Bosnia-Herzegovina sparked the route to war which quickly escalated via a complex series of political alliances into a cataclysmic conflict involving countries from every continent. For the next five years countless communities were affected by the breadth and horror of war.

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* Bishop Francois de Laval established the Notre-Dame de Quebec on 15 September 1664 (350 years ago) on rue Du Buade in Quebec, Canada. Within the church is *La Virgen y el Niño con San Juan Baptista* (*The Virgin and Child with St John the Baptist*). The oil on canvas is the work of Flemish Baroque painter **Abraham Janssens van Nuyssen** (1567 / 1632). Until the arrival of his lifelong adversary, Peter Paul Rubens, Janssens was thought to be the leading historical painter of his time.

* **The British Monarch** (Queen Elizabeth II) and three future heirs to the throne: Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince George. It is a photo to cherish for many years to come... because she is going to outlive them all! You wanna bet?

* **The Victoria Cross** was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1856 to honour conspicuous bravery during the Crimean War, but was not awarded to an Australian until the *Second Boer War* of 1899-1902. During this conflict, in which Australians fought alongside British forces, five Australians were honoured with a Victoria Cross, the first being Captain Neville Howse.

* The theme for EUROPA 2015 is **traditional toys**. The model train continues to be one of the most loved and successful of all traditional toys. The most widely recognised brand of model railway is produced by *Hornby*, a British company founded by Frank Hornby. In 1925 the first Hornby electric train was produced. With over 650 items in its current range, Hornby still delights children and adults alike.

References:

- Fascination: United Nations Postal Administration: No 342 – 4/2014.
- Jersey Stamp Bulletin: Summer 2014 and Winter 2014/2015.
- Australia: Stamp Bulletin No 332 / Jan - Feb 2015.
- Canada: Details, Oct 2014 No 9.
- Guernsey Stamps : November 2014 / Vol 9 / No 16.

Revised constant headplate flaw of the 1935 Silver Jubilee: Hairline in head

by Andre du Plessis, Pretoria Philatelic Society

The Union of South Africa's 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps were part of an Empire-wide issue commemorating the 25th Anniversary of King George V's accession to the throne. In total 249 commemorative stamps were issued on or about 6 May 1935 (date of the anniversary) by 59 administrative units of the British Empire. The KG V omnibus issue was the first commemorative omnibus issue of the British Empire and set a trend for omnibus issues in the British Empire as well as worldwide.

During a study of the Union's issue, I identified a number of characteristics in all four values which were either incorrectly or not previously described. This paper focuses on the former.

An interesting recurring headplate flaw appears on Row 17/1 of all values in the 1st & 2nd printings of this issue. I describe it as *'V5' shape hairline flaw on head.*

- This flaw appears on top of the Kings's head as a 'V' shaped hairline with a curl – in the form of a 5 – on the left limb of the 'V' and the sharp point facing towards the eyes.

Another distinct characteristic found on stamp R17/1 is the 'Spot on neck'.

During 1935/36 GN Gilbert authored various articles in *The South African Philatelist (SAP)* in which he identified and described the characteristics and flaws of the Union Silver Jubilee stamps. The flaw(s) in R17/1 seem to have been described in two steps, suggesting that he did not identify one of the flaws early on.

In June 1935 the Spot on neck was mentioned for the first time in *the SAP* without any mention of the hairline flaw and the different printings[1].

The spot on neck AND hairline flaws were first mentioned in the November 1935 issue[2]. Gilbert indicated that these flaws were found in all four values for the first two printings but were not present in the 3rd printing of the 1d stamp.

During December 1935, in a summary of the more obvious flaws, both flaws were confirmed[3]. The summary did not include the absence of the flaws in the 3rd printing of the 1d stamp. This could create the mistaken impression that it appears in all printings of all denominations.

Subsequent authors appear to have down-played the presence of the *'Hairline in head'* flaw as they only list the *'Spot on neck'* flaw[4-5]. Hall, for example, states that the Spot on neck is "one of the important varieties found in all values". There is no mention of the *hairline in head* (See table).

½d 1d 3d 6d

Photocopies of enlarged view of flaws showing (a) Spot on neck and (b) 'V5' shaped hairline

PLATE DIFFERENCE

The sheet layout of the 1d. value differs from those of the other values in that 'SOUTH AFRICA' (frameplate) appears at the top of the first stamp of the sheet. However 'SILVER JUBILEE' (headplate) continues to appear to the left of the King's head i.e. facing the King.

Neither the 'Spot on neck' nor the 'V5 shaped hairline flaw' appear on stamp R17/1 of the 3rd printing.

The non-appearance is due to the usage of the second (new) headplate to print the third printing of the 1d stamp.

As there is no change in the positioning of the head plates between the values, any headplate flaw' that occurs on an AFRIKAANS headed stamp, in this case Row 17/1 for the ½d, 3d and 6d stamps, will appear on the same sheet position as an ENGLISH headed stamp for the 1d stamp.

The author would like to acknowledge and thank Neil Donen for his continuous support regarding the Union 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps.

Presence/absence of descriptions of Spot on neck/ Hairline in head flaws (R17/1) found in commonly accessed resources for 1935 Silver Jubilee varieties

	Catalogue/Journal	Spot on neck	Hairline in head
1	Gilbert, *South African Philatelist* June 1935	Yes	No
2	Gilbert, *South African Philatelist* November 1935	Yes	Yes
3	Gilbert, South African Philatelist Dec. 1935	Yes	Yes
4	Hall, Springbok, 1985	Yes	No
5	Donen, Springbok, 2002	Yes	No
6	George V Silver Jubilee web site, 2010	Yes	No

References

1. Gilbert GN. *The Jubilee Stamps of the Union* in *The South African Philatelist*. 1935 June pp. 87

2. Gilbert GN. *The Jubilee Stamps of the Union*, in *The South African Philatelist*. 1935 Nov. pp. 166-7

3. Gilbert GN. *The Jubilee Stamps of the Union – Headplate flaws common to all denominations*, in *The South' African Philatelist*. 1935 Dec. 181-4

4. Hall WAE. *A beginners' guide to the 1935 South African Silver Jubilee Issue*. The *Springbok* 1985;33(3):54-7. May/June.

5. Donen N. *South Africa – An updated list of the 1935 Silver Jubilee varieties: Part 2 of 2*. The *Springbok*. 2002:50(3);62-7. July/Sept

6. King George V Silver Jubilee: www.philatel2.com/jubilee/id32.htm. Accessed 20 April 2014.

A FORGED INTERPROVINCIAL NATAL FISCAL

by M. J. H. Tonking, S A Stamp Study Circle

Generally Interprovincial stamps are not normally subject to the forger's art, however some trouble was taken over the example of a Natal fiscal.

The Natal fiscals are not known used in the Transvaal during the Interprovincial period. In this example of the 1902 watermark crown CC 5/- fiscal the original cancellation was removed. It was then replaced with an old Transvaal Republic date stamp dated 29 September 1910, so applied to ensure that the letters 'ZAR' did not appear on the stamp.

Comic Corner

Stamps that make us SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek PS and Royal Philatelic Society

The 29th episode of :Errors on Stamps...

A MATTER OF SIZE

There is nothing really wrong with this 7½p stamp of the definitive issue of JERSEY of October 1969 except the cartographic error that shows the size of the three Channel Islands Jersey (in red), Guernsey and Alderney (in brown) totally out of proportion and blown up several times larger on the map of the English Channel than on any other map in our atlas.

This is quite obvious when you look at the large French Peninsula of Cherbourg and consider that the size of the tiny island of Jersey is only 116 square kilometres. Also the distance between England, France and the three Channel Islands is not as short as shown.

QSA AUCTIONS Ullman Recreation Centre,

SANDTON: Confirming that QSA will, in future, NOT be held bi-monthly in Pretoria. This follows from a change in management of the Victoria Cross Lodge, Menlo Park, Pretoria. All the QSA auctions will, in future, be held at the Ullman Recreation Centre, Sandton on the 3rd Saturday of every month, at 11h00, with lot viewing from 09h00. Ullman Recreation Centre, Sandton. *Directions - from Marlboro Rd (M1) off-ramp, proceed west to Bowling Ave, go north until Alma St, go down the hill to the river.* Paul van Zeyl, Rand Stamps. 072 400 4697.

Smalls

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 39 box for deadlines and addresses. In all instances insertions will be at the discretion of the Committee.

EXCHANGE: having lived in SA for 15 years, this Portuguese national is seeking to trade stamps of Portugal for stamps of South Africa. Contact: Alfredo Pereira.
E-mail - asdpereira@hotmail.com
Rua Maria José Matos, 42
4415-515 Grijó - Carvalhos. Portugal

EXCHANGE: A 56 years old sales manager and 'advanced' philatelist and collector looking to exchange materials; coins bank-notes, phone-cards, mint/and used/ stamps themed: flora-fauna, sport, 01 games, locomotives, tennis, ships, aeroplanes, Red cross. Contact: Mr Juraj Riedl. Ku Bratke 38. 934 01 Levice, Slovakia.

EXCHANGE: A collector of stamps from Ukraine is looking for local stamps and covers to exchange. Contact: Andrew Pavlyuk, Kolomijska 3/18. 79049 Lviv. Ukraine mailto:mwleesma@mweb.co.za

MAJOR Philatelic Events

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Exhibition news invited for all future local events

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

• *WESTERN CAPE STAMP FAIR:* Durbanville

1st Saturday each month from 09h00 at the Durbanville Library, Cnr Oxford & Koeberg Roads, Durbanville, Western Cape. Contact Ken Joseph on 028 840 2160 or 072 597 1287.

• *PRETORIA STAMP FAIR:* 1st Saturday of every month; Denis Adami Hall, Wren St, Queenswood, Pretoria. Contact Paul van Zeyl on 076 124 9055.

• *TSHWANE EXHIBITIONS:*

Afrikaanse Filatelie-vereniging Pretoria. Every first Saturday at the Denis Adami Hall, Wren Street, Queenswood, Pretoria. Contact rev Cassie Carstens on 012 653 2279.

• *SANDTON STAMP FAIR:*

2nd Saturday of every month; at the Kyalami Country Club***, 433 Maple Road, Kyalami.*** Contact Clinton Goslin on 083 272 9367.

• *KZN STAMP FAIR:*

Last Sunday of all months, except December; Kloof Country Club, Victory Rd (off Abrey Rd), Kloof. Contact: Beverley McNaught-Davis 031 904 1522, 081 270 2873, mcnd@telkomsa.net

• *EAST RAND STAMP FAIR:* **CHANGE OF VENUE.**

Last Saturday of all months, except December; no longer at Benoni Lake Club, now at the Italian Club in Bedfordview.

• *BLUFF STAMP FAIR:* at the N.G. Church Hall, Lighthouse Road, Bluff, Durban on the 1st Saturday of the month from 08h00 to 13h00. Contact: John Bracey Tel.: 031 266 1020 Cell: 079 465 7468 email: bracon@eastcoast.co.za

• *DURBANVILLE STAMP FAIR:*

Now on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Venue: **D.R. Church Hall Durbanville - Bergsig,** corner of Boland Way & Protea Way. Directions and a map are available on request. Contact: Ken Joseph or Robert Harm. cell: 028 840 2160 or 072 597 1287.
Dates 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 8 Aug, 5 Sept, 3 Oct, 7 Nov & 12 Dec.

• *WESTERN CAPE STAMP FAIR ACTIVITIES:*

Contact person is Ken Joseph on 028 840 2160 or 072 597 1287.

WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meeting Venue: Country Club Johannesburg, Napier Street, Auckland Park. For further information contact the President : Herbie Schaffler RDPSA - 082 722 7604.

Dates for Society Meetings for 2015 always on a Wednesday at 20h00

13 May - Modern Philatelic Evening
10 June - Grand Challenge Match
8 July - Foreign Exhibit Evening
12 August - Favourite Cover/s
9 September - Annual Auction

Eurocircle Stamp Study

Meetings for 2015 in the Captain's Table at Woodmead - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December)

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8.00pm at the Athenaeum, Camp Ground Road, Newlands. Visitors are always welcome. Contacts: Mary Rogers 0729461767 or 021 5582662
Andrew Mclaren 0737542856
021 6844361 (work)

STELLENBOSCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meeting - 1st Tuesday of the month at 19h00. *Venue* - Le Donjon, La Societé, La Clemence, Webersvallei Road, Stellenbosch.
Activities include internal & external exhibitions, visiting speakers, informative, instructive talks and demonstrations. Monthly Newsletter *with information on local philatelic activities: exhibitions, stamp fairs, society meetings; includes semi technical articles on matters of philatelic interest authored locally or abstracted from international journals.*

Visitors are welcome at all meetings

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month Auditorium of the Bellville Library in Charl van Aswegen Road, Bellville. Meetings start at 19h00 to 21h00. Meetings consists of club cup competitions, workshops and fun evenings where a specific theme is selected for the evening. Members from other societies are regularly invited. Contact: *Chairperson*: Wobbe Vegter; 072 425 6301; wvegter@xsinet.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353; philately@netpoint.co.za
website: http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com
Contact the Secretary for Programme details

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula.Circa 20 – 30 members and often a few guests gather once a month. FHPS is now reaching a wider audience on the internet since launching their own website. Please have a look and maybe get ideas or inspiration for your own society.
email: info.fhps@info
Website: www.fhps.info
Volker Janssen *FHPS Secretary*

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

- *President:* Robert Cummings. Tel: 041 961 0645. Cell: 083 326 7294.
- Dave Brown *(Vice President)*. 041 360 4025.
- Rodney Maclachlan (*Secretary Treasurer)* 072 619 5409.

This society meets at Bible Society House, 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold.
PROPOSED MEETING DATES all on a Monday evening, 2015:
13 April; 11 May ; 1 June; 6 July; 3 Aug; 7 Sep; 5 Oct; 9 Nov; and 30 November (President's Night).

TO ALL SOCIETY SECRETARIES:
Please advise *The SA Philatelist* Editorial Team of your **forward meeting** programme so that the information can be published timeously

FOUNDED IN 1911 THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meets at 19h30 on the **2nd Thursday** evening of the month at the Berea Bowling Club, Corner Brand & Furguson Rds, Glenwood Durban. *(January meeting held on the **3rd** Tuesday)*
Contacts: ***'All are welcome'***

- Ted Brown *(President)* 083 284 6554
- Bev McNaught-Davis *(Vice-President)* 031 904 1522
- Harold Deg *(Secretary)* 084 222 1123

'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what notto do to achieve success...

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Westville Round Table Hall, on the corner of Siringa Road and Maryvale Road, next to the Westville Athletics Club. An open invitation to members of all the other Philatelic Societies and members of the public to join us for our meetings held on the SECOND Saturday of every month.

Established in 1924

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Dave Wyllie. 082 926 8888. Email: davewyllie@telkomsa.net
President's Deputy: Marianne de Jager. 082 853 3361 Email: mdj@iuncapped.co.za
Treasurer: Ruth Sykes. 082 402 2103. Email: rsykes@absamail.co.za
Secretary: Aubrey Bowles. 082 558 0283. Email: burncree45@telkomsa.net
Publicity & Monthly Newsletter, information on Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles, burncree45@telkomsa.net
Other committee members: Joyce Hulse; Val de Jager; Gordon Bennett; Franklin van der Spuy; Tony Evans; Julia Evans. **Meetings**:

The monthly Executive Committee meetings will be held on the 3rd SATURDAY of every month. *Same venue. Same time.*

St Mathews Parish Hall, Hayfields, at 16h00. The Thematics Group meets every FIRST Saturday of the month at 09h00 at 26 Maud Avenue, Scottsville. Visitors always welcome.

HIBISCUS COAST PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Louise Oswin Residence, 1 Beach road Southport 4230. PO Box 228. Anerley 4230. **Meetings**: 3rd Saturday of the month at 14h00. ***Contact****:* Noel Lavery: 039 695 1642, Cell 082 440 5501 e-mail noel@accessweb.co.za *Secretary*: Louise Oswin. Tel 039 681 3265 cell 079 505 6044 email: oswin@telehost.co.za

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Meeting every 1st Saturday of the month at the Adami Stamp Fair @ 10:15. Vibrant and active group of attendees – lots of expertise amongst them. Contact: Cassie Carstens 012 653 2279.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand by Glen Carpendale se Seëlwinkel in Kilnerpark @ 10:00. Klein maar baie aktiewe en produktiewe groepie lede wat gereeld bywoon; konsentreer veral ook op tematiese en oop versamelings. Nuusbrief '*Die Posduif*' verskyn elke maand.

POLOKWANE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets every last Tuesday of the month,
Contact: Peter Gutsche, PO Box 11933, Bendor Park 0713. Tel 083 276 1124.
email: pmgutsche@mweb.co.za.

CENTURION STAMP CLUB

This society is for the 'morning glories' who do not wish to travel at night. Meetings on 2nd Friday of every even month (June, August, October etc) at the Dutch Reformed Church, Wierdapark South, Centurion. Concentrate on African countries, and a letter of the alphabet just for the fun (one-page).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson: Jan de Jong. 011 839 2031 djhome@iburst.co.za. Secretary Eugene du Plooy; Connie Liebenberg, editor of the Newsletters. Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 09:15am at the Adami Stamp Fair in Pretoria. PO Box 8727, Centurion 0046. email: eugene@umalusi.org.za. Connie Liebenberg. P O Box 33378, Glenstantia 0010. Tel: 012 345 3616. jacoli@mweb.co.za

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Vergader elke 2de Woensdag van elke onewe maand (Januarie, Maart, Mei, Julie ens) by Filateliedienste in Silverton. Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrief, 10 vm. Connie Liebenberg. epos: jacoli@mweb.co.za

PRETORIA, MPUMALANGA, LIMPOPO

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:30pm on the first Monday evening of the month at Statech Centre, St. Alban's College, Clearwater Street, Lynnwood Glen.
* Alex Visser *(President)* 012 803 1881
* Steve Marsh *(Vice-President)* 012 656 0493
Specialists on traditional philately, postmarks and postal history. Monthly newsletter.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

President: Clive Carr, Tel. 011 789 6357.
Meetings: 19h30, Third Wednesday of the month, at Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie.

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O.Box 198 Florida Hills 1716.
Contact: Alistair Mackenzie *(Chairman)*
Tel: 011 768 7565 or Ian Walker *(Secretary)*
Tel: 011 4721161

Established in 1924
MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tony receives the Robert Goldblatt Cup

Members of the MPS were thrilled when Bev McNaught-Davis, The Vice-President for Region 5 of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, presented the *Robert Goldblatt Cup* to Tony Evans on behalf of the Federation for winning 'The Best Thematic Entry' on show at the 2014 Stampex National Stamp Exhibition in Pretoria during October 2014. It is only the second time in the history of the cup that it has been awarded to a member from Kwa-Zulu Natal. Well done Tony, we are very proud of you! (Fig1.)

At the same meeting, Tony Evans also showed his Silver-award winning exhibit on the *Coat of Arms of Northern Rhodesia* which he had exhibited in the Traditional Philately Class at the National Stamp Show in Pretoria.

Tony Evans

Fig 1. The Bob Goldblatt Cup to Tony Evans.

He explained the many flaws that occurred during the printing of the Northern Rhodesia stamps and the reason for all the mistakes

Following the break-up of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, also known as the Central African Federation, at relatively short notice, the Northern Rhodesia GPO ordered new postage stamps in August 1963 for delivery by 1 December of the same year. It was going to be a rush!

A simple design by Harrisons in England was approved on 23 October 1963. Over 28 million stamps in 14 different values and colours were needed and the rush was on!

The issue would only be in circulation for ten months, The country then became the independent state of Zambia on 24 October 1964. Who would have thought that such a small and philatically minor country could produce an enormous range of varieties?

Stanley Gibbons, a recognised World Authority on postage stamps, lists 13 major flaws/errors but there must be hundreds of others.

The 3d stamp was the internal letter rate stamp so it was the most common value used and it had the bulk of the flaws.

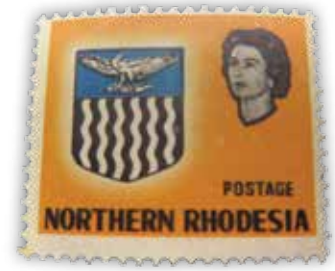
The rarest listed SG flaw is the 3d with the eagle printed double. The eagle above the coat of arms is in the correct place but a second one is seen without any surround below the coat of arms. (Fig 2.)

A second listed flaw, also on a 3d stamps, shows the value omitted and the orange eagle missing! (Fig 3.)

An unlisted flaw shows the Queen with a white face (Fig 4) whilst the only known 5/- stamp where the eagle is white but with the orange eagle design clearly visible 4mm higher than it should be, outside the Coat of Arms, was first recorded in 2013 (Fig 5)

Looking for this type of detail is exciting and you might never know what you might find or what it is worth unless you make an effort and have 'fun with stamps'. The AGM took place on 16 March 2015 when Tony Evans displayed his award-winning 'My Golden Horn' exhibit which portrays the plight of rhino's Worldwide

(Fig 2.)



(Fig 3.)

(Fig 4.)

(Fig 5.)

For any additional information contact: Aubrey Bowles - 033 386 8912 or cell-phone 083 382 8308

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