

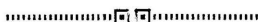
The - - - -



SOUTH AFRICAN



PHILATELIST



Edited and Published Monthly in the Best Interests of  
Stamp Collecting by

J. ROBERTSON, Stamp Dealer and Publisher.

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## New Issues and Varieties

**BRITISH HONDURAS.** A Continental contemporary understands that the 5c. value is to be overprinted "Hurricane Relief Fund" and sold in the interests of those who suffered from the tornado which last year wrecked Belize.

**COOK ISLANDS and NIUE.** With the exception of the 1s. value, yet to appear, we illustrate the designs of the new issues.

**INDIA.** An official circular sent us by Mr. R. M. Blodwell announces the issue shortly of the following new values:—9 pies dark green, 1½ annas mauve, 3½ annas dark blue. The 9p. and 1½a. values will also be overprinted SERVICE. The colour of the 2 annas value is to be changed from purple to vermillion, and that of the 3 annas from blue to carmine.

**MONTSERRAT.** "Stamp Collecting" publishes a report to the effect that this little island may indulge in a Commemorative set shortly.



**SOUTHERN RHODESIA.** We are able to give the interesting news that on the 30th instant the present 2d. and 3d. Victoria Falls type stamps will be withdrawn from sale and replaced on May 1st by new designs. At the time of writing the 3d. value is unobtainable at post offices. Thus, the much-criticised labels join the obsolete issues, and we hope for the best regarding the new designs, which will be illustrated next month. Once again the "S.A. Philatelist" is first with the news.

**SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.** We have already chronicled the Union 2d. pictorial with "S.W.A." overprint double, one inverted, and now hear of this same stamp with double overprint, both normal. Has any reader any news of this variety? To settle uncertainty which seems to prevail, we would say that the double, one inverted, was genuinely issued at a certain P.O., but a rather crude forgery of same has been made.

# Philatelic Congress of Southern Africa

*Programme of Third Meeting—Johannesburg, October, 1932.*  
*Saturday, October 15th—*

- 10 a.m. Opening of Congress.  
 Reading of Papers entered for Congress Awards.  
 Judging of Entries for Philatelic Exhibition.
- 4 p.m. Bourse.
- 7 p.m. Dinner.  
 Presentation of Awards for Congress Papers and for Society's Exhibition.  
 Exhibition open after Dinner.

*Sunday, October 16th—*

Congress meets and carries on with its business at such hours as may be determined by the Delegates when the amount of business is known. Probably it will be occupied most of the day.

Exhibition open throughout the day.

*Congress Awards.*—These will be for:—

- (a) The best original Research paper on any Southern African philatelic subject.
- (b) The best general paper on any general philatelic subject.
- (c) The best original Research paper on any subject not eligible for (a).

*Philatelic Exhibition.*—This will be open to members of all Societies affiliated to Congress. Entry Fee for any number of Exhibits, 5s. Awards will be given for the following classes:—

## OPEN.

- (1) Union of South Africa and all former stamp-issuing territories now incorporated in it, Bechuanaland, South-West Africa, and the Rhodesias.
- (2) Rest of Africa.
- (3) Europe.
- (4) Rest of the World.
- (5) Air Mails.
- (6) Postal Cancellations illustrative of the Postal History of any of the countries coming under (1).

## NOVICES.

- (7) British Empire.
- (8) Rest of the World.

Class (1) will be a hard one for the judges when they have to weigh the respective merits of, say, collections of Zululand, S.-W. Africa, Stellaland and Rhodesia against each other for first place. Perhaps "weight" will become the deciding factor. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the entry for this class will be large and representative, so that Delegates and Visitors will have an opportunity of seeing and comparing alongside of each other many of the known fine collections in the country.

Class (6) has been introduced specially to stimulate interest in the work which Congress is asking the various constituent Philatelic Societies to undertake in collecting material for full Monographs on the stamps and postal history of Southern Africa.

Class (7) and (8) for Novices (i.e., exhibitors who have never before gained awards in any Philatelic Exhibition) are for the benefit of the younger or less advanced collectors, and should be attractive to them.

*The Bourse* is intended to afford an opportunity for sale and exchange, and it is hoped there will be a couple of hours of real live business.

Incidentally, at the same time it is hoped that a little money will be raised for Congress, which is now completely off the gold standard and fast approaching a copper one.

*Dinner.* Delegates and Visiting Members are invited to dinner as guests of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg. No evening dress. Speeches at a minimum, so that there will be time afterwards to see the Exhibition for those who cannot visit it on Sunday.

This is a preliminary programme and may be changed later in detail but not in broad outline. It is hoped that by publishing it thus early, philatelists from all over Southern Africa will make arrangements to attend, and that intending exhibitors will get busy and prepare their exhibits for entry.

Collectors interested in the Congress or Exhibition to be run in conjunction with same may obtain any further information desired from the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 1018, Pretoria.

**SOUTH AFRICA.** The second last stamp in each sheet of 6d. rotogravure pictorial stamps shows the orange tree split.

If you like shades you might do worse than study those in the rotogravure 1d. and 2d. postage stamps. They range from light to dark, both in the frames and in the centres, and some of the variations amount almost to different colours. Rolls containing 500 2d. rotogravure stamps are now on sale, there being no joins in the rolls. In rotogravure printed Unions inverted watermarks have no extra value; in some values they are commoner than normal watermarks, while the 3d. and 6d. stamps printed by the new process have yet to appear with normal watermark. Unlike the K.G. stamps and London and *early* Pretoria printed pictorials, inverted watermarks in rotogravure stamps are not occasional—a whole printing, amounting to many thousands of sheets, is made with the watermark the wrong way round.

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# The Cape of Good Hope Post Office

## HISTORY OF ITS BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

By G. J. ALLIS.

### PART IV. (*Continued*).

These arrangements, however, were not destined to be carried into effect, for His Excellency had been too optimistic and precipitate in his anticipation of the approval of the Legislature.

The draft Ordinance prepared by His Excellency's instructions to give effect to his proposals was introduced by him at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd June, 1848. The draft Ordinance provided that the transmission rate for all inland letters should be one penny per half ounce, and two pence per ounce, and if exceeding one ounce an additional two pence for each extra ounce or fraction thereof. Postage might be prepaid by means of stamps or payment in cash, but if not prepaid by either method, double the usual postage rates were to be collected on delivery. The charge for delivery of letters at port of arrival from overseas, which had hitherto been at the rate of 4d. each, was also to be reduced to 1d. each.

A long and interesting debate followed the introduction of His Excellency's proposed measure, in which every Member of the Council took part, the Governor intimating at the outset that he approached the matter with an open mind, and that whilst his personal opinion was favourable to the scheme, he was willing to be convinced to the contrary view.

It was soon evident that the Legislative Council was not going to accept the proposed measure, and the reasons which were adduced against the proposals were apparently so potent and effective that the Governor made a complete volte face and ultimately cast his vote against his own Bill, which was rejected on the second reading by 8 votes to 2!

His Excellency had then no alternative but to forward a further despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies cancelling the arrangements made for the manufacture of postage stamps, "the action of the Legislative Council having necessitated abandoning, for the time being, the arrangements calculated to benefit the public, and the retention of the existing system."

In 1852 the inland mail service was again further improved by an additional service from Capetown to Grahamstown each week, making three in all, and it was also arranged for a by-weekly service to other parts of the Colony served by the Karoo route. Daily services were at the same time inaugurated to Simonstown, Stellenbosch, Paarl and Malmesbury.

During this year also a book post was commenced between the Cape and the United Kingdom, the rate of postage being 6d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

Still dealing with the events of 1852, we find that in July of that year the work of the Post Office Department at Capetown had grown to such an extent as to warrant the appointment of a Special Commission of Enquiry into the whole existing system as regards arrangements for expeditious sorting and clearing of mails and general internal administration, with instructions to enquire into existing causes of complaint and to submit such recommendations as might be considered desirable in the direction of improvement. This Board of Enquiry consisted of the Honourable Messrs. W. Field (Member of the Legislative Assembly), W. Hope (Secretary to the Government), and C. Bell (Surveyor-General). Their labours extended over two months, during which time they made personal and minute enquiry and inspection into the whole of the pre-

vailing postal systems and arrangements. Three reports containing the recommendations of the Commission were submitted to His Excellency the Governor, and received his approval.

The main recommendations were:—

1. That immediate steps should be taken to secure from England the services of a qualified postal sorter to be styled "President of Sorters," who would be capable of efficiently training a staff for the Capetown Office.
2. That arrangements should be immediately made for the introduction of a system of prepayment of postage by means of postage stamps, as provided for by Ordinance No. 1 of 1846.
3. That steps be taken to bring into operation effective reciprocal fiscal arrangements between the Colony and Great Britain, in order that greater facility could be given to the increasing correspondence between the two countries.

In this latter connection the Commission pointed out that a regular line of Mail Steam Packets had recently been established with incalculable advantages to the public. Letters to the United Kingdom, however, could not, under existing arrangements, be prepaid, nor could postage be prepaid on correspondence from England to the Cape. Moreover, letters to Cape inhabitants from the West Indies, Canada or other Colonies, or from the United States or other foreign countries, could not be transmitted unless some intermediate parties be employed in England to prepay the postage from there to the Cape. The Commission was therefore of the opinion that the full benefit of the steam communication would not be felt until arrangements had been made abolishing all these disabilities, and making the interchange of correspondence as easy and convenient as human agency could devise.

*(To be continued.)*

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