

The South African Philatelist

(Established 1923)

Proprietors and Publishers:

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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Annual Subscription:

R1.20, Republic of South Africa; 12/6d., Sterling Areas; \$2.00 (U.S.A.), Elsewhere.
Post Free.

Vol. 41. No. 12.

DECEMBER, 1965

Whole Number 488.

Seasonal Greetings to all our readers and advertisers.

Also good Philatelic hunting during the New Year, 1966

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor:
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,
434 City Centre, Pretoria.

THE REGISTERED LETTER

The procedure of registering a postal article is a common practice and is performed daily by all members of the community. But how many realize the train of events we set in motion, or what conditions we prescribe to, when, after marking the cover with the conventional blue lines, and affixing the extra postage, we hand the item over the counter for transmission by registered post. We depart from the post office with a sense of security, believing that our registered letter will enjoy a safe passage and, if not, we are then in the happy position to receive compensation. But, are we aware of the official conditions under which the post office has accepted our registered article?

The Post Office Guide states that "the object of registration renders the transmission of articles safer, and in the event of loss, secures, in most cases, compensation for the sender." Let us examine two aspects of this

statement, namely "compensation" and "safer transmission."

The degree of compensation we would receive from the Post Office is predetermined, for it is stated that "The Post Office will (not in consequence of any legal liability, but voluntarily, and as an act of grace) give compensation" for the loss of our registered article up to a maximum amount of R10. In the case of the loss of coin, the amount is R4, and payable only if the package containing the money is an official linen envelope.

Poor compensation, we may think, but we must realize that the extra payment we made is only to reimburse the Post Office for the safer transmission of our registered article. The word "safer" is qualified in the Post Office Guide of 1912 as a condition whereby "such articles can be traced from hand to hand throughout the whole course of transmission."

The manner by which compensation is determined dates back to the early Cape days when, in 1792, the earliest form of registration of letters was inaugurated between the Cape, Holland and the Dutch possessions in the East. Jurgens writes that by a proclamation of that year the sender of a letter could, by payment of a small extra fee, receive from the Postmaster a

receipt for the posting of the letter, and also as a safeguard of the letter reaching its destination. No evidence exists to show that the Post Office undertook any responsibility in the event of loss, or that compensation could be claimed. Thus, our registered letter is posted today in accordance with a principle which was established some 170 years ago.

"Safer Transmission," the second aspect of the purpose of registration, imposes certain conditions to which the sender of the article must prescribe. Some of these are: The article is required to be enclosed in a strong cover, securely fastened and sealed with wax or other adhesive substance,—how many seal with wax a registered letter? Stamp edging is permissible but not recommended, and, if used, should have the initials of the sender. Transparent adhesive such as celo tape is not permitted.

The regulations do not prescribe any special markings to indicate that an item should be registered, but on the other hand should an article, containing such marks, be posted as an ordinary letter in the posting box, it is considered as having been "posted out of course"—P.O.O.C., and is surcharged at double the ordinary registration fee less the value of any postage stamps in excess of the ordinary postage affixed to such package.

Incidentally, no authority can be found which would bestow official recognition upon the blue lines which we are in the habit of inscribing upon an article for registration. It has been suggested that these marks are the survival of an old custom and have come to stay. Their origin affords a nice piece of research for someone. Further, the Post Office insists upon compulsory registration for packets containing certain articles such as coin, specie, jewellery, bank notes, uncrossed postal orders and postage stamps exceeding 10c in value. Thus when we purchase stamps from the Philatelic Bureau or when we enclose stamps above 10c in value in a letter to a colleague, we are required to make provision for the article to be sent by registered post.

Let us now consider the manner in which the Post Office treats our registered letter, all the various requirements having been observed.

The letter is presented at the counter, a certificate of posting is given to the sender, a duplicate of which is retained in the office record book and the counter clerk applies some distinctive mark to the cover. The let-

ter proceeds in its involved way, subject to all the safety measures, to its destination where the recipient receives an advice note which he signs and this serves as a receipt to the Post Office for the delivery of the article.

The distinctive marks applied to the covers afford an interesting study. They date back to the early Cape days and they consist of printed forms, manuscript marks, date stamp impressions and labels attached to the article. A few of the Cape marks survived to be used during the early days of Union and were joined by more recent issues. A very short description of the marks in use at present is given here:

(1) **The R.** The "R" enclosed in an oval is one of the earliest impressions to indicate registration. It came into use about 1855.

(2) **The Oval Date Stamp**—was brought into use about 1860 and survived Union. There are two forms of it.

(3) **Manuscript Impressions**—appear to have been used at small and large post offices, probably unofficial at the latter.

(4) **The Rubber Cachet.** Post Offices were equipped with this cachet before the use of labels became universal. They are still to be found in some offices.

(5) **Labels or Tags.** The printed adhesive labels or tags bearing the letter "R" and a numeral are of present usage, but unfortunately and notwithstanding the valuable assistance by the Chief Publicity Officer, the original date of issue could not be determined. However, it is possible to present some other interesting details concerning them.

The tags are supplied by post offices, private firms and government departments. A post office, in order to qualify for an issue, must handle at least 30 registered items per week, while a quota of 1,000 items per annum is set for business firms and Government departments.

Tags are of two main types, A and B. The "A" tag bears the name of the office and the number of the registered item, and is used exclusively by post offices. The "B" tag bears the same particulars, but in addition there is a serial number immediately after the name of the office. It is intended for post offices where registered items are accepted at more than one point, and also for use by firms and government departments. A record is kept of the serial number and thus, in the case of an enquiry, the point of issue of the items can be established.

The tags are available in serial numbers from 1 to 1,000 and from 1 to 10,000. They were originally printed overseas, but since February 1959 they have been prepared locally.

Coming now to the advice note to the recipient or addressee, this is familiar to all of us. It remains with the post office as a receipt, and the introduction of these registration receipts dates back to the early days of the British occupation of the Cape. Originally the receipts were made out in manuscript by the postmaster; later prescribed printed forms were used, and Jurgens states that the later ones were very similar to those of present day usage.

During the period when the present day tags were in use there was still another type of label and it was apparently used at Cape Town and Johannesburg. In spite of diligent enquiries no information could be obtained about these labels. This unhappy condition signifies the unfortunate absence of recorded knowledge of many aspects of South African philately which, although brimful of interest has not received sufficient attention in the past. Although it deals with a minor philatelic condition relating to a very ordinary aspect of our national life it merits an appeal to investigators to make, and to record their findings, no matter how humble or commonplace the item may appear to be.

The information given above is extracted from a paper read by Dr. T. B. Berry to the South African Stamp Study Circle in October 1965.

* * * *



THE CHURCH STAMPS
a description of which appeared in our November Number.

£5,000 FOR HEADLESS STAMPS

London, Friday.

A sheet of 60 Rhodesian stamps, of which 18 have the head of the Queen omitted, has been sold in London to Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealers.

The sheet, which was printed in Britain, is valued at £5,000.

In addition to the missing Queen's head, due to the omission of the green colour, a cluster of emeralds which should be shining have a dull and flat appearance.

The sheet was bought by a commercial traveller at the post office at Juliasdale, Rhodesia. It was brought to London on his behalf by Mr. J. R. Strong, a friend of the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith.

The stamps are the 1s. Southern Rhodesia issue still being used until the new issue of "Rhodesia" is made early next year.—Sapa-Reuter.

(Acknowledgment to "The Star," Johannesburg, 22-10.65).

PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month in
The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Bldg. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town
 at 8 p.m.
 VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

THE THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Meetings 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 8 p.m., in
St. John's Hall, Waterkant Street, Cape Town.
 All interested in Thematics welcome.
 Chapter No. 1 A.T.A. and Africa Section, F.I.P.C.O.
 Issues a Magazine every two months and circulates sales packets.
P.O. BOX 752, CAPE TOWN.

ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL, BLOEMFONTEIN
 at 7.30 p.m.
 Issues a monthly magazine and circulates sales packets to members.
P.O. BOX 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the second and fourth Tuesday every month in the
Staff Recreation Room, Mutual Buildings, Main Street,
 at 8 p.m.
 Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 - PORT ELIZABETH

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 7.30 p.m. in the
Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban (Entrance West Street...door nearest Beach)
 VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED
P.O. Box 588, Durban. Secretary's Telephone 838-682 (Evenings).

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first Monday of every month in the
Council Chamber of the Technical College Church Street East, Pretoria
 at 7.45 p.m.
 VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. Box 514, Pretoria.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets Twice a Month: Second Tuesday and Fourth Monday
 at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
 at 8 p.m.
 VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 4967 - JOHANNESBURG.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meetings are not held, but Members get covers, etc. of special South African flights and other interesting items—more than covered by the small annual subscription.
 News letters sent. Affiliated to F.I.S.A.
P.O. BOX 3654, CAPE TOWN.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria
 at 8.00 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388 — Pretoria
ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor)
 c/r. Rissik & Marshall Streets,
Johannesburg.
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary: P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the
Committee Room, 14th Floor, Corner House.
 Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp (Secretary's Telephone 664-2628)

ORANJE VRYSTAATSE FILATELISTE VEREENIGING

Publiseer maandelikse tydskrif, en verkooppakkies word onder lede gesirkuleer.
 Vergader vierde Vrydag elke maand in die
NASIONALE MUSEUMSAAL, BLOEMFONTEIN
 om 7.30 nm.
POSBUS 702 — BLOEMFONTEIN

PAARL '65

The XXVII Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa was held in conjunction with the National Exhibition in the Town Hall at Paarl during the week 13 - 16 October, 1965.

Congress was formally opened by His Worship the Mayor of Paarl, Councillor Dr. S. J. G. Hofmeyer and an address by the Postmaster-General, Mr. M. C. Strauss, after which delegates were entertained to a formal reception in the Mayor's Parlour.

Matters of philatelic interest and of importance to the Hobby were determined during the session of Congress—particulars of some, we are able to record at present.

Papers: Three philatelic papers were read at the meeting. One, non-competitive, was presented by Mr. N. C. Combrink, and two, competitive, were read by Dr. J. H. Raubenheimer and Mr. J. R. Strong, respectively, and were each given a Congress award. There was no nomination for an award for papers published in the S.A. Philatelist since last Congress.

Awards of Cups, etc.: Mr. J. M. Michelson was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The Skinner Cup was awarded to Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer and the Lea Cup to Mr. S. J. Vermaak.

Election of Office-Bearers for 1965-1966: President, Mr. J. R. Strong; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. G. Combrink (Cape); G. Milner Palmer (Natal); A. L. Meyburgh (O.F.S.); E. Walker (Tvl.); Com. C. E. D. Enoch (Rhodesia); Hon. Editor, S.A. Philatelist, Dr. T. B. Berry; Business Manager, S.A. Philatelist, Mr. S. J. Vermaak; Hon. Secretary of Federation, Mr. K. E. W. Lydall and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. M. Michelson.

Future Congress: Bulawayo, May 1966, and Bloemfontein, 1967, probably October.

The National Exhibition, held under the auspices of the Paarl Philatelic Society, was formally opened by Dr. G. J. J. Smit, Superintendent General of Education in the Cape.

The sponsors of the Exhibition are to be complimented upon the excellent manner in which the exhibits were staged and their organisation of the relevant factors which went to assure the great success of the undertaking. Special mention should also be made of the very welcome and commendable efforts of the Ladies' Committee for their catering of refreshments to the delegates.

There were 160 frames, 40 of which were allocated to the non-competitive section. The awards took the form of beautifully prepared certificates, while the special awards comprised—the Grand Prix to Mr. J. Slagt for his King William III of the Netherlands exhibit; The "Royal Medallion," to Mr. J. M. Weinstein, his Postal Markings and cancellations of Aden; The AFV-Eretoekenning, to Mr. S. Aaron, his study of the Panes and Printings of the Stamps of Israel; The "A.T.A." award, to Mrs. L. Coe, her "The Horse Show" exhibit; "The S.A. Stamp Study Circle" award, to the late Mr. J. H. Bruwer, his First Definitive Issue of the Republic of South Africa, and the "Unipex" award to Mr. R. Jeldel for his Egypt exhibit.

In the Juvenile Section, there were nine exhibits, some of them thematic, some philatelic. All received silver cups while the better exhibits were awarded a certificate as well.

The Postal Department provided a Post Office at the Exhibition where a special canceller was used upon the special exhibition envelopes which were available at the Hall.

Further information pertaining to Congress and the Exhibition will be found in the contributed articles, to the authors of which we extend our grateful appreciation. We regret we are not able to deal with all aspects of the two events in this issue and are compelled to hold some over for a future publication.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: PHILATELIC CONGRESS PAARL 1965

The passing of Dr. Harvey Pirie, brings us to the end of a chapter in the history of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. This may therefore be a suitable occasion to cast our minds back briefly on the history of organised Philately in Southern Africa.

From records kept by the late Doctor, it appears that the first Philatelic Society in South Africa was established in Johannesburg in 1894; it lasted for about a year. Then the Pretoria Society was founded in 1898 and the present Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, in 1899, the same year the Boer War started.

This was the beginning of organised Philately, the getting together of collectors into Clubs or Societies holding regular meetings for the purpose of exchanging stamps and knowledge of stamps. This honour goes to the Transvaal.

Down in the Cape and in Natal, Philatelic Societies first came into being during 1911.

A further stage in organised Philately was reached in 1928 in Durban when seven Societies drew up what was called the rules and regulations of the South African Philatelic Congress. These seven Societies were the foundation members of organised Philately in South Africa.

In 1932 it was decided to change the name of this Congress to that of The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, and that this Federation should have annual meetings. The change of name was to avoid confusion with a similar body in Great Britain.

For comparison one might mention that the British Philatelic Association was founded in 1925. To my knowledge there is no Federation of Philatelic Societies in Great Britain.

To-day we have 31 Societies spread over Southern Africa as follows: Cape, 13; Transvaal, 12; O.F.S., 1; Natal, 2; Rhodesia, 2; Zambia, 1.

The foundation of organised Philately was laid by men such as Sir Howard Gorges, Emil Tamsen, B. Smuts, H. H. Saby, George Smith, Jnr., G. Lovelock, Gilbert, Allis, J. H. H. Chamberlain, A. E. Basden and Dr. Harvey Pirie. Most of these have passed on, but we have amongst us others who have played their part and are still doing their share in the interest of Federation and Philately in general and to whom we are most thankful.

No Congress was held during the years 1940 and 1947, but since 1947 Congress has been an annual inspiration to all who had the privilege to attend. It is also my wish that this 27th Congress will be a very fruitful and pleasant one, the whole purpose of Congress being to enable philatelists to obtain the maximum of philatelic knowledge and pleasure.

One must be careful, however, not to become selfish in one's collecting, but to share this pleasure with others. My message to Congress is, that we, as sincere collectors, must do a kind of missionary work amongst those selfish collectors and others who may be interested in this fascinating hobby.

The potential in the Philatelic field is great, also amongst the younger generation;

and it behoves us to offer assistance wherever possible and not just be satisfied with our own philatelic material and knowledge. We must pass it on and be active members in organised Philately.

Since last session of Congress attempts have been made to bring to the notice of Teachers of this country, the educational value of stamp collecting. This is a slow process and may take several years for the members of the teaching profession to become philatelically conscious. However we will continue in this trend until we see the fruits of our efforts.

I must pay tribute here to the Publicity Bureau of the Post Office and the Chief Publicity Officer and his staff for the facilities afforded Federation in the study of the various Essays kept in the Archives of the Post Office. We are most grateful for the access we have had to this material and for the very helpful and friendly co-operation through which this material has been made available to Federation and stamp collectors.

In this connection I must make special mention of the services of Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer who was responsible for collating the information and who spent hours of his own time in selecting the Essays and having them prepared for photographic reproduction and compiling the descriptive matter that goes with it.

The South African Philatelist: With the introduction of Afrikaans, this publication has improved to a large extent in material and number of subscribers. The Publications Committee has done a fine job during the past year as their report will show.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to all who have been of some assistance to me during my term of office. Our new secretary who took over in the middle of the year without being prepared for the job and to all the members of the Executive Committee for the work they have done not forgetting the sub-committees and their share in organised Philately. Thanks also to Dr. T. B. Berry and Mr. S. J. Vermaak for the production of the must needed Interprovincial Handbook.

I regret that my term of office was so short. One can do very little during twelve months. I am inclined to think that we should consider a longer term of office for the President of Federation in future, in order that he may make the best use of his

experiences gained during the early part of his term of office.—(N. C. COMBRINCK, President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. 13th of October, 1965).

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JURY

PAARL 1965 NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

The Jury consisted of 10 members plus the Chairman. The Paarl Exhibition Committee had decided—with the blessing of Federation—to request the Jury to employ the Frame Judging Method. As this was the first time this procedure was to be adopted at a South African National Stamp Exhibition a detailed discussion took place before the collections were inspected by various teams in the Exhibition Hall.

The Thematic and Topical Sections were judged by the International Rules. After the first reports had been submitted a second inspection by another group of examiners was made and supporting material was called for where this was available so as to arrive at fair and equitable evaluations. Some more difficult collections were once again examined by the full jury and only after that was done a final conclusion was reached. The Jury was able to comfortably finish its task within one day. In all the contents of 160 frames were dealt with these housing 75 separate collections.

I feel personally that in all sections the average standard was good if not to say higher than on previous occasions, although we were not privileged to judge as many collections which could qualify for the gold standard group as at some other National Exhibitions. There is, however, no doubt that South African Collectors do present their collections in a better and more philatelicly acceptable manner than was the case some years ago. This applies especially to the thematic section.

A few suggestions may not be out of place; they are put forward in a spirit of helpfulness. An exhibitor in the competitive section should be careful to select those sheets for mounting in the frames which would give the Jury the most comprehensive insight into his collection relative to the title of his exhibit. After all he is competing for an award. It is further imperative that the title of the exhibit coincides with what

is being shown or entered and described in the brochure.

In some instances, for example, it was said that all the stamps of a country were shown, where in fact the exhibit consist almost exclusively of recent stamp emissions. Research collections should clearly set out the conclusions drawn from the research—this was not always done. If these points are not watched they could influence awards adversely. It is further recommended that collectors do submit supporting material wherever possible in addition to the sheets which are to be mounted in the exhibition range.

The Jury were able to award—excluding the six special prizes—the following, namely: One Gold, seven Silver-Gilt (two of which in the thematic group), 19 Silver (this includes three in thematics), 21 Bronze (of which four in the Thematics) and a combined number of 11 Certificates of Merit. My co-examiners and myself congratulate all these collectors on their successes and thank them for submitting their treasures to our scrutiny.

During the session of the Jury it became apparent that the frame judging method does speed up the judging considerably and Jurors were left with the impression that this new method is in no way inferior to the point system so far employed and could further be used to advantage on future occasions. I also throw out the suggestion that a new award be created, namely a Silver-Bronze. It is felt that the gap between a bronze and a silver award is too great and the suggested new class would, I think, assist future Juries in arriving at a verdict coming closer to the real status of certain exhibits than was the case hitherto.

With these remarks, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like to conclude my report. One pleasant duty, however, remains—my thanks, indeed my sincere thanks I wish to convey to the members of the Exhibition Committee and especially to Messrs. N. C. Combrinck, P. J. van der Merwe and T. G. S. Beukes for the very pleasant and co-operative relationship which existed between us; the facilities made available to the Jury, not forgetting the splendid teas served us by the friendly ladies of Paarl. I would be denying myself a pleasurable duty if at long last, but not least I did not extend to all gentlemen of the Jury my gratitude for the splendid manner in which they tackled their job and for the friendly and

harmonious spirit displayed during our deliberations and their unflinching courtesy and help. It was indeed a pleasure to be associated with them.

G. BULBRING,
Chairman of the Jury.

AIRMAIL AND THEMATICS AT PAARL '65

There were only two competitive exhibits in the Airmail section, both dealing exclusively with aerogrammes, while flown covers were seen in the two exhibits shown in the non-competitive section. Likewise the Thematic Section was small, there being fourteen exhibits.

One missed some of the regular exhibitors but the standard can be judged in that two silver-gilts, three silver, four bronzes and four certificates of merit were awarded. The winner of the A.T.A. award showed a full understanding of the international rules. The general standard was good but one would appreciate seeing more use made of philatelic items, e.g. postal cancellations.

The setting out is really improving and one notes that the write-up generally has been reduced and more emphasis placed on the stamps. It should be noted that although there is no penalty in showing used stamps, such stamps should be either lightly cancelled and if so, not to obliterate the subject matter.

Several exhibitors still show pages devoted to countries and full use of sets, wherein some stamps had no bearing on the Theme or Topic.

The general consideration of condition applies as in the "classic" section. However it is obvious that the international rulings are being more and more understood and, although a smaller number of exhibits are shown, the appearance and standard is really improving. In the junior section, out of nine exhibits, three were devoted to Thematics and it is pleasing to note that two received certificates of merit. There were two fine Thematic Exhibits in the non-competitive section. It can be said that visitors were given a good conception of this form of philately and the exhibitors can be congratulated on their efforts.

Although not strictly Thematic, the Shell exhibit, "Modern stamps can be beautiful," to be seen in the entrance foyer, formed a

fitting introduction to the exhibition and served to illustrate the various divisions into which stamps fit in Thematic collecting, at the same time, making clear that the stamp is the main feature in such collections.

—M.F.S.

REPORTS ON EXHIBITS OF SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTIONS AT "PAARL '65"

At the Exhibition held in the Paarl City Hall from the 13th to 16th October, 1965, exhibits of collections comprising material of a South African flavour (as opposed to those of a Colonial or Provisional complexion) were shown in both the non-competitive and competitive sections.

In the non-competitive section, the material displayed was of a highly commendable standard. An exceptionally strong showing of Essays, Proofs and Specimens, possibly greater than had hitherto been displayed at any single showing, highlighted this section. The exhibit provided by the Post Office, remounted after PREPEX when it was first displayed, naturally contained an abundance of material which only our Post Office possesses, with the emphasis on the Essays and Proofs for the 1926 Pictorial Issue.

Among the entries provided by the South African Collectors Society in England, was a very fine display of Die Proofs, Essays and Colour Trials of the 1910 Commemorative and the King's Head Issues. To conclude this category of material on view was another scarce selection of similar material, including stationery, Die Proofs, shown by Mr. S. Legator.

Magnificent items of the issued stamps of the King's Head set (including the rare £1 in all four corners) and the London Pictorials were the outstanding pieces among the rest of the material in this section. Two excellent study collections were shown by the S.A. Collectors Society, London, whilst the display of Postage Due Labels by Mr. J. Hagger also contained much research. An excellent collection of postcards, comprising a frame of errors, was exhibited by Mr. S. J. Vermaak.

The Airmail exhibits in this section were from two well-known collections and included every known rarity of the pioneer-flight period. The 1919 Cape Town Pigeon Post was emphasized by the appearance of two of the few Pigeongrams known to have

survived. The recently discovered Anglo-Boer War "Pigeongram" was among the material in Mr. J. Burrell's display.

To round off the non-competitive entries were three collections of postmarks which were very well presented.

Turning to the competitive exhibits, the material shown surprisingly contained not one exhibit of Union Adhesives. This fact is cause for concern and perhaps those in a position to influence the situation would do well to consider the reason for this state of affairs. Conversely, the exhibits of Republic adhesives were of a very high standard and between the four entered comprised virtually every existing error and variety. The collections were well written up and tastefully arranged, and augur well for the future of this section of South African philately.

The strength in the rest of the South African material lay in two of the "orphans" of our philately, postmarks (and cancellations) and aerogrammes. Several exhibits were of different facets of our postal markings and made very interesting displays. All showed that a tremendous amount of effort had gone into these collections and that the scope in this direction is vast and, as yet, hardly tapped. Of particular interest was a collection of Shipping Postmarks shown by Mr. R. D. Allen, of London, and which was staged with the other postmark collections although it was a non-competitive entry. Postmarks were also to the fore in the collection of Southern African Aerogrammes which contained a number of the recorded errors and varieties.

In conclusion, for the connoisseur there was some superb material on view in the two sections, with a notable drift towards the "step-children" of South African philately being the marked tendency for everyone to ponder.

A PHILATELIST AT PAARL '65

I know that comparisons are odious, but I cannot help feeling that the general standard of exhibition viewed at Paarl '65 was not up to the very high level of Paarl 1957. Yet some of the exhibits reached a very high standard indeed and would easily have held their own in any past company and will take some beating in future Company. So we must console ourselves with the thought that while the ranks of Philatelists are still increasing, albeit at a slower pace than in recent years, there is a host of newcomers to the Hobby who are showing promise for the future.

I have attended nearly every Congress and Philatelic Exhibition held in this country during the past 20 years and, despite some duplication, especially among the older and better-known collections, I can still find lots of new material to interest me and to enthuse over and which, I hope, will go far to persuading my reader to attend the next Congress and Exhibition to be held at Bulawayo next May.

Turning to the Paarl '65 Exhibition I must admit that I was surprised to see the Grand Prix going to a collection of Netherlands which I had not seen before, and that event is proof positive of the very high standard reached by this exhibit. It is difficult to pick out individual items in a display like this where there is so much on offer to tickle the philatelic palate, but I think pride of place must be given to the 1st Issue where each value was represented by copies of all plates and all plates featured copies on cover including a strip of four of the 15c.

The only Gold Award was to a collection of Egypt which started off with pre-stamp entires addressed, as usual, to Venice as far back as 1421. Among such items was a particularly pleasing "overland mail" and a later one carried by the successors to Mr. Waghorn in that venture. Among the actual stamps themselves was a nice used copy of the 1866 twenty paras, perf 13, and a bisect of the 2 piastres on piece, besides a number of covers with "retta" postmarks and a fine selection of the essays which followed the first issue but were not adopted.

The remaining competitive collections, on view, contained many items of more than passing interest and the highlight in this category included such items as Rhodesia Double Head Imperf pair of the ½d. green used on cover and a pair and a corner single

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of the £1 error of colour besides an array of proofs and specimens of the other B.S.A. Issues.

Among "pre-Union" items one noticed the complete absence of Cape Triangulars and Natal, but a very early O.F.S. pre-stamp cover inscribed "O.F.S. Ship Letter" with M/S date 16/6/58 and M/S "PAID BLOEM-FONTEIN" must surely be unique, while the Transvaal was represented by a cover bearing the rare Potchefstroom Handstruck 6d. of 1869 and a used copy of the first 6d.; a fine range of the "V R Transvaal" overprints and a copy of the Edwardian 1d. with Anchor Watermark. Pietersburg was represented amongst other items by some remarkable Proofs in Complete Sheets.

The three Protectorates gave us a good selection of the various decimal surcharges and some very nice copies of the old rectangular Capes used in Basutoland completed the picture very adequately.

Belgium Congo was well to the fore with a good range of the earliest including a number of the "COLIS POSTAUX" surcharges and a fine selection of the re-entries in the first pictorials with both the handstamped and typographed "CONGO BELGE" overprints of 1909, and ended with a brave showing of the neglected TAXES overprints.

Amongst some very pleasing Canadians I particularly noted the 3d. plate proof overprinted specimen and a pair of the 1851 6d. besides the 1897 Jubilee Mint Set. Some fine displays of Israel were on show and I was particularly impressed by the French Consular Post Office 20 m on 6 fcs on cover, a scarce item, and by a fine display of covers of the Interim Period.

Some nice early Greece including a few covers were the next item to attract my notice followed by a complete mint sheet of the 1861 Newfoundland 6d. with paper-maker's watermark, now, alas, a very difficult item to find in pristine condition.

I was very struck by a collection of Lichtenstein which included many Austrian stamps used in the Principality, some even after the issue of regular stamps for the country. The 1934 5 fc. exhibition number sheet was another great rarity to catch my eye, as was also the very scarce Schweizer Post Vaduz Label.

Among some exhibits of West Indian Islands, I particularly noted an early 1826 cover of Leeward Island, the 1897 Sexaguary complete set and "specimen" stamps of

all reigns, which I also saw (and envied) a particularly nice block of six St. Vincent, S.G. 5, and a magnificent display of Postal Stationery which is only now coming into its own.

Apart from unused copies of the Monaco 1885 1 f and 5 fs I was impressed by a fine study of the forgeries of these stamps, while the best of many good items in Switzerland was, by my way of thinking, a fine cover bearing one each of the Rayon I and Rayon III.

I was interested to see a selection of the stamps of Sudan, with a fine study of the various types of the first overprint and the forgeries of these very interesting stamps. A highly specialised study of the Israeli Printings was a good tribute to the owner who had obviously put a great deal of work into his research.

A fine plating study of Danish locals showed that the spirit of research in unpopular fields of philately is certainly very much alive in this part of the world and a pleasure to see, while a collection of Roman states was remarkable for the wealth of covers displayed.

That the study of the Boer War continues to grow in popularity was evident by no less than three exhibits which between them covered every aspect of this field and I was only sorry that I could not spend more time examining these. As it was, I was particularly struck by the quantities of cover shown and by a fine study of some of the numerous forgeries of these items.

I was a little disappointed with some of the non-competitive displays which did not strike me as a sufficient worth to justify a position of eminence at a National Philatelic Exhibition, but even so, there were many fine items on display, notably a collection of Australian Italy mainly on cover and including such items as 5 centesimi printed on both sides with St. Andrew's Cross on the reverse and the Verona 30c Postal Forgery used on cover, all very fine items indeed. Some very fine items of German States and of German colonies were also offered for our instruction and included many rarities from both sections, all far too numerous (!) to mention individually while two frames contributed a fine show of classic and other varieties which are seen all too seldom out here as most of the world's big collections of such items are, unfortunately, concentrated in Europe and the United States.

Finally, I would address a few words of encouragement to the Juniors. I was very sorry indeed to see that only nine entries had been attracted to Paarl. To judge from the standard of these, there must be many youngsters who are hiding their lights under bushels for fear of ridicule. Let me assure them that this is quite unnecessary—these boys and girls are the Philatelists of tomorrow and no philatelist of yesterday or today will ever do anything to discourage them—on the contrary! I was glad to see that more of the youngsters were tending to go in for “philatelic collecting” as opposed to “thematic collecting” than in past years, and this is a most encouraging sign for the future of philately in Southern Africa. Amongst other items, I noted the collecting of controls, a group which has been sadly neglected by the Seniors during the past 20 or 30 years and also the makings of a fine philatelic student in the boy who showed a study of the printings of the First Republican Issues of South Africa. Well done, I say, to all the youngsters who will, I have no doubt, be seriously challenging the oldsters in a few years.

PAARL IN RETROSPECT

For years, whenever the subject of Annual Congress crops up, we would hear “Ah, but wait until you go to Paarl.” It was obvious that the reception given by Paarl, some years ago, to delegates, inured to numerous congresses, left them with abiding recollections of that intangible something that the place does to one. So this year we expected something out of the ordinary, and we were not disappointed.

The beauty, cleanliness and orderliness of the Paarl Valley, we felt, justified the claim by the Mayor of it being the Switzerland of South Africa. That impression was heightened at the climax of the entertainments when the banquet was held at Fransch Hoek, not far from the Huguenot Monument. At the Excelsior Swiss Farm, aptly named, where the banquet was held, we were served by waitresses and stewards in bright Swiss costumes and which became them so well. The numerous show cases with their bric-a-brac of Swiss musical instruments, meerschau pipes and so on, the vistas of copses and dells and the chalet style of the building gave an air of tranquillity. And with that atmosphere the serenity of Western Province life blended.

It showed its effect on the speeches made. On the one hand were our hosts led by the two Combrinks, the one, our President, relaxed and happy at the conclusion of his months of effort, the other, from Cape Town, no laggard in the spinning of the felicitous phrase — did someone mention that he is a descendant of the great artist Combrink of Cape Silver fame? On the other hand were the guests and their spokesman, the benign A. L. Meyburgh of Bloemfontein. Then there was the V.I.P. but withal a warm personality, J. D. Rossouw who rounded off a quadruple role during the week—first of all winning a silver diploma for his Pietersburg exhibit, then setting the ball rolling at the opening of the Exhibition, then conducting a tour of the Huguenot Museum of which he is the chairman, and finally this address at the banquet.

There he contributed a gem of bathos. He built up an atmosphere, and in an awed silence gave us a story of the growth of the Paarl Philatelic Society, the log house to White House sort of thing. The fulfilment of a dream to establish an Afrikaans Society, proper home of Afrikaans, the first in South Africa. Herculean efforts were crowned with success. “We started with fifteen members” he said, “and now we have—twelve.” It was possibly a masterly understatement but, whatever the number, they performed wonders. When they rose to the toast “our guests,” and there were scores of guests, ten stood up. Indeed, it was rather touching. One did feel like plagiarizing the immortal, so much being owed by so many . . .

The delegates were taken on a round of sightseeing; to Wemmershoek Dam with its beautiful rock gardens, Rhodes fruit farms, historic houses Rhone and Boschendal, ending up in Stellenbosch for another mayoral cocktail party. Stellenbosch was beflagged, V.O.C. pennons along the streets. Such was the spirit of jovialty in the crowded bus that some ribald wit ascribed the decorations to an advertising campaign of a well-known oil company.

As to be expected from Paarl the KWW entertained the delegates to a wine tasting evening and that following the party at Stellenbosch the same afternoon. Fortunately Congress ended that morning so brevity in speech could now claim no virtue. Also Rembrandt cigarette people showed their model factory just as we had seen it in their cinema ads; the flower beds brilliant in their velvety lawns which reminded one

of our elusive 10c emerald green stamps. No chewing cutworm nor crawling caterpillar to mar this eden, and why? Tobacco dust of course.

One evening was set aside for a meeting of the Stamp Study Circle; a large number of people attended. The formal discussion was on a topic of popular interest, the registered letter, and started off by a lucid paper by Circle founder Dr. T. Berry. There were no abstruse subjects brought up with which to confuse or dishearten the novice. The auction was interesting too, a number of strips of the new ½c Republican stamps with black sheet numbers had been presented to the Circle and auctioned for Congress funds which benefitted by nearly R17.

There was a modicum of confusion, regarding hotel accommodation in the beginning, but that seemed to sort itself out. The ladies' entertainment committee under the president's lady gladdened our hearts with their home-made delicacies, particularly appreciated by those who were hotel based.

The opening of Congress was attended by quite a few Post Office heads; from Pretoria we had the new Postmaster-General, Mr. Strauss, and the Chief Publicity Officer, Mr. Nel, who had brought down the re-arranged essays from their archives. A couple of papers were read—something that has not happened for some years. Most of the faces were familiar from previous congresses, but a newcomer from Rhodesia flashed meteor-like across the scene, impressed himself, read a paper, earned an award for it and was gone, all in a couple of days; off overseas, we understand on affairs of state. To round off the story he was elected President for the next year. Oddly enough, as things are now, it will be for much less than a year as Congress will be held at Bulawayo in Rhodesia in May of next year instead of the usual October. Coincidentally a couple of well-reasoned suggestions had been put forward for a term of office of President to be longer than one year.

A never wearying problem has been discussed year after year at meetings, and to the onlooker it appears impossible of lasting solution. And that is the question of frames, those stands to hold the exhibits. Masses of data have been furnished; we know all about angle iron, slotted iron, glass, sizes, volumes, weights, raiilage, storage, availability of material (generally non existent) and costs. So, little Paarl had to face the problem, and judging by the laconic report

to Congress, it was really no problem at all. Neat wooden frames were made, the wood redeemable by a builder, glass was borrowed and the cost negligible.

And so the week drew to a close. The kindness of the people of the valley was shown in a little scene at Paarl Station on Saturday morning while we waited for our train. An elderly coloured woman, barefooted but with her new shoes under her arm, and obviously under the influence of one of Paarl's products from the grape, approached a couple of railway officials, and was politely questioned and helped when she asked them "Asseblief, mijnheer, hoeveel kos die trein hiernatoe?"

(Literally translated: "Please, sir, how much the train costs to here."—Ed.).

It transpired much later that her husband at Worcester wanted to visit her. And that was our farewell to Paarl.

ADDRESS BY PROF. DR. G. J. J. SMIT AT OPENING OF THE NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION AT PAARL—13/10/1965

On looking around this hall at the various collections of stamps, the ordinary man in the street will be puzzled by this extraordinary trait of human interest. He will ask: "Why this insane interest in stamps; why all this trouble to arrange them?" It will then be evident that he knows very little indeed about a very important side of human nature. **The urge to collect** or to possess various objects of interest is a habit as old as the human race itself. From the dawn of history man has collected precious stones, slaves, livestock and similar goods in which he had a special interest. This urge is also evident today. Observe the school-boy who collects marbles of various colours, tops, pencils, and such-like articles.

Metal coins appeared round about the 8th C. B.C in the Greek states of the Mediterranean world. We are told that hardly a century later men were already busy assembling collections of coins. These collectors were usually wealthy merchants or scholars who were fascinated by the variety of coins that could be obtained from so many surrounding countries. It is the variety that captured their imagination and curiosity and prompted them to undertake

(Continued on page 268).



DIE OOR- EN BYGEDRUKTE POSSEËLS VAN DIE KAAP DIE GOEIE HOOP

(Deur N. C. Combrink)

Vervolg van die vorige uitgawe.

Betsjoeanaland.

Daar is altyd verwarring tussen Brits-Betsjoeanaland en Betsjoeanaland-Protectoraat. Die eersgenoemde was net noord van die Oranjerivier en Wes-Griekwaland geleë, en sluit die vroeë Republieke van Goosen en Stellaland in met hoofstede Mafeking en Vryburg onderskeidelik; aan die wesgrens lê die Transvaal. Noord van Brits-Betsjoeanaland was Betsjoeanaland-Protectoraat wat tot aan Rhodesië grens.

In 1885 toe Sir Hercules Robinson goewerneur van Kaapkolonie was, met Cecil Rhodes in die Kaapse Parlement en president Paul Kruger in die Transvaal, is die gebied van Goosen en Stellaland aan die Kaapkolonie gelas, as Brits-Betsjoeanaland. Die Britse generaal, sir Charles Warren, het op 7 Februarie 1885 Vryburg ingeneem en die posverkeer onder militêre beheer geplaas. Kaapse posseëls is toe gebruik met oordruk „Military Telegraphs;” hulle was die 6d. en 1/- waardes maar was alleen op telegramme en telegrafiese koeverte gebruik. Eers op 30 November 1885 het 'n besending Kaapse posseëls oorgedruk „British Bechuanaland” te Mafeking aangekom. Hulle is op 2 Desember 1885 in gebruik geneem.

Die oordrukke is in Kaapstad deur Richards and Son gedoen. Die waardes op C C, C A, en anker watermerk-papier was soos volg: ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1/-. Daar was heelwat foute met die oordruk, soos dubbele

oordruk in swart en rooi en selfs vervalsings. Een van die vervalsings is die oordruk op die 5/-. Hierdie waarde is nooit amptelik oorgedruk nie.

In 1889 is die halfpennie Kaapse seël met watermerk anker, in groen oorgedruk. Meeste van die foute met hierdie uitgawe, soos dubbele oordruk en weglating van die woord „British” vind 'n mens alleenlik op ongebruikte seëls en kan bes as proewe beskou word. Dieselfde halfpennie-seël met watermerk anker, is in dieselfde jaar met die woorde „Bechuanaland Protectorate” vir gebruik in die Protectoraat oorgedruk.

Tot dusver was alle oordrukke horisontaal oor die posseëls, maar in 1891 verskyn die een- en tweepennie-seëls met die woorde regop oor die seëls. Daar was van 1893 tot 1895 nog meer oordrukke, in sommige gevalle lees die woorde „op” en in ander weer „af”.

Die verwarring met die twee Betsjoeanalande het veroorsaak dat daar in 1897 'n halfpennie Kaapse seël oorgedruk „British Bechuanaland” verskyn het, terwyl daardie deel van Betsjoeanaland alreeds twee jaar vroeër op 16 November 1895 by die Kaapkolonie ingelyf was. Die besending posseëls was vir die Protectoraat bedoel en is na Mafeking gestuur en in die Protectoraat gebruik. Die fout was nooit herstel nie. Daar was nog twee herdrukke met dieselfde woorde op die seël. Die drie verskillende oordrukke kan onderskei word deur die wydte tussen die woorde en die lengte van die woord „Bechuanaland;” hulle is 13, 10½, en 13½ mm. en 16, 15, en 15 mm. onderskeidelik.

Hierna is die Kaapse posseëls nie meer gebruik nie en is alle oordrukke vir Betsjoe-

analand-Protectoraat op die posseëls van Groot-Brittanje gedruk.

Rhodesië.

Sewe denominasies van die Kaapse posseëls met waardes van ½d. tot 1/- was met die woorde „British South Africa Company” oorgedruk. Cecil Rhodes was destyds Eerste Minister van die Kaapkolonie en ook die hoof van die Geoktrooide Maatskappy van Matabeleland, later Suid-Rhodesië. Die Maatskappy was kort van posseëls en gevolglik was die Kaapse seëls vir hierdie doel gebruik. Die oordrukke was nie deur die gewone drukkers onderneem nie maar wel deur die Argus Printing Co., Kaapstad, wat vir die eerste keer hierdie soort werk verrig het. Dit was in Mei 1896 toe hierdie oordrukke verskyn het. Die uitgawe was maar tydelik, tydens die Matabele-rebellie. Met hierdie oordrukke het daar ook foute verskyn, op die 4d. waarde is daar 'n geval waar die woord „Company” weggelaat is. In ongebruikte toestand het hierdie seël vandag 'n hoë waarde.

Oranje-Vrystaat.

Gedurende die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog in 1900, het die Vrystaatse posseëls wat met die letters V. R. I. oorgedruk was en deur die Britte gebruik was, skaars geword. Drie Kaapse posseëls met die ontwerp van „Hoop wat staan, met die anker” en waardes ½d., 1d. en 2½d. is toe in gebruik geneem. Hulle is met die woorde „Orange River Colony” oorgedruk. Foute met die eerste oordruk was o.a. geen punt na die woord Colony, die „O” van Orange uitgesak en 'n dubbele oordruk. Hierdie foute is met latere oordrukke reggemaak.

Kuruman.

Kuruman, 'n klein handelsdorpje met 200 inwoners, suidwes van Vryburg, was tydens 1899 plaasgevind en het net ses dae geduur. Alhoewel daar geen egte posstukke van die beleër. Die beleëring het op 13 November die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog deur die Boere tydperk van beleëring gevind is nie, het daar tog vier waardes van Kaapse posseëls verskyn. Die bydrukke was op die 1893-1898 uitgawes van die Kaap, waar Hoop staan met die anker. Die bydrukke was soos volg: 2d. op ½d., 3d. op ½d., 3d. op 1d. en 1/- op 1d. Daarby was ook die woorde „BESIEGED 1900-1.”

Stephen Rich skryf in sy boek „Philately of the Anglo-Boer War” dat die bydrukke vervalsings is, maar daar het wel enkele koeverte met posseëls deur die pos gegaan. Die posseëls was moontlik eg oorgedruk,

maar weens die kort tyd van beleëring, het hulle nooit in gebruik gekom nie; die wat deur die pos gegaan het, of met die posstempel bedien is, is moontlik gedenkstukke wat sommige van die inwoners van Kuruman bekom het, want vir hulle was dit 'n historiese gebeurtenis.

Die Transvaalse Museum besit 'n egte stel van die Kuruman bydruk. Daar is wel vervalsings van ongebruikte seëls in omloop, maar hulle is net so skaars soos die egte seëls.

(Word vervolg).

* * * *

VOORUITSIGTE

Australië.

Die Posmeester-generaal het bekend gemaak dat desimalisasie in Februarie 1966 in Australië wegspring met 'n reeks van 21 posseëls en verskeie stukke pospapier. Die seëlreeks sal bestaan uit die waardesoorte, 1 tot 10c, 13, 15, 20, 24, 30, 40, 50 en 75c, en 1, 2 en 4 Australiese dollars. Daar sal ook 3c en 4c rolseëls wees. Die pospapier sal uit die volgende bestaan: 9c lugbriefvorm, twee groottes 4c en een 24c koevert, 'n 4c briefvorm, 'n 4c briefkaart en 'n 4c koerantomslag.

'n Desimale reeks sal later vir gebruik in Australiese Antarktika uitgereik word, ook vir die Cocos-eilande (Keeling-eilande) Middelerwyl sal die Australiese desimale seëls in gemelde gebiede gebruik word.

Ander Desimale Uitgawes.

Gilbert- en Ellice-eilande, Nauru en Norfolk-eilande, al drie op 14 Februarie.

Nederland.

Die derde eeu van die Nederlandse Marinierskorps word op 10 Desember herdenk en vir dié geleentheid sal 'n 18c-seël in blou en rooi uitgereik word. Die seël toon twee mariniers; een uit die jaar 1665 en een uit die jaar 1965 en wel na die ontwerp van die kunstenaar Titus Leeser.

Ryukyu-eilande.

Vanjaar se Nuwejaarsgroete-seël sal 'n veelkleurige 1½c wees en is vir 10 Desember bepaal. 'n Perd is vir die ontwerp gekies omdat die jaar 1966 „Die jaar van die perd” in die tradisionele oosterse diereriem is.

Swede.

In die reekse vir Nobel-pryswenner, is die uitreiking vir 1965 aan von Lenard, von Baeyer, Koch en Sienkiewics gewy. Eersgenoemde twee word op die 30 ö afgebeeld en laasgenoemdes op 'n 40 ö. Die seëls sal op 10

Desember uitgegee word en altwee sal in rolle van 100 seëls en boekies van 20 wees.

Philippe Eduard Anton von Lenard (1862-1947) was 'n Duitse wetenskaplike wat die Nobel-prys vir sy werk oor die negatiewe pole ontvang het.

Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Adolf von Baeyer (1835-1917) was 'n Duitse skeikundige wat in verband met die ewolusie van organiese skeikunde presteer het.

Robert Koch (1843-1910) was 'n Duitse medikus wat die Nobel-prys toegeken is uit erkenning vir sy dienste en ontdekkings in verband met tuberkulose.

Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1816) was 'n Poolse skrywer van epiese verhale van buitengewone verdienste en het gevolglik die toekening vir sy literêre werk ontvang.

Zanzibar.

Sovêr is drie gedenkuitgawes vir 1966 aangekondig: herdenking van die opstand, in Januarie; die vereniging van Zanzibar en Tanganjika, in April; en vry-onderwys, in September. Nadere besonderhede is nog nie vrygestel nie maar daar word gepraat van drie of vier seëls per stel met 'n totale waarde van nie meer as 50c elk.

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RONDSENDDIENS. NUUSBRIEF
Seëlverkope met elke vergadering.

(Continued from page 265)

the systematic study of coins. In our country the recent "switch over" to the decimal system has similarly aroused great interest in the obsolete tickey, penny and crown. The study of coins therefore extends over a period of more than 2,000 years.

Stamp collecting on the other hand is an activity of very recent origin. The story of this activity is none the less equally fascinating and exciting. This story began in Britain hardly a century ago. Britain was then in the throes of what the history books call the "Industrial Revolution." It began with the invention of the steam engine and created prosperity but also the grimy factory town and the ugly slum. The Industrial Revolution also had particular bearing on the subject of our attention this afternoon, namely stamp collecting. It had brought about a revolution in transport for the steam locomotive raised the speed of land travelling from 8 to about 40 m.p.h. This was indeed a fantastic revolution in transport. Speedy travelling also created need for faster **communication**. This meant that the slow and expensive postal system of the country had to be drastically overhauled. Up to that time the charge for conveying letters over long distances by mail coach or on horseback was high. Moreover, instead of receiving a letter free of charge, as one does today, one had to pay the postman the fee on delivery. One can imagine how much time was wasted as the postman waited at the door to collect the fee payable. Yet this postal system had been in vogue for centuries. All this was changed by a man, Rowland Hill, because he came up with a **new idea** at the very time when the need for a faster postal service was great owing to the rapid increase of trade and commerce in Britain.

At this juncture, permit me to digress for a moment. It is wonderful to reflect what far-reaching results a new idea can have on a country or a people. Let me quote a few examples to illustrate my point. At a time when learned scholars maintained that the world is flat, Columbus argued that the world is round. This idea sent him on his famous voyage of discovery westwards to reach the East. It led to the discovery of a "new world" in many more ways than one. Not only were the Americas and two oceans discovered, but man's concept of geography underwent a complete change for he had proved that the world is round. Let me

quote a second example. Henry Ford did not invent the motor-car. It was, however, his dream to invent a reliable and cheap car for the ordinary man. At the turn of this century he achieved his objective by assembling the T/Model Ford, making it a form of cheap transport through the introduction of mass production. To Ford came wealth and fame. But he also revolutionized man's way of life by making him more mobile. Ford was in fact one of the architects of our modern **age of Speed**. Ford's idea of a motor car for the common man had brought about a far-reaching change in man's social life as our traffic officers know only too well.

But to return to Rowland Hill. He too revolutionized the world as a result of an idea. Under the postal system, just described, the stamp was as yet unknown. The letter merely had a mark which indicated the sum that had to be collected on delivery. What was Hill's idea? He advocated the use of **adhesive stamps** which can be bought at any post office and serve for the payment of postage **in advance**. The stamp on the letter was to be the evidence that the post office had already received its due payment for delivery. Moreover, Hill urged that a cheap form of postage should be instituted so that people would be encouraged to send letters so as to make it profitable to the State.

Parliament accepted his idea of a **penny postage**. On May 6th, 1840, the now famous "penny black" postage stamp appeared in Britain. It bore the portrait of the young Queen Victoria as a safeguard against possible forgery. May 6th, 1840, is a key date in the history of communication for Britain and the world. It allowed men all over the world to correspond freely and easily. That date is just as significant to world history as 1652 or 1910 are in the story of our country.

The idea of using stamps to pre-pay postage on letters caught on at once in Britain. As its advantages became evident abroad, other **countries followed**. It is a curious fact however that the first country to follow suit was not one of the important countries in Europe or America, but Brazil in South America. That country's first stamp issue appeared in 1843. The United States did not issue stamps until 1847, and France and the German states until 1849. By the middle of the nineteenth century the system had spread rapidly throughout Europe and the British Empire which included the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

The story of the introduction of stamps is therefore a very interesting study indeed.

Just as fascinating is the study of the **designs on stamps**. Many countries followed Britain's example in using portraits of their rulers for their stamp designs. Later, however, these were superseded by others such as local scenery, the fauna and flora or historical motifs. Similarly stamps were also issued in a variety of colours, which varied from state to state. All these factors held men's interest and stimulated stamp collecting. It is to this phase of the story that I would now like to turn.

The fancy for **collecting postage stamps** began indeed a short while after the issue of the first British penny and two-penny stamp in 1840. It is on record that Dr. Gray, an official of the British Museum, began collecting them soon after the first issues appeared.

Stamp collecting was not carried out scientifically, however, until round about 1860. The French with their logical minds were the first to attempt the classification of stamps according to some orderly system. In France too it became the custom to paste or gum stamps in special books or albums. Indeed it was therefore a Frenchman who coined a new word for the hobby of stamp collecting, namely **PHILATELY**.

(To be continued).

A CORRECTION

About half way down the first column on page 214 of the October Issue, it is reported that Rustenburg used Slogan 36 in May 1965. This should be 1955.

PARIS BALLOON POSTS OF 1870 AND 1871

By A. Leslie Leon

The heading of this article might justifiably have been "The Mails must get through!" as the story to be told is as exciting as a thriller in a boys' paper or an adventure film.

Just 85 years ago, in September 1870, Paris was encircled by Prussian armies and the beleaguered city had no means of communication even with the rest of France. It was virtually necessary to devise some way of safely getting the mails out of the city and the Parisians were successful in doing so by

two methods—pigeon post and balloon post—so successful in fact that in just over four months more than 12 tons of mails, 238 passengers and 5 dogs left by balloon. Not all the balloons carried aviators, hence the balloons-non-montés, which carried post cards.

At a recent Philatelic Exhibition in Paris, a tableau was staged by the Postal Department depicting some of the activities of those in charge of the balloon posts during the siege, and at an earlier similar exhibition, there was on view one of the actual balloons used for the purpose. The large balloons were constructed in the Orleans Railway Station which could not, of course, be used for its usual activities as there were no trains running.

Meticulous records were kept of the despatch of the balloons, their progress and their arrival points, and also of the mail carried, so that our knowledge of this particular postal exercise is much more detailed than that of many later postal activities. Every balloon, except two, had a name and the miles travelled and the duration of the flight has been recorded, the latter varying from 1¼ hours to 14¾ hours. In all there were 55 flights, the first being on September 23rd, 1870, and the last leaving Paris on January 29th, 1871. The losses totalled only 5, of which 3 were captured and 2 lost at sea.

In addition to ordinary postal matter, the balloon post carried fairly large numbers of specially produced newspapers for the information of the outside world as to conditions in the besieged city and ten different journals of this type are known to have been produced and sent out by this method.

From a philatelic point of view, it is important to realise that the postal material carried was posted originally in Paris and again at a point near where the balloons descended, and a study of the postmarks on any cover or card will tell the history and probably point to the exact balloon by which it was carried. An exception to this was the case where the postal article was handed to the aeronaut direct by the sender, in which case the Paris postmark will be absent.

The stamps in use at the period were those with the laureated head of Napoleon III, but the low values of 1c, 2c and 4c are seldom seen. On October 11th 1870, the stamps with the head of Ceres were re-issued and can be found on balloon letters. Occasionally earlier issues were placed on the missives to be posted but these usages

are extremely rare and valuable. The postage rates are of interest and would appear to have been as follows:

Rate for France: Cards	10c.
Letters	20c.
Rate to Algeria	20c.
Rate to England, Belgium and points near frontier	30c.
Rate to most of Europe	40c.

The rate to the United States was 80c and to South America 80c but letters addressed to New York carried a rate of 70c.

Letters weighing up to 4 grammes were accepted for transmission by this method and about 2½ millions of letters were actually carried.

The foregoing gives the bare bones of this romantic story of the ingenuity of the French Postal Officials, but what vistas are opened up for the philatelist wishing to start a collection of this type of postal history! There are letters with different cancellations of Parisian Post Offices and the postmarks of the forwarding and arrival offices, including military postal markings: the letter-journals to which reference has been made; identification of the various balloons by which the mail was carried; and certainly not the least interesting, the stamps used and their varieties.

ANGLO-BOER WAR— PIGEONGRAMS

By C. H. C. Harmer.

Sometime before Mr. J. T. Burrell's article appeared in your April, 1964, issue, two Pigeongrams were sent to my firm by Commander James Dugdale, a retired R.N. Officer.

The story of these, as far as he was able to tell me, was that he found them amongst Boer War papers belonging to his late father Frank Dugdale, who was born in 1856 and joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry about 1875. However he did not serve in South Africa (the age limit was apparently 35) although his regiment supplied a Company of some 120 officers and men and saw active service. He later became Colonel of the Regiment and was at one time Equerry to the Princess of Wales (later Queen Mary).

Leopardskop. 7 a.m.
 Patrols returned. Found
 Country clear. Leaving
 Observation post on Handskop
 sending Patrols towards
 Bukfontein—all well.
 1.3.02. W. Arnold

The messages respectively
 2 1/16" x 1 9/16" and 3 15/16" x
 1 7/8" read:

(1) Leopardskop. 7 a.m.

Patrols returned. Found country clear.
 Leaving Observation post on Handskop
 sending Patrols towards Bukfontein—all well.

1.3.02.

W. Arnold.

The two pigeongrams were found in an envelope inscribed "2 Pigeon Post Despatches—April 1902." Both are written in ink on thin hard unwatermarked paper and have obviously never been folded and must therefore have been rolled before being affixed to the birds.

There is no obvious connection between Mr. Burrell's message and these two—his being slightly earlier and flown in an area over two hundred miles away.

It is probable that these messages were given to Col. Dugdale by a returning officer but the signatories' names do not appear in the Regimental History or of the Corps of which it was part.

It is therefore probable that both Arnold and Gilfillan were "locals." I have been in touch with Mr. N. H. Gilfillan of Johannesburg whose father "D.F." served throughout the War in the Imperial Light Horse but it seems the only "possible" amongst his relatives was one Jack Gilfillan and I am almost certain the first initial is "I" as it is so similar to the capital "I" in the ninth line. However, it is not unlike the capital "T" in the following line!

Hanover. a.m. 4.3.02. No Despatch 3—
 no news of Boers being in this District. But suspect some
 are at Klipfontein which is Northern position of Zuerfontein
 18 miles W.N.W. Hanover—because farmer of Klipfontein
 took 3 birds out yesterday with instructions to free
 one every morning with a despatch, but all 3
 at the same time. Without despatches if Boers
 came suddenly on the farm—all 3 birds arrived this
 morning, so I have sent out scouts. I. C. Gilfillan
 To a.d.c.—to G.O.C.— ? Naueport
 Bird tossed. 11.15. 4.2.02 —

(2) Hanover. a.m. 4.3.02. No. Despatch 3—

No news of Boers being in this District. But suspect some are at Klipfontein which is Northern position of Zuerfontein 18 miles W.N.W. Hanover—because farmer of Klipfontein took 3 birds out yesterday with instructions to free one every morning with a despatch, but all 3 at the same time without despatches if Boers came suddenly on the farm—all 3 birds arrived this morning, so I have sent out scouts. I. C. Gilfillan.

To a.d.c.—to G.O.C.— ? Naueport.

Bird tossed. 11.15. 4.2.02 —

The second point is that the date of this message on the first line is clearly "4.3.02" but at the bottom "4.2.02". It is a fair guess that the former is correct as everyone knows how easy it is to use the date of the previous year or month just after it ends. Also in the penultimate line I have completely failed to make out the word preceding "Naueport." The rest, translated from army jargon would read "To Aide-de-camp— to General Officer Commanding— . . . Naueport."

The references to "sending Patrols" and "I have sent out scouts" would indicate that the writers were officers.

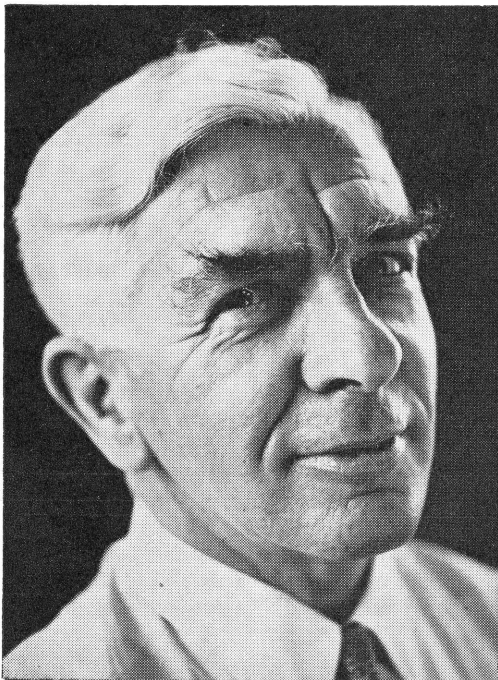
The writing of the two messages is so similar that I am almost convinced that both are by the same hand except perhaps for the signature "W. Arnold" on the first. "No. Despatch 3" may mean the message was sent in triplicate and not necessarily the third message of a series. If this is correct it is not unlikely that both of these are in Gilfillan's handwriting.

It may well be that I. C. Gilfillan and perhaps some of his relatives even outside South Africa were keen pigeon fanciers

since by a curious coincidence in a study of the Great Barrier Island Pigeongrams of New Zealand I have seen a receipt for messages in 1899 from the island to Auckland signed by one E. B. Gilfillan. It is not a common name.

Possibly some of your readers who are students of the Postal History of the period may be able to contribute useful information on these-now-three interesting Pigeongrams and perhaps a few more will come to light.

By the way, where are all the messages sent from Ladysmith? Mr. Hirst apparently had 160 birds there. There ought still to be some in existence.



MEET OUR ADVERTISERS

MR. DOUGLAS ROTH

Douglas Roth was born in England in 1906 and became seriously interested in stamps at the age of 17. He collected generally at first but soon saw that this lead nowhere so confined himself to the stamps of early Roumania and, because some reasonable completion seemed possible, to those of Antigua.

About this time he had the good fortune to come in contact with that famous philate-

list Benjamin Goodfellow, a leading member of the "Royal" and one of the so-called Manchester school who first realised the importance of multiple pieces and made a study of "plating" and stamp production generally. Under Benjamin Goodfellow's guidance Douglas Roth soon saw that philately held great possibilities and interest far beyond filling up the missing spaces. He started to acquire philatelic literature and his greatest moment was when he was able to get a copy of Fred Melville's "Postage Stamps in the Making." This book has now been brought up to date by John Easton, himself a printer, and a copy should be on every collector's shelf.

Time passed by and in 1936 D.R., who had spent the last two years attending to family interests in the Balkans, found himself without a job. About this time he was pressed by a dealer there to part with a certain item from his collection and, although loath to do so, the price offered was so much above what he had paid that he agreed to let it go. This fortuitous deal gave him the idea that it would be nice to turn a hobby into a business and thus avoid work for the rest of his life! Accordingly he returned to England and consulted an old friend, P. L. Pemberton, then the doyen of the London stamp trade. P.L.P. was most helpful and kind and gave him much good advice which, strange to say, D.R. took and he also sponsored him into the trade and this alone was of enormous assistance.

Douglas Roth moved at once to London, the centre of the world's stamp trade, and started up business dealing from his flat postally. His interest being confined to early issues he decided to specialise in them but to deal both in foreign and colonial stamps. By moving around stamp circles in London and learning at all the society meetings he soon acquired a fair working knowledge of the trade and gradually started to accumulate a small stock, always being careful to buy items in really fine condition. This policy turned out a wise one as fine quality stamps give much more pleasure and are an immeasurably better investment. As he points out, "If you buy a stamp that irritates you, you must be crazy."

The first year naturally showed a loss owing to the overhead expenses, but in the second year he broke even which was in fact better than he expected. Then came a great piece of luck. Through the mutual interest in early Roumanian stamps D.R. had come to know Sir John Wilson, who was an avid

student of these issues, and in early 1939 Sir John was appointed "Keeper of the King's Stamps" following the death of Sir Edward Bacon. Under these circumstances Sir John sold his many collections to Douglas Roth who borrowed heavily to buy them. He bought everything Sir John had except Russia and Roumania. Apart from many specialised collections there was a general collection originally formed by Sir John's father and this contained, with the exception of a few great rarities such as the Hawaiian Missionaries and the Post Office Mauritius stamps, practically every stamp issued in the world up to 1900. At one lucky stroke therefore D.R. acquired a wonderful stock and was in a position to supply almost any stamp he might be asked for. In view of the Royal appointment and the fact that Sir John Wilson was President of the Royal Philatelic Society and also of their Expert Committee this deal was given considerable prominence in the philatelic press and D.R. found himself inundated with enquiries for items known to be in the various collections. In fact Douglas Roth was on the map.

However in September, 1939, the war broke out and D.R., who had been commissioned into the Territorial Army in 1926, was recalled to his regiment, the Manchester. The business closed down with a bang—literally! After service in France as a Company Commander and evacuation at Dunkirk, D.R. eventually found himself chosen for Staff training and later, after serving as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General of 54 Division, was selected for service in India and attachment to the Indian Army. Proceeding thence in 1941 the troopship called at Cape Town and this visit so impressed him that in 1948 he returned and settled there.

After four years in India and Ceylon on various staff appointments, D.R. returned to England in 1945 and in September was released from the Army. Restarting his business he found life in England very restricting. Trade however was excellent; prices had risen (much to the annoyance of the older collectors who swore that they must come down) and best of all the Sir John Wilson collections were unbombed and still virtually intact. He was invited to join the Expert Committee of the British Philatelic Association and served on it until his departure for South Africa in 1948 when he settled down in Cape Town content to do less business in a more congenial climate.

D.R. collects personally Reprints of Classic

Stamps and has five volumes of them which serve as a valuable reference collection. He also has a small collection of Capes. Earlier this year he acted as Commissioner for South Africa for the WIPA '65 Exhibition in Vienna and while over there was invited to join the Association of International Philatelic Experts which has its headquarters in Paris. He is also the happy owner of what is certainly the finest philatelic library in private hands in this country and he is always more than willing to make it available to his clients and friends, the terms being generally synonymous.

Regular visits overseas enable him to keep in touch with world markets and replenish stocks. Maintaining an excellent and varied stock of the early issues of all countries, both foreign and colonial, Douglas Roth divides his time between philately, fishing and a little photography.

BENN STAMPS ON "POST AGE" CRITS

LONDON, Wednesday.

Britain has learned a trick or two from such pocket handkerchief states as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino.

In only nine months in office, the Labour Government has issued more postage stamps than any previous British Government.

But the move, though money-making, has also led to controversy—not about the issue of commemorative stamps as such, but about their designs. Both the Churchill issue and the proposed Battle of Britain series have met with sharp criticism.

The Postmaster-General, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, explains that he is trying "to escape altogether from the idea that stamps are simply convenient money labels for postal purposes, in some way linked with heraldry."

Nevertheless, the eight new sets issued so far this year, with all their innovations, retain one unique British feature. Alone in the world, they do not bear the name of their country—the country where the postage stamps were first invented by Mr. Benn's 19th century predecessor, Rowland Hill.

As part of its campaign for brighter stamps which will advertise Britain abroad, the Post Office has just awarded a two-year fellowship to an artist whose task will be to design new stamps to do just this.—(Sapa-Reuter), Johannesburg, 15th September, 1965.

NEW NAMES FOR THE ALBUM

The newest name in the British Commonwealth of Nations is the Federation of South Arabia which issued its first definitive stamps on April 1st, ten values, from five to seventy-five fils in monochrome and four higher values, one hundred fils to one dinar, (£1) in six colours. The lower values show the Crest and the higher the Flag of the new Federation, which had already issued two commemoratives on November 25th 1963 to mark the Centenary of the International Red Cross.

Geographically this Federation, which came into being in March 1963, comprises the former Crown Colony of Aden and the Aden Protectorate (Western and Eastern) although some of the States in the Western Protectorate are excluded as are the Kathiri and Qu'aiti Sultanates of the Eastern Protectorate.

Another new name, Tanzania, (until October 29th 1964 the separate countries of Tanganyika and Zanzibar) appeared on four stamps on April 15th, issued by the East African Postal Administration for use in Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya. On attaining Independence each of these three countries issued their own stamps but as they are all members of the East African Postal Administration their stamps are all valid for use in each others countries.

Despite the fact that the Olympic Games issue bore the word Zanzibar, it was not on sale or valid for use in that country, neither is this latest issue because at present there is a separate Postal Administration in Zanzibar and Pemba.

Similarly the commemoratives issued on July 7th 1964 when the United Republic came into being, were not sold or valid in Zanzibar.

This present issue honours a very important event in the World's Rally Calendar—the East African Safari Rally, the toughest of them all. This gruelling test of over 3,000 miles took place between the 15th and 19th of April this year over a terrain ranging from bad to terrible!

The 30 and 50 cent values show the Rally Badge and the 1 sh.30 and 2 sh.50, two cars travelling through bush country.

Further south the mountainous little Colony of Basutoland achieved Self-Government on May 15th and issued four special stamps on that day to mark the event.

Situated as it is, encircled by the Republic of South Africa, one stamp shows its border post with the Orange Free State at Maseru, another some mountain scenery, the third, a Mosotho woman and the fourth the Legislative Building. The set is printed in multi-colour photogravure.—(With acknowledgment to "The Philatelist").

BRITAIN'S FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMPS

CHRISTMAS PICTORIAL AIR LETTER FORMS

Christmas postage stamp designs for the first time in this country, and attractive Christmas-tide designs based on the subject of the Nativity and on Snowflake patterns — these are features of two special Christmas Pictorial Air Letter forms which will be on sale in post offices this year from November 1st to December 31st.

The Nativity design is by Michael Goaman and the Snowflake design is by Messrs. Negus Sharland; both designs include a special Christmas postage stamp—the work of the respective designers.

These Christmas Air Letter forms will cost 10d. each (inclusive of airmail postage to anywhere in the world). The designs are printed in lithograph in five colours.

—("G.P.O. Press and Broadcast Notice").

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

The Inaugural Meeting of the Transvaal Study Circle was held in London (England) on Saturday (13th November, 1965).

The proposal is to cover all aspects of Z.A.R./Transvaal philately, excluding the period already catered for by the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, including Postal History, Postage, Telegraph and other fiscal stamps, Postal Stationery, Postal Routes and Rates etc.

It is hoped to run a newsletter or bulletin, exchange packet, postal and other auctions, as well as periodic meetings.

The success of the venture depends on the extent of support by fellow collectors. Enquiries, comments, and suggestions from any collector, who may wish to consider joining, will be welcomed by L. Molloy-Vickers, 15 Randall Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, England.

OBITUARY

DR. J. H. HARVEY PIRIE

He was my friend—faithful and just to me—it is with sorrowful pride I can now make this claim as Harvey has gone ahead.

I have lost count of the number of years we have been true friends but it is a life-time's span.

Harvey lived a full and fruitful life, always doing more for others than for himself, more for his beloved hobby, Philately, than for acquiring additions to his own collection. A truly lovable, generous character who could not have had an enemy in the world. He could justly be ranked as the Doyen of South African Philately.

What an outstanding record of service to the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg he had to his credit, unapproached and I could even claim unapproachable by any other member.

He joined the Society right back in 1925—forty years ago—so he was the oldest member. This senior position is now assumed by J. G. G. Kupferman who joined in 1931. But Harvey was not just a member. He took an active and prominent part in all the operations of the Society throughout that long period. He was President in 1927, 1928, 1933, 1936, 1942 and always since 1927 a member of the Executive Committee. He was honoured by being elevated to Honorary Life Membership of the Society.

Whilst I do not have the attendance figures at committee meetings, I don't think I should be exaggerating when I claim that Harvey's attendances will prove to be the nearest to 100%. What a proud record for any Society member! This by no means exhausts his services to Philately.

For many years he was the Editor of the South African Philatelist and he was on the Editorial Board from the time this Board was formed until his demise.

He was President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa in 1948.

He was a member of the Expert Committee which functions in Johannesburg, since its inception.

He took a prominent part over the years in all the Congresses held in various cities in South Africa and at the banquets Harvey invariably was called upon to make the principal speech which he did in his broad Scottish dialect leavened by his pawky wit.

A true laird from the Hielands but I never saw him in kilts, nor heard him play the bag-pipes.

Together we attended the congresses in Bloemfontein 1949 and Paarl 1957 but while I have no records of other congresses I feel sure he never missed one.

His own particular interest in stamps was the historical side and his collection of the post-marks of the issues in which he was interested, viz. Antarctica and Swaziland, must be unique.

He exhibited at each Philatelic Exhibition over the years and must have received numerous awards—the only ones I can find in my sparse notes are: a First for Swaziland at East London 1948 and at the same exhibition a Second for Post-marks.

He was blessed with a happy united family. His wife, Mabel, always fully occupied with social work but the true better-half of the home, loyally and graciously completed by their daughter, Lesley, and son, Derek.

Harvey was a first-class journalist, able to write articles on Stamps of interest alike to the collector and the non-collector.

—ERNEST HUNT.

* * * *

THOMAS ALFRED HARPER

In the passing of Mr. T. A. Harper, the East London Philatelic Society has lost a Foundation Member, who seldom ever missed a meeting from its inception in April, 1909, until his last on the 10th September, just two days before he died peacefully in the Mater Dei Hospital.

Born in London on the 16th November, 1879, Mr. Harper arrived in East London at the age of 13 years and joined the staff of Heinrich Knorr, shipping and clearing agents.

He remained with this firm until 1913 when he opened his own shipping and clearing business in East London. This business was carried on under his name until 1954 when it was taken over by the present company, which trades as Harper and King.

Mr. Harper continued working until June, 1964, when he finally retired, having worked for a full 72 years.

He is survived by his widow after almost 54 years of married life, a daughter, two sons and four grandchildren.

Mr. Harper served in the Kaffrarian

Rifles during the Boer War and as a Sergeant Major in the Maxim Gun Detachment saw service in many areas including the siege of Wepener.

Of a modest and retiring disposition he was a highly respected citizen as was evidenced by the large and representative gathering at his funeral. The Rev. Roger Weavers paid tribute to his sterling qualities of character, and quoted the opinion of a leading citizen, who said he was a clean man: Clean in his person; in his attire and in his dealings with his fellow-men. "Tommy," as he was affectionately known, or "T.A.H." as he was wont to announce himself to the writer over the telephone, collected all stamps. When I joined the Society in 1921, I believe he was then the only collector of foreign stamps and he first interested me in the wider world of stamps, instead of collecting only King's Heads of Britain and the Colonies.

He collected revenue as well as postage stamps and was always interested in postmarks. He preferred used to unused stamps and argued that the gum should be washed off the backs of stamps, so as to preserve them for posterity.

His valued advice was sought after by collectors of all ages and, as in his home, so in the Society will he be greatly missed.

—J. P. SHINGLER.

SWEDEN

COLLECTION FOR SALE

Issues to 1936, used only; to 1949, mint and used; thereafter, mint, used and FDC'S.

Catalogued S.G. R560. Selling R280.

EXPLODED BOOKLETS

Stamps catalogued S.G. R330 (as booklets considerably more). Selling R220.

Apply to:

SVERIGE,

c/o P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

RARE BOOK OFFERED

Cape of Good Hope: its postal history and postage stamps by Gilbert J. Allis, 1930.

"This volume forms part of the autographed limited edition with special plates. This edition consists of 50 copies for sale, numbered 1 to 50, and 10 presentation copies numbered 001 to 010."

Copy offered is no. 20, 8 plates in back cover pocket. Bound full grain red Morocco gilt and Buckram.

Write: Advertiser, 50 Judith Road, Emmarentia, Johannesburg.

A piquant item for the collector of the fine and rare.

SOCIETY NEWS

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

August. The encouraging attendance of 35 members and visitors to this meeting was indeed gratifying, for this was the largest attendance for very many months. And the high standard of exhibits and the friendliness of the meeting was their reward.

The first exhibit, by Dr. R. van Zyl Smit, covered all issues since the founding of the **Republic**, but excluding commemoratives. There were only a few major varieties missing. Doctor's method and ideas of displaying his material is to provide the maximum information to other collectors. All recent watermarks and printings were displayed, including the re-drawn designs, and the latest ½c and R1 releases. The scarce 1c from Cylinders B25—26S without watermark was well to the fore.

Mr. A. L. Meyburgh came forward with a new collection covering "**Sports**," which he started only in March this year. He has worked this collection up to a high standard in a remarkably short period. It was interesting to note that, for an ex-Provincial Rugby player, he made a very good showing of soccer on Stamps! Each sport was supported by an attractive heading and sketches, which, Uncle Bert admitted, was the handy-work of some young lady-friends of his! This exhibit promises to develop into the ABC of sport and we look forward to watching its development.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

An excellent attendance at the second meeting of **August** firstly viewed a selection of First Day Covers by Mr. Oppenheimer and then welcomed the Germiston Philatelic Society upon their annual visit to us.

The visitors were led by Mr. Mepheus and the following exhibits were staged:

Mr. Hagger—a first class and highly commendable collection of the Hyphented Rotogravure Issues of the Union, some of the outstanding items being: interrupted printings of the 1d., 6d., and 2d. Union Buildings, comprising an albino vignettes, interrupted printings and doctor blade varieties.

Mr. Hamman—Israel—a very nice collection from a person whom we are told is still a beginner. A magnificent item of outstanding interest was an album cover made of copper with the appropriate Judiac symbols worked into it.

Mr. Sequeira—Australia, consisting of an interesting research collection of the King George V Issues, complete with varieties, plate flaws and re-entries.

Mr. Oppenheimer opened the first meeting of **September** by showing a miniature

Sheet from Czechoslovakia, loaned by Mrs. Koralek—the design being a reproduction of a painting by Titian.

The exhibit of the evening was by Mr. Colin Rosenberg of a portion of his very fine collection of Boer War Covers, covering the period 1899-1903 and including material which is rich in philatelic interest and scarce in availability. Of particular interest, among others, were mobile rubber cancellors strikes which were evident on covers posted from the Glencoe area shortly after the Boer invasion of Natal; covers stamped during the Boer occupation of Ladysmith; a rare cachet, used by a Regimental Postmaster; special cancellations used by the Boer forces invading the Cape Colony; "Hoofdlager" postmarks and many other philatelic jewels of this era.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

There was a very good turnout of 48 members and visitors at the **September meeting**, who were rewarded by an excellent exhibition of stamps. The occasion was the competition for the Maynard Cup, when no less than eight entries were received as follows: Queen Elizabeth Coronation by Mr. Ahlers; Scouting by Mr. Booker; Music on Stamps by Mr. Weymess; Atoms by Mrs. Zannack; New Zealand Healths by Mr. Coombes; The Sweet Industry by Mr. Milner-Palmer; Art (Spanish School) by Mrs. L. Bevis; Lenin on Stamps by Mr. McCall.

The exhibits were of a very high standard throughout and the judges had a difficult job in determining the winner. This turned out to be Mrs. Zannack's "Atoms" with the runner up being Mr. Coombes' "Healths."

The Committee has organised a competition for "beginners" for the October meeting, that is members who have never before won a prize for any exhibit. Exhibits should consist of not more than 20 pages, and it is sincerely hoped that many exhibits will be brought along. Judging will be done by everybody present, i.e. by popular vote.

The **November** meeting will see our premier competition of the year, namely the Union Cup. Entries have already been received, but there's still room for more.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

September. The two exhibits tabled last meeting could hardly have been more different in scope, they were at one in the interest they provided. Mr. Fitstephen's Norwegian "Locals"—in perfect condition and almost complete. Mr. Creewel's Edward VIII—four stamps, overprinted for the Morocco Agencies, multiplied many times to show Control and Cylinder Numbers, varieties, and all the gimmicks for a specialist.

For those who are not acquainted with the object of "Local Stamps," they were is-

sued by private individuals (or Companies), who operated a postal delivery service within towns, or in some cases, between different towns, by arrangement with the Postal Authorities, at a time when the official Postal Service was not sufficiently developed or organised to cope with this domestic service, and handled only "foreign" mail. Therefore "Local Stamps" generally date around the late IXX and early XX centuries.

Our Chairman, Mr. Strong, will be attending Congress in Paarl in mid-October. Remember, the next Congress will take place in Bulawayo—have you made up your mind to help make it an outstanding success?

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September meeting. The Society had the privilege of viewing Dr. M. Peisach's "Israel-Agorot," collection. This exhibit, highlighted by an illuminating talk and excellent colour slides of all the varieties, fully deserved the large number of members present. —(J.W.).

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Sept. 9: Three members exhibited for Commonwealth evening. Mr. L. J. Picton—New Zealand commemorative covers 1945 to date; Mr. J. E. Franklin—G.B. Q. Victoria "Specimen stamps;" Dr. P. Wisnowitz —Falkland Is. and Deps., showing many of the elusive varieties.

Sept. 23: Annual W. Province get-together. Present were representatives from the Belleville, Paarl, Fish Hoek, U.C.T., Aerophilatelic, C.A.S.P.I.P. and Thematic Societies. The visitors were responsible for the fine and varied exhibits shown.

President of Federation, Mr. N. C. Combrink was present at the gathering.—(J.W.).

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September 9: This was the A.G.M. when the following were elected: President, Prof. A. W. Sloan; Chairman, C. Murray; Secretary, Miss L. Middledorf; Librarian, D. Allison; Additional Member, Dr. P. Keller. A quiz was held and was won by Miss E. Speed with 100%. —(M.F.S.).

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

Sept. 13: There were two showings, viz.: "Ghana" by Dr. H. B. Ackerman and "Dogs" by Mrs. V. Coe. The first was a general collection which proved most colourful while the second showed a big advance since it was last shown to the Club. The writing-up

was interesting and gave the stamps under headings of types.

September 27: Again the popular "All Members Night" when the boards were full, each exhibitor being given one frame. The following were shown: "Rarities" by Mr. Shaw; "Islands" (Recent Commonwealths) by Miss G. Hoffman; "New Zealand Covers" by Mrs. H. M. Scott; "United Nations" by Mr. Fortune; "Ships" by Mr. R. J. Clacker; "Man in Space" by Dr. P. L. Vautier; "Postal Stationery" by Mrs. R. Clacker; "Sundry Multicoloured Stamps" by Miss A. Baker; "Indochina" by Capt. M. F. Stern. There was something for everyone and at the end of the evening a prize was given by the Club to each exhibitor. Generally it was a pleasant evening with a friendly spirit.

—(M.F.S.).

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

September 14: The exhibitor at our meeting on 14th September, 1965, was Mr. C. M. Zartz who showed us a thematic display of "Animals." This is a popular theme and Mr. Zartz exhibited only a fraction of his whole collection, which totals approximately 8,000 stamps. The items displayed comprised a tremendous variety of animals including insects of which some were mint and the others used.

The display was an extensive one and included stamps from a number of countries. The colours of the stamps were most impressive, while the printing was of good quality. The sheets were well written up which gave a good guide to the items displayed.

September 28: The meeting held on 28th September 1965 was our annual "Ladies Evening" which was made more interesting as our lady members were competing for the first time for a trophy presented by our President, Mr. T. J. Strachan.

Mrs. Dickson showed us the stamps of Southern Rhodesia from the first issue in 1924 right up to the present time. The stamps were well set out and the used ones were lightly cancelled.

Mrs. Fourie gave us an excellent display of the stamps of Great Britain. The sheets were beautifully written up and all the stamps were in very good condition and well mounted.

Mrs. Ipp exhibited thirteen sheets of the Pro Juventute stamps of Switzerland, all the stamps being fine used.

Miss Mac Sporrans' display was also of Great Britain and commenced with a few air letter forms including the first commemorative air letter. This was followed by some first day covers issued by the Philatelic Bureau and one by the British Philatelic Association, also some official envelopes.

Mrs. Pamensky showed us a few Rhodesian sheets commencing with the 1953 issue followed by the stamps of the Federation. There were also some stamps of Nyassaland and Zambia.

Mrs. Zarnack, one of our country members, had sent in a thematic exhibit entitled "Atoms." This was a most interesting display and many familiar and famous names were included in the stamps shown. All the sheets were well written up and the theme was ably described and developed.

This was undoubtedly the finest ladies' evening we have ever had and it is to be hoped that those who did not exhibit this year, will do so on the next occasion.

The meeting concluded with a short talk by Mr. Strachan on the life of Sir Rufane Donkin after whose wife Port Elizabeth is named. Mr. Strachan stated that he had recently been fortunate enough to obtain a number of letters written by Sir Rufane Donkin and at the end of his talk he put some of these down so that everybody could have a look at them, and we all found them most interesting.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October. The long awaited visit of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society took place this month when a large party under the leadership of Mr. Jonas Michelson braved the icy winds to motor over from the Reef bringing with them four excellent exhibits. Our Society business was kept down to a minimum in order that the members would have ample time to view the collections.

The first collection to go up on the boards was that of Mr. Frankland, who showed his marvellous die groups and specimens of British East Africa, Uganda, East Africa and Uganda and lastly Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. This was really something out of the ordinary and was fully appreciated by our members. Secondly, Commander Enoch tabled his collection of Siam, which covered the World War II period, 1939 to 1945. This small collection is divided up into three or four sections as the Japanese occupation, the Siamese occupation of Kilantan and then a section devoted to the four northern Malay States which the Japanese had handed back to Siam to control, much to the latter's regret. As Commander Enoch mentioned, this was only the start of this collection and, no doubt, in the not too distant future we will be seeing it as a gold medal effort.

Next, we had a fine thematic collection of Birds which had been brought over by Stanley Boss. Divided up into various volumes of which he showed a few pages of each. For instance, he showed Pelicans and their allies, herons and their allies, then birds of prey and fowl like birds followed by cranes and waterfowl. It was rather a pity that we could not have seen the whole collection as the lay-out and writing up was excellent. Thank you, Mr. Boss.

The last collection shown was that of Dr. von Varendorff, who tabled one of Togoland covering the period 1914 to 1939. This included the stamps of Togo, Gold Coast and Dahomey overprinted for the Anglo French

occupation. This is the type of collection seldom seen at our meetings and members fully appreciated viewing it.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

September: The Chairman announced that recently Dr. Max Wulfsohn visited the United States and he had the opportunity of meeting some of the leading Israel Philatelists in that country. He also availed himself of the unique opportunity of acquiring a wonderful collection of J.N.F. Labels.

It was at our last meeting that Dr. Wulfsohn displayed his combined collection, and the Society was given a feast of J.N.F. material which most of us never knew existed.

One of the most interesting facets is that the J.N.F. Organisation in the United States continues to distribute a host of different labels, specially for the Jewish community of America.

Dr. Wulfsohn pointed out in his paper that quite a few other countries have also over the years prepared different J.N.F. labels and the unique position of the J.N.F. Stamps, especially during the Interim Period, has made classics of them.

Coil Stamps.

The Coil Stamps have appeared in strips of 6, 12, 18 and 24. As a matter of fact there are longer rolls of them as well.

Values: 01, 05, 10, of the Zodiac Overprints.

No official First Day Covers were issued by the Israel Philatelic Services, but unofficial ones have appeared on the market.

AFRIKAANS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, JOHANNESBURG

August. Judging by the happenings and sayings at our meeting of the 18th, half of the visiting team from the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg and a fair percentage of our regulars conspired to hold their own meeting elsewhere. Whatever the case, they failed to show up and we can only say that they are the poorer, philatelically speaking, for their absence, for we had a Franklandian treat par excellence, in the form of a fine display of the mint Edwardian stamps of Straits Settlements and an Union Interprovincial exhibit with a strong postmark bias.

The former, which is but a particle of a very extensive collection of Edward VII, had all milling around the display boards in wonderment, one can almost say, for, could all those proofs, colour trials and specimens be real? And when a collection is prefaced by such material, is it not to be expected that everything else would be there—and in immaculate condition? (The absence of the various \$100, \$200 and \$500 cannot be blamed on the exhibitor. After all he is a mere batman compared with the requisite to ownership of such stamps). As Mr. J. Frankland could not be present, we make

use of this means of thanking him for letting us see a portion of his philatelic treasures.

September. Society Affairs: Said Mr. Treasurer at the last meeting, "Keep to your allotted two pages, Mr. Scribe, keep to your license." This means that only the briefest reference to the classic exhibit of Swiss classics by member B. Seelig can be made this time. What a collection! Introduced by seven epostal items, the one dating 1789 and as fresh as a daisy, as is indeed the case with most of this collection of centenarians; two delightful Zurich's (and genuine too), some beautiful Geneva's, Cantonals and the Federal issues in all their variety of paper types, silk threads and colour nuances. A disappointing attendance might well have made the exhibitor conclude that the game was not worth the candle.

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