

The South African Philatelist

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UNION NOTES

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Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

Recent Printings.

The Publicity Officer, Department of Posts and Telegrams, has kindly supplied the following information concerning the period 26th June, 1958, to 1st October, 1958. For the previous list see our September 1958 issue.

The Animal Series Postage Stamps.

1d.—Job No. 4215 continued on an order for 1,500,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 34,500 sheets was made on the 10th April, 1958, the total delivery to date being 634,569 sheets. Same single die cylinder No. 97.

1d.—On the same job No., but from a new double die cylinder No. 3A/3B, an initial delivery of 3,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet was made on the 16th September, 1958, the total delivery to date being 99,500 sheets.

2d.—Job No. 42106 continued on an order for 900,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 10,000 sheets was made on 29th April, 1958, the total delivery to date being 302,802 sheets. Same single die cylinder No. 56.

German Settlers.

2d.—Job No. 46391. On an order for 100,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 33,500 sheets was made on 8th July, 1958, the total delivery to 17th July, 1958, being 100,500 sheets. Same cylinders, No. 74 Interior and No. 17 Exterior.

Air Letter Cards.

6d.—Job No. 17689 continued on an order for 6,000,000 cards, an initial delivery of 100,800 cards was made on 29th August, 1957, the total delivery to 7th August, 1958, being 6,087,000 cards. Chambon Printing machine and same cylinders.

Picture Post Cards.

1½d.—Job No. 36857 continued on an order for 2,736,000 cards, an initial delivery of 40,824 cards was made on 13th March, 1958, the total delivery to 24th July, 1958, being 2,826,576 cards. Same stamp cylinder No. 54, and Picture cylinders Nos. 45 and 66.

Christmas Stamps.

The 1958 issue of the Union's Christmas Stamps, illustrated hereunder, went on sale at all Post Offices on the 3rd November, and will remain available until the 24th December, 1958.



The stamps which are printed for use as seals on mail matter and have no value for the prepayment of postage, are made up in both sheets and booklet form. The proceeds from their sale go to support the Sunshine Homes in which children are cared for who have been in contact with tuberculosis.

The design, in tangerine and royal blue, depicts a seated Madonna holding a child. The Cross of Lorraine appears in the right background on which is also depicted five stars. The stamps are prepared unilingually, with the inscriptions "Christmas Greetings" at the top and in bolder print "South Africa 1958" at the bottom margin; similarly in Afrikaans "Kersfees Groete" and "Suid-Afrika 1958."

The sheets are printed in tête-bêche format of 120 stamps (6 x 20). Alternating English and Afrikaans, on unwatermarked paper. The three rows on the left are inverted while the three on the right are upright. Marginal arrows are absent, but a printer's mark, in the form of a cross, appears in the colours of the stamp on the right vertical margin opposite the perforation between rows 10 and 11. Four-figure red sheets numbers are also imprinted twice on this margin.

The booklets are made up of panes of six stamps, and according to the number included, are sold at face at 6d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- each.

Note.—These stamps were withdrawn from sale about mid-November, and after about a week were replaced by others of the 1957 design with date altered to 1958.

The 1d. Coil Stamp. Cat. No. R10b.

Dr. Gordon Ward, of England, writes to say that he and Mr. A. E. Wilkinson, of Ireland, have examined about 80 coil stamps of the 1d. Ship, R10b, series, his own part being restricted to the supply of certain material, and reports the following conclusions to date.

1. The Frame Multipositive for Cylinders VIII, IX, and R10b was the same, but the Head Multipositive for R10b is a new one.
2. The flaws common to Plates IX and R10b are multipositive flaws which developed after the printing of Plate VIII and before Plate IX.
3. The earliest date noted on used items was July 1934.
4. It was not found possible to decide what rows were added to make up a full roll cylinder.

This information is indeed interesting, and we extend our good wishes to these renowned students of the Philately of the Union for a successful continuation of their investigation.

9d. Air Mail Variety.

Referring to our August Notes concerning the un-catalogued variety, the face of air-man solid in the 9d. denomination of the 1925 Air Mail Series, Mr. C. E. Sherwood, of Sale, writes to say that he has this variety in the four values, the 1d., 3d., 6d. and 9d.

King's Head Issue, Line Perf.

We illustrate an unrecorded and interesting variety of the King's Head Series, submitted by Mr. A. Oliver Brady, of Durban. The item consists of a Plate 6 Control pair of the ½d. value, perforated 14, with the left vertical margin perforated through.



Upon closer examination, it will be observed that the perforation holes occur in an irregular manner at the point of intersection of the vertical and horizontal rows of perforation, thereby suggesting that a line perforator had been used instead of the usual single comb perforator employed for the series.

Further, as the left vertical margin is perforated through instead of being imperf., it may be assumed that the perforator which normally extends over 12 stamps was one stamp out of alignment, with the result that the perforation holes will be absent between the stamps of the 12th vertical row.

German Settlers' Commemorative Issue.

Mr. I. T. Rhenius, of Mowbray, Cape, has called our attention to a characteristic he has found to be present on a number of the 2d. German Settlers' stamps, consisting of an elongated white band immediately above the roof of the cottage and the mountain range. He compares the condition to an incorrect registration of the vignette and frame cylinders, but is concerned over the fact that all stamps on the sheet do not bear this flaw.

We are able to confirm this statement for upon examining a number of sheets, it was observed that the "white band" was present on the stamps from the upper part of the sheet, being more pronounced on those in the top left hand corner, while it was absent on stamps from the lower portion of the sheet.

We suggest that this characteristic is not due to the mis-alignment of the head and frame cylinders, a typical example of which is the "break" in the flag-pole of the 1955 Covenant stamps, but rather the result of a stretching of the upper portion of the frame carbon tissue when laying it upon the cylinder prior to the etching process.

What do you think?

Incidentally, it will be observed from the "Recent Printings" listed in these Notes, that a second printing of the German Settlers' Stamps was made from the cylinders previously used. An attempt to determine any cylinder flaws which would distinguish the two printings, has been unsuccessful so far.

Can you assist?

Horizontal Staggered Perforation.

We draw attention to the report by Mr. M. Sacks, of Bloemfontein, also appearing in the September Number of the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine, that the staggered perforation variety, previously noted as occurring in a vertical manner on the sheet, also appears now in the horizontal position on the lower part of the sheet, between Rows 19 and 20.

We are not aware if Mr. Sacks had the opportunity of examining the complete sheet before extracting the item which he showed us, but we would suggest that the variety was present also between Rows 8 and 9. Further, it would be interesting to know if the vertical staggered perforation variety between Rows 2 and 3 was also present on the sheet, thereby indicating a further defect in the particular eleven-row perforator.

Special Postmarks.

With a view to advertising the Government Air Mail Service of 1925, special "Air Mail Saves Time" slogan machine postmarks were put into use at Cape and Durban. These postmarks were mainly applied to non-air correspondence, and are adequately described in "The Airposts of South Africa" by L. A. Wyndham.

No mention is made, however, of the type of ink used, which we presume was black, but Mr. E. C. Wright, of Pretoria, has shown us an interesting cover on which the postmark is made in red ink, and it will be observed from the illustration that the date of cancellation, February 24, is some seven days earlier than the inauguration of the service from Cape Town on March 2.

As we go to press, we received a communication from Mr. Irving M. Hirsch, of New York, wherein he states that he possesses a first flight cover from Cape Town to Durban, date stamped Feb. 28, 1925, and enquires if any significance may be attached to this cover due to the fact that its cancellation is prior to the official date of the commencement of the service.

The answer to this query is in the negative. Wyndham notes that the special circular cachet with "S.A. Air Mail/S.A. Lugpos" and date in centre, used in addition to the ordinary place-date stamp, was applied in Cape Town to the first flight mail with dates either 26th, 27th or 28th February or 2nd March.

Incorrect $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Plate XVI Arrows.

Mr. M. J. Rall, of Heidelberg, Cape, correctly points out that the top arrows, illustrated on Page 45, Vol. II of the Handbook, of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Plates XVI/A and XVI/C, and of Plate XVI/B should be interchanged.

"Let Artists Design Stamps."

The following article, by a Staff Reporter, appeared in the Johannesburg "Rand Daily Mail" of the 27th October, 1958.



"It would be foolish to say that all modern art was outstanding just as it was clownish on the part of many critics to haul down this form of art to the level of the debris heap of meaningless junk.

"Mr. Walter Battiss, the South African artist, said this to members of the Transvaal branch of the South African Associations of Arts last week.

"The Government could do art no greater service than to invite various South African artists who expressed themselves in 'abstract' art, to design a series of postage stamps to commemorate the Union's 50th Anniversary in 1960."

We are convinced that the adoption of this suggestion would also be heartily welcomed by all who are interested in the stamps of the Union, both at home and abroad.

Freak Cancellations.

The opinion is sometimes expressed that the stamps of the Union are uninteresting, dull, and contain nothing new, and as a remedy for these ills, frequent new issues are advocated.

We cannot subscribe to these sentiments for it has been our experience that the obsolete issues offer an extensive field for research, the current issues are brimful of interest, and, in short, there is as much, if not more, philatelic occupation and entertainment in Unions as may be desired by those who are sufficiently disposed to look for these factors.

In addition to the Definitive Issues fulfilling this bill, two postal cancellations have recently made their appearance, illustrated for the benefit of those who collect Union postmarks.

A. Represents an impression from the Johannesburg machine-canceller A in which the G of JOHANNESBURG assumes the form of a U.

B. Is an example of a postal cancellation made by a Postmaster's office stamp instead of by the normal canceller. The circumstances of which are:

The Bryanston Post Office sustained a not very successful burglary, as far as the intruders were concerned, on the night of October 29th. Its normal canceller had, as



customary, been locked overnight in the safe where it remained until next morning when the Post Office opened at the usual hour. The safe, however, was not allowed to be opened until the authorities had arrived and completed their investigation later in the morning. Meanwhile an outgoing mail had to be dealt with, and as the normal canceller was not available, the postmaster's office stamp was used instead.

Truly—"out of Africa, always something new."

Note.—A new printing of the 1/- from a new Int. Cylinder 105 and old Ext. Cylinder 104 has just appeared. Details in our next issue.

NEW ZEALAND—1961

NATIONAL EXHIBITION

In 1961 the Christchurch Philatelic Society Inc. will celebrate its Jubilee; that Society and three others with headquarters in Christchurch purpose holding an exhibition in 1961, date not yet further specified.

They have issued a very comprehensive advance notice, with rules, classification, etc. The exhibition is termed a "National" one, but there is no definite statement that entries are limited to New Zealand nationals. Perhaps they are not, as we note that **any** Government may exhibit non-competitively.

Information obtainable from P.O. Box 1336, Christchurch C1, New Zealand.

ROLL OF HONOUR

GEORGE KEITH FORBES

G.K. has himself supplied most of the information in the following biographical notice, and starts by saying that he has merely been a picker-up of duly considered trifles. Nevertheless, anyone who has visited him in his "den" will agree that his trifles have been very well considered. He can produce an amazing variety of collections, mostly of rather out-of-the-way material, although how he can always lay his hands on it, as he does, generally rather surprises the visitor.



He was elected to the Roll of Honour of outstanding philatelists in Southern Africa at the time of the Congress in Bloemfontein in 1951, mainly for the good work he had done for philately over many years in his home town, Port Elizabeth.

We can now return to his own notes, in the first person.

"In the late nineties, having graduated from buffalos, elephants and alligators, etc., with some Seebeck selections, I had but two ambitions in life, firstly, to learn the game of Cribbage and, secondly, to own a Penny

Black. I achieved both of them. I still possess a few of the items I gathered fully 60 years ago.

"Having entered my teens I launched out into the world, but the impact was not very widely felt by it. For a week of 70-80 hours of work I had the magnificent remuneration of 1/6, with board, chiefly oatmeal, and accommodation equally spartan. Stamp collecting suffered a setback as there was little left after provision for my two small luxuries—strong tobacco and liquid produce of Scotland (neat). But my collection did expand somehow!

"Prior to World War I, I had managed to reside in all four Provinces of the Union, in N. and S. Rhodesia, Mozambique and German S.W.A., with a spell in Australia, picking up odds and ends of stamps all the time.

"Having won this war, I decided that my wild oats sown in various parts of the world were only yielding a poor crop philatelically, so, with my two albums I visited a philatelic society meeting, then went home and started all over again—this time, I think, with greater success.

"On settling in Port Elizabeth some thirty years ago I joined the local society, small, but a fine group of men. I have watched, and aided to the best of my ability, the growth and welfare of the society; it is still a fine lot of men now augmented and improved by a few very keen members of the opposite sex.

"However, the greatest pleasure I have had through my years of stamp collecting has been the number of very good friends who have entered into my life, and are still part of it today.

"As requested, I have had a photograph specially taken for the notice you purpose having published about me—the last one I had done was when I was about two years old. In addition to not being a real philatelist I see from it that I am not even photogenic, but I'm positive I don't look as bad as shown."

SWEDEN

On 20th November there were due to appear three stamps (20, 30 and 80 öre) commemorating the centenary of the birth of Selma Lagerlöf, the famous authoress.

AIR MAIL NOTES

By I. H. C. Godfrey

Air Letter (Aéogramme) Sheets.—Southern Africa.

The phenomenal rise in the catalogue value during the past few years of Southern African "Active Service Letter Cards," and of the early civilian issues is shown in the detailed table which follows. Interest in this branch of philately shows no signs of waning, most of the early issues of all countries being in heavy demand overseas.

Union of South Africa:

The face value of the ten 3d. Military sheets listed in the Union "Handbook"—PAL 1 to 8a—is a mere 2s. 6d. They are priced in the 1957 edition of "Sanabria" at over £68, compared with £7 in the original "Handbook" quotations. PAL 7a and 8a ("Handbook" Vol. 2) are priced at £21 the pair as against £1.

Catalogue values of mint pairs:—

| Pairs | Union 'Handbooks' | | American A.M. Society | 1957 'Sanabria' |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | 1952 | 1955 | 1955 | 1957 |
| PAL 1-2 | 50s. | 100s. | -- | 630s. * |
| 3-4 | 30s. | 60s. | 105s. | 105s. * |
| 5-6 | 20s. | 60s. | 105s. | 105s. |
| 7-8 | 20s. | 60s. | 105s. | 105s. |
| 7a-8a | (20s.) | 20s. | 350s. | 420s. |
| | £7 | £15 | £-- | £68.5.0 |

* These sheets genuinely used in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland are, of course, unpriced.

Southern Rhodesia:

The five "Active Service Letter Cards" issued between 1941 and 1944 have appreciated from £4-11-0 to £31-10-0 during the same period:—

| Mint Singles. | American Air Mail Society Catalogues | | 'Sanabria' |
|------------------|---|----------|------------|
| | 1952 | 1955 | 1957 |
| 1 MLS | 14s. | 175s. | 175s. |
| 2 MLS | 35s. | 52s.6d. | 105s. |
| 3 MLS | 14s. | 35s. | 175s. |
| 4 MLS | 14s. | 35s. | 105s. |
| 5 MLS | 14s. | 35s. | 70s. |
| | £4.11.0 | £16.12.6 | £31.10.0 |

Swaziland: (Civil).

An even more spectacular rise occurs in the prices given for the first seven "Air Mail Letter Cards" and "Air Letters" over-printed "SWAZILAND," which were on sale between 1944 and 1948—from £4.11.0 to £48.6.0.

| Mint Singles. | A.A.M.S. | | 'Sanabria' |
|------------------|----------|---------|------------|
| | 1952 | 1955 | 1957 |
| 1 LS | 10s.6d. | 28s. | 52s.6d. |
| 2 LS | 10s.6d. | 52s.6d. | 122s.6d. |
| 3 LS | 7s. | 24s.6d. | 42s. |
| 4 LS | 21s. | -- | 350s. |
| 5 LS | 21s. | -- | 350s. |
| 6 LS | 10s.6d. | 21s. | 24s.6d. |
| 7 LS | 10s.6d. | 14s. | 24s.6d. |
| | £4.11.0 | £ --- | £48.6.0 |

Surely there can be no other items in South African philately (barring, of course, stamp errors) which have appreciated in catalogue value to such an extent in so short a time as the twenty-two "Air Letter" sheets listed above: face 6s.3d. in 1941 to 1948; priced in 1952 at £16 and revalued in 1957 at £148!

Two unrecorded Union Aerogrammes.

Two further unrecorded Air Letter sheets bearing the legend "Printed under Government Printers Copyright Authority No. 1165 dated 23/4/53" have recently come to light.

The format and the printing on the face of the sheets is almost identical with the 1955 unfranked Post Office issue but in both these sheets the language arrangement is reversed—i.e. the English texts come first. Both are printed in very dark blue on blue paper and emanate from Cape Town. One type bears the Printer's name and address on the reverse but this is missing in the other. There are also minor differences in the spacing of print.

Permission to print Aerogrammes privately was withdrawn in 1955 and it seems strange that these two types are still in circulation.

NETHERLANDS

The 1958 Child Welfare series (4+4 cents, 6+4 cents, 8+4 cents, 12+9 cents and 30+9 cents) are to be on sale from 17th Nov., '58 to 16th Jan., '59 inclusive. They represent several children's games.



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| 2 Turkey "Europa" (late-comer), complete | 1/9 |
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| 3 Sudan, Arab Postal Congress, complete | 3/6 |
| 8 Hungary, Brussels World Fair, complete | 13/6 |
| 4 Saar Charity very colourful, complete | 4/9 |
| 6 Swiss Telecommunications, or Education, complete | 9/6 |
| 15 Zanzibar 1957, cpl. 42/6. 10 ditto to 1/- | 5/6 |
| 5 Netherlands Charity Costumes or Paintings, complete | 3/9 |
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PORTRAIT GALLERY

IV

Of the 19 new portraits, bringing the total to 3,370, the most striking is that of the Prophet Joel, on a Brazilian stamp, as illustrated. Biblical writers are wont to give us few details of their own lives, being concerned with their message rather than with themselves, and we can glean but little of the life-story of the forceful person who has furnished us with a fascinating pamphlet which can be read in ten minutes but never forgotten. He lived round about BC 470 to 400. A terrific description of a plague of locusts, coming in their countless myriads, wave upon wave, till the whole land is devastated, is used to drive home an impassioned appeal for religious revival, an appeal that met with a whole-hearted response, so that the booklet ends with a serene picture of a land renewed after "the years that the locust had eaten," teeming with oil and wine, and a people turning from their folly to God.



The other outstanding portrait also has a religious background and a topical interest, for it shows us a notable figure in the long line of some 260 popes—Pius VII. He was born at Cesena, son of Count Scipione Chiaramonti and the pious Countess Ghini, and was baptised Luigi Barnaba. He entered the Benedictine Monastery at Cesena and was created abbot of his order by his relative Pius VI, who further appointed him Bishop of Tivoli 1782 and cardinal 1785. Elected Pope 15 years later he soon found himself embroiled with Napoleon, whom he reluctantly consecrated Emperor in Notre Dame in 1804. Relations between France and the Vatican rapidly deteriorated as Napoleon grew more and more dictatorial, till in 1708 Rome was occupied by the

French General Miollis. Pius retaliated by excommunicating the invaders, to which in turn Miollis replied by seizing the Pope, who was taken to Grenoble, Savona and Paris, where, now sick and aging, he was lodged in the regal magnificence of Fontainebleau. But with the waning of Napoleon's star, Pius regained more and more freedom, till in 1714 he returned to Rome, where he spent the last 7 years of his life in growing honour, magnanimous even to the Bonaparte family, and attracting even men like the Protestant sculptor Bertel Thorwaldsen, who designed his tomb.

The other 17 portraits include a charming, delicately-tinted picture of the famous Minnesinger Walther von der Vogelweide, CA 1170-1230, from a contemporary MS, on an Austrian stamp; Antonin Novotny the present President of Czechoslovakia; the gallant Otto Suhr, Burgomaster of Berlin from 1955 till his death two years later; and five more "Resistance Fighters" of East Germany,—Albert Kuntz, Rudi Arndt, Philip Kurt Adams, Rudolf Renner and Walter Stoecker, earnest-looking men, but with the unpleasant appearance of having been guillotined, and indeed one and all came to a sticky end in the last war.

Then there are two Portuguese saints, Isabel and Teotónio, in the rather grim and forbidding manner of a certain type of religion; Jacob Kolas, a Russian poet who looks extraordinarily like Lord Attlee; two more popes, Clement XIII in a very pious pose, and that good man Clement XIV, magnificent in triple tiara; three Guatemalan physicians on Red Cross Commemoratives,—José Ruiz Angulo, Pedro de Bethancourt and Rafael Ayau; last and best, celebrating the 12th Anniversary of the Republic, President Carlos Garcia of the Philippines, whose clever, kindly face, in purple-black, is most effectively framed in two tints of blue, red and gold, the happiest portrait of recent days.

—W. LOXLEY CHAMINGS.

BAHAMAS

A set of four values has been ordered to celebrate the centenary of the first Bahamas of June, 1859. They will be of 1d., 2d., 6d. and 10d. denominations, and the design will be a portrait of the Queen inside a border like that of the Q.V. Bahamas 1d. stamp.

STEPHEN G. RICH BEQUESTS

It has been announced that Stephen G. Rich, who died on 10th August, has left his Union of South Africa collection to the South African Museum, Cape Town, together with \$1,000 for mounting and care of the material. His Natal and Zululand collection he has bequeathed to the Durban Museum, along with a sum of \$600.

Most of his offer collections go to the Collectors' Club, New York. Apart from his philatelic bequests, he has left monies to various institutions in which he was interested, amongst them being the American Zulu Mission in Durban.

He obviously never forget his few years spent in his younger days as a teacher in Natal.

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BASUTOLAND

According to the old Basutoland publication, "The Little Light of Basutoland" dated 1877, no charge was made for mail carried within the boundaries of Basutoland from the time that Maseru Post Office was opened until July, 1877. From that date onwards all letters had to bear a 2d. stamp.

The writer is anxious to ascertain the earliest date when cancellers were used in Basutoland, as it would appear that prior to July, 1877, all outgoing mail was still cancelled at Aliwal North.

The earliest specimen in the writer's collection is an entire from Mafeteng dated March 21st 1878.

It would be greatly appreciated if any reader could give information of any earlier Basutoland cancellations in their possession, through the columns of this publication.—G. N. GILBERT.

NEW ZEALAND

Three stamps are to be issued commemorating the Centenary of the Hawke's Bay Province. The 2d. will show the statue of Pania, a legendary Maori mermaid who came ashore near Napier; a 3d. will show a Gannet sanctuary at Cape Kidnappers, while an 8d. will depict a Maori shearer at work. These stamps were expected to be issued about the end of October.

A special 3d. will be issued on 5.1.59 in honour of the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree.

CANADA—U.S.A.

When the St. Lawrence Seaway is opened—probably early in 1959—we may see commemorative stamps issued in Canada and in the U.S.A. with a common design. Stamp designers from the two countries have had a meeting to discuss the project, but no decision has yet been announced. If the project materializes it will be making postal history in North America.

—Stamp Collectors' Exchange Club.

EIRE

Two commemoratives (3d. and 5d.) are to be issued on 29th December for the 21st anniversary of the coming into operation of the Constitution of Ireland. The design shows Eire as a young woman seated with her right hand resting on a harp. As the constitution was designed for Ireland as a whole, the arms of all four Provinces are shown on the double sized stamps.

SWAZILAND — "628"

During the years 1889-1899 two defacing stamps were in use in Swaziland, boxed numbers in a vertical oval grid of nine thick bars (Jurgens, Cape 1864 type). The numbers were 628 and 718.



The place of usage of 718 is well-known to have been Embekelweni (the Royal Kraal) from the occurrence of covers with both this defacing stamp or killer and a place-date stamp. But 628, although not a particularly scarce mark, has not been recorded in combination with a place-date stamp, so its place of usage is not known. From 1889 to 1894 there were only three P.O.'s in Swaziland—Embekelweni, Bremersdorp and Darkton—so it would look as if 628 must have been used at one of these, unless there was another unknown office.

Some years back when accumulating material for my booklet on the postal history of Swaziland, I made the acquaintance of the late Mr. Alastair Miller, a Swaziland "old-timer" with an interest in its history, both general and postal. Amongst other things I remember putting the problem of 628 to him. His reply was that he thought it must have been used by Mr. Shepstone at Embekelweni as well as 718. His main reason for thinking so was that no other office had sufficient mail going through it to justify more than one canceller. And so the problem remained.

Recently, however, I have acquired a cover which I think gives very strong support to Mr. Miller's view, even though it may not prove it absolutely conclusively.

This is an official cover headed "On Service of the Swazie Nation;" at the foot, on the left, with inverted commas is "Resident Adviser's Office," with "Office" scored out by a pen stroke and written above is "Wm. C. Penfold, Secty." The cover is addressed to Barberton, S.A.R. and the Barberton postmark on the back is dated 20 Sept. 91.

The cover has no adhesive postage stamps, but top right in front is a very clear 628 mark.

Now, why do I consider this cover as strongly supporting the view that the numeral stamp 628 was used at Embekelweni? Well, to answer this requires a little delving into the political set-up of the period.

(1) Theophilus Shepstone (son of Sir Theophilus Shepstone of Natal fame) was appointed Adviser to King Mbandine in 1886 including taking over all the King's dealings with the many Whites to whom he had granted concessions. He took up residence at "The Haunted House," Embekelweni so as to be in close touch with The King, and he had a Mr. Wm. C. Penfold as his private secretary. He held this post at least until 1890, but probably for several years more, *de facto* if not *de jure*.

(2) Following on the Report made by a joint commission set up by the British and Z.A.R. Governments to enquire into the state of affairs in Swaziland the country became a joint Z.A.R.-British Protectorate. With the agreement of the Swazi King a Triumvirate was appointed in 1890 to control the affairs of the Whites; it consisted of a representative of the British Government, another from the Z.A.R. Government, and with Mr. Shepstone as representative of the Swazis.

The Triumvirate had its offices in Bremersdorp and the two official government representatives lived there. Mr. Shepstone, however, continued to reside at Embekelweni, no great distance from Bremersdorp.

In view of these circumstances and of the characteristics of the 1891 cover which I have described, does it not appear a practical certainty that it was posted at Embekelweni?

I shall end up with a little guesswork which might explain why the 718 mark frequently (although not always) occurs in conjunction with an Embekelweni place-date stamp, whereas the 628 mark has not been recorded with any such accompaniment.

I have not been able to ascertain if there was an actual post office and definitely appointed postmaster at Embekelweni, but I suspect that the duties were carried out at the office of the "Resident Adviser." If that

were the case would it not be likely that Mr. Shepstone, say, had 718 and the place-date stamp in his part of the office, and that his private secretary, Mr. Penfold had 628 in his. This, of course, is pure supposition, but such a state of affairs would give a rational explanation of the difference between 628 and 718.—J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

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RECTANGULARS. POSTMARKS.

Extensive selections of the above are always available, as well as interesting covers and Postal History material.

References from new customers, please.

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DURBAN AUCTIONS

The October sale held by Wicks Stamp Agency in Durban marked the seventh anniversary of these interesting affairs and a total of 409 lots were put up for sale. I thought the Union items were not up to the usual standard of interest, and from the number of stamps left unsold, South African specialists were evidently of the same opinion. Blocks of the King's Head in all values from ½d. to 6d. attracted fair competition, the highest bid being for the 6d. corner blocks—all in different shades—for which £6 was obtained. 3d. Black and Red, Plate 1, fetched £3-5-0 for blocks of one shade. Two nice pieces were top and bottom strips of 12 each of the 2d. unhyphated Plate 2 B, and £5-15-0 was paid for these, sold as one lot. Some useful items in Air Mails attracted attention, especially corner blocks of the 4d. and 1/- 1929 issue.

All the 25 lots of Transvaal stamps were sold, mostly at prices averaging about half catalogue, the highest price being £2-10-0 for a used strip of three 1875 6d. Blue, Stamp Commission printing. Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia were well represented. Of the latter country, a Queen Elizabeth 10/- used on piece brought in £1-10-0 whilst of those of the Admirals and Double Heads that were sold, the prices were in the

vicinity of half catalogue. Tanganyika S.G. 55, King George V R50, fine mint, fetched £5.

The foreign stamps attracted more attention than usual and there were postal bids for many of the items. Some hundreds of Russian stamps brought no offer but it is a curious coincidence that Dobson Lowe are also offering Russian collections in London this month. Is this country coming into its own philatelically?—A.L.L.



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U.S.A.

During 1958 there were issued no fewer than 21 new stamps (including one due on 12th December (honouring John Jay). In addition there were some 11 other items such as postcards, booklets, air letter forms etc.

Three new stamps in the ordinary series have been announced for 1959 to meet recent increases in postal rates, these will be of 2½, 4½ and 12 cents denominations. The commemoratives for 1959 have not yet been announced.

EARLY NATAL "NUMERAL" POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

The following List of the early numeral cancellations of Natal, showing their places of usage, has been drawn up by Mr. J. H. H. Chamberlain, mainly from the collection belonging to the Philatelic Society of Natal.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Pietermaritzburg. | 27. Seven Oaks. | 52. New Leeds. |
| 2. Durban. | 28. Riet Valley. | 53. Curry's. |
| 3. Verulam. | 29. Spring Vale. | 54. Umtwalume. |
| 4. Umhlali. | 30. Umzimkulu. | 55. Umpumulo. |
| 5. Point (Durban). | 31. Boston. | 56. Zululand. |
| 6. Pine Town. | 32. Noodsberg. | 57. Illovo. |
| 7. Umzinto. | 33. Buffalo. | |
| 8. Isipingo. | 34. Dundee. | No. 58 onwards were not in use prior to 1875-6. |
| 9. Tongaat. | 35. Good Hope (Smidt's). | |
| 10. York. | 36. Umhlanga. | 58. The Dargle. |
| 11. Greytown. | 37. Umkomaas. | 59. Palmerton. |
| 12. Richmond. | 38. Beaumont. | 60. Sydenham. (Durban). |
| 13. Howick. | 39. Murchison. | 61. Mid Illovo. |
| 14. Mooi River (Whipp's). | 40. Queen's Bridge (Durban). | 62. Mount Moriah. |
| 15. Estcourt (Bushman's River). | 41. Blackburn. | 63. Stafford's. |
| 16. Weenen. | 42. Glendale. | 64. Thornville. |
| 17. Colenso. | 43. Mt. Moreland. | 65. Fox Hill. |
| 18. Cathkin. | 44. New Guelderland. | 66. Spring Grange. |
| 19. Ladysmith. | 45. Kearsney. | 67. Musgrave Road. (Durban). |
| 20. Newcastle. | 46. Hermannsburg. | 68. Ferry Hotel. (On Tugela). |
| 21. Woodside. | 47. Harding. | 69. Ifafa. |
| 22. Sterk Spruit (Lidgeton). | 48. Byrne Town. | 70. Edendale. |
| 23. Nottingham. | 49. Ixopo. | 71. Mount Prospect. |
| 24. Siquasi. | 50. High Flats. | 72. Stanger. (re-issue). |
| 25. Camperdown. | 51. Stanger. (Prior to 1875). | 73. Caversham. |
| 26. New Hanover. | | |

Nos. 74, 75, 78 and 87 are also in the collection, but their whereabouts of usage have not been identified.

ANOTHER "WORLD'S RAREST STAMP"

In "Linn's Weekly" there is an article, which appears to be more or less copied from one by Irving I. Green in the "Aero Philatelist Annals" of July, 1954, describing what seems to be an exceedingly rare stamp, but one whose very existence has so far been practically unknown to philatelists in general.

This is an air-stamp of Honduras, the 10 c blue of the regular issue of 1915, overprinted in black in 1925 with "Aero/Correo/25." Scott lists it as C 12; it does not appear to be listed by Stanley Gibbons.

The story behind this stamp is as follows:

Originally (but just what date that means, is not clear) four copies of this stamp were known, but two unused specimens were "lost" in Honduras in 1927.

A third copy, used on cover, came to notice in 1938 and was described and illustrated in a published story.

This specimen has also been "lost," or at any rate has disappeared from ken since 1938.

The fourth copy, unused and in fine condition, first became known in 1939 in Dr. Philip Cole's collection, when it was sold by auction to Mr. Oscar R. Lichtenstein for \$5,300. At the time this was a record high price for an air-mail stamp. His collection was sold in 1957 after his death in 1955 and the "Black Honduras 1925" is now owned by Mr. Thomas A. Matthews. This time it fetched \$11,500.

Should any of the other three copies come to light again this stamp will have to be removed from the one-of-a-kind class. Meanwhile it is claimed for it that it is (a) the world's rarest airmail stamp, (b) the world's rarest 20th century stamp, and (c) that it is co-holder with the British Guiana 1c magenta of the title of the world's rarest stamp.

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THE UNION 2d. PHOTO-VIGNETTE HYPHENATED ROTOGRAVURE STAMPS

By G. N. Gilbert, in collaboration with
P. D. Haigh.

Mr. Haigh's article on the 2d. Union Buildings, Plates V to VIII, which appeared in the March 1958 issue of the South African Philatelist, certainly put "the cat among the pigeons."

A careful study of this article made it quite clear that (a) the former article on the same subject by the writer and Dr. Berry was very incomplete, (b) it confirmed the suspicions then held that there had been more than one pair of cylinders used to print the Plate VII series, as shown by flaws which were otherwise very difficult to explain, and (c) that the assurance given the writers of the former article by the Government Printing Works, viz., that it was next to impossible that there could have been other cylinders used, which had missed recording, can be discounted on the evidence we now have.

The writer obtained complete sheets of the various printings, and over a period of some weeks, each stamp was studied, and notes made of all the various flaws.

A list of these flaws was sent to Mr. Haigh for checking and confirmation where possible, and an analysis was drawn up. From this analysis, the pattern became clear, and it was obvious that the same set of cylinders, viz., 8/21, could not have printed all the issues of this series.

In going through the various sheets, an interesting discovery was made viz., that there are two different printings of VIIc. The exterior cylinder used for printing both these printings is the same, as shown by the various flaws, but the interior characteristics are entirely different.

We have labelled this printing VIIc (2), and the differences between the two printings will be explained later in this article.

Let us now start from the beginning of the 2d. Photo-Vignette series. Plates V and VI, cylinders 6913/10, and 6913/64, are clear enough, the only question here being—are the records of the numbers printed and the

dates given correct, or were there considerably more of 6913/10 printed and which missed recording in this S.A. Philatelist, according to the numbers shown in this periodical, only 53,725 sheets of 6913/10 were issued, as compared to 198,453 sheets of 6913/64. It is well known that the latter is today a very scarce item compared to the former printing, which is fairly common.

We suggest that the printed records of 53,725 sheets of 6913/10, and the dates given, viz. 27/2/45—the first mention of deliveries from this printing in the S.A. Philatelist) and 22/11/45, is only a partial record, and that there were considerably more deliveries of this printing which have missed recording.

March 1st, 1945, is the date given as the date of issue, but it may have been earlier. Time will show, if used copies turn up with dates prior to this.

We now come to Plate VII, recorded as Cylinders 8/21.

The first printing of this was issued some time in 1946, and was in a dullish purple shade.

Other printings followed with shades varying from dull purple to bright violet.

These first printings have been labelled VIIa (1) and (2).

The exterior flaws of these printings are identical, but the interior characteristics are quite different.

There are numerous interior flaws, some quite prominent, which occur in VIIa (1), and which do not show in VIIa (2), and over twenty flaws have been found in VIIa (2), none of which show in VIIa (1).

On the other hand, the analysis showed that all these twenty odd flaws in VIIa (2), are also found in VIIb (1), and in VIIc (1), showing that the same interior cylinder was used for these three printings.

Now we come to what are known as the VIIb printings.

The sheets of VIIb (1) have red four figure sheet numbers, while those of VIIb (2) have black five figure numbers, this latter printing being also notable for the weakness or break in the framelines at the top of the vignettes, particularly on the lefthand side of the sheets.

The exterior cylinder flaws of these two printings are identical but quite different from those of the VIIa (1) and (2) printings. The interior cylinder used for VIIb (1) was obviously the same as that used for VIIa (2) and VIIc (1), but the interior cylinder used for the VIIb (2) printing is entirely different.

Not one of the twenty odd interior flaws found in VIIa (2), VIIb (1) and VIIc (1) are present, and there are a few obvious flaws which are only found in this VIIb (2) printing, and the newly found VIIc (2). The most obvious of these is a scratch which stretches horizontally from the base of the lefthand spire into the central cloud on Row 4 No. 1.

If this scratch is examined under a strong glass, it will be found that its centre is a faint white line, with dark edges above and below, and these edges distinctly show the screening dots.

This flaw is most unlike a cylinder scratch, and has the appearance of being a glass flaw, or multipositive.

Another striking similarity of the VIIb (2) and VIIc (2) printings is the total absence of the "swarm of bees" or clump of dots round and above the lefthand tower on Row 4 No. 6.

These dots are found in all the printings of VIIa (2), VIIb (1) and VIIc (1).

On the evidence so far, it would appear as if the same interior cylinder was used for VIIa (2), VIIb (1) and VIIc (1), and a different one for VIIb (2) and VIIc (2).

All seemed to hinge on the scratch on Row 4 No. 1. Was this a multipositive or not?

The writer, by the courtesy of the Publicity Officer, was able to show the sheets to an official of the Government Printing Works, who unhesitatingly pronounced it to be a screen or multipositive flaw, thus proving definitely a change of interior cylinder here.

Before passing on to the VIIc printings, there is still another flaw which adds to the proof of this interior cylinder change, viz. a green stroke slanting upwards from the edge of the lefthand frameline into the selvage on Row 16 No. 1.

This appears on two sheets of VIIb (1), but not on another in the writer's possession, pointing to the fact that this is an acquired cylinder scratch.

It is also found in the next printing, viz. VIIc (1), and so confirms the pattern which we have so far found, as it does not appear in either VIIb (2) or VIIc (2).

Now we come to the two printings known as VIIc (1) and (2).

Again the exterior cylinder flaws are identical, but different from those found in the VIIa or VIIb series.

As already mentioned, the interior flaws found in VIIc (1) are similar to those found in VIIa (2), and VIIb (1), while those of VIIc (2) are similar in a few respects to the interior flaws found in VIIb (2) sheets.

There are a few individual characteristics which appear in VIIb (2) and not in VIIc (2), and vice versa, particularly in VIIc (2) where there are several stamps with dark horizontal lines.

These differ from the multipositive scratch on 4-1, in that they do not show a white centre, and appear dark throughout.

A characteristic of this VIIc (2) printing is the exceptional clarity of the screening.

This was also shown to the Official of the Government Printing Works, who explained that this, in itself, was not sufficient proof of a change of cylinder, as there are so many factors which affect the clarity of detail, such as the quality of the paper, and the ink and pressure used.

So beyond the fact of these dark lines on VIIc (2), we have nothing definite to prove yet another change of interior cylinder, and it must, for the present, be taken that these are cylinder flaws, due to damage.

Mention must also be made here of one obvious acquired exterior multipositive flaw which appears on Row 20 No. 6 in both printings of VIIc, and in Plate VIII (cyl. 2/37), and nowhere else, viz., a clear dot in the top gutter margin above D-A.

This must prove, if further proof is required, a change of exterior cylinder for the VIIc printings.

This flaw was also pointed out to the Official of the Government Printing Works, who agreed with our supposition.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Plate V. | Int. Cyl. 6913 | Ext. Cyl. 10 |
| Plate VI. | „ 6913 | „ 64 |
| Plate VIIa (1). | „ 8 | „ 21 (presumably) |
| Plate VIIa (2). | „ unknown X. | „ 21 „ |
| Plate VIIb (1). | „ unknown X. | „ unknown A. |
| Plate VIIb (2). | „ unknown Y. | „ unknown A. |
| Plate VIIc (1). | „ unknown X. | „ unknown B. |
| Plate VIIc (2). | „ unknown Y. | „ unknown B. |
| Plate VIII. | „ 2 | „ 37 |

We give above a summary of the findings as shown in the text.

From this it will be seen that there are, at least, two frame and two vignette cylin-

ders which have never been recorded.

A list of flaws, together with charts, follows.

(to be continued).

REVIEWS & NOTICES

Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue 1959, Part II Europe and Colonies. Price 27/6.

In the history of Stamp Catalogues no publication has ever compared with "Gibbons" in its universal supremacy.—This Catalogue has ruled the world's prices for stamps for about a century and every new edition is eagerly awaited and scurrilously slandered immediately after its appearance. This new edition is no exception to the modern rule; but is it fair, this criticism?

During the years between the wars it became the practice for collectors to base their exchange prices on ½rd Gibbons and old habits die hard. Today Gibbons' prices are, on the whole, very closely related to actual market prices ruling at the time of going to press; but second-grade or poor copies of all stamps may always be purchased at prices very much below catalogue and this applies in particular to mixed collections of the commoner stamps—the so-called "packet material."

No catalogue can be fairly expected to price all stamps at market value on the day of publication—printing large editions of any book takes considerable time and Catalogues cannot claim exemption from this inexorable rule.

On the contrary Gibbons are very much to be congratulated on this new edition of the "Green" Catalogue. All prices have been carefully reviewed by the Editors and Publishers and many alterations made resulting in a realistic listing of prices for the great majority of the stamps listed.

Carping critics should remember that no one can possibly forecast six or more months ahead sudden demands for the stamps of any particular country. This leads very often to entirely artificial and inflated prices which may only endure for a short time and are not of a permanent character. Speculation is at the root of most of the current ill-informed criticism of Catalogues in general and Gibbons in particular.

The grateful thanks of the sincere collector are once again offered to Stanley Gibbons for another valued addition to our library shelves.

Robson Lowe's Auction Records.

Further to the details given in our October issue it is now announced that the turnover for the 1957-58 season totalled £307,341, exceeding their previous record made in the 1955-56 season by £1,368—a near thing!

The sales through the Auction Department provided a much higher proportion of the turnover during the past season than in 1955-56 when Private Treaty sales accounted for over £63,000. The figures in other departments were all well maintained.

CASPARY SALES

The sale of the Oceania part of this collection at Harmer's, London, on 6th October fetched £37,366.

With the final sale, mainly Japan, in New York, the total for the whole collection should easily exceed £1,000,000, by far the largest sum ever realised for any stamp collection.

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Collectors of British Empire can always find something of interest at most reasonable prices, more especially British Africa mint and used with top values and rarities, and specialized items. For example, recent sales included Southern Rhodesia ½d., 1d. Imperf. between pr., South Africa 43b pair Cat. £50, Rhodesia 1910 ½d. Imperf. pair, S.W.A. 4d., 1d. Both Ovps Inverted, and of course, a steady stream of valuable sets to top values.

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LABELS, stickers, exhibition stamps, etc.—Send me your duplicates and I will send you an equal number of mine.—R. T. LILLEY, The Dingle, Sandford Orleigh, Newton Abbot, Devon, England.

WANTED FOR CASH.—Good collections any kind except Geo. VI. Also Transvaal 1st type and early covers of any country.—DOUGLAS ROTH, Newlands, C.P.

ALWAYS WANTED.—Worthwhile Stamp Accumulations or Mixtures of British Africa, including South Africa. Best prices. UNION STAMP CO., 69 Harrison Street, Johannesburg. Telephone 23-8257.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- (\$2) year. Write C. E. SHERWOOD, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire.

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UNION BOOKLET PANES.—1948 (3/-), 1951 (3/6) and Jipex issues. Complete set of duplicates with sheet reconstruction charts for sale. Inquiries to W. N. Sheffield, P.O. Box 261, Germiston.

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APPROVALS for medium collectors. Want lists invited, any country. — Robemark Philatelists, 103, 14th Street, Orange Grove, Johannesburg.

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BRITISH Colonials, mint 10% below face, used 1/6th Catalogue. Brown, 150 Beaumont Road, Bluff, Durban.

WORLDWIDE EXCHANGE.—Details free on request. International Stamp Land, Box 3374, Sheungwan, Hong Kong.

ISRAEL

On 10th December a 750 pruta stamp will honour the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Proclamation by UN. The stamp will show a slab of stone with the inscription, in Hebrew, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

U.N.O.

Early in February, 1959, two new airmail stamps (5¢ and 7¢) will be issued. The 5¢ will have the same design as the 4¢ of 1957; the 7¢ will depict the U.N. flag and an aeroplane.

(Concluded from page 204).

The Annual Thematics Cup competition took place and the popular winner was our President, Mr. L. Hellman, who gave an interesting talk on Thematic collecting, which he illustrated with pages from his own collection.

October. This was Ladies' Night and some very interesting displays were given; the Ladies also provided light refreshments.

Mr. Leo Hellman reported on Congress and Gepex. Mr. Hellman said the Exhibition was of a high standard, as was the very real hospitality provided by the Germiston Society members and the Municipality.

Mr. Hellman was congratulated on being elected President of the Southern African Federation for 1958-59.

Mr. George Feros received the two awards from the Germiston Exhibition at the hands of Mr. Hellman. He then showed members a nearly complete sheet of the 2½d. 1910 First Union Commemorative.

Three new members were elected and an appeal was made to members to circulate magazines more promptly.—J.P.S.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The seventh Annual General Meeting was held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, on **Saturday, 25th October, 1958.**

The existing Officers and Committee were re-elected en bloc: Chairman, R. D. Allen, Snr.; Hon. Sec./Treas.; Hon. Editor, C. E. Sherwood; Committee: F. C. Abell, E. Lauder, W. A. Page.

In conjunction with the A.G.M. the fifth Annual Exhibition of South African Philatelic Material was staged.

The main highlights of the material on show this year were:—

(1) A comprehensive study of the 1½d. and 3d. pictorial definitives, virtually complete in every aspect.

(2) Another large part of the display was devoted to a composite collection of the Postal History of the Union from 1910, with a little of the Boer War Period thrown in for good measure. This comprised the sheets that were put together for the Paarl National Stamp Exhibition in 1957 and invoked such praise.

(3) Also on show were a selection of Officials and the current definitives, showing the various printings during their four years of use.—W.A.P.

SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

2nd September. The yearly Ladies' Evening. Mrs. G. Smukler continued from last year with leaves from Countries N-V, a colourful lot with many complete sets not often seen. Mrs. Douglas allowed us to see some more of her lovely thematic collection of "Ships on Stamps." Mrs. Pearson had chosen "Nursing on Stamps," which attracted some very favourable comment and Miss J. McSporran had some delightful pieces from her growing collection of "Music on Stamps."

Our problem of finding a suitable meeting room has at long last been solved. From now on our gatherings will be held at the Railway Recreation Club, Strand Street, right in the centre of the town.

On **16th September** we met for the first time at our "new home," a large and well lit room at the Railway Recreation Club. Official business and auction filled part of the evening, the other being taken up with a display by Mr. H. Deschamp of many stamps of Germany, U.S.A., Liechtenstein, Roumania, German States and Colonies.

7th October. Mr. George Smukler presented under the title "Potpourri of Unpopular Countries" an excellent showing of stamps rarely seen at our meetings. We enjoyed learning something about the stamps of many Eastern European territories, and even Siam and Liberia. In all, about one hundred and fifty well filled sheets were shown. Mr. Smukler introduced his display with some well chosen remarks on his "Leit-Motif" for the collection.

O.F.S. AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

At the **September** meeting the exhibits displayed were of the usual high standard.

Mr. C. Kachelhoffer displayed his "Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland." This exhibit covered three reigns and included specimens, imprints, the missing crown and the Edward crown.

From his extensive "Holy Land" collection, Dr. K. Freund chose some 120 pages for display, representing the first three years of Israel proper. The first "Coin" stamps and other early issues were shown in tab and control blocks, introduced with essays and proofs. The rare 1948 Postage Due stamps were shown in blocks of six with "plain tabs." There were many large blocks of the elusive first New Year issue, among them tête-bêche blocks with the so-called "pane" numbers. There were also

major plate varieties, errors of transposed tabs, forgeries and other interesting specialities. The pages made a most attractive show and were alive by showing the background of each issue with basic photos and press cuttings from the war raging at the time of issue.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

15th October. Even though the majority of members of the Society were still feeling the strain of the hard work put in at the recent Exhibition, there were nineteen present to welcome nine members of the Afrikaanse Filateliste Vereniging, Johannesburg, our guests for the evening. Dr. J. J. van Niekerk gave a short report on the result of the Exhibition and the arrangements made for Congress and then handed over to the President of the Afrikaanse Filateliste Vereniging, Mr. B. Slabber. Three exhibits were tabled. The first Czechoslovakia old and new issues by Mr. M. V. Mioch. The second a thematic display of stamps depicting Trains, compiled by Mr. Rossouw and shown by Mr. S. J. Vermaak. Lastly another selection of Mr. W. Lambert's Airmail collection, which had been awarded a Silver-Gilt Medal at the Germiston Stamp Exhibition.—I.S.B.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October 6th. Mr. I. Greenbaum tabled his "Union Air Mails" from 1911 to 1940, a rare collection, much travelled, including a Pigeon Post unused! There were so many covers that I can only mention a few such as the First Aerial Post Kenilworth-Muizenburg December 30, 1911, and January 3, 1912: First Flight Cape Town-Durban 2nd March, 1925: Red Cross Letter Cards of 1918 with large and small wings: First Flight Registered Letter Durban-Cape Town 3rd March, 1925. Rare covers included Basutoland issue First Day cover to Singapore 1st December, 1933. Another (the only one on this aircraft) of the flight from London to Cape Town in record time (landing on the beach at night) by the famous pilot J. A. Mollison, 24th March, 1932. There was also a salvaged cover from the wreck of the "Challenger" which crashed on the East coast of Africa, various other crash covers and flights to all parts of the world. This was only a small part of Mr. Greenbaum's collection and we are asking him to exhibit more later.

October 20th. This was the night for the Certificate of Merit competition. Two collections were entered, namely, Mr. R. Castignani's British West Indies in the two reigns King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II, and Mr. E. C. Wright's Zanzibar 1895-1957. The latter was the winning collection; it included the overprints and surcharges, various sets mint and used, "Specimens" and the various types of postal stationery.—D.J.C.R.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

October 9th. A double showing was made. First there was Mr. S. Giessendanner's "Switzerland," which, as can be expected from a native of that country, was really a fine collection; moreover he was able to give many interesting pieces of information. The second collection was Mr. S. Maroukin's "China." It is seldom that this country is shown and again here was a well set-out collection, explained lucidly.

October 23rd. Col A. B. Mathews showed "Atlantic Islands," which exhibit covered not only the West Indies but also the Falkland Islands, St. Helena and Ascension. Col. Mathews as an ex-Governor of the Falkland Islands was able to give most interesting information re those islands and his collection of the stamps was full of rare items. He was followed by Mr. H. C. Berneaud with his collection of "Dantzig." Mr. Berneaud was for years a resident there and his collection covered pre-stamp days (covers from the 18th century) and then the period under German and Austrian administration, until regular issues and finally the later periods. It was a most interesting collection and his talk on same most enlightening.—M.F.S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

October 13th. This was Lady's Night. The women put the men to shame, the following being exhibited: Mrs. J. Hotz "Union of South Africa;" Miss R. Polchett "Queen Elizabeth II" (a thematic collection of her life from a most original point of view); Mrs. C. Smits "Insects" (a detailed and well set-out collection); Mrs. A. Vergeest "Women on Stamps" (being the beginning of what will be in time both original and interesting); Mrs. H. M. Scott "First Day Covers" (many of the most recent ones); Mrs. J. Chiat "Maps on Stamps" (a real work of art); Mrs. H. Jeidel "Charity Stamps of Belgium 1918-1958" (complete with all miniature sheets—quite a show even by itself); Mrs. W. H. Baker "First Day Covers" (she is a new member and this was a first showing); Miss R. Eisenberg "Scandinavian Kings of the 20th Century" (small but interesting); Miss G. Hoffman "Islands on Stamps" (also the beginning of a well thought out collection). The boards were filled to capacity and it was as well that there were not more women members otherwise a second sitting would have been necessary.

October 27th. A one man show of "Israel" by Capt. M. F. Stern. Shown were covers of the transition period, then complete issues to date, with many interesting covers depicting events in Israel from 1948 onwards. A bright showing and followed by a talk on the postal history of that country.—M.F.S.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October 6th. Mr. W. G. Combrink showed his well-known collection of "Proofs, Trials and Reprints." As usual he was able to give a fine talk on a subject of which he is really a student and master.—M.F.S.

PINELANDS STAMP CLUB

October 17th. Mr. W. G. Combrink was the guest exhibitor and showed many interesting excerpts from his worldwide collection. These proved of great interest and he was able to give an illuminating talk generally on philately. It is given to few to really create interest in the hobby and he is one of the really knowable and forceful speakers down in the Cape.—M.F.S.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

October. The Special General Meeting on the 14th received the Report of Mr. B. Joseph on the winding-up of the previous Exchange System. The Report was adopted and Mr. B. Joseph was thanked for the work he had done in straightening out this matter.

Mr. L. Buchen then displayed part of his Israel collection, preceded by a Paper on the history of the formation of the postal system at the end of the Mandate period. Mr. Hofman, in proposing the vote of thanks, commented on the wealth of fine material and extremely good presentation.

The Meeting of **October 27th** was well attended and the visitors included a contingent from Germiston who brought with them the minor GEPEX awards for presentation to Society members (the major awards were presented at the official banquet). After this pleasing ceremony, Mr. E. Hunt shewed us some 60 pages from his World collection under the title "European Early Issues." Many rarities were represented in these pages and in his speech Mr. Hunt said that it sometimes seemed that they were easier to come by than some medium priced stamps. Commander Enoch in thanking the exhibitor was very appreciative of a group the opening fringes of which he collects himself.—J.M.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September. Three new members were elected and Messrs. L. Hellman, J. P. Shingler and B. Attwell were elected as delegates to the Federation Conference in Germiston

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