

The Stamps

OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

1910 - 1961

The Stamps
OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
1910 - 1961

Handbook Catalogue
Definitive Edition

EDITOR
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Published on behalf of
THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
by
REIJGER PUBLISHERS (PTY) LIMITED
CAPE TOWN

*Reijger Publishers takes its name from the flute in the
flotilla of three ships which brought Jan van Riebeeck to
the Cape of Good Hope in 1652.*

Paper for case-lining of limited edition hand
made by Shirley Kantor
Illustrations reproduced by Framic and
Comp-O-Set
Typography and page design by Poul-Ejnar Hansen
Typesetting and page make-up by Diatype Setting
Reproduction by Doble & Nagel
Printing and binding by Clyson Book Printers

The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1961
is set in 10 on 12 pt Baskerville, printed
lithographically on Dukuza Gloss Art.

Luxury binding: ISBN 0 620 09755 8
Standard edition: ISBN 0 620 09754 X

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Southern Africa, 1986.
Published by Reijger Publishers (Pty) Limited,
P.O. Box 2789, Cape Town 8000, South Africa, 1986

Previous editions:
Van Riebeeck Tercentenary edition 1952,
Vol. II 1955
Golden Jubilee edition 1960, Vol. II 1964
Revised reprint of the above 1979
Printed in the Republic of South Africa.

To

W. N. (BILL) SHEFFIELD RDPSA

*who contributed
so much to the cataloguing
of the Union's stamps*

Foreword

This publication has a proud and lengthy history. It takes its current form from the "Van Riebeeck" and "Golden Jubilee" editions, published by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa in 1952 and 1960; each succeeded by supplementary second volumes.

But it had its forerunners as well. In November 1921 G. W. Reynolds edited and published the *Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa*. Between then and 1946, other well known philatelists – among them Rich, Ritchie, Simenhoff, Basden and Bishop, to mention but a few – were responsible for similar publications.

However all of these fell short of the end of an era, when the Union became the Republic of South Africa on 31 May 1961. Perforce they could only tell part of the story. Now, apart from any possible new discoveries and periodic price adjustments, this edition for the first time covers its subject complete in one volume.

Painstakingly over the past ten years, the editor, Jack Hagger, has rewritten entire sections in the light of new information and research, while some parts, previously included in the Handbook/Catalogue, have been omitted. To cover these it is hoped to undertake a companion volume.

This edition will no doubt become the definitive reference work for all serious collectors of, and specialists in, the stamps of the Union of South Africa, and it is a pleasure and an honour to have been asked to contribute this foreword.

STAN NAYLOR RDPSA, FRPSL
President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Preface

I am grateful to collectors both here and overseas who pointed out errors in previous editions as well as suggesting improvements. Although for obvious reasons the sheer number of names is too lengthy to list here they will, I am sure, be pleased to note that their suggestions were taken to heart.

I acknowledge particularly the help received from the following:
Stan Naylor RDPSA, FRPSL, for proofreading and pricing
Jonas Michelson RDPSA, FRPSL, for proofreading and handling of illustrations
Wally Japha for his helpful suggestions and proofreading covering the chapter dealing with the Officials
Coen Slagt for pricing and the loan of material for reproduction
Wilhelm Grutter for editorial assistance.

S. J. HAGGER, RDPSA
Alberton, 15 June 1986

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Introduction

This work enjoys one great advantage over the previous publications on the stamps of the Union, published at intervals since 1921 — it can try to tell the whole story. Should it succeed, all that should be required in future would be to revise prices and to correct minor errors.

Thus, while for the convenience of current collectors the Golden Jubilee edition numbering has been followed almost entirely, some changes have been made. It is felt that these will make the work easier to follow for collectors of the future.

The sections which have seen the greatest change are that on the officials, with new numbering, and that on the unhyphenated rotogravure productions, which caused so much confusion in the past. This has been completely rewritten. In addition, two very necessary changes were made in the numbering of the 1d. value.

Explanatory Notes

Odd and Even Numbered Stamps

Where they were inscribed unilingually, the languages always alternated on the stamps in the manner shown in the diagram. Thus, any two which are joined together, horizontally or vertically, constitute a bilingual pair.

Row No.	Odd	Even
1	English	Afrikaans
2	Afrikaans	English

Whenever in the text a feature of an odd or even numbered stamp is described, the reference is to the number of the position which it occupies in the row. It is therefore unchanged whether the first stamp on the sheet was inscribed in English or in Afrikaans.

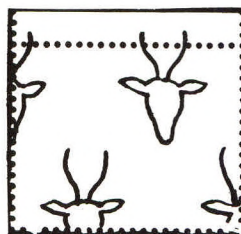
Row No.	Odd	Even
1	Afrikaans	English
2	English	Afrikaans

Pairs

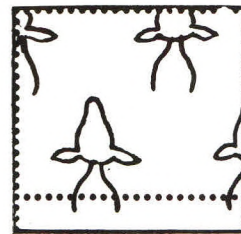
Although, in theory, there should be no difference between the price of a horizontal or a vertical pair, most collectors insist on having the former, consequently they are

worth much more and in this catalogue, where the price is for a pair, unless otherwise stated, a horizontal pair of stamps is referred to.

Watermarks



Upright



Inverted



Facing left



Facing right

Springbok's head Watermark looking at face of stamp



Arms Watermark looking at face of stamp