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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

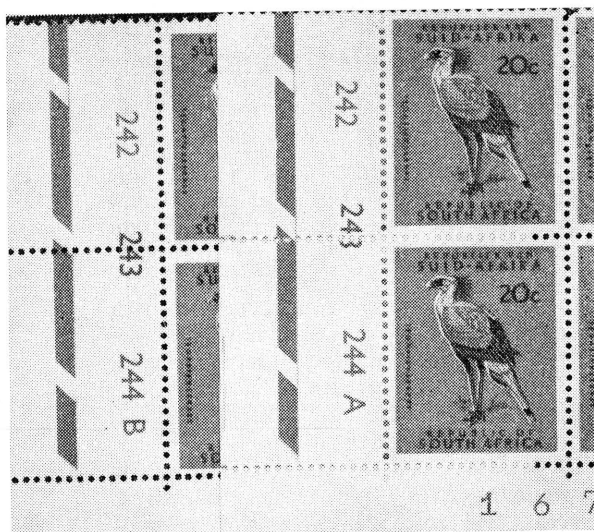
By DR. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
Hon. Associate Editor.

NEW ISSUES



A NEW 5c DEFINITIVE STAMP 245-246

Delivery was made to the Philatelic Bureau on 14th February 1968 of a new issue of the 5c, Baobab Stamp. It has the same design as the preceding issue from cylinders 31 S1 but the inscriptions are bolder. The sheet and stamp format have not changed, nor has the position of the arrows. Marginal bars, cylinder numbers and sheet numbers. The perforations



are as before, with the comb join, on the sheets examined, at the arrows.

Further details of the issue are:

PAPER: coated, RSA watermarked, the mark facing left and right, arranged tête-bêche. Most of the sheets examined show the watermark more clearly than on any other issues as yet.

CYLINDERS: Two, new, cross-lined, screened, numbers 245 orange-yellow, interior and 246 greenish-blue exterior. Two new mul-

tipositives, on glass, were made, 245 from the old master negative and 246 from a new master negative.

MARGINAL BARS: blue, as before, but they extend into the top and bottom margins. The previous ones were only opposite the stamps.

VARIETIES

Row/No.

- 1/17 White mark left of 5 of 5c.
- 1/19 Tiny blue dot on top frame line above A of VAN.
- 5/ 1 Large white "cloud" at left of tree.
- 5/19 Large "ring flow" above c of 5c.

NOTES: There are orange-yellow marks and smears in the right corner of the top margin. Vary in degrees.

It was revealed that about 3,000 sheets were printed when one cylinder gave trouble. It was repaired and printing was resumed after about a week when the rest of the stamps were printed. The only distinguishing feature of the first printing is that the lower margin measures 13 m.m. as compared with 18 m.m. of the second. The sheets are consequently 5 m.m. narrower.

A NEW 20c DEFINITIVE STAMP 243 244 242 A.B.

A delivery was made in February 1968, to the Philatelic Bureau, of a new 20c stamp, Secretary Bird. It has a new redrawn design, the bird is slightly smaller and the inscriptions are bolder.

The sheet and stamp format, the position and colours of the marginal bars, arrows and sheet numbers are unchanged. Distinctive features are:

PAPER: Swiss, coated, RSA-watermark, tête-bêche left and right.

CYLINDERS. Three, new, from new multi-positives and master negatives; Nos. 243 rose, 244 greenish-blue interior and 242 flesh exterior. These numbers are shown on the left margin opposite rows 4 and 5; the pane letters A and B are in greenish-blue.

COLOUR REGISTER: below stamp 9 on pane A in the form of a cross, but only two colours are shown, namely flesh and rose.

PERFORATION REGISTER PUNCH HOLES: Opposite rows 13 and 14 on the top margin of pane B and the bottom margin of pane A. Only the one on

pane A has the concentric rings in flesh. **PERFORATIONS:** As before, by the Grover, but the left margin is perforated through and the right is imperforate (the opposite to the previous 27-6-60).

GUILLOTINE LINES: As before, in the bottom corner, left or right, of pane A. It is a long thin vertical green line opposite row 5 (the 27-6-60 had a short green line in the bottom margin).

VARIETIES

Pane B

Row/No.

- 2/13 Tiny blue dot in top gutter above PU of REPUBLIEK.
- 2/16 Tiny blue dot to the left of the bird's leg.
- 3/ 6 Green dot above C of REPUBLIC.
- 3/18 Small thin blue ring above C of REPUBLIC.
- 4/ 4 Tiny blue dot at right of bird's back.
- 5/14 Tiny blue dot to the right of A of SEKRETARISVOËL.

Pane A

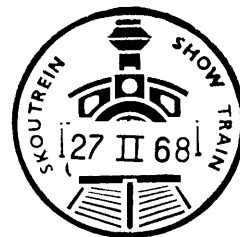
- 2/ 1 White dot above first A of AFRICA.
- 5/15 Tiny blue dot to the right of the bird's back.

Notes on the marginal bars:

Pane A, left margin: the right side of the segments are joined by a thin green line.

Pane B, left margin: the segments are also joined as on the A pane, but the bottom two are not joined.

THE SHOW TRAIN



A Show Train which is at present travelling around the country started at Milner Park Station, Johannesburg on the 27th of February 1968. It will return to Milner Park on the 3rd of December 1968. Portion of coach 5 will be occupied by a postal agency where the sale of postage stamps and the datestamping and registration of souvenir cards and envelopes are being undertaken.

The organisers of the show have issued a special souvenir postcard, measuring 140 x 110 m.m., on sale at 5c. A special datestamp,

from the post office, will be used. It is round, 30 m.m. in diameter, and shows the front of an early railway engine with "SKOUTREIN" on the left and "SHOW TRAIN" on the right. Across the centre is a panel with the date. This date is movable and starts on 27 . II . 68.

There are three post office exhibits on display; on large sheets are shown:

1. A set of the current Republican stamps, singles surrounded by twelve special postmarks that are in constant use such as Marion Island and Kruger National Park.
2. A full set of Republican Commemorative stamps, in pairs, from First Aerial Post to Reformation.
3. The five official first day envelopes or cards that were issued, serviced. They are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

POSTMARK NOTES

By DAVID ALLISON

A mysterious handstamp.

Mr. L. E. Orkin, of Port Elizabeth, kindly sent me an envelope posted in Queenstown on 1st December, 1967, on the back of which is a rubber stamp about 16 mm. in diameter, with the inscription

1
EEN

inside the circle. Neither he or I could remember seeing anything like it before. The Queenstown Postmaster cleared the mystery up for us. The handstamp is intended for use on the letter bill accompanying a mail, to show the number of bags in that mail. It was only by accident that it got on to the envelope.

South African slogan news.

In the January Notes it was mentioned that the slogan "Invest with the Post Office" had been introduced at eight of the usual nine towns. The ninth, Pietermaritzburg, appears to have introduced it on December 18th, and to have discontinued it a couple of weeks later. It may, of course, reappear at some future date.

The April 1967 Notes contained a survey of the various dies of the "Get Home Safely" slogan. To this should be added the information that a third die of this slogan was brought into use at Kimberley in September 1967.

As usual the "Post early for Christmas" slogan was used at a number of offices. Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth,

Springs and Welkom used dies with the English version on top. Bloemfontein, Germiston, Johannesburg, Klerksdorp, Pietersburg, Potchefstroom, Pretoria and Vereeniging had the Afrikaans version first. I would be glad of any additions to this list. Kroonstad should probably appear, but I have not seen a 1967 specimen. It appears that five new dies were supplied this year, two of them to Pretoria.

Mobile P.O. Relief Handstamp.

Mr. Walker informs me that the relief handstamp described in the January Notes was used at Mobile Post Office No. 12 from 12th September to 24th October, 1967. Since that date a new (permanent) handstamp has been used. The old one was sent away for repairs but it was replaced instead.

Rhodesian Notes.

A new postal agency was opened at Moffat Street, Salisbury, on June 20th, 1967, and a non-continuous postmarking machine was brought into use there on August 22nd. (My thanks are due to the Rhodesian G.P.O. for supplying me with this date.) It must be very unusual for an agency to have a cancelling machine. The double-circle datestamp was probably engraved in South Africa. It has MOFFAT STR at the top and SALISBURY below. Unlike most Rhodesian machine postmarks, it does not show the name of the country. West End Bulawayo and Kariba are the only two other cases that I know of.

A Causeway handstamp, probably new, also has SALISBURY at the bottom and lacks the name of the country.

O.R.C. NUMERAL POSTMARKS

Further to my article on the above topic, appearing in the March number, page 54, I feel a slight amendment is necessary for I have come across another reference in the S.A. Philatelist of February, 1965.

In it reference is made to a 5 m.m. numeral in a barred oval alongside a Dewetsdorp double circle mark on a 1905 cover. In this reference there is confusion regarding the actual numeral (it is referred to first as "40" and thereafter as "30").

It was suggested that the numeral in question was used at Dewetsdorp. If it was in fact '30' then this suggestion has now been proved wrong, as the evidence of my two reported items shows.

It would seem that there was no consistency

ZAR-100 EXHIBITION FUND AUCTION

P.O. Box 2272, Johannesburg.

CLOSING DATE 31 MAY, 1968

Auction of philatelic material donated by members of the three Philatelic Societies of Johannesburg, towards their drive to raise funds for their National Philatelic Exhibition at Johannesburg, in October, 1969, in commemoration of the Centenary of the first Transvaal Postage Stamps.

Usual auction catalogue symbols are used, e.g. m=mint, u=used, etc. Prices shown represent expected realisations. Bids preferably by post card. Viewing by arrangement; if to be posted for viewing, please send 10c in current stamps for postage.

Everything must be sold.

LOT

1	LITERATURE: Hbk/Cat U of S.A. Stamps, Van Riebeeck Issue (1952) Deluxe Ed; ltd to 300 copies. Subs copy No. 136; never used. Real Africana	R12-00
2	As last but Vol II (1955); another item for the Africana Collector	R6-00
3	UNION: "Sunset Cover"; (Last day of currency of provincial stamps 31.12.37, bearing 4 Natal and 2 ORC stamps	R4-00
4	King's Head double strip of 4 1 ^{ad} tête-bêche prs separated by gutter. M.Cat. R1-60+	R1-00
5	King's Head double strip of 9 tête-bêche prs. M.Cat. R3-60	R2-00
6	Well known 3d Pta Typo black and blue (chemically treated); a must for the specialist for it proves a point	R1-00
7	Pta Typo 3d U H/B 39, 9 pieces (1 used blk/4), incl V.13 r/hand mgn blk/8 (4 x 2) & V.15 top rgt cnr/strip/4 with flaws	R8-00
8	As last but V.23 (invtd wmk) btm l/cnr blk/6 with extra perfs	R2-00
9	As last (V.25 invtd wmk), but double row of 6 prs with l/margin. Cat. R2-60	R2-00
10	Pta Typo 1d U. H/B 34, dbl row of 6 prs with rgt margin, showing varieties "crack thro ship", V.10 and V.11. Cat. R5	R5-00
11	As last but U. blk/4 with "Crack" vars. V.10 & 11. (V.10 with cnr tip torn); these vars. rare in genuinely U. condition	R5-00
12	Pta Typo 1d U. H/B 34, 8 pieces (V.35 blk/4, top l/cnr pr, pr. with l/mgn, blk/6, 2 blks/4, 2 vert prs (1 damaged). Total Cat. R8	R6-00
13	As last but top l/cnr piece of 9 prs and top mgn blk/4. Cat. R5-50+	R6-00
14	Postage Due, 1915 (SG.D2) 1d blk/4 l/mgn showing short serif (U. H/B D2 V4). Slight crease. M.	R1-00
15	Postage Due, 1923 (SG.D2) 1d l/hor mgn pr, var Postage (U. H/B D12 V6), M.	R2-00
16	Postage Due, 1923 (SG.D14) 2d cnr blk/4 with 2 x U. H/B D14 V14 (missing perf. hole). M.	R2-00
17	1d U. H/B37 Ce M.pr with "B" opp English stamp, broken mast (part of last digit of Sht No showing). (Blk/4 as above with full Sht No is cat. R62-50)	R20-00
18	Officials. M.O.G. except 3 items with 1 hinge mark each. All cyl blks or blks/6 (1 ^{ad} in strip/3 and 5/- vert. pr). Cat. R11-30+	R8-00
19	2d Official SG.035, immaculate M; an opportunity to acquire the most expensive Union and most wanted Official in Unions. Cat R200	R100-00
20	REPUBLIC: Vf U copy Dr. Verwoerd, so mal-centred that the Dr.'s hair 1mm on stamp mgn; the only known copy of this variety	R2-00
21	BASUTOLAND: Decimal Provisional SG.60a 2c/2d surcharge invtd; perfect M. Cat. R150. A bargain opportunity.	R75-00
22	Postage Due SG.D8 5c/2d. Delightful l/mgn pr. lightly pmkd. Cat. R10.	R6-00
23	CANADA: Complete booklet 6 x 4c SG.460.	R2-00
24	CAPE: 4d SG.6 U. L/mgn only just touching bottom tip; lightly pmkd; an above average copy. Cat. R10.	R6-00
25	6d SG.7b U. All mgn close but clear; a fair copy. Cat. R60.	R20-00
26	6d SG.20 U. Fresh copy with wide mgn. Above average. Cat. R64.	R40-00
27	1/- SG.21 U. Narrow copy fully mgnd.; a fine copy. Cat. R120.	R80-00
28	3 Pre-stamp Entires; 1 with Jurgens T.5 pmk Cape Town, 1 similar Uitenhage (indistinct) & 1 with faint pmk but with POST PAID (J's T.11)	R5-00
29	ECUADOR: 1949 U.P.U set SG.902/8 M. set in blks/4. Cat. R11-20.	R6-00
30	EGYPT: 7 Sets all M (1 once hinged); SG.276/8, 353/6, 357, 359/365, 366/9, 382 & 383. Cat. R3-60.	R2-00
31	FACSIMILES: 15 Various — Br. Guina, Mauritius & Natal Embossed, For the collector of forgeries.	R2-00
32	FINLAND: Red Cross — a neat & well written-up coll. complete 1922/1963. Cat. R40+.	R20-00
33	GERMANY: 1924 Charity SG.365/8. Once lightly hinged. Cat. R11-50.	R8-00
34	GT. BRITAIN: Bradbury Wilkinson 2/6 choc/brn SG.414, F. 1/hinge. Cat. R7-50.	R5-00
35	World Cup — 14sets (ea cat 30c); ea on piece cut to shape showing the 14 diff. pmks.	R3-00
36	ISRAEL: All issues current at Nov. 1965. M. with Tabs, in high quality cased stk/bk (new) bound in red imitation leather; 58 stamps incl. complete 1963 Birds, Signs o/t Zodiac (no 1fl), etc. Stamps cat ± R8 & stk/bk worth R5.	R10-00
37	Complete booklet 8.11.55, 3 panes of 6 100pr SG.1221.	R2-00
38	JAMAICA: Q.E. II f1 FU SG.232. Cat. R2-75.	R2-00
39	KENYA U & T: G. VI f1 M SG.150b, perf. 12 ¹ / ₂ . Cat. R3-50.	R2-00
40	LEBANON: 1949 U.P.U set SG.389/393 M blk/4. Cat. R12.	R8-00
41	NETHERLANDS: Van R. FDC with "Geboortehuis" pmk. Cat. R8.	R5-00
42	NYASALAND: 1d/3/- SG.53 with neat double circle Fort Johnston pmk. Cat. R1-20.	R1-00
43	1d SG.57a b, FU. Cat. R6.	R4-00
44	PORTUGAL: 10r U SG.29. Pmk moderately ight; fair copy. Cat. R4.	R2-00
45	120r U. SG.65; fine copy. Cat. R7-50.	R5-00
46	120r U. SG.94; fine copy. Cat. R7.	R5-00
47	VAN DIEMAN'S LAND: 1854 Pt II 4d dull orange U. SG.11. Cat. R28; lightly pmkd, fresh looking copy with good mgn (but for a small crease mark it would be an immaculate specimen).	R15-00
48	W. AUSTRALIA: 4d U. SG.46. Some perfs at left short & centred to bottom; light pmk. Cat. R16.	R4-00
49	SWA: S/Jubilee. FU set. Cat. R6.	R4-00
50	HUNGARY: 1949 Stamp Day min/sht SG.1088a. M. Cat. R2-75.	R2-00

This advertisement is sponsored by **THE WAYNE TYRE CO. (TVL) (PTY) LTD.**, retreading and vulcanizing; stockists of all makes of new tyres and tubes.

41 ROSETTENVILLE ROAD, VILLAGE MAIN, JOHANNESBURG.

in the application of these cancellers. They are known applied to adhesive and embossed stamps, and also applied **alongside** embossed stamps.

J. M. WEINSTEIN.

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S PHILATELIC ROLL OF HONOUR

The list of Distinguished Philatelists, required to be published annually in the official journal of Federation is given in chronological order according to date and election.

Members are elected by Congress, but not more than two at any one meeting. The first ten were elected in 1932 when the Roll was instituted and the rule was suspended once, viz. at the first post-war Congress in 1948.

The names of members deceased are marked with an asterisk.

- *1932: G. J. Allis.
- *1932: A. J. Cohen.
- *1932: G. Blockey
- *1932: Sir. H. L. Gorges.
- *1932: Chas Hand.
- *1932: G. J. Houbert.
- *1932: S. A. Klagsbrun.
- *1932: J. Ritchie.
- *1932: Emil Tamsen.
- *1932: Louis Simenhoff.
- *1933: J. Herbert Curle
- *1934: W. J. Harrington.
- *1938: I. A. Wyndham.
- 1938: G. N. Gilbert.
- *1939: C. H. Thornton.
- *1939: W. L. Ashmead.
- *1948, Jan.: A. E. Basden.
- *1948, Jan.: A. A. Jurgens.
- *1948, Jan.: P. C. Bishop.
- *1948, Jan.: J. H. Harvey Pirie.
- *1948, Jan.: Wm. Redford.
- 1948, Oct.: H. Hilton Sydow.
- *1948, Oct.: N. Welsford.
- *1949: Alec Kaplan.
- 1949: K. Freund.
- *1951: G. K. Forbes.
- 1951: Sam Legator.
- 1952: Ernest Hunt.
- *1952: And. Watson.
- *1953: B. L. R. Fox.
- *1954: W. N. Sheffield.
- 1955: J. H. H. Chamberlain.
- *1956: T. B. Davie.
- *1956: W. Newlands.
- 1957: S. J. Hagger.
- 1958: Leo Buchen.
- 1959: T. B. Berry.
- 1959: C. E. D. Enoch.
- 1960: M. F. Stern.

- 1963: I. H. C. Godfrey.
- 1965: J. M. Michelson.
- 1966: M. Peisach.
- 1967: J. E. Creewel.

REVIEW

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF SOUTH AFRICA. Published by and obtainable from C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, Great Britain. Stencilled and soft cover. Price 10/6, post free.

Compiled and revised by the eminent authority on Revenue Stamps of South Africa, Leonard J. Dodd, the booklet follows upon an earlier edition published by the same author in April 1958.

The 29-page publication is the culmination of a great many years of diligent research and study in the fascinating field of Revenue Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony / Free State and the Transvaal, as well as those of the Union and Republic of South Africa, and includes, by the chronological manner in which the different emissions are recorded, a survey of the detailed history of the use of Revenue Stamps on various taxable documents.

The many issues are grouped in a clear and concise manner, the items of which are priced realistically.

This booklet is a desirable and worthwhile tool for everyone interested in Revenue Stamps. It is highly recommended, and if this is your field, this is your book!

"AFTER SIXTY YEARS"

That confusion reigned in Natal Post Offices during March 1895 owing to a shortage of halfpenny stamps, is known to most South African philatelists. The value was in demand as being the local postage in towns for letters. The authorities arranged for a supply of 216,000 of the sixpenny violet Chalon head (S.G. 24) to be overprinted locally in carmine, the overprint being in two lines and reading POSTAGE / HALF PENNY. The setting was one of 12 x 5 repeated four times on the sheet and the stock of type at the local printer's was insufficient to supply letters of equal size; consequently there are the well-known varieties of P, T and A in the word Postage. These stamps were avidly seized upon by speculators and none was left within a week, necessitating the issue of further overprinted stamps listed as S.G.125. As a result, large

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blocks of S.G.114 and even panes are still easily obtainable.

These facts make it difficult to understand that it was only some sixty years later that there came to light a doubly overprinted variety. Recently there was sold at one of the smaller English auctions, a strip of four with right hand sheet margin with double overprint. The stamps in question are those numbered 57 to 60 of the setting and include the variety EALF instead of HALF. The overprint as first printed was obviously too faint to be readily discerned and the pane was therefore again overprinted, the second being approximately 3 mm. lower than the first and, of course, of the correct intensity. When the strip was shown to the Editor of Stanley Gibbons catalogue the note beneath S.G.114 was inserted in the catalogue — its first appearance being in the 1968 catalogue. The strip in question is now in South Africa.

A. LESLIE LEON F.R.P.S.L.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I received news today from S.A.A. that there will definitely be a direct service Johannesburg to New York with stop at Rio de Janeiro and return over the same route during the second half of 1968. I have suggested special covers, cancellation and arrangements for collectors. Hope this will eventuate.

For members of the Aerophilatelic Society of S.A. I am arranging for them as usual free covers — of the above and also of the first flights of Swissair and Olympic Airways and Hellenic Airways. Already during present currency of their subscriptions, they have received four covers. Actually we run the Society and spend monies received on members without building up these fabulous funds which are never spent.

My regards,
M. F. STERN.

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

By J. WOODGATE

Canada: The next in the wildlife series, the Narwhal, is issued on the 10th April. The Narwhal is a marine mammal similar to a whale. It can be up to 50 feet long, has no teeth, but has a straight spiral tusk about 7 feet long between the eyes.

Ceylon: During April a set will be issued

to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the World Health Organization.

Great Britain: 4 stamps with a new theme — "British Bridges" will be issued on April 29th. The values will be 4d, 9d, 1/6 and 1/9d.

British Solomon Islands: A new set of definitives are in preparation and are expected to be realised in April. This set replaces the rather crude designs which appeared in 1965, and has a style similar to the pictorial designs of the 1956 definitives.


BASUTOLAND OVERPRINTED LESOTHO

The recent circular issued by the Robertson Stamp Co (Pty.) Ltd., Johannesburg, follows upon the previous year's announcement of the official figures of Basutoland decimal issue overprinted Lesotho and states that the following figures of numbers sold have been officially announced and include sales in the territory and sales made by the Crown Agents.


Re the R1 value: "This is the only case where it is known (in the case of a value on both winks.) how many were overprinted on each wmk — 28,200 on Script wmk. (470 sheets) and 90,000 on Block wmk. (1,500 sheets). On account of the LSEOTHO error in this value (both wmk.) presumably all, or nearly all, of the Script wmk. were sold, thus giving the number of the R1 block wmk. sold at about 33,000 odd.


ALL UNSOLD STAMPS WERE BURNT UNDER OFFICIAL SUPERVISION

As the figures sold include those used for normal postage, telegraphic and cable use, revenue use, official accounting purposes and sales to philatelists it is quite obvious that the issue is a good one, from an investment point of view. Allowing for the various types of use, as given above, probably about 25,000 complete sets can exist (omitting the 5c postage due). Allowing also for the FACT that once a sheet was broken the LSEOTHO error was taken out AND DESTROYED, it is doubtful if even 400 of the R1 Script wmk. with the error can exist, while of the 1c due there were originally only 450 of the LSEOTHO error and in the 5c only 350 of this error, but we happen to know that the error in the dues was only discovered after supplies had been sent out to post offices, many of which are in remote areas run by African postmasters with no philatelic knowledge. Actually, the error (LSEOTHO) in the postage dues was first



REPUBLIC VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





A Philatelic Bureau exists in Pretoria to meet the special needs of stamp dealers and philatelists. Only stamps of the Republic of South Africa currently in use are on sale.

Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must be accompanied by money orders, postal orders or bank drafts made payable to the Postmaster-General. Cheques are not accepted. The amount should be sufficient to cover postage and registration.

Deposit accounts may be opened.

'n Filatelieburow bestaan in Pretoria om in die spesiale behoeftes van seelhandelaars en filateliste te voorsien. Slegs seëls van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika tans in gebruik word te koop aangebied.

Bestellings vir seëls moet geadresseer word aan die Filatelieburow, H.P.K., Pretoria, en moet vergesels gaan van poswissels, posorders of bankwissels, betaalbaar aan die Posmeester-generaal. Tjeks word nie aange- neem nie. Die bedrag moet voldoende wees om die pos- en registrasiegelde te dek.

Deposito-rekenings kan geopen word.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE LAST WORD ON

" THE INTERPROVINCIAL STAMPS AND POSTMARKS "

(DR. T. B. BERRY and S. J. VERMAAK)

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P.O. BOX 375 — JOHANNESBURG

noted by our Mr. Robertson after his supply of stamps arrived in Johannesburg from Maseru.

The official figures of numbers sold warrant a revision of catalogue values — it must be remembered that where a value exists with both watermarks the number for each watermark may be about half of the figures given — in the case of the 50c this would be about 25,000 of each watermark, including normal postage, telegraphic and fiscal use."

ON LOOKING BACK

THE ROYAL TOUR, 1925

The visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to South Africa from the 30th April to the 29th July, 1925, and the extensive tour of the Union which he undertook in the White Train, necessitated comprehensive special arrangements for the delivery and despatch of the Royal party's correspondence (postal, telegraph and telephone) and to cope with press telegrams at the many places visited in the course of the tour.

A full postal organisation was installed on the Pilot Train. The post office was accommodated in an ordinary first-class compartment which was fitted on one side with counter, pigeon-holes, lockers and a posting-box with an aperture to the railway carriage balcony; suitable notice-plates being affixed. Telephone instruments were fitted on suitable boards for use on and off the train. The requisite credit stocks, scales, bags and stationery were supplied and suitably housed. Special date-stamp and seals, which had been cut to design by the Royal Mint for the occasion, were used.

The post office was personally controlled by a senior officer of the Union Post Office who was appointed to represent the department on the Royal Tour. This officer was accompanied throughout by two expert postal and telegraph assistants, and at all times met with the co-operation of the department's local officials at points en route, as well as that of railway officials. On certain occasions the newly-inaugurated internal air-mail service was utilised to advantage.

During the period of the tour by rail, which commenced on the 4th May and ended on the 26th July, 1925, approximately 500,000 words of press telegrams were disposed of through the special train post office, and it is estimated that another 250,000 words were handed in direct to town post offices at points where ceremonies took place. The train post

office also dealt with more than 400 "official free" and ordinary "paid" telegrams, 161 cablegrams, and sold stamps totalling £82.2.6 in value. Ordinary postings on the train exceeded 100 articles daily, and the registered articles despatched totalled 161 for the tour, while 94 were received. Very few parcels were posted on the train, but 184 were received for delivery. In addition to 157 direct mails being received and 52 despatched, each station had its quota of matter for delivery on arrival of the train and received postings for disposal.

For the period of the visit to the Bechuanaland Protectorate the special train post office facilities continued to be provided by the Union, but on reaching Bulawayo, the organisation was handed over to the postal administration of Southern Rhodesia, which became responsible for the arrangements during the Rhodesian tour, at the conclusion of which control was resumed by the Union special staff.

The tour extended from Cape Town via the Garden Route and the Eastern Province to Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, East London, Umtata, the Orange Free State, Basutoland, Natal, Zululand, Swaziland, the Transvaal, Bechuanaland Protectorate to Southern and Northern Rhodesia and back via Griqualand West and the Western Cape to Cape Town.



The date stamp, illustrated, consists of a horizontal oval, 34x27 m.m., surmounted by the Arms of the Union of South Africa. Inside the oval is the reading "SOUTH AFRICA" curved and "ROYAL TOUR" straight, at the top; "KONINKLIKE TOER" and "SUIDAFRIKA" both curved, at the bottom, with the date in one line at the centre.

(Description supplied by Mr. C. H. Williams, Historian, Publicity Section, G.P.O., Pretoria on 20 November 1948.)

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THE EARLY UNION ESSAYS IN THE POST OFFICE ARCHIVES

The Philatelic Federation issued, in 1965, 50 numbered sets of photographs, together with their descriptive matter, of the 200 odd original essays in the Post Office Archives in Pretoria. The photographs were prepared by the Post Office and were officially stamped. The sets were quickly sold.

The Africana Society of the Africana Museum of the Johannesburg Library reproduced, in its Journal "Africana Notes and News", Vol. 17, No. 1 of March 1966 the description, on 28 pages, together with 154 of the photographs, on 8 pages. Federation obtained 50 copies of this issue and sent one to each of the subscribers at cost. This issue is now out of print.

The following is a list of the subscribers:—

- 1 H. J. Raubenheimer (Senior)
- 2 Post Office Archives
- 3 S. Legator
- 4 A. Gould
- 5 I. E. Wunsch
- 6 J. E. Frankland
- 7 J. T. Burrell
- 8 S. P. Naylor
- 9 V. Naylor
- 10 T. B. Berry
- 11 D. Kransdorff
- 12 R. D. Allen
- 13 J. Michelson
- 14 G. H. Legge
- 15 K. H. Sartorius
- 16 J. M. Weinstein
- 17 J. F. Fick
- 18 M. J. Rall
- 19 P. J. van der Merwe
- 20 L. A. Lissos
- 21 R. van Zyl Smit
- 22 J. W. Pattinson
- 23 I. W. Keen
- 24 J. Ginsberg
- 25 L. Leon
- 26 C. F. Long
- 27 Miss E. W. Clarke
- 28 G. P. Felmore
- 29 C. A. Bruyns
- 30 Y. Brouard
- 31 P. B. C. Boardman
- 32 D. Lamont Smith
- 33 J. H. Selfe



BEROEMDE VERSAMELAARS

(Ontleen aan die „Elseviers Weekblad” van Saterdag 30 Desember 1967: Aangestuur deur mnr. M. Feddema op Den Haag, Nederland)

Ferrari, die man wat van verdriet gesterf het

Wanneer sake só staan dat posseëlhandelaars 24 uur per dag in hulle winkels en kantore aanwesig wil wees om veral een koningklant nie te wil misloop nie, dan praat ek van ’n lang ver-
vloë tyd. En dan gaan dit slegs om een besondere versamelaar wat dag en nag Europa en daarbuite deurreis het om unieke rariteite, komplette versamelings en selfs vervalsings te koop. U begryp dat nie alleen geweldige eise aan die liggaamlike uithouvermoë van hierdie „koning”, maar stellig nog meer aan sy geldelike kant gestel was. Maar daaroor het die handelaars beslis geen kommer gehad nie want dié klant het weekliks soveel as £2,000 vir posseëlaankope beskikbaar gehad.

Die fenomina was — u het dit stellig al geraai — Ferrari. Die „groot” Ferrari was klein van gestalte, wat onversorg gekleed en in die oë van die wêreld, sonderling was. Sy voorouers van moederskant het naas dieselfde reputasie van sonderlingheid, enorm veel geld gehad. Die geld het uit Genoa gekom, waar sy voorvaders as bankiers en geldskieters in die 15e en 16e eeu groot sake gedoen het. Een van hulle het sy goue stawe en munte in ’n ondergrondse gewelf van sy huis ter ophemeling geberg. Op een kwade nag toe hy sy skatte wou gaan betrag, kon hy die kelderdeur glad nie oopkry nie; die volgende oggend is hy dood tussen sy skatte aangetref. Die nasate van hierdie kêrel het in Oupa se spore gevolg en daarby die titel van hertog van Galliera verwerf, omdat hy byvoorbaat sy geldelike middele te midde van die kringe van die hoë adellui verpag het. Die Oupa van ons versamelaar bemaak by sy dood aan sy weduwe ’n biblioteek van driehonderd boeke van pre-

sies dieselfde dikte. Van skrik ondersoek hulle toe die boeke van nader en bevind hulle dat die bladsye uit staatskuldbekentenisse wat in totoa! die onaardige bedraggie van eenhonderd miljoen gulde beloop, bestaan.

As kleinseun van hierdie „begaafde” weduwe word ons Philippe op 11 Januarie 1850 gebore. Hy was ’n senuweeagtige kind wat baie sieklik en daarby nogal menssku was; dit is stellig waarom mens die jongetjie altoos met posseëls doenig aangetref het en hy op die ou end tot fanatieke versamelaar ontwikkel het. Hy skryf self dat hy op tienjarige leeftyd sy eerste stelletjie posseëls aangekoop het, naamlik dié van Hannover met die kop van die koning. Sy versamelingkoors neem in hewigheid toe, maar daaroor strakies meer. Philippe het vrygesel gebly.

Toe hy 40 was het die Oostenrykse edelman ridder von Kriegsfeld de la Renotière hom aangeneem, nie uit liefdadigheid-oorwegings nie maar omdat die heer von Kriegsfeld die opregte pappa was . . . en Phillippe neem toe weer die naam Ferrari aan vanweë sy Italiaanse voorouers. Van toe af is hy bekend as Philippe Baron de la Renotière von Ferrari. Hoewel hy die grootste deel van sy lewe in Parys deurgebring het, het hy hom as ’n Duitser voorgedoen, natuurlik as gevolg van sy anneming. So skryf hy byvoorbeeld aan ’n Duitse filatelis: Ek het my lewe lank maar weinig geleentheid gehad om iets vir my geliefde Duitsland en dierbare Oostenryk te doen; ek word verteer deur ’n vurige liefde vir my vaderland en deur ’n bittere haat jeens Duitsland se vyande. Een en ander sou hom later duur te staan laat kom. Hy woon in Parys aan de rue de Varenne 57 in ’n groot agttiende ceuse herehuis. Die staatsman Talleyrand het ook daar gewoon. Die Engelsman Charless J. Philips, een van sy weinige vertrouelinge wat die voorreg gehad het om sy

versamelings deur te snuffel, het die situasie soos volg beskryf: aan drie kante van die vertrekke is stelle laaie aangebring; sy besittings is op stroke stewige papier gemonteer; besonderhede van die seëls is bo aan die stroke aangebring; ongebruikte en gebruikte seëls word afsonderlik deur Ferrari gehou; die stroke is op hulle beurt in koeverte waarop die inhoud aangedui is, gebêre; bo op die stelle laaie, regom die vertrek berg hy groot pakke en bundels duplikate en versameling-restante. Die Paryse posseelhandelaars Pierre Mahé en Schmidt de Wilde het as bewaarders van sy seëlskatte opgetree.

Met sy aankope het Ferrari hom deur die grootste handelaars en kenners laat bedien, soos Jean-Baptiste Moens, Haniciau en om nie die kenner van die Britse Ryk te vergeet nie, Thomas Ridpath wat die wêreld se seldsaamste seël, die 1c van Brits-Guyana van 1856 aan Ferrari verkoop het. Hierdie seël wat in 1856 plaaslik vervaardig moes word omdat die besending seëls uit Londen vertraag was, is eintlik 'n grafeursvergissing. Die seël is in 1878 deur 'n skoolseun tussen familiebriewe ontdek en aan 'n plaaslike versamelaar vir 6/-verkoop om „beter” seëls met die geld te kan koop. Ferrari het dit in 1878 vir 500 gulde van Ridpath gekoop en hierdie kleinood het in sy versameling gebly.

Voorts het hy vier van die slegs 12 bekende beroemde Mauritius-seëls van 2d wat per abuis deur die plaaslike horlosiemaker-graveur „post office” pleks van „post paid” gegraveer het. Verder het Ferrari o.a. 'n velletjie van 20 3pf Sakse seëls van 1850 gehad; dit het later in die bekende Burrus-versameling te lande gekom en is in 1966 vir sowat R24,000 op 'n openbare seëlveiling verkoop.

Hier is maar 'n grepie uit die horing van oorvloed: 'n aantal sogenaamde Amerikaanse „posmeesters”, plaaslike voorlopers van die Amerikaanse federale seëls van 1847; heel beroemd onder hulle is die unieke Boscawen-seël wat Ferrari in 1912 vir 2d-Mauritius verruil het. Arthur Hind, die Amerikaanse multimiljoenêr, het die seël in 1922 vir R5,000 van Ferrari gekoop; in die depressie van die dertigerjare het genoemde seël na Hind se dood slegs 5,000 dollars opgelewer, maar met 'n veiling in 1964 is 23,000 dollars vir die einste Boscawen betaal. Ferrari wat ook versamelings opgekoop het, het die beroemdste seldsaamhede ter wêreld besit. Soms het hy ook met twyfelagtige stukke tuisgekom; al was dit nie sy eie versoek nie, is dit seker en gewis dat sekere seëls vervals is spesifiek om aan Ferrari verkoop te word. Mense noem sulke seëls „Ferraritcite”.

'n Welbekende Londense seëlhandelaarsaak

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het hom in 1890 met so 'n wanpraktyk besig gehou en Ferrari was tenvolle bewus daarvan. Op 'n dag het hy teenoor vriende gesê: Ag wat. Die man het dringend geld nodig en hy het niks ordentlik om te verkoop nie toe het ek maar die vervalsings geneem om hom te help! Met al sy eienaardighede en hartstogtelike versamelwoede het Ferrari tog 'n sagte plekie vir sy medemens in sy hart gehad. Meer as een keer het hy geld aan Charles Philips gegee met opdrag om dit vir dergelike doeleindes aan te wend. Origens is gesê dat Ferrari die grootste deel van sy kapitaal in posseëls gesteek het. Sy lewe het met die uitbreek van die eerste wêreldoorlog 'n dramatiese wending geneem. Tussen die vyande van Duitsland kon hy nie lewe nie en vlug toe na Switserland met slegs 'n paar albums van hoofsaaklik Gricke seëls. Die vernaamste albums het hy in bewaring van die Oostenryks-Hongarse ambassade te Parys gelaat. Op 20 Mei 1917 sterf hy te Lausanne van ergenis, weemoed en verdriet met die verlies van sy lewenswerk. Hy het egter tevore sy hele versameling tesame met 'n aardige jaarrente aan die posmuseum op Berlyn bemaak. Daar het helaas niks van gekom nie.

Die Franse regering het die versameling as 'n vyandelike bate beskou en beslag daarop gelê.

Tussen 23 Junie 1921 en 26 November 1925 is alles openbaar verkoop teneinde die

Duitse oorlogskuld te verminder. Die veiling is gehou in die bekende Hotel Drouet in die straat van die posseëlhandelaars van Parys. Tydens 14 veilings is al die mooi, seldsaam en unieke stukke wat Ferrari byeengebring het verkoop. Dit was Maurice Burrus, die tabakmagnaat uit die Elsas en die reeds genoemde Arthur Hind, 'n tekstiel-koning, wat teen mekaar om die beste stukke gewedywer het.

Die verkoping van die allerbeste karmenaadjie, die Brits-Guyana van 1856 het op 6 April 1922 plaasgevind. Hoewel selfs namens die Engelse koning gebie is, het hierdie unikum teen 30,000 dollars in die hande van Hind gekom. Na laasgenoemde se dood sou die seël aan 'n Meksikaanse grondeienaar verkoop wees wie na bewering om besit van die seël vermoor was. 'n Versekering van £200,000 moes gesluit word eer die huidige eienaar in 1965 toegestem het dat die seël op 'n uitstalling van posseëls verskyn.

Die totale opbrengs van die seëlskatte van Ferrari het destyds die gelyke van R1,200,000 opgelewer. En daarmee was dit klaar . . . maar nie met die naam Ferrari nie; die betowering van die naam bly met filateliste voortleef.

Daar was in die jaar 1967 sprake dat die Amerikaners dit oorweeg het om 'n spesiale gedenkseël vir Ferrari uit te gee, maar skynbaar het daar niks van gekom nie.

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SILINDERBLOKKE.

BROLE'S GUM TREES and other tales

By DAVID ALLISON

What did it cost to send a letter from the Cape Colony to the United States in 1864?

When was the post office at St. Mark's near Queenstown, opened?

How long did the post take to go from Cape Town to Namaqualand in 1853?

From time to time many of us must have felt that it would be interesting to know a bit more about the development of the postal

services in South Africa, particularly in the district where we happen to live. It is, perhaps, not generally known what a large amount of such information is fairly readily available.

There are, of course, the Post Office Guides. In bygone days these used to contain far more detailed information about postal services than they do nowadays, and I hope in a subsequent article to show what a wealth of interesting material may be found in them. But the first Cape Post Office Guide was published in 1882, and I want to draw attention to a source of postal information which goes back much further and must be available in many libraries that lack old P.O. Guides.

This is the Government Gazette. I have recently been looking at various issues of this, mainly dated 1864, 1868 and 1874, and it is evident that if a number of collectors of "Capes" divided the labour of working systematically through the Gazettes, much interesting information would be obtained. All I want to do is to indicate the sort of thing that one finds in them. A subsequent article will summarise the main points which come to light in a systematic search through the 1868 volume.

Postage Rates

The gazette of the 19th August, 1864, contains a table showing the postage rates on letters from the Cape Colony to various other countries, when sent via the United Kingdom. The table has five columns, showing the rates for letters weighing up to $\frac{1}{4}$ oz, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, $\frac{3}{4}$ oz, 1oz and $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. In most cases the charges appear to have been based on half-ounce units, the rates to Canada, the United States and Peru being (for instance) $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and $\frac{2}{11}$ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. This answers our first question. In the majority of other cases quarter-ounce units were used; thus the rates to France and Switzerland were 8d and 9d per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

Another notice, in the Gazette of 20th November, 1868, contains a few surprises. Letters to the United Kingdom were charged 1s for each half ounce, if sent by packet (= mailship) or by Queen's Vessel, but only 4d per half ounce if sent by private ship. Letters intended to be sent by private ship had to be endorsed accordingly. Overseas letters which did **not** travel via the United Kingdom. cost 4d per half ounce if posted at the port where the mail was embarked, and otherwise 6d per half ounce, except those for St. Helena, Ascension and Madeira, which cost an extra 4d per half ounce if sent by packet.

The inland rate at that time was 4d for letters under half an ounce, and otherwise 8d

per ounce or fraction thereof. There were, however, two exceptions to this. In the first place (see e.g. Government Gazette, 23rd October, 1868) Act 30 of 1864 provided that whenever there were two or more mails per day (Sundays and holidays excluded) between two post offices, the Governor could fix a reduced rate of postage, not less than a quarter of the normal inland rates, between those offices. Thus, in the Gazette of the 11th September, 1868, tenders for the conveyance of a second mail each weekday between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage were called for. Satisfactory arrangements were evidently made for this, for on 23rd October, 1868, the Gazette included a Proclamation by the Governor that the postage between Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage would be reduced to 1d for letters under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, and otherwise 2d per ounce or fraction thereof. This reduced rate was to come into effect on 2nd December, 1868. Jurgens' book on Cape postmarks has a chapter (pages 105-106) on penny postage. In this chapter this proclamation of 1868 is omitted, but a later one (Government Gazette, 18th May, 1877) which extends the penny postage rate further inland, as far as Glenconnor, is included.

Jurgens also includes the establishment of a penny post between East London and King William's Town (and places in between). This came into effect on 1st May, 1877, the day on which the railway between these two towns was opened for traffic. (See Government Gazettes of 26th April and 1st May). The Post Office notice mentions that as there was only one train a day to Kei Road, that place was excluded from the penny post area.

The second exception to the 4d rate was a 1d rate "between the Chief Town in each Division and any Field-cornet Post Office Agency in such Division." These agencies may have been those served by the field-cornets' posts, mentioned below; or they may have been those at the field-cornets' farms. Does anybody know?

Post Offices and Mail Routes

Government Gazettes probably form the best available source of information about dates of opening and closing of offices. Thus, to quote just one instance, the Gazette of 11th September, 1874, mentions that a post office had been opened at St. Mark's, in the division of Queen's Town, "in connection with the Post just established between those places". This sort of information needs to be tabulated, of course, before it becomes of much use.

Tenders for the conveyance of mails were

frequently invited. The notices contained various requirements, including the blowing of a bugle when a post office or agency was approached. A scale of fines for lateness was laid down. Occasionally the amounts paid to the successful tenderers may be found in a later Gazette. Thus tenders were called for (in the issue of the 4th September, 1868) for the conveyance of mails from Wellington Station via Wellington Post Office to Worcester and Ceres. These were to leave Wellington Station on Tuesdays and Thursdays after the arrival of the first train from Cape Town, and to leave Wellington Post Office on Sunday mornings. On the return trip they were to leave Worcester and Ceres on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in time to catch the second train on those days to Cape Town. The annual payment made for all this was £173, according to a notice in the Gazette of 27th October.

Some minor postal routes were known as Divisional Posts or Field-cornets' Posts. Tenders for these were called for by the local Civil Commissioners, and the notices in the Government Gazette omit most of the requirements laid down in the Postmaster-General's notices already mentioned.

And — to answer our third question — what about the Namaqualand mails? On Thursday, 1st September, 1853 (the day of the issue of the Cape Triangulars!) tenders were invited for the conveyance of mails, once a week, to Namaqualand. The route was divided into sections. For the first section, from Cape Town via D'Urban to Malmesbury, eight hours were allowed; the post left the G.P.O., Cape Town, at 12 noon on Thursdays. Other sections reach to Clanwilliam (the last town on the route) and beyond, mission stations and field-cornets' farms forming the ends of the later stages. The last of these which I can readily locate is Lily Fountain, which was (and is) the centre of Methodist Work in Namaqualand. It lies to the East of the present main road, between Garies and Kamieskroon. To return to ~~1868~~ ¹⁸⁵³, the sections from Cape Town to Clanwilliam took a total of about 29 hours, and the sections from Cape Town to Lily Fountain took about 58 hours. Lily Fountain still gets a weekly post, but the time taken from Cape Town has been reduced to less than a half of what it was a century ago.

Brole's Gum Trees

The heading was designed to catch your eye, of course, and if you have read as far as this you deserve to know what it's all about. Brole's

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Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

Gum Trees was the name of a postal agency "about four miles from Bedford, on the Main Road to Grahamstown", the establishment of which was announced in the Gazette of 11th September, 1874. The Postal Agent was Mr. Charles Robert Brole. The 1962 postal route map shows no agency in or near this position.

What has been written above is intended merely to provide a sample of the sort of information which anybody can find who lives near a library which has a run of Cape Government Gazettes. Presumably the corresponding Gazettes of Natal, Transvaal and the Orange Free State would yield similar material. And, paging through these old volumes, one gets many fascinating glimpses of life a hundred years ago.

STANLEY GIBBONS TO GO "PUBLIC"

Stanley Gibbons Ltd. are planning to become a public company in the spring. There have been rumours of this for the past twelve months, but the news became public when it made the front page of "The Times Business News" on December 23rd.

It is understood that the 30-40 shareholders have already been canvassed for their opinions and have been asked whether they will be prepared to make shares available.

The Company's capitalisation is expected to be upwards of £1 million and S. G. Warburg, the merchant bankers, are preparing the ground for a flotation, probably in February or March.

Stanley Gibbons Ltd. has a nominal capital of £200,000 and has two subsidiaries, Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd. (formerly Harmer, Rooke and Co.) and Letter Filing Appliances of Birmingham.

Stanley Gibbons Ltd. was founded in 1856 by Edward Stanley Gibbons, in his father's pharmacy in Plymouth. He moved to Clapham Common in 1874 and in 1876 he moved again to 8, Gower Street, London, W.C.I.

In July 1890 Gibbons sold his entire business, stock, goodwill and trading name, of Stanley Gibbons and Company, to Charles James Phillips, who had traded as a part-time dealer in Birmingham for some years. The price was £25,000.

Phillips had recently moved to London with his family and following the purchase he turned the business into a private limited company. Gibbons became the Chairman of the new company and was issued with 6 per cent.

debentures for the amount of the purchase. Charles J. Phillips became Managing Director.

The firm continued to grow and the Gower Street premises did not afford sufficient facilities for the reception of personal buyers. A small shop was therefore purchased at 435, Strand in March 1891. In 1893 shop and offices were combined at 391 Strand, which was taken on a 28-year lease.

In 1900 the firm acquired the upper three floors of 390 Strand and in September 1902 they opened a branch in New York, under the name of Stanley Gibbons Inc. The branch was sold in 1911, but it still retains the name.

In 1904/5 Gibbons purchased the business of Hamilton-Smith and Co. and in 1905 opened a City branch at 97, Gracechurch Street. A branch was opened in Buenos Aires in 1910.

In 1913 Gibbons purchased the business of W. H. Peckitt of 47 Strand. In 1925 the firm acquired the freehold of 391 and in 1935 took over 37 Southampton Street, which linked at the rear with the Strand premises.

Stanley Gibbons acquired Harmer, Rooke and Co. in 1958 and in 1962 they purchased the business of H. E. Wingfield and Co., their next-door neighbours. Mr. A. L. Michael, proprietor of Wingfield's, became joint Managing Director of Gibbons. On the retirement of Mr. W. F. Deakin in 1966, Mr. Michael became Managing Director.

During 1967 Stanley Gibbons joined with Whitman Publishing in producing the Gibbons-Whitman Catalogue in the United States. On July 1st, 1967 the firm opened a shop in New York under the title StanGib Limited.

"The news that Gibbons is to go "public" should have a stimulating effect on the stamp market. It will bring additional publicity to the hobby and should create an increased demand for stamps. Many collectors will wish to buy shares in the Company and it will also mean that a stamp firm's shares will be quoted on the Stock Exchange for the first time.

Acknowledgement The Philatelic Trader.

WANTED

BACK NUMBERS OF
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A BELGIAN WAS WORLD'S FIRST STAMP DEALER

On April 29, 1908, there died one of the most respected oldtime Continental dealers. This was Jean-Baptiste Phillippe Constant Moens. He was the first stamp dealer in the world and it was with Louis Hanciau that the first deal in stamps took place in 1852.

At that time Moens was a bookseller at the Galerie Bortier in Brussels. This request for used stamps started off his trade in stamps. He built up a business in foreign stamps and today many collectors owe him a debt of thanks because he imported large numbers of the early issues in mint condition.

Moen's shop became a meeting place of collectors, and Moen's love of books led him to take an interest in philatelic literature.

In 1861 the first printed stamp catalogue (a primitive effort) was produced by Potiquet in Paris. Moens followed by publishing a catalogue of his own. In 1862 he produced the first philatelic handbook to be published — a work on forgeries "De la Flasiification des Timbres-Poste" which was followed in 1863 by the publication of Moen's monthly journal "Le Timbre-Poste".

In 1866 details in that journal were given of Dr. Magnus's "odontometre" — the original perforation gauge. One of the best features was its listing of new issues.

Between 1877 and 1887, 18 specialized handbooks appeared from the house of Moens. In 1900 Moens retired and the journal ceased publication. He died at the age of 74.

Acknowledgement O.F.S. Philatelic
Magazine.

(It will be interesting to know something about South Africa's early stamp dealers. Will someone please supply this information? — Editor)

INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Paper read by Mr. M. S. Weitzmann at a meeting of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle)

Continued from page 69, March, 1968

John Calvin Stamp

These stamps were printed on R.S.A. watermarked paper, the mark facing left, and in a 4-pane format of 5 rows x 20 stamps per pane.

Complete punch holes, without concentric coloured circles appear on the top margin of panes A and C, above stamps 7 and 8. Remnant punch holes, surrounded by remnant purple concentric circles are positioned on the bottom margin of panes B and D below stamp 7 and 8.

Four pairs of electronic guide marks are imprinted on the top margin of pane C only, above stamp 17 to 20, and are coloured purple, red, purple, sepia-brown respectively, from left to right.

A special date stamp was used on the 10th July, 1964. This Issue was given extra colour by the discovery of a joined paper. (Only 5 copies known to exist.)

The Nurse's Stamps

Two postage stamps, of 2½c and 12½c denominations were placed on sale at all Post Offices of the Republic on 12th October, 1964.

The 2½c stamp is particularly interesting in view of the fact that there appears to be a controversy amongst philatelists concerning the amount of printings which took place.


In November, 1964, the newsletter of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle reported that it would appear that five printings were made, namely:

Cylinders S3/S15 A/B

- (1) Gold powder fifteen years old was used for this printing. The blue lettering of this printing appears to be more smudged but the lamp is a deeper blue than the following printing.
- (2) Due to insufficient stocks, further "gold" powder was ordered resulting in a slightly brighter gold.
- (3) During the third printing an amount of brown powder was added. This resulted in a "dull gold".

Cylinders S7/S14 A/B.

- (4) Due to damaged cylinders two new cylinders were prepared. The first print-



Switzerland and Continental countries
classics and moderns bought and sold,
also collections.

J. FRICK
CH-9658 WILDHAUS
SWITZERLAND

ing appeared in "dull" gold.

- (5) The last printing of this series can be distinguished from the first of the S7/S14 by the fact that the "gold" cylinder No. S7 and the left hand stamp frame line, along stamps 1, are faded.

Subsequently, in January, 1965, the S.A. Stamp Study Circle reported as follows:

Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer brought several complete sets of four of Identifying strips of the 2½c Nurse's Stamps.

Dr. Raubenheimer maintained that there were four printings as set out hereunder:

1. S3/S15, A/B—15-year-old ink used.
2. S3/S15, A/B—New bright gold ink bought.
3. S3/S15, A/B—1½ brown added to 1 part gold. One cylinder damaged.
4. S7/S14, A/B—Two new cylinders made.

Different light intensities gave different shades.

Members discussed the easiest method of identifying a single stamp from each set of cylinders. Mention was made that "Gibbons" separately lists both sets of cylinders and uses the base of the lamp as identification.

In the S3/S15 printing the base being more white and in the second or S7/S14 printing, the base being blue.

Members however, felt that a more positive identification is the fading of the gold lattice in the bottom left frame line of the S3/S15 printing.

From what has previously transpired it would appear that further research into this matter should be undertaken in order to bring finality to this controversy.

The 12½c stamp was, for the most part a straight forward clean printing and does not warrant any particular comment at this stage.

First-day covers were available with the special cancellation "Prefex-Prefu" Pretoria, and also with a special "congress" cancellation.

I.T.U. Stamp

Two postage stamps of 2½c and 12½c denominations were placed on sale at all Post Offices in the Republic on the 17th May, 1965, to commemorate the centenary of the International Telecommunication Union.

With regard to the 2½c denomination, there are practically no outstanding peculiarities which are worthy of mention. The blue background appeared lighter at times and slightly darker at other times, but this seems to have been caused merely by some sheets having been slightly under or over-inked. There was

also a predominance of fine doctor blade marks throughout this Issue.

Concerning the 12½c denomination, here again, the green shades varied markedly in depth on different sheets.

On pane B, the light green shades had numbers opposite stamps 8 and 9 and 19 and 20 while the dark green shades had numbers opposite stamps 7 and 8 and 18 and 19.

For the first time an official Souvenir Post Card was issued by the Philatelic Bureau.

Two printings of this card are recorded:

- (1) The first printing, which was used mainly for overseas orders, had the "L" of "International" (third line, second paragraph) missing. The "set-up" is closer and three diamonds appear at the centre bottom of the card.
- (2) The second printing has the "L". The lines are more widely spaced and only two diamonds are present.

The Dutch Reformed Church Stamps

Two postage stamps, of 2½c and 12½c denominations were issued on the 21st October, 1965, to commemorate the Ter Centenary of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa.

Both the 2½c and the 12½c printings were well executed and the registration of cylinders was for the most part good. However, the cyclometer numbers were frequently smudged or irregular suggesting that the cyclometer mechanism was due for overhaul.

Both values were printed on R.S.A. water-marked paper, the mark on the 2½c stamp faces right while that of the 12½c stamp is inverted, probably because it was made from stock left over after reeling off for larger rolls.

An official first-day Souvenir Envelope bearing the emblem of the Dutch Reformed Church was available from the Philatelic Bureau.

The Envelopes were actually printed and sold by the Church for funds.

A card was enclosed which provided the history and scope of the church.

A special date stamp was used at Cape Town on the 21st October, 1965, which depicted the pulpit and front benches of the "Groote Kerk".

New perforators for the Goebel 840 machine were first used on this 12½c printing.

To be continued

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SHIPS — MERCHANT AND MILITARY: I have rare cancellations and covers with postmarks of the whole world. Dr. Zappalà, Via Colle del Pino, 95126 Catania, Italy.

STAMP DEALS, P.O. Box 2272, Johannesburg, may just have (or may know where to find) that difficult stamp; now available some star items in Protectorate Decimal surcharge errors, Capes, O.F.S., Rhodesia (BSA Co.), Canada, strong collection Union Animal Series, Far East countries, USA, New Zealand, Australia, etc.

GENESIS of the British South Africa Company's Postage Stamps and Postal Services, by V. F. Ellenberger, as supplied as a supplement to the S.A. Philatelist, June, 1967. A limited number of extra copies available at 20c, post free. Business Manager, S.A. Philatelist, P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

G. B. LINE-ENGRAVED: Wanted, fair plating copies (unplated) of 1d. black and perforated 2d. Blues: Send offers to Commander C. E. D. Enoch, 3 Cussonia, 7 Lyburn Road, Lynnwood Manor, Pretoria.

IRELAND: Buying — top cash paid for everything. Selling — magnificent stock second to none. David Feldman Ltd., 22 Rathfarnham Park, Dublin 14, Ireland.

IF STAMPS OF — Germany, Austria and other Western European countries are wanted, first try us.—S.A. STAMP CENTRE P.O. Box 6891, Johannesburg. Telephone 22-1391. (Want lists invited).

WANTED: Cape, Natal, O.F.S., O.R.C., Transvaal Z.A.R. Union/Republic, S.W.A., German S.W. Africa, preferably postal history.—C. E. SHERWOOD (V), P.T.S. 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY, quarterly magazine with exchange packet in U.K. Subscription R1.50 (15/-) yearly. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, 'Allways', Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, U.K.

FOR WORLD STAMP NEWS, market commentary, new issues, postmark studies, book reviews, etc., etc. read:—**PHILATELIC MAGAZINE**, published every two weeks by Harris Publications Ltd. of London. Annual sub. — One year 47/6 post paid (6.00 U.S. Dollars); Three years 130/- post paid (16.00 U.S. Dollars). **PHILATELIC TRADER**, one year 25/- post paid (3.00 U.S. Dollars); Three years 65/- post paid (8.00 U.S. Dollars). Agent in South Africa: D.C.D. Castle, P.O. Box 970, Pietermaritzburg.

COLLECTIONS WANTED for immediate cash settlement. Large or small, specialised or general. Top prices paid for popular sets and rare issues in fine condition.—**ELIEZER BLUM**, P.O. Box 1669, Cape Town. (Established in Cape Town since 1930).

1840-1900.—If you want good stamps of this period, then write to **DOUGLAS ROTH**, Mona Crescent, Newlands, Cape.

F. W. COLLINS OF WINCESTER, ENGLAND, will be at the Langham Hotel, Johannesburg on the 19th and 20th April next, to meet old and new customers. He will have selected items, pre 1935, of British Commonwealth in Africa for sale. He wishes to buy fine G.B. and B.W.I., etc.

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA: Wanted early forerunners on cover or on piece, or any other items of interest. Top prices paid. **L. ABRAMS**, P.O. Box 7875, Johannesburg. Telephone: Office 22-1630; home 41-9251.

WANTED FOR CASH !!! Southern African T.P.O.'s, Sea Post and Paquetbot markings on cover or on piece. Offers to J. M. Weinstein, 479(a) Fehrsen Street, Brooklyn, Pretoria.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- (2 dollars) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent, England.

LATVIA (Lettland; Lettonie) out of the way items and bulk common stamps wanted.—**J. Michelson**, P.O. Box 9314, Johannesburg.

WANTED.—Accumulations, Collections, Office Lots on and off paper. Turn those old boxes of philatelic "junk" into cash, or exchange it with us for stamps, albums or accessories that you need. — **ROBEMARK PHILATELISTS (PTY.) LTD.**, 21 Joubert Street, Johannesburg. Box 11419.

U.S.A. SPECIALIST requires singles, blocks, covers, cancellations. **A. R. Kleiner**, 23 Cadogan Gardens, London S.W. 3, England.

LISTS of general interest free on request. — **UNION STAMP CO.**, Barbican Building, President and Rissik, Johannesburg. (P.O. Box 10225). Telephone 838-5879.

MOZAMBIQUE Pre-stamp Covers urgently wanted. Varieties also required.—**B. Glassman**, P.O. Box 10, Johannesburg.

SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February 6th: Attendance at this meeting was not as good as has recently been the case, probably as a result of the continued sultry weather. The evening opened with a small auction capably conducted by Mr. Bülbring. Then Mr. Tommy Tomlinson showed us his small but impeccable collection of Vatican City. He limits himself to the stamps of Popes John and Paul. Like so many at the coast he has had bad experiences with "rust" and has, therefore, reduced his collecting range considerably.

Mr. Slabbert expressed the feelings of those present when he proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Tomlinson for his very fine exhibit.

New arrivals to Port Elizabeth are still joining the Society in numbers and these benefit very much from the exchange of views on our coastal "rust" problems. The meeting was a particularly pleasant one, as there was just the right amount of talking from the Chair, giving members and visitors the opportunity to converse with each other.

February 20th: The Annual General Meeting of the Society was the 56th in its existence and the number of members present testified to the strides which have taken us to a new high mark of membership during the past year. The oldest member of our Society, Mr. Harmer, attended his 42nd Annual General Meeting and on the other hand many of those who joined only fairly recently were keen attendants.

The following are the newly elected Office Bearers: President: Mr. G. Monaghan, Vice-President: Mr. A. S. Aldis, Secretary: Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt, Treasurer: Mr. L. Lasarow, Exchange Superintendent: Mr. A. S. Aldis, Auctioneer: Mr. T. S. Strachan, Assistant Auctioneer: Mr. G. Bülbring, Press Correspondent: Mr. J. Aldis.

The presentation of Awards for the year proved a grand slam for the Strachan family as follows: G. Bülbring Trophy: Mr. T. J. Strachan, T. J. Strachan Trophy: Mrs. E. Strachan, G. Fobes Memorial Cup: T. Strachan junior.

It was not possible to make an award for the best Thematic Exhibit as no such exhibit had been displayed during the year and the Dave Berg Trophy was therefore not competed for. The evening concluded with an interesting auction.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

December: The attendance was poor no doubt due to a number of people having gone on leave and the remainder not desiring to display. Seven members submitted some very fine displays as listed hereunder:-

W. Mann — Odds and Ends, L. Abrams — S.W.A., Forerunners and Wunderstampfels, A. Colman — The Lion, L. Buchen — Postmarks

and Memorial Sheets, J. Michelson — Postgebit and Oberösten, M. L. Ruttberg — From Russia with Love, S. Wachenheimer — 6 Days in June.

An interesting meeting concluded with an auction.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

February: There was a good attendance of 42 members and visitors to welcome Mr. W. S. Yelland, from the West Rand, who is visiting Rhodesia and who put up two exhibits for our delight.

The early business was quickly disposed of. Two new members were welcomed and members were informed that First Day Covers for the World Ploughing Contest, 26th April, would be serviced for them by the Society. The new Mardon Printers 3d., without the 2½c., was on display for the information of members.

The meeting was then handed over to Mr. W. S. Yelland. His displays of Mardon Printers varieties and of postmarks and cachets on South African Army covers from World Wars 1 and 2 aroused a great deal of interest. So much so, in fact, that the tea got cold on the service counter while members crowded round these fascinating displays. Mr. W. H. Turnbull, in thanking Mr. Yelland, said that these displays were an aftermath of VRYPEX and Congress, where many friendships are made and renewed. The interest shown was sufficient commendation for the excellence of the exhibits, both bronze medal awards. The greetings brought by Mr. Yelland from the South African Stamp Study Circle and the West Rand Society were warmly reciprocated.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February: A well attended meeting saw a display of British Commonwealth material by Messrs. Hellmann, Shingler and Sparkman. A varied display, from straight material to covers and the Royal Family theme. It was very interesting, and I am sure that all thoroughly enjoyed seeing it. We are trying to introduce more stamps, and less business, into our meetings, but although this first one did not really go as well as we intended, we will persevere. We have acquired a magnificent item to use as a prize in a competition we will be organising soon for Elpex 68, and will be contacting all societies in this regard. I do hope that you will all support us — you will when you know what that prize is.

THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

December: It is obvious that Members do not like informal exchange evenings as the attendance in December was only just over twenty persons which was the lowest I have seen since joining the Society. Even so I personally came away with more stamps than for a very long

time — all, I hasten to add, obtained through exchange or purchase.

January: Your Secretary only returned from leave on the afternoon of this meeting and consequently was unable to attend. The Society's thanks are due to Mr. Webb for sending out the notices for this meeting. From all accounts it was an unqualified success and Mr. Davenport tells me that something in the region of £5 accrued to the Society by way of commission from the auction. Mr. Brooke must have been in most persuasive mood.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February: There was a fair attendance of members at the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Germiston Philatelic Society held at the N.C.P. Tennis Clubhouse, on Wednesday the 21st of February, 1968. Mr. R. G. L. Mephius, the retiring President, before displaying a straight-forward exhibit of Danish stamps, gave a most informative talk on the main stamps of interest in his collection. Thanks to the exhibitor were given by Mr. H. J. Suklje, the newly elected President of the Society.

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee of the Society for the ensuing twelve months. President: Mr. H. J. Suklje; Vice-President: Mr. T. J. B. Curle; Hon. Secretary, Mr. I. S. Burniston (re-elected); Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. C. Rix (re-elected); Hon. Exchange-Packet Superintendent: Mr. R. G. L. Mephius (re-elected); the three other Committee members being Mr. A. Thompson (re-elected), Mrs. D. M. Calder and Mr. H. Birkhead. The positions of Hon. Librarian and Hon. Auctioneer would be debated at the first meeting of the Executive Committee as no member was willing to accept either position at the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Theo Ross was again elected as Hon. Auditor to the Society.

The following members were presented with the floating Trophies of the Society:- Mr. L. Buchen, the Senior award; Mr. O. Hartig, the Society award; Mr. C. Waner, the Thematics award; Mr. A. Thompson, the Aero-Philately award.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January: Being the Annual General Meeting, this was, as usual not particularly well attended.

The following office-bearers were elected for 1968:- President: Mr. H. E. Roux; Vice-President: Mr. A. L. Meyburgh; Secretary: Mr. S. Marus; Treasurer: Mr. H. Hagan; Exchange Supt.: Mr. R. Lee; Committee: Mrs. E. Marinowitz, Mr. I. Marinowitz, Mr. C. van Ee, Mr. J. Havenga; Hon. Auditor: Mr. H. J. Weil.

The retiring President, Mr. A. L. Meyburgh, in presenting his Report indicated that he had decided not to seek re-election as the time had come to pass this honour onto a younger member.

New Issues were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Marinowitz and Mr. Roux. The Committee provided a joint exhibit to round off the meeting, which included the following:

"It's a Dog's World" by Mr. and Mrs. Marinowitz. "Vatican" by Mr. Marcus. "Stamp Curiosities" and "Sport" by Mr. A. L. Meyburgh. "Malta" by Mr. H. E. Roux.

The Financial Report, indicating the satisfactory position of the Society, was presented and adopted.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

January 11th: As the subject for the evening was "Research", we saw three collections in this field before Mr. Harmer exhibited the two collections that he had brought with him from London.

Firstly, Mr. Goldblatt showed various re-entries of the C.G.H. 6d de la Rue issue. Then he showed a very fascinating C. G. H. cover sent to G.B., and proved, by a tremendous amount of research that the particular hand-stamp, had in fact been applied at the Cape and not on arrival overseas.

Dr. Gottschalk showed the first Jerusalem overprint of 1920. He explained the various printings and types, and showed extensively, the major errors, also the minor varieties, into which he had done a good deal of research.

Mr. Giezendanner showed Swiss varieties which have necessitated research. Exhibiting firstly the Standing Helvetias, he showed six varieties, then the Tax Stamps with varieties of colour and finally the 1937 overprints with big numerals, and the telegraph stamps.

Mr. Cyril Harmer had brought with him from London, two really wonderful collections, certain gems of philately.

They pertained to the dispatch of the Metz Balloon Post and that of the Great Barrier Island.

Space prohibits inclusion of the relevant interesting details here but they are fully set out in the News Letter and make very interesting reading.

January 25th: Four exhibits were exhibited for the competition for the Jacob Cup namely: Lagos and the Niger Territories — Mr. du L. Chiappini. Austrian Italy — Mr. W. G. Combrink. Orange Free State — Dr. H. Gottschalk. French Airmails — Capt. M. F. Stern.

The jury after mature consideration awarded the Cup to Capt. M. F. Stern for 1968.

February 22nd: A very satisfactory attendance marked the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Society, ending another successful and pleasant year.

The business included the presentation and acceptance of the Financial Statement incorporating the Income and Expenditure account, the Librarian's, the Treasurer's, the Exchange Superintendents' and the Hon. Secretary's reports.

It was noted that the membership of the Society as at 31st December 1967 stood at: Town members 173, Country members 45, and Life members 3, a total of 221.

Society Awards were made to the following successful competitors: Jacob Cup — Capt. M. F. Stern — French Airmails, Simenhoff Cup — Mrs. A. Wannerton — S.A. Cancellations.

Kaganson Cup — Mrs A. Wannerton — Saints and Madonnas, C.R.V. Solomon Cup — Mr. S. Gutman — U.S.A. and it was noted with pleasure that for the first time, this year the "Maiden Award" was competed for. This cup was presented to the Society by the son of our late Hon. Life Member, Mr. C. R. V. Solomon, in order to perpetuate his father's name, and is to be competed for by members who have not previously won any sort of award.

THE ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE

September 30th: At this, the Annual General Meeting, the following officers were elected for 1967/68: President: J. A. Brook; Chairman: G. D. Duckley; Secretary: W. B. Marriott; Treasurer: A. R. Allison; Bulletin Editor: L. H. Lomax; Publicity Officer: Major H. M. Criddle; Publications Manager: B. H. Poyner; Committee: A. C. Fenn, L. Molloy-Vickers, M. F. Wray. Mr. J. A. Brook was re-elected Hon. Auditor.

The resignation of Mr. S. G. Laurence as Hon. Treasurer and a member of the Study Circle was received and accepted with regret.

Appreciation of the work done for the Study Circle by Mr. Laurence over the years, since the formation of the Circle was expressed by the members present and in respect of his long and important services, he was unanimously elected an Honorary Life Member of the Study Circle.

The dates for the 1968 meetings were agreed as follows: - March 30th, May 25th, October 5th.

It was agreed that, at the meeting on March 30th, the 1d on 5/- provisional and the revenue stamps be studied in relation to the appropriate chapters in Part I of the Handbook.

CAPE SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS

January: The Chairman welcomed new members and visitors. He reported to the Meeting that the Annual General Meeting would be held in February and called upon members to raise and discuss any items which they wished to place on the Agenda.

Mr. Piat suggested that the Exchange packets had not been operating properly and he felt that the function of the Exchange Superintendent should be separated from that of the Treasurer.

He also suggested that Membership Fees should be increased to R2.00 per annum.

The competition for the Eliezer Blum Trophy was then held. Mrs. Hilda Jeidel and Mr. Jack Galloon exhibited stamps of the DOAR IVRI of 1948. Members displayed great interest in both these exhibits. The trophy was awarded to Mrs. Hilda Jeidel.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

February: The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Study Circle preceded the monthly meeting and the following office bearers for the ensuing year were elected: President: Mr. M.

Gough-Palmer; Vice-President: Mr. S. P. Naylor; Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. E. J. Sharpe; Committee Members: Dr. T. B. Berry, Messrs. J. T. Burrell and K. E. W. Lydall; Curator of the Study Circle Reference Collection: Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer; Exchange Superintendent: Mr. W. Yelland; Hon. Examiner: Mr. B. Glassman; Executive Members to Federation: Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer, Messrs. M. Gough-Palmer and E. J. Sharpe.

The J. H. Harvey Pirie Plaque, which is awarded annually for meritorious service to South African philately, was presented to Mr. E. J. Sharpe for his able and very conscientious contribution to the administration and handling of the Study Circle's affairs since being appointed Secretary/Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent in February, 1966.

Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer reported the appearance of a new issue of the 20 cent stamp from a new master negative. The redrawn design has reduced the size of the Secretary Bird and the inscription on the stamp is bolder. This stamp is printed on the Swiss paper with the "tête bêche" watermark on two panes from cylinder numbers 242 (buff), 243 (crimson) and 244 (brown).

The formal discussion for the afternoon was provided by Mr. J. Wannerton of Cape Town, whose letter on the screening of postcards was read by the Secretary. This promoted much comment and many opinions were expressed — all of which were of interest to the members.

In conclusion, several items of interest were displayed and discussed.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February: The Annual General Meeting brought an excellent attendance, all of whom were appreciative of the work performed by last year's office bearers and committee members.

All the reports submitted, reflected good progress and they were unanimously adopted by the meeting. The officials for this year were elected as follows: - President: Mr. J. M. Weinstein; Vice-President: Cmdr. C. E. D. Enoch; Hon. Secretary: Mr. G. F. W. Kuhn; Hon. Treasurer: Dr. W. J. Schiff; Joint Hon. Exchange Supts.: Messrs. E. A. Gerke, E. N. Faller and G. F. W. Kuhn; Hon. Librarian: Miss M. Esterhuysen; Hon. Curator: Mr. A. F. Reynard; Hon. Correspondent: Mr. W. Kriste; Members of Committee: Messrs. W. Impey and W. Kriste; Delegates to Federation: Messrs. J. M. Weinstein, D. J. C. Reynders and R. Castignani.

To complete the evening, the Curator displayed some pages of the Society's collection and consisting of the more recent issues and a number of the early commemoratives.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February: With a satisfactory attendance the Society got off to a good start for 1968 at the Annual General Meeting this month. As the Chairman remarked in his report, the Society

celebrates its coming of age this year and the July meeting has been earmarked for the 21st birthday celebrations when a bumper meeting is planned.

All reports submitted to the A.G.M. were unanimously adopted.

The meeting clearly showed its confidence in the office bearers who, without exception, were re-elected as follows:- Chairman: Mr. E. Walker; Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. Brown; Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. Kriste; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. Kriste; Stamp Superintendent: Mr. Z. J. van Eyk; Exchange Superintendent: Mr. S. Smith; Librarian: Mr. F. Fouche; Delegates to Federation: Messrs. W. Kriste, Z. J. van Eyk and E. Walker.

It is with deep regret that I inform members of the death of one of our Life Members, Mr. W. Howie, after a long illness. An important cog in the wheel of our Society, having been Chairman, Vice-Chairman and later Hon. Treasurer for many years, Jock guided us along the right road and it is mainly due to his efforts that we are in our present happy position. To Mrs. Howie and family we extend our sincere condolences.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on May 20th, 1968. The Secretary's address is P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

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