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Orange Free State Centenary, 1954

Bilingually inscribed stamps with values of 2d. and 4½d. appeared on 23 February 1954 to mark the centenary of the founding of the Orange Free State. The design was by H. Kumst, and measured 37,5 x 21,5 mm. It consisted of the Orange Free State coat of arms with a quill pen and a scroll bearing the date 1854-1954, symbolizing the signing of the Bloemfontein Convention on 23 February 1854. For the first time the word POSSEËL was replaced by POSGELD on a commemorative stamp. Perforation gauged 15 x 14.

The sheets of 120 stamps were divided into two panes, each 10 rows x 6, by a horizontal gutter, the depth of a stamp, between the 10th and 11th rows. There were four marginal arrows in the colour of the interior design at the centre of the margin, or gutter, at the top or bottom of each pane, and red four-figure sheet numbers on their right margins.

The numbers of the interior cylinders: 2d. No. 1 and 4½d. No. 11, were printed on both margins at the beginning and end of the 1st, 9th 11th and 19th rows, whilst that of the common exterior, No. 104, was at the ends of the 2nd, 10th, 12th and 20th rows.

There was superficially no difference between the panes, which gave rise to a transposition of the cylinders in the 2d. value only. As there was also a transposition in the cutting of the transposed cylinder version – but not the normal one – into panes, there were only three different 2d. stamp sheets. The “Scratched Screen” flaws again made their appearance on the exterior cylinder.



OFS arms and symbolic scroll

		<i>Single</i>	
		Mint	Used
121	2d. Sepia and orange red	0,10	0,10

Controls

M/U

Per block of four with both arrows on the gutter between the upper and lower pairs

Ca.	With barb of lower arrow unbroken and no red mark near top left corner of stamp. Row 11/4	5,00
Cb.	With break in the right-hand barb of the lower arrow and no red mark, (transposition of cylinders). row 11/4	150,00
Cc.	With barb of lower arrow unbroken and with red mark, (transposition of cylinders and cutting), Row 11/4	200,00
Cd.	Vertical pair with cylinder numbers “1” and “104” on margin	1,00

Varieties

V1.	Red mark near top left corner. Rows 1 or 11/4	0,50
V2.	Two tiny brown dots over “E” of POSGELD. Row 2 or 12/2	0,50
V3.	White spot under “S” of O.V.S. Rows 2 or 12/3	0,50
V4.	Red dot on lower edge of left-hand flag. Rows 10 or 20/3	0,50
V5.	White screen scratch across top left corner. Rows 20 or 10/2	0,50
V6.	White screen scratch left of top part of left-hand flag. row 20 or 10-3	0,50

		<i>Single</i>	
		Mint	Used
122	4½d. Purple and grey	0,30	0,60

Control

M/U

Ca.	Vertical pair with cylinder numbers “11” and “104” on margin	2,00
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Varieties

V1.	White spot over “E” of POSTAGE. Row 1/2	1,50
V2.	Grey mark near top left corner. Row 1/4	1,50
V3.	Horizontal grey line from quill to right frame. Row 1/6	1,50
V4.	Grey dot on lower edge of left-hand flag. Row 10/3	1,50
V5.	White screen scratch across top left corner. Row 20/2	1,50
V6.	White screen scratch left of top part of left-hand flag. Row 20/3	1,50

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Pretoria Centenary, 1955

Two special 3d. and 6d. stamps were issued on 21 October 1955 to commemorate the centenary of the city of Pretoria. The inscriptions are bilingual and embody the portraits of President S.J.P. Kruger on the 3d. and of President M.W. Pretorius on the 6d. values. These were provided by the Postmaster-General for the designer, H. Kumst. The design measures 21 x 37,5 mm perforation 14 x 15 and the watermark facing left. They remained on sale for a period of approximately three months.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps in 6 rows x 20, with arrows on all four margins; double broken bars on left and right, and four-figure red sheet numbers on the bottom one. The numbers of the cylinders did not appear on the sheet margin but were recorded as: 3d. - No. 74 and 6d. - No. 119.



President S. J. P. Kruger



President M. W. Pretorius

		<i>Single</i>	
		Mint	Used
137	3d. Slate-green	0,30	0,15

Control - per pair *M/U*

Ca. Marginal arrow 1,50

Varieties

V1.	"Pimple" on bridge of nose. Row 1/12	1,50
V2.	Dot under second "R" of PRETORIA. Row 2/8	1,50
V3.	Heavy green blob under "19" of 1955. Row 5/20	1,50

		<i>Single</i>	
		Mint	Used
138	6d. Dark Chocolate	0,60	0,30

Control - per pair *M/U*

Ca. Marginal arrow 3,00

Varieties

V1.	White spot under "18" of 1855. Row 1/3	2,50
V2.	Scar on chin. Row 1/7	2,50
V3.	White dot under "AF" of AFRICA. Row 3/18	2,50
V4.	White mark under "55" of 1955. Row 4/1	2,50
V5.	White dot under "T" of SOUTH. Row 5/20	2,50
V6.	Short line and dot on forehead. Row 6/20	2,50

32

Covenant Commemoration, 1955

A 2d. stamp was issued on 1 December 1955 to commemorate the Voortrekker Covenant of Blood River, and remained on sale for approximately three months. The design, by H. Kumst, measured 27 x 21 mm. and embodied a portrait of Andries Pretorius, the hero of Blood River, with an outline of the Church of the Vow, and the flag of the Republic of Natalia in the background. The perforation, which gauged 14, was by two different appliances, so some sheets had small holes, while in the others they were larger and with "Drunken Perfs".

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps in 20 rows x 6 and inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans with arrows in blue on all four margins, double broken bars in the same colour on the top and bottom, and red four-figure sheet numbers on the right. Numbers of the cylinders did not appear anywhere on the sheet margins but they were recorded as: interior No. 17 and exterior No. 14.



Andries W. J. Pretorius

		<i>Pair</i>	
		Mint	Used
139	2d. Rose and blue	1,00	2,00

Control – per block of four *M/U*

Ca. Marginal arrow 3,00

Varieties

V1.	Blue dot under third "E" of HERBEVESTIGING. Row 1/5	3,00
V2.	Blue spot at bottom left next to Church. Row 2/6	3,00
V3.	Blue spot in bottom right of Church. Row 4/5	3,00
V4.	Blue spot in left gable. Row 11/1	3,00
V5.	Blue spot in hat brim above right eye. Row 12/6	3,00
V6.	Blue spot after "d" of 2d. Row 20/2	3,00

33

German Settlers' Centenary, 1958

A bilingual 2d. stamp was issued on 1 July 1958 to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of the German Settlers in South Africa, and it remained on sale for approximately three months. The design, by H. Kumst, measures 27 x 21 mm and illustrates a typical German block-wagon (photographs supplied by the Postmaster-General) and a dwelling house as used by the settlers who landed at the port of East London. Perforation is 14 with the large holes and drunken perms, or the small holes which are much scarcer.

The sheets of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) had arrows in the colour of the centre design in the four margins, the numbers of the cylinders, 17 and 74, on the bottom below the last stamp of the row, and red four-figure sheet numbers on the righthand one.



German block-wagon

German block-wagon			<i>Single</i>	
			Mint	Used
140	2d.	Sepia and light purple	1,20	0,60
<i>Controls — per pair</i>				<i>M/U</i>
Ca.	Bottom right corner with cylinders Nos. "17" and "74" on margin below righthand stamp			2,00
Cb.	Marginal arrow			1,00
<i>Varieties</i>				
V1.	Dot in "2" of value. Row 4/1			1,00
V2.	Dot under second "A" of AFRICA. Row 5/1			1,00
V3.	Dot over roof. Row 5/5			1,00
V4.	Smudge in "D" of SUID. Row 6/1			1,00
V5.	Dot on side of wagon. Row 8/4			1,00
V6.	Dot in cloud under "SU" of SUID. Row 9/5			1,00

34

Academy of Science and Art, 1959

A bilingual 3d. stamp was issued on 1 May 1959 to commemorate the golden jubilee of the South African Academy for Art and Science, and it remained on sale for approximately three months. The design, drawn by H. Kumst and measuring 37,5 x 21 mm, embodied the crest of the academy and the perforation was 15 x 14.

The sheets of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) had arrows in the colour of the frame at the centre of all four margins and a single broken bar, also in the colour of the frame, in the top and bottom ones. Cylinder numbers, interior 89 and exterior 119 were printed on the bottom margin below the fifth and sixth stamps respectively.



Academy Jubilee

			<i>Single</i>	
			Mint	Used
141	3d.	Dark blue and light blue	0,20	0,10
<i>Controls — per pair</i>			<i>M/U</i>	
Ca.	Right-hand corner with Cylinder Nos. “89” and “119” on bottom margin		2,00	
Cb.	Marginal arrow		1,00	
<i>Varieties</i>				
V1.	White mark to right of the first “A” of AFRICA. Row 2/1		1,00	
V2.	Dark blue dot on “S” of SOUTH. Row 4/4		1,00	
V3.	Projection on circle under “V” of VIR. Row 14/5		1,00	

V4.	Dot below and to left of 3d. Row 16/4	1,00
V5.	Dot above "d" of 3d. Row 19/4	1,00
V6.	Dot to right of first "A" of AFRICA. Row 19/6	1,00

General

V7.	With all the dark blue missing. (Stamps from the top row of one sheet only.)	1000,00
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35

National Antarctic Expedition, 1959

A 3d. stamp was issued on 16 November 1959 to mark the departure of a South African expedition to Queen Maud Land, and it remained on sale for approximately three months. The design, drawn by H. Kumst and measuring 21 x 37,5 mm, showed the globe with the Union picked out in orange and a dotted line showing the route taken by the expedition. Antarctic scenery together with the letters "SANAE" (South African National Antarctic Expedition) completed the lower part of the design. Perforation was 14 x 15 and it was the first of the commemorative stamps to appear with the Arms watermark, in this case sideways, facing left.

The sheets of 120 stamps (6 rows x 20) had arrows in the colour of the centre design at the centre of each margin and a single broken bar in the same colour on the side margins. The cylinder numbers – interior 60 and exterior 119 – were printed on the left margin adjoining row 6/1, and the four figure red sheet numbers were on the bottom one.



Antarctic and globe

		<i>Single</i>	
		Mint	Used
142	3d. Orange and blue-green	0,20	0,10

Controls – per pair

Ca.	With cylinder Nos. "60" and "119" on left margin	2,00
Cb.	Marginal arrow	1,00

Varieties

V1. Large light patch in orange portion. Row 1/3	1,00
V2. Dark blob on orange portion. Row 3/17	1,00
V3. Light patch on left frame level with 3d. Row 4/7	1,00
V4. White dot on right edge of continent near top and dark spot on edge of mountain near centre. Row 5/11	1,00
Note: Covers were carried on the M.V. <i>Polarbjorn</i> , which transported the expedition, and these received a special "SANA E" postmark dated 11 January 1960. Cover with "SANA E" stamp and postmark	
	2,00

36

Railway Centenary, 1960

A bilingual 1/3 stamp was issued on 2 May 1960 to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the first railway in South Africa, from the Point (Docks) to Durban, on 26 June 1860. The design, by V. Ivanoff, which illustrated the progress of the railway during the century in South Africa, measured 38 x 21,5 mm. The perforation was 15 x 14, with the Arms watermark, upright.

The sheets of 120 stamps (20 rows x 6) had arrows at the centre of all four margins and single broken bars on the top and bottom ones. The cylinder numbers 57 and 9 were printed on the bottom margin below the first stamp of the row and the four-figure red sheet numbers were on the right margin.



Rail progress in South Africa

			<i>Single</i>	
			Mint	Used
148	1/3	Indigo and light blue	2,50	1,50

Controls – per pair

M/U

Ca.	Left-hand corner with Cylinder Nos. "57" and "9" on bottom margin	15,00
Cb.	Marginal arrow	10,00

Varieties

V1.	Dot on Table Mountain. Row 2/5	6,00
V2.	White mark on map. Row 5/3	6,00
V3.	Two dots below and to right of "1/3". Row 7/1	6,00
V4.	Small dot between locomotive and building on right. Row 13/2	6,00

Union Golden Jubilee – Sterling, 1960

A series of four stamps in the denominations of 4d., 6d., 1/- and 1/6 was issued on 2 May 1960 to commemorate the golden jubilee of the founding of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910.

In addition, a further stamp, a 3d. value featuring the Union's six Prime Ministers, became available on 31 May. The design of the four values of the Golden Jubilee set featured on the 4d. the Union Flag and the opening bars of the national anthem, and on the 6d. the Union coat of arms and those of the four former colonies, both stamps designed and drawn by H. Kumst. The theme of the 1/-, drawn by V. Ivanoff with lettering by Kumst, was "progress through co-operation", and the 1/6 depicted the official Union Festival emblem, with lettering by Kumst. All these stamps were bilingual.

As some of the designs reappeared in the following year with values in decimal currency, it is convenient to revert to a chronological listing, and this set now therefore follows the Railway stamp. Though that date was a public holiday, post offices in the main centres were open for at least an hour for the sale of this 3d. stamp, the design of which had remained a secret until then. Further, the stamps of this series were on sale throughout the anniversary day at the post office at the International Stamp Exhibition "UNIPEX" in Johannesburg.

The 4d. and 6d. stamps were in the upright format, measuring 21 x 37,5 mm, perforated 14 x 15 and with the Arms watermark facing left. They were in sheets of 120 (6 rows x 20) with arrows at the centre of all four margins and a single broken bar on those at the sides. Cylinder numbers – three of them in the case of the 6d., which was the first Union stamp to be produced from so many – were on the left margin adjoining the first stamp of the bottom row. The sheet numbers, four-figure red or five-figure black in the case of the 4d. value and five-figure black only for the 6d., were on the bottom margin.

The 3d., 1/- and 1/6 values were in horizontal format measuring 37,5 x 21 mm, perforated 15 x 14 and with Arms watermark upright. The sheets of 120 stamps had a single broken bar on both top and bottom margins. Cylinder numbers were printed on the bottom margin below the sixth stamp, and the four-figure red sheet numbers were on the right margin.

The cylinder numbers, in the order in which they appeared on the margins, were as follows: 3d. – 94 and 11; 4d. – 16 and 95; 6d. – 24, 88, and 52; 1/- – 44 and 34.



Union flag



Prime Ministers. 1910-1960

Gen. Louis Botha
Gen. Jan Christian Smuts
Gen. James Barry Munnik Hertzog
Dr. Daniël François Malan
Johannes Gerhardus Strijdom
Dr. Hendrik French Verwoerd



SA coat of arms



Wheel of progress



Union Festival emblem

		Single	
		Mint	Used
144	3d. Dark and light brown	0,15	0,10

Controls – per pair

M/U

Ca.	From right corner with Cylinder Nos. "94" and "11" on bottom margin	1,00
Cb.	Marginal arrow	0,50

Varieties

V1.	Oblique line across forehead of General Smuts. Row 7/2	1,00
V2.	White spot over "H" of SOUTH. Row 13/5	1,00
V3.	Thin line running up from top of protea. Row 15/2	1,00
V4.	Large dot on Dr. Malan's head. Row 17/5	1,00

V5.	White line across back of Dr. Verwoerd's head, a screen scratch. Row 19/3	1,00		
145	4d. Orange-red and cerulean blue	0,25	Single Mint	Used 0,10

Union Golden Jubilee – Decimal, 1961

Despite the fact that there were sufficient of the Animal Series designs available for a complete series, and that those of the Golden Jubilee, by their date obviously commemorated an event of the previous year, four of the jubilee designs were repeated in the decimal currency set of stamps which appeared on 14 February 1961.

The designs and colours were identical, the only changes being in the values: 3d. to 2½c, 4d. to 3½c, 6d. to 7½c and 1/- to 10c. Thus only in the case of the 7½c was the new value not the exact equivalent of the old. The size, perforation and watermark were also the same as previously, and they were in use very briefly, being superseded by stamps of the Republic series which appeared on 31 May of the same year.

The number of stamps per sheet was reduced to 100 (20 rows by 5 or 5 rows x 20 according to the format) and the arrows were left off the margin which had the single broken bar. Here the middle stamp was identified by a wider gap between the adjoining two central segments.

The 2½c value was produced – in two panes of 100 stamps each – from cylinders 52 A/B and 27A/B, with numbers printed on the bottom margin of each below the fourth stamp of the row. Four-figure red sheet numbers were printed only in the centre gutter nearest to Pane B, which was on the left of Pane A.

Guillotining for separation into panes should have been between the arrows in the centre gutter. Where this was not the case arrow pairs of Pane B show portion of an extra arrow on the right margin, and more rarely those from Pane A show part of the extra arrow on the left margin. Even more rarely, the sheet numbers appear on the left instead of the right margin because of this incorrect separation.

The 3½c value was produced from cylinders 21 and 58, and the numbers appear on the left margin adjoining the first stamp of the bottom row. Four-figure red sheet numbers were on the bottom margin.

Cylinder numbers of the 7½c value were 57, 34 and 30, which appeared on the margin in the same position on the sheet margin as in the 3½c. The sheet numbers, in this case five-figure black, were on the bottom margin. Cylinder No. 34 was produced from the same multipositive as No. 24 of the 6d. value, but with the bottom row eliminated.

The 10c value was produced from cylinders Nos. 97 and 1, which appeared on the bottom margin below the last stamp. Red four-figure sheet numbers were on the right margin.



			<i>Single</i>	
			Mint	Used
153	2½c	Dark and light brown	0,15	0,10

Controls – per pair

	M/U
Ca. Right-hand corner with Cylinder Nos. "52B" and "27B" on bottom margin	2,00
Cb. Right-hand corner with Cylinder Nos. "52A" and "27A" on bottom margin	2,00
Cc. Marginal arrow	1,00

Varieties

Cylinder – Pane B	
V1. Two dots on Dr. Verwoerd's forehead. Row 4/1	0,75
V2. Large white "half-moon" on Gen. Hertzog's cheek. Row 6/2	0,75
V3. Dot on Gen. Smuts' forehead and dot in gutter above "I" of AFRIKA. Row 17/4	0,75

V4.	Several dots on Dr. Verwoerd's cheek and on Mr. Strydom's forehead. Row 18/2.	0,75
	Cylinder – Pane A	
V5.	Smudge over Dr. Verwoerd's eyebrow. Row 7/4	0,75
V6.	Dot on Mr. Strydom's cheek, and two more on Dr. Verwoerd's forehead and in front of his ear. Row 7/5	0,75
V7.	Dot below "R" of AFRIKA and another in front of Dr. Verwoerd's forehead. Row 8/5	0,75
V8.	White vertical line above large "2" of 2½c. Row 11/2	0,75

General

V9.	Single stamp with parts of the design missing – interrupted printing	500,00
V10.	Remnant arrow on right margin – per pair	30,00
V11.	Remnant arrow on left margin – per pair	50,00
V12.	Remnant sheet nos. on left margin – per pair	70,00



		Single	
		Mint	Used
154	3½c Orange-red and cerulean blue	0,20	0,20

Controls – per pair

Ca.	Bottom corner with Cylinder Nos. "21" and "58" on left margin	2,50
Cb.	Marginal arrow	1,50

Varieties

	Cylinder	
V1.	Break in right frame at corner of flag. Row 1/7	1,00

V2.	White spot under "I" of SUID. Row 2/2	1,00
V3.	Spot below flag near pole. Row 3/1	1,00
V4.	Two dots left of pole near middle bar of flag. Row 4/3	1,00
V5.	Break in frame above top of pole. Row 5/1	1,00

General

V6.	Joined paper	300,00
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		Single	
		Mint	Used
156	7½c Orange-red, brown and sea green	0,50	0,50

Controls – per pair

Ca.	Bottom corner with Cylinder Nos. 57, 34 and 30 on left margin	3,00
Cb.	Marginal arrow	2,00

Varieties

V1.	White smudge on green background of shield. Row 1/13	2,50
V2.	Large brown smudge left of "1920". Row 2/7	2,50
V3.	Faint red smudge below "19" of 1910. Row 3/5	2,50
V4.	Brown line below "RI" of AFRIKA. Row 4/15	2,50
V5.	Thick green line outside left bottom curve of shield (multi.) Row 5/2	2,50
V6.	White patch on "PO" of POSTAGE. Row 5/8	2,50



			<i>Single</i>	
			Mint	Used
157	10c	Indigo and sulphur-yellow	0,60	0,60
<i>Controls – per pair</i>				<i>M/U</i>
Ca.	Right-hand corner with Cylinder Nos. “97” and “1” on bottom margin			5,00
Cb.	Marginal arrow			3,00
<i>Varieties</i>				
V1.	Short vertical line left of “H” of SOUTH. Row 1/5 . . .			3,00
V2.	Small smudge below “L” of POS- GELD. Row 8/3 . . .			3,00

Officials

Union postage stamps overprinted for the use of Government departments' correspondence addressed to territories outside the Southern African Postal Union were first brought into use on 1 December 1926. They were not to be sold, exchanged or disposed of to the public but, as this rule was obviously not being strictly adhered to, their sale for general postal purposes was authorised in April 1929. From that date, therefore, they served little purpose, and their overprinting could have been discontinued there and then, but this termination came only in January, 1955.

During the whole period of use the overprints, always in black, consisted of only two words “OFFICIAL” and its Afrikaans equivalent, “OFFISIEEL”, mostly without, but sometimes with the diaeresis over the second E in the Afrikaans. In all cases the overprinting was carried out by the Government Printer in Pretoria on the required number of sheets of each value supplied from post office stocks.

Until 1949 the method of production was by flat bed letterpress, and from 1950 onward by stereotype blocks. In the former case formes were prepared in different settings as required for overprinting stamps of the various sizes, so that usually a constant variety which occurred in one value can be found in the same position on the sheet in all the other values in the same format overprinted at the same time.

From 1937 onward details of the quantities and values of the stamps overprinted were published periodically in the *South African Philatelist* and a detailed study of this information shows that the general tendency was to order the overprinting of all or most of the values, and then making up the “official” sets approximately once a year. Here the stamps are arranged in the sets in which they were probably overprinted, and the listing is considered to be fairly accurate for the first half-dozen or so and from 1938 onward, but a certain amount of guesswork has had to be used in allocating those in between. In the light of discoveries made since the last edition of this work, a certain amount of rearrangement and renumbering has been necessary, but the old numbers have been given in parentheses.

To identify the various printings of the “Officials”, reference should first be made of the type of overprint on the stamps, each of which is illustrated with the approximate millimetre spacing between the words. Here it must be emphasized that with the size of type and spacers available it was not possible for the compositor to produce a forme which would