

The South African Philatelist

(Established 1923)

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The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

Hon. Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY.

Business Manager: Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.

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Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER, Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

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

CHRISTMAS SEALS FOR 1968

The Christmas Seals were on sale from the 11th October to 24 November 1968. They are in sheet form as before, and again the sheet shows a map of South Africa in green and the sea in blue and with a narrow green margin, along the sides. The sheet measures about 180 x 140 m.m.; has 20 seals (5 rows x 4) and was sold at 20c. Each seal depicts the cross of Lorraine and has its own wild animal of South Africa in colours, it also has a small white inset with a springbok head in black. The inscriptions are in English and Afrikaans alternately in both directions.

The printing factors differ markedly from those of the 1967 issue. They were printed on large sheets by Hayne and Gibson, Durban, in five colours by the lithographic process on unwatermarked paper. The large sheet had 18 smaller sheets, and measured about 23" by 36". The smaller sheets, as sold to the public, were separated by a narrow white gutter, trimmed off later.

The seals are not separated by perforations as before but by single rouletting while the margins of the sheets are imperforate.

A small number of the large sheet was made available at the Philatelic Bureau at R3.60. They are certainly very ornamental but, owing to their size, present a problem in storing or display.

POSTCARDS

A new issue of postcards was delivered on November 5th 1968. There is no change in

the scenes or in the paper apart from the somewhat clearer inscriptions and the deeper shades. The marked change, however, lies in the stamp itself. It now has the redrawn design of the new 1½c definitive stamp. It had been remarked upon that when the preceding issue appeared it showed the old design of the stamp although the new design had already appeared on stamps. It was then learned that the old design had been used by mistake.

New cylinders had been prepared, numbered Z9 yellow, Z40 red, Z25 blue, Z17 black and Z14 for the stamp.

GREETINGS AEROGRAMME

A new printing was delivered on December 10th 1968 with only two changes from the old. The paper is of a paler blue and the green, the predominant colour printed, has changed from a blue-green to a turquoise-green.

2½c CONSTANTIA 17.23 WATERMARK RIGHT

If you should have the 2½c Constantia, Current Stamp, from cylinders 17.23 with the sheet numbers between 661920 and 657461, and with the colour a deep lilac, from a printing in September 1967, you may find the RSA watermark showing clearly facing right, a most unusual occurrence in this issue.

It has not yet been possible to report finally on this unusual printing. One specimen, so far, has been seen with the sheet numbers in the required range but with its watermark facing left. It is thus obvious that the whole roll does not have its watermark facing right.

Accordingly, an appeal has been made to members of the Study Circle to bring their specimens, with the sheet numbers within that range, to the next meeting for examination. Others have been asked to give certified information on their copies. It is thus hoped to determine how many sheets were issued with the watermark facing right. All that can be said now is that the number must be small, and also that specimens already seen have been bought on the Witwatersrand.

We hope to present an interesting story thereon in our next issue.

DESIGNS OF THE $\frac{1}{2}$ c AND 1c STAMPS

The most striking development in the Republican Series of stamps is soon to be seen in the two lowest values. Whether it is a pure coincidence that South African philatelists have long pressed for a reduction in the titling of our stamps or that there is a more forward looking in the Post Office now that it is a separate business organisation, we cannot say, but here turn up two values, the

$\frac{1}{2}$ c and the 1c with only their beautiful picture and RSA and a simple $\frac{1}{2}$ c or 1c.

The information given in a Philatelic Bulletin No. 73 of December 1968 is quoted here:

POSTAGE STAMPS (Definitive Series): The Stamp Duties Act (Act No. 77 of 1968) which came into force with effect from 1st October, 1968, makes provision for a minimum stamp duty of 2c.

As the necessity for a lower revenue stamp, therefore, no longer exists the design of the present $\frac{1}{2}$ c and 1c postage/revenue stamps will be changed. The existing motifs will be redrawn and will be on a lighter background together with the letters RSA and the value. The size and number of stamps per sheet remains unchanged, but both denominations will be printed in four panes.

The new stamps will replace the old print at all post offices, when stocks of the latter are exhausted. There will, therefore, be no specific date of issue and no first day cover service.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ c MAIZE STAMP

There has been a new printing of the $7\frac{1}{2}$ c Maize stamp from the same cylinders 220.221. It differs from the preceding printing only in the position of the sheet numbers, now below stamps 1 and 2 and that it now has small perf. holes.

COMMEMORATIVE ENVELOPE

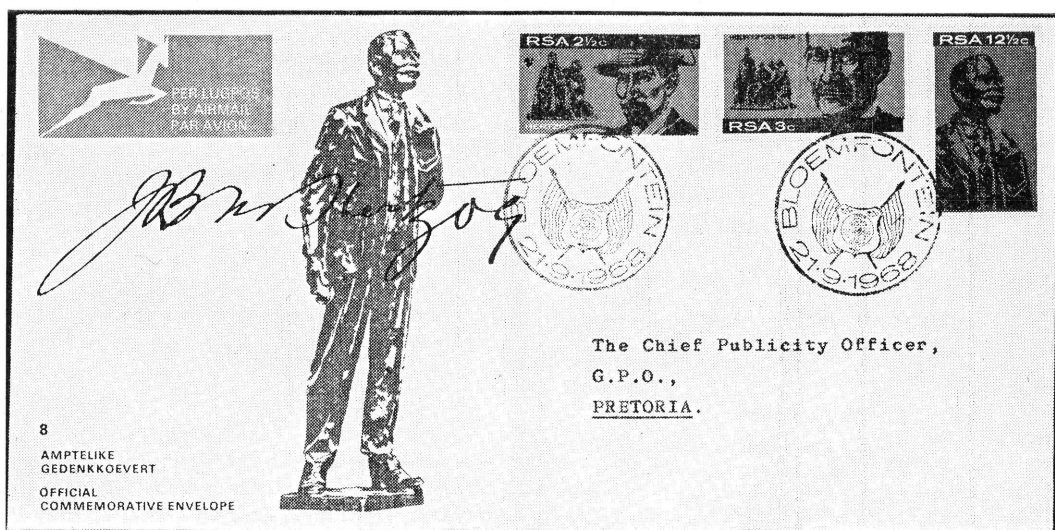


Illustration of the Official Commemorative Envelope issued on 21st September 1968 on the occasion of the unveiling of the General J. B. M. Hertzog Monument at Bloemfontein.

AIR MAIL NOTES

Capt. M. F. Stern submits the following items of aerophilatelic interest just to hand:

(a) NEW AEROGRAMMES

1. **Great Britain:** On November 1, 1968 the two Christmas aerogrammes were issued, being both 9d.

2. **Sweden:** The new overseas type bears a map of Sweden on a background of Scandinavia and a plane as the imprinted stamp, 70 ore.

(b) GREEK AEROPHILATELIC ITEMS

1. **50th Anniversary of Air Mail Service:** Covers flown on 23-7-68 to mark the anniversary of the first flights with mail between Janina and Athens in 1918.

2. **50 Years of the Royal Hellenic Air Force:** Special official cover and cancellation together with special set of stamps posted 8 November 1968.

3. **First Flight Olympic Airways:** First flight Athens to Johannesburg. Special official covers issued showing map of Africa and route taken via Nairobi. In addition a special cancellation was applied dated 31-10-68.

(c) ITEMS FROM ARGENTINE

1. **Mail from the Estacion Aeronaval Petrel (Antarctic):** Special cover with map of "Antarida Argentina" and with cancellation of the station, backstamped 1 MAR 68. This marked the establishment of the base.

2. **Set up four special aerogrammes for Special Antarctic Flights,** each inscribed for the four bases. Normal Argentine stamps were used for franking.

3. **Homage to KLM:** Cover from Buenos Aires for anniversary of the foundation of KLM.

4. **New Air Services:** (a) Comodoro Rivadavia — Paso Rio Mayo 4 May 1968. Special cachet showing map of route and name of Company LADE; (b) Comodoro Rivadavia — Esquel. 4 May 68 with cachet as under (a) but showing the route.

(d) TAP AEROPHILATELIC ITEMS

1. **First Flights — Boeing 727.** Lisbon to Bissau (Port. Africa) 22 Nov 67, Bissau to Lisbon 24.XI.67.

2. **First Flights — Lisbon to Salisbury (Rhodesia).** Special cover and cancellation commemorating the flights 3 MAR 68 b/s Salisbury TAP 3.3.68.

3. **First Flight Salisbury to Lisbon.** Different type of special cover, cancelled Salisbury 14 JAN 1968 with violet cachet. Salisbury — Lisboa — TAP Jet Inaugural flight — 14.1.1968 — Post Office — Salisbury. b/s Lisboa 16.1.68.

(e) CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD

Confirmation received of foreign air carrier permit granted to South African Airways to engage in foreign air transportation between Republic of South Africa and New York.

CAPT. M. F. STERN HONOURED

At a recent special function by Lufthansa, Capt. M. F. Stern was presented with a special gold medal marking the Anniversary of the 100th date of birth of Euler, better known as the German pioneer airman of "Gilber Hund" fame of 1912. The Postmaster General was also a recipient of a medal and it is understood that only six of these awards were made throughout the world. The wording on the reverse side of the medal reads "Für Verdienste um die Aerophilatelie".

We congratulate Capt. Stern upon the well-deserved honour bestowed upon him, and through him it is "a feather in the cap" of aerophilately in Southern Africa.

AIR MAIL NOTES

by I. H. C. Godfrey

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS DIRECT SERVICE TO MALAWI NOV. 1st, 1968

On November 1st, 1968 **South African Airways** inaugurated an airmail service of unusual interest, politically. The direct flight from Johannesburg to Blantyre, Malawi was the first external airmail to the Independent Black countries to the North of the Republic and, by means of its use connections can be made with Kenya.

Very short notice was given to the public regarding this inauguration, notices appearing in the Press only a few days before the first flight was made. Thanks to the co-operation of S.A.A. and the Johannesburg Post Office, a few South African Airways' official covers were carried on this flight. The plane left Jan Smuts Airport at 9.15 a.m. on November 1st and reached Blantyre at 12.45 p.m. The covers bear the Johannesburg postmark: I.XI.68 : 9.15 (the actual time of departure) which was a Friday. They were not however backstamped at Blantyre until after the weekend, Monday, November 4th.

STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS AND POSTMARKS

- S.G.1. 1895. ½a blue-green ovpt in blue used on small piece with small second 'z', R.P.S. certificate. **R172**
- S.G.2. 1895. 1a plum ovpt in blue, superb o.g. **R190**
- S.G.2. 1895. 1a plum ovpt in blue, used, small second 'z' (above the line), with R.P.S. certificate. **R156**
- S.G.3a. 1895. ½a blue-green, black ovpt, 'ZANZIDAR' variety and also small second 'z', inverted 'p' for 'd', with R.P.S. certificate. Mint. **R36**
- S.G.4b. 1895. 1a plum, superb mint pair showing 'ZANIBAR' variety in pair with small 'z' variety. R.P.S. Certificate **R36**
- S.G.5b. 1895. 1a 6p. sepia, black ovpt, superb mint example of 'ZANIBAR' variety in pair with normal showing small second 'z'. **R120**
- S.G.6b. 1895. 2a pale blue, black ovpt. fine horizontal strip of four with ovpt double, rare. **R224**



- S.G.11b. 1895. 8a dull mauve, used, with 'ZANZIDAR' variety showing small 'z', fine and rare. R.P.S. certificate. **R198**
- S.G.12a. 1895. 12a purple on red with 'ZANZIDAR' variety, fine used. **R190**
- S.G.13a. 1895. 1r slate, exceptionally fine, used on piece, with R.P.S. Certificate, showing 'ZANZIDAR' variety and small second 'z' inverted 'p' for 'd'. **R362**
- S.G.123. 1896. 2½a on 1a (Type 3) used. **R10.70**
- S.G.125. 1896. 2½a on 1a (Type 5) used. **R10.70**
- S.G.135. 1896. 2½a on 1a (Type 6) mint. **R13.75**

**A Selection of
Zanzibar
offers from our
Rare
Stamp
Department**

The above are a small section of our extensive Zanzibar stocks. If you are interested in this or other Br. Commonwealth (Part One) Countries, please write to:

**JOHN FARTHING,
Stanley Gibbons Ltd.,
391 Strand,
W.C.2.**



**REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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

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

Deposit accounts may be opened.

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

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

Deposito-rekenings kan geopen word.

THE XXX PHILATELIC CONGRESS

The XXX Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa was held at the M.O.T.H. Hall, East London on the 16th and 17th October, 1968, under the presidency of Mr. J. P. Shingler. In addition to the office-bearers, Mr. Z. L. Nel of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Mrs. A. E. Smith, stenographer, fifty two delegates attended to represent twenty three affiliated societies and thirteen apologies for absence were received.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates, particularly those who had come from a distance, and recorded the passing-over since the previous congress of two eminent philatelists, Messrs. Ernest Hunt and W. G. Combrink.

The Congress then got down to business. The reception of credentials and proxies was completed; notice of Congress was taken as read and the minutes of the XXIX Congress and of the Special General Meeting held on 16th August 1968 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

(a) **Publishing List in January each year of Projected New Stamp Issues:** Mr. Nel said that the Department would gladly publicise, either during January of each year or possibly earlier, any definite details that might be available, but in might be necessary to cancel a projected issue at short notice. Mr. Nel was thanked for having achieved such a successful outcome and the President hoped the Department would adopt a more progressive stamp issuing policy now that it had become a business organisation.

NOTED.

(b) **Transposition of Slogans and Postmarks:** Mr. Nel gave the Department's reply that existing machines could be modified to produce transposed impressions. Tests made with a particular machine proved disappointing because the date marks were frequently indistinct or partly legible when impressed over a postage stamp. Enquiries made with a few overseas postal administrations showed the same results. In view of the importance of a clear datemark, the Department regretted that it could not agree to transpositions.

Mr. Buchen suggested that cancellers with continuous date marks might be the answer since there would be more than one date impression on an envelope. Dr. Raubenheimer said that the existing machines could not be

modified. The matter might be re-considered if new machines were introduced. Mr. Nel said he had no objection to pressing the matter further if desired by Congress.

NOTED.

(c) **Request for Timely Notice of First Flights:** The Secretary read from the minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting, about the consultations that had taken place with the S.A. Airways. The purpose was to obtain adequate warning as to when mail would be carried for the first time on any particular route. The Postal Department determined this in the first place.

Mr. Nel said he had made approaches to S.A. Airways and negotiations were proceeding.

NOTED.

(d) **Reduced Wording on South African Stamps:** Considerable discussion took place over the decision of the Post Office to abbreviate 'Republic of South Africa' and 'Republiek van Suid-Afrika' into 'R.S.A.' Some members were quite satisfied with 'R.S.A.' because it left more room for design, whilst others thought it was better publicity to have 'South Africa' — 'Suid-Afrika' on the stamps.

Mr. Jeidel proposed that the views as expressed at Congress be conveyed by Mr. Nel to the Postal Authorities.

RESOLVED accordingly.

(e) **Representation of Societies Situated Outside the Republic of South Africa:** The required amendments having been adopted by a Special Meeting of Federation, the item was

NOTED.

(f) **Emblem for Federation:** Photographs of the design approved by the Executive Committee were passed round for inspection. The Secretary said that the making of a badge for Past-Presidents had been delayed pending a decision on the emblem for Federation.

Mr. Hagger moved and Mr. Roux seconded that the emblem as approved by the Executive Committee be adopted and that it be left to the Executive Committee to finalise the badge for Past-Presidents.

RESOLVED accordingly.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONGRESS: The President welcomed the Mayor of East London, Councillor L. E. W. Glass and asked him to address Congress.

The address has been recorded in our December 1968, Issue.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS reported in our December 1968, Number.

PAPERS:

The following papers were read and will be reproduced in the South African Philatelist:

(a) **German African Airmails** by Capt. M. F. Stern, F.R.P.S.L.

(b) **Medicine and Philately**, by Mr. J. R. Strong.

FINANCE: The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Michelson read his report which, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 1967, had been circulated. There had been a reasonable surplus on the Federation's account, while the deficit on the S.A. Philatelist was small. These results were largely due to keeping down expenses by the Secretaries of Federation and the Expert Committee, and the indefatigable efforts of the Business Manager in increasing revenue from subscriptions and advertising.

The interim report for the first nine months of 1968 indicated that results for that year should be equally favourable. Mr. Jeidel asked whether surplus funds had been invested to best advantage and the Treasurer replied that on the advice of the Auditor it was decided not to invest in longer term higher interest bearing securities since it was necessary to have funds on call at any time for publication purposes. Deposits had thus been made in a Building Society savings account.

Mr. Buchen moved and Mr. Meyburgh seconded the adoption of the financial report and accounts.

RESOLVED accordingly.

REPORTS:

(a) **Executive Committee:** The Secretary read the report which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

(b) **Expert Committee:** The report was read by Mr. Kriste, having been circulated. Roughly the same number of items had been expertised in 1968 as in the same period of 1967, however the increase in fees as from August should result in greater revenue. He appealed to members to send in material at least a week before each meeting which was held on the third Saturday of each month. Stamps from all countries could be handled.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

(c) **Philatelic Estates Committee:** The Secretary read the report on behalf of Mr. Wedderburn-Maxwell, Requests were received from only four persons and it was believed that the advice tendered was followed.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

(d) **Publications Committee:** The report (circulated) was read by Mr. Michelson. The major publication for the year was the booklet on "South African Postmarks". This and a 14 page supplement to the S.A. Philatelist on Mobile Post Offices of South Africa came

from the penmanship of Dr. T. B. Berry. The second part of the third series of supplementary pages of the Republican Handbook/Catalogue was also issued.

A check list of South African Airposts was scheduled for publication in 1969, its author being Capt. M. F. Stern.

Sales of publications were steady; only three items, S.A. Postmarks, reprint of the original pages of the Handbook/Catalogue and the Interprovincial Catalogue had not yet covered their cost but there were enough stocks still on hand to do so when sold.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

(e) **Editorial Board of the S.A. Philatelist:** The report was read by Dr. Berry and circulated. There was still a need for good quality articles, not necessarily confined to Southern African subjects. Thanks to the happier financial position it had been possible to increase the number of illustrations. The "South African Notes" feature conducted by Dr. Raubenheimer continued to provide an important source of information on the stamps of the Republic.

It was regretted that Mr. Vermaak had not been able to attend Congress and receive the thanks of Congress for his contribution towards a successful year of publication.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

(f) **Recorded Lectures:** The Secretary reported verbally. He had hoped for more progress since the last Congress. In response to an appeal in the News Letter for talks and material for photographing only two offers had been made. The script for the talk should take about 30 minutes to read and Federation would tape it and make the slides to accompany the talk. It was not necessary for the writer to read his own script.

There were two talks available, one on the printing of South African stamps which had been sent to Zambia, and the other on Religion on stamps which had disappeared.

The Bellville delegate said that his Society had a recorded lecture on the "Discovery of the Sea Route to India" which could be made available to other Societies.

Mr. Hellmann said that the possibility of obtaining films from Britain through the British Post Office should be investigated. Such films were used in Britain for showing to schools and were listed in the blue bulletins published by the British Post Office. Other countries also produced films which might be available.

Mr. Wannerton suggested that the Secretary draw up a list of subjects suitable for talks and that it be published in the S.A. Philatelist.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

AWARDS:

(a) **Roll of Honour of Distinguished South African Philatelists:** Resolved that the names of the late Mr. W. G. Combrink and Mr. J. M. Weinstein be inscribed on the Roll.

Mr. W. Combrink, son of the late Mr. W. G. Combrink, inscribed his father's name on the Roll and was handed the certificate his father would have received; Mr. Weinstein signed the Roll personally.

(b) **The Harvey Pirie Memorial Award:** Resolved that the award be made to Mr. R. C. Smith for his work on the publication "Rhodesia, a Postal History — Its Stamps and Telegraphs".

(c) **Congress Award:** Resolved that a Congress Award be made to Miss Anna H. Smith for her paper "The Sixteen Bar Numeral Cancellers of the Orange Free State", which had been published in the South African Philatelist.

(d) **The Skinner Cup:** Resolved that the award be made to Mr. K. E. W. Lydall.

(e) **Bill Lea Trophy:** Resolved that the Cup be awarded to the O.F.S. Study Circle (Great Britain), rather than to the two joint authors, for the publication by the Study Circle of "Stamps of the Orange Free State, Part I".

(f) **Commendations:** The Awards Sub-Committee recommended that Congress record its appreciation to Framic (Pty.) Ltd., as printer of the publications "South African Postmarks" and "The Mobile Post Offices of South Africa and their Postmarks, 1937-1967" for its excellent work on these publications.

RESOLVED that Congress records its appreciation to Dr. Berry as compiler, and Mr. Michelson of Framic (Pty.) Ltd. as printer of the publications mentioned for the excellent work performed in the production of the publications.

SOCIETY MOTIONS:

(a) **South African Stamp Study Circle:** Mr. Naylor said that a number of Governments took advantage of International Expositions and Philatelic Exhibitions to exhibit the stamps of their respective countries. He felt that the South African Government should consider doing so whenever possible as such exhibits were always popular and would draw attention to South African stamps. He moved accordingly.

Several members took part in the discussion and Mr. Nel said that the South African Post Office in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs had taken part in a number of exhibitions, the most recent one being in Geneva.

The President said that in view of what Mr. Nel had stated, the motion largely fell away and presumably the discussion at Congress would be drawn to the notice of the Postal Authorities.

NOTED.

(b) **Philatelic Society of Johannesburg:** Mr. Tilney, in moving the motion drew attention to the increasing concern being felt by philatelists over stamp issues with limited printings or printing peculiarities. Mr. Strong seconding the motion mentioned inter alia the embarrassment of a local collector who might be awarded a silver medal at a South African Exhibition and then find his collection disqualified overseas because it contained 'banned' stamps.

A lively discussion then took place. Points made were:

- i. A comprehensive list of items blacklisted by F.I.P. should be made available to entrants for exhibitions. This had been done by the Mexico International Exhibition Committee and others in recent years.
- ii. Some of the stamps complained about do actual postal duty.
- iii. Some catalogue publishers mark what they consider harmful issues in a distinctive way.
- iv. The original idea of blacklisting was not introduced by F.I.P. The proposal had in mind procedure to be introduced at some later date and to warn collectors in advance.
- v. Some blacklisted items had later attained catalogue status at enhanced prices.
- vi. Thought should be given to the concept of "completeness". It might be better to give latitude so that an exhibit would not be penalised if it included blacklisted items, nor downgraded because it did not include those items.
- vii. Any action should be based on principles and not expediency.
- viii. Blacklisted items might be recorded in the S.A. Philatelist.

Mr. Strachan moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Bevis:

"That this Congress do not accept the motion in its present form, but that the attention of the Executive be drawn to the subject matter of the motion and give consideration to the matter with a view to reporting back to the next Congress in the light of developments in the interim".

The amendment was carried unanimously and adopted as a substantive motion.

PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meets 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 Bldgs. Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town.
 at 8 p.m.
 VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
P.O. BOX 1973, CAPE TOWN.

The EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the second Friday of each month in the Museum Hall, Lukin Road, East London, at 8 p.m.

Visitors welcome.

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ORANGE FREE STATE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month in the
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 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 first and third Tuesday each month in the
B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Street,
 at 8.00 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 64306 (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.
P.O. Box 3654, Cape Town.

THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the
Railway Recreation Club, Berea Park, Pretoria, at 8 p.m.
P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.
 ALL PHILATELISTS ARE WELCOME.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 8.15 p.m.
Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor),
 c/r. Rissak & 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
Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, 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: Business 660-7511;
 Home: 660-4085

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 538, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
 Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month at the

BENONI TENNIS CLUB HOUSE,
 Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS for 1969:

President: Mr. L. Buchen; Vice-Presidents; Mr. G. Bülbring, Cape: Mr. C. A. Whysall; Natal: Mr. W. Kriste; Transvaal: Mr. A. L. Meyburgh; O.F.S. and Societies outside South Africa: Mr. J. R. Strong.
 Hon. Secretary: Mr. K. E. W. Lydall.
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. Michelson.
 Business Manager, S.A. Philatelist: Mr. S. J. Vermaak.

GENERAL:

(a) **Arrangements for Future Congresses:** Proposed dates. Johannesburg 7th to 9th October, 1969. Port Elizabeth, September, 1970; Cape Town, May 1971.

NOTED.

(b) **Ready Packaged Full Sets of South African Stamps:** Discussions ensued on this topic and it was suggested that the Post Office be requested to consider having complete sets in singles and blocks of four readily available and that with pre-packaged sets there should be a stiffer giving a brief description of the stamps.

NOTED.

(c) **First Day Covers:** Mr. Roux said that having official covers for sale by the Post Office had resulted in losses to Societies in some circumstances. Mr. Levy wondered why it was possible to buy at Bloemfontein pre-stamped and cancelled covers which were unaddressed, while at East London the Post Office would not cancel the stamps on unaddressed covers.

Mr. Nel said that the precancelling arrangement applied only to official covers. The post office in Bloemfontein had acted as an extension of the Bureau and this procedure was necessary to obviate congestion at the counters and was done whenever there were commemorative sets.

Mrs. Jeidel thanked the Post Office for the wonderful way official covers were sent overseas. Compliments had been received from all over the world.

NOTED.

(d) **Exhibitions:** Mr. Hellmann said that in view of the problems in organising an exhibition he would recommend to any Society that it plan several years in advance. He thought it would be a great advantage if a 'learner judge' system were introduced — i.e. to train future judges. He was concerned about the possibility of collections being debarred from the International Exhibitions if they included blacklisted items and wondered whether pressure could be put on the offending countries through the Universal Postal Union. During

discussion it was thought that perhaps undue emphasis was being placed on unmounted mint stamps.

NOTED.

(e) **Mounting of Stamps on Material used for Photographs:** The Secretary asked members whether they had had experience of mounting stamps on a sort of ribbed card used for mounting photographs. The person making the enquiry said that mint and used stamps appeared to have received no detrimental effects.

Members said that it might take several years before such effects could be manifest and that without such experience it would be dangerous to offer an opinion.

NOTED.

(f) **Criticism of Recent South African Stamps:** A letter was read from a Pretoria correspondent who thought that a 12½c stamp was too high a value for a commemorative issue and that 2c and 3c values would be more popular — especially if children's needs were considered. He also thought that "R.S.A." was not a suitable replacement for the name of the country. He felt that Mr. Fouché's name should have appeared on his inauguration stamp as well as the country's coat of arms. The same applied to the official cover. He hoped Congress would agree with the points made and pass these on to the Postal Authorities.

During discussion the following points were made:

- i. Stamps were not necessarily made for collectors. The 12½c value was essential on overseas mail. Many countries did put the name of a person on the stamp.
- ii. Stamp designs were decided at very high level. If Congress wished, it could approach the Post Office officially with its views.
- iii. A committee to advise the Post Office on stamp designs had been appointed by the Minister but the names could not be disclosed without the Minister's approval. The persons appointed were of high standing in the world of Art. Specific artists were appointed to prepare designs and the sketches were referred to the Postmaster General with any recommendations. The names and qualifications of advisory committees were made public in a number of countries.
- iv. The quality of stamp production was limited by the quality of the machines used to print them.
- v. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs had abandoned the idea of putting designs

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- out to open competition because it was a clumsy and long drawn out procedure which did not necessarily produce results.
- vi. Sometimes commemorative stamps had to be produced at very short notice which would preclude any possibility of design competition.
 - vii. Consideration should be given to the present and future definitive sets — the present designs lacked cohesion in subject matter.

The various observations were **NOTED** and it was hoped that the Department's attention would be drawn to members' views.

(g) **Check List of South African Stamps:** Mr. Godwin said there was an urgent need for a comprehensive check list of Republican South African stamps suitable for the average collector. He suggested that such a list giving the official colour, cylinder number, watermark and dates of issue could be published in the S.A. Philatelist in detachable form and supplemented once a year. He mentioned the confusion that arose from catalogues listing different colours for the same stamps and felt that the official colours could be sent to catalogue publishers.

Dr. Berry said the matter would have to be referred to the Publications Committee as it involved an increase in printing space.

NOTED.

(h) **Encouragement of Junior Collectors:** Members were asked to report on arrangements being made to encourage juniors.

Several members reported upon the action their societies were taking in order to assist and encourage junior collectors.

NOTED.

(i) **Relative Importance of Perforated, Unperforated Stamps and Miniature Sheets in the Judging of Exhibits:** Mr. Hartley asked what notice the Jury took of such items shown parallel with each other as an exhibit. There was no response.

NOTED.

(j) **Rhodesian Government Exhibit:** Mr. Strong asked whether there would be any interest in an exhibit showing the production of Rhodesian stamps. Mr. Buchen said this was a matter which affected the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.

NOTED.

That concluded the official business of Congress and Mr. Meyburgh, amidst applause, expressed the thanks of delegates to Mr. Shingler for the dignified and patient way in which he had presided at Congress and Executive Meetings.

Congress closed at 4.50 p.m. on Thursday, 17th October, 1968.

A SOUTH AFRICAN POSTMARK SOCIETY?

Colonial postmarks and postal stationery of the pre-Union period are now the classics of South African philately, but for some obscure reason the corresponding post-Union items appear to have been neglected or ignored. This condition appears to be in the process of rectifying itself for evidence exists that Union and Republican cancellations are to be observed in collectors' albums. The assembly of these marks is irregular in that the items, if they are not of sufficient magnitude or importance, such as T.P.O's, Paquebots etc., to stand on their own are distributed among the definitive material of a general collection where they are usually overshadowed. On the other hand, the few collectors who are sufficiently interested to assemble these marks as a study exist as "lone wolves" in a particular field of philately.

This apparent lack of interest is difficult to understand for Postmarks offer a fascinating challenge to the researcher and material is at present in moderately plentiful supply in South Africa. Items may be obtained at little or no expenditure by personal approach to commercial or industrial concerns which destroy unwanted covers; to post offices by using self-addressed envelopes; by judicious purchase of Kiloware which often produces good marks while personal contacts will always gather material, perhaps on an exchange or payment basis.

No consolidating interest in the form of a postmark society exists in South Africa whereas reputable clubs or societies are active in Great Britain, pioneer club founded in 1883, on the Continent, the Americas and elsewhere throughout the world societies or clubs have been formed to promote the study of postmarks and postal history.

In order to bring South African philately into line with that of other countries and to cater for a requirement which may be lying dormant this inquiry is circulated in order to investigate the desirability of, and to determine the individuals who may be interested in the formation of a postmark society.

Thus will those who are so disposed please submit their names to the undersigned along with any suggestions, which will be appreciated, towards the formation and successful conduct of a South African Postmark Society/Club.

Dr. T. B. Berry,
P.O. Box 31,
Bryanston, Transvaal.

ATTENTION !

A REPRINT OF THE OFFICIAL 1912 UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA POST OFFICE GUIDE giving the list and designation of the Post Offices in operation during 1912 will be available early in February 1969.

The publication which is of the uttermost interest and value to collectors of Post Marks, Postal Stationery and Interprovincial Cancellations will be a very limited one and is being sold in aid of the October 1969 Johannesburg "ZAR" National Philatelic Exhibition.

Copies may be obtained from Messrs. Framic Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 11443, Johannesburg, or for the convenience of overseas readers from Mr. C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, England, at R1.25, 15/- or 2\$ each, post free.

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BLACKLISTED ISSUES

Editorial "Black Blots" are assessed against the eight imperforate stamps and a souvenir sheet issued for the Mexico City Olympics games; the 60f imperforate stamp for the IX Youth Festival; the 2f imperforate for Hungarian State Railways centenary, and a 60f commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Hungarian poet Mihaly Tompa. These imperf. receive the "Black Blot" under Points 1 and 5. The F.I.P. has barred the showing of all of Hungary's assorted imperf. stamps and souvenir sheets from all international exhibitions receiving the federation's patronage.

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MINIATUUR MEESTERSTUKKE VAN DIE DRUKKERSKUNS DEUR MIDDEL VAN METAALINK

(deur K. E. W. Lydall)

'n Artikel deur dr. Fulpius in die „Helvetia News Letter” in 1950 oor die min seëls wat deels of geheel en al in goud, silwer of brons gedruk is, het my nuuskierig gemaak. Hy verwys onder andere na die 1861 brons 3 lire van Sardinië, die hoër waardesoorte van die 1910 Persiese stel, die 1901 2, 3 en 5 dragmes van Griekeland en die Switserse 60c en 1 frank van 1862/81, en hy is nie juis profeties waar hy sê dat, met die uitsondering van die Suid-Afrikaanse 1½d goudmyn, sulke „kosbare” seëls iets van die verlede is nie. Dit is duidelik dat hy nie aan die moontlikheid van 'n stortvloed seëls van metaalinksoorte en bladfoelie wat in die sestigerjare sou verskyn, gedink het nie. Ieder geval, as ek agt jaar of wat terug kon raai hoe sake vandag sou lyk, twyfel ek sterk of ek vandag 'n versameling van dié soort seëls sou gehad het.

Nietemin, as ons vir 'n wyltjie ingaan op die metodes wat gebruik is met die druk van die Switserse seëls met sittende Helvetië, sien ons waarom die geleerde dr. Fulpius tot sy gevolgtrekking gekom het. Volgens hom is die seëls deur die Federale Munt te Berne voortgebring. Velle met 'n grootte van 400 seëls is eers gelym en die oppervlakte gedruk, donkerrooi vir die 60c-seëls en geelbruin vir die 1 fr. Daarna is die velle met 'n mengsel van drunkink en lymwater bedek en terwyl hulle nog nat is, is hulle deur middel van 'n eenvoudige toestel wat soos 'n soutpotjie gebruik is, met brons- en goudpoeier bedek. Dit gedaan, is die velle geskud en liggies afgeborsel om die los poeier te verwyder. Laastens is die velle deur die bosseleermasjien gestoot.

Soms het die drukker gedink dat die bosseleling onduidelik is en die vel dan 'n tweede keer deur die masjien gesit met gevolglike dubbele bosseleling. Waar die vel verkeerd in die masjien gevoer is, het die bosseleling onderstebo verskyn. Hierdie seldsame afwykings kom nie in die seëls van 60c en 1 fr. voor nie. Daar is twee voorbeelde van die 1 fr en een van die 60c in my versameling.

'n Mens wonder soms waarom metaalink vir die druk van posseëls gebruik word. Met die Suid-Afrikaanse 1½d-goudmyn is die rede voor die hand liggend. So ook met die seëls wat landswapens afbeeld, soos die Luxemburgse volkswelsyn-stelle van 1956-1959, of die Mosambiek-wapensuitgawe waar die natuurlike goud en silwer kleure nagestreef word. Dit gebeur ook dikwels dat 'n besondere jaarfees herdenk word en 'n geskikte metaalink vir dié doel gebruik word, soos goud by die seëls wat die tiende jaar van die staat van Israel herdenk.

Die moderne aanwending van metaalink werk groter uitreikings van sulke seëls in die hand omdat dit 'n treffende voorkoms aan die seëls verleen. Net jammer dat beter gebruik nie van dié metode gemaak word nie want partykeer kry ons ontwerpe wat darem te afstigtelik is naas ander wat weer sierlike miniatuur meesterstukke is soos die Minnesangerstelle van Liechtenstein.

Die vroegste byslageëel in goud wat ek kon vind is dié van Nieu-Suidwallis wat 2/6 gekos het maar slegs 2½d posgeld betaal het. Die oorskot het vir teringbestryding gegaan. Dit is nogal 'n treffende seël.

Die gebruik van bladmetaal met die vervaardiging van posseëls het taamlik onlangs ontstaan. In 1955 het Hongarye 'n seël op papier met 'n aluminiumlaag gedruk om 'n internasionale konferensie oor ligte metaal-industriële te adverteer. Rusland gebruik in

1961 dieselfde tegniek vir 'n seël van een roebel in verband met 'n kosmiese vlug. Twee jaar later skok Tonga versamelaars met sy nou oorbekende goue munte-stel, gevolg deur 'n stel met verbasende vorms — harte en die vorm van die eiland. Hierna het verskeie ander klein staatjies met die munteseëlstroom saamgegaan, terwyl Sierra-Leone hom self oortref het met seëls van selfs meer eienaardige vorms en ontwerpe wat op silwerfoelie gebosseleer is.

Om die kroon te span, kom die Engelse drukkers Harrison & Sons Ltd. in 1966 met 'n nuwe manier om foelie aan papier te heg en kry ons vir die eerste keer koningin Elizabeth se kop in goud by twee seëls van die Slag van Hastings-gedenkstel. Dieselfde proses word deur dié drukkers gebruik om die wapen van „The Gambia” by die seëls vir die 150e Jaarfees van Bathurst aan te bring en later om die B.B.C.-Uitsaaistase op die stel van Ascension te versier.

Daar is lande wat nog nie metaalink vir die druk van seëls gebruik het nie; lande soos Italië, die drie hoof Skandinawiese lande, Egipte, Monakko en 'n paar in Suid-Amerika. Aangesien drukkers die tegniek bemeester het om seëls vinnig en goedkoop met metaalink te druk, is die lande wat nog nie sulke seëls uitgereik het nie ver in die minderheid.

Op die oomblik is daar meer as 1,800 seëls van sowat 130 verskeie lande in my versameling. Hierdie getal kon aansienlik groter gewees het maar ek het besluit om nie die seëls van 'n aantal state in Afrika en Arabië te versamel nie omdat hulle uitreikings nie alleen buitensporig is nie maar ook onnodige hoë sigwaardes het.

Ek verkies om my versameling van hierdie seëls te beskou as miniatuur meesterstukke van die drukkerskuns deur middel van metaalink.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Interesting as the various finds are, made by Mr. J. M. Weinstein and reported on pages 149 and 246 in the 1968 South African Philatelist, he came to an incorrect conclusion.

The DIAMOND SHAPED Numeral defacing stamps of GRIQUALAND WEST were RE-DISTRIBUTED among Post Offices of the Cape after Griqualand West had become part of the Cape Colony, and when places in the Griqualand West area had received their circular Place and Date Stamps. Here it should be recalled that in similar fashion, the by then obsolete Postage Stamps of Griqualand West were likewise re-distributed among various Post Offices in the Cape Colony. (See Stanley Gibbons, Part I).

The Diamond shaped Numeral 2 had most appropriately been re-allocated to Port Elizabeth, where the boxed Numeral 2 had always been in use (since 1864 — see JURGENS, Page 63).

Covers bearing Diamond shaped Numerals in conjunction with Place Names outside the Griqualand West territory (note the late dates of usage) can only be classified and recorded as CAPE COVERS.

Yours faithfully,

F. G. FROEHLICH.

Dear Sir,

Please allow us to comment on the new issue of the ½c Natal Kingfisher stamp which is described in the December 1968 issue as having the same Swiss, R.S.A. watermarked, paper as the preceding printing.

According to our notes about the R.S.A.-stamps, the previous printing was on Harrison paper (both sides fluorescent) with indistinct watermark, whilst the latest printing is on Swiss paper (front fluorescent only).

With regard to the sheet No's, a batch of Cyl. blocks of the latest issue were carefully examined and they were not only "better" aligned, but were perfectly aligned. Furthermore, as was stated, these sheet numbers are thin and clear, whilst they are slightly larger (3.1 m.m.) as the previous issue, which had badly aligned sheet numbers, with an overall height of 2.9 m.m. In addition, the figures are of a different design as can easily be observed when comparing the illustrations of both issues which appeared in the S.A. Philatelist of September 1967 and December 1968.

Perforations are dealt with in a curious manner, being described as having gauge 14,

or more exactly 14 x 13.75, and further: 14 x 15, or more exactly 13.75 x 14.75. It may come as a shock to readers that still more exactly the latter gauge appears to be 14.8734 which figure was obtained by measuring a whole sheet of stamps and counting the holes. Some arithmetic did the rest.

Bearing in mind that 3 different rulers of a reputed make were used (and it is surprising how much they differed from each other, when checked), readers will be bewildered as we were, when it was realised that perforation gauges are not the answer to the more or less controversial subject of the perforations of our stamps. Adding to the difficulties is the fact that perforation holes are never spaced equally over a certain distance, which can easily be observed under a magnifying glass.

The real answer, as we see it, is simplicity itself and boils down to the fact that our small format definitives have either 17 holes on one side and 15 on the other side (or 15 x 17), whilst the other existing perforation has 17 x 14 holes (or 14 x 17). Figures in brackets are for stamps with a vertical design. As these stamps are all of the same format, this may stop all arguments.

For the large format definitives, the figures are: 21 x 17 (or 17 x 21) holes, whilst our Commemoratives have the following number of holes: 30 x 17 (17 x 30) and 28 x 17 (or 17 x 28).


Nobody will or can force an individual to adopt this counting system. However, a few stamps can be selected to be used as "masters" so as to avoid the tedious task of counting repeatedly.

It should be observed that we are still complying with the definition of stamp perforations — the number of holes at a length of 2 c.m.

Yours faithfully,

J. Bussler, N. Dorn.

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VISIT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION



A "Letter to the Editor" from Mr. Z. L. Nel, Chief Publicity Officer, vide S.A. Philatelist of December 1968, supplied the information that a post office for all classes of business was opened in the Raadzaal, Bloemfontein, from the 2nd to the 4th September, 1905, in connection with the visit of the British Association to South Africa, recorded in our October 1968 number.

Through the response of Mr. A. G. M. Batten, R.F.P.S.L., of Woking, England, we are able to record, with appreciation, the impression of the canceller used there.

The dater, illustrated, consisted of a single-line circle, 24 m.m. in diameter with "British Assn" at the top, ORC (without stops) below, the date in the centre in two lines, and Mr. Batten's extensive collection, some 80 volumes, of the O.F.S. Cancellations contains covers dated on each of the three days the office was opened, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th September, 1905.

This timely contribution advances our quest for completion and we now await information pertaining to this particular canceller used in the Cape and Natal Provinces. Maybe this property lies forgotten in some album or stock-book?

REVIEWS

The Stanley Gibbons Simplified, 1969 Catalogue, published by Stanley Gibbons Limited, 391 Strand, London W.C.2. Price 42/6 (R8.25) postage extra.

This priced catalogue of the postage stamps of the whole world excludes varieties of paper, perforation, shade and watermark, and comprises a 1,664 page volume with an addition of 6,223 new stamps and 1,535 illustrations.

Previously the numbering of the stamps has differed from that of the main catalogue but now the numbers of about one third of the countries have been brought into line with the main catalogue lists, and S.G. numbers have been used for the new issue additions where practicable.

New countries are Anguilla, British Indian Ocean Territory, French Territory of the Afars and Issas and Southern Yemen.

It is an ideal book to help new collectors of any age to learn more about their stamps and will be heartily welcomed. Its world wide scope and simple straight-forward listing make it a desirable acquisition and remarkable value for money.

Stamp Year Book 1969, produced by "Stamp Magazine" and "Stamp Weekly", available Link House Publications, Limited, 10-12 South Crescent, Store Street, London W.C.1, price 7/6 (R0.75), postage extra.

The book comprising 122 pages is well produced on good quality paper and is adequately illustrated by some 300 clear impressions, one of which has a local appeal in that a postmark, Hotazel, from a remote part of South Africa is recorded. Furthermore, it contains a great variety of reference articles of vital interest to philatelists, written by eminent authorities in a manner easily assimilated, even by a beginner.

The publication affords a universal appeal to all collectors irrespective of their interests or manner of collecting, a worthy inclusion in any philatelic library, a mine of desirable and useful information and a cheap acquisition at the price.

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SCOPE FOR ARTISTIC S.A. STAMPS

Wyn Nicolls, Claremont, Cape

I am completely in agreement with Mr. Eric Prinsloo that our postage stamps in general, and the recent commemorative issues in particular, are quite appalling ("New S.A. stamps are world's worst", Sunday Times, November 10).

The General Hertzog stamp is rather a cruel caricature than a likeness of him, and certainly adds nothing, to his stature. What does this projection of long-dead statesmen achieve? We are a young nation concerned with the present and the future — not the past.

There is so much beauty in our country, quite apart from our rich heritage of fauna and flora, that can be drawn upon as subject matters. There is also so much that is informative and interesting.

A series artistically presented, of the fruit we grow, would be something new. Reproduction of seascapes and landscapes, would be most pleasing as would simple everyday scenes such as the Coloured fishermen spilling their catch in a silver stream on to the white sands at Hout Bay.

Small yachts sailing into a stiff breeze, the flower-sellers with their baskets full of multi-coloured blooms and the Coons bringing in the New Year dressed in their gay costumes, would make pleasing objects.

Millions of Christmas cards will be sent to every corner of the globe. The humble 1½ cent stamp should at this time be replaced with a large and attractive one.

As it will, for the most part, be going to countries covered in snow, the theme should be one of sunshine.

The cost of production would be negligible compared to its publicity value.

ON SALE TOO LONG

George Blake, Rosebank, Cape

In support of Eric Prinsloo I consider the biggest drawback of South African commemorative stamp issues is the length of time they are on sale.

Some of the things said about the present issue have been anything but complimentary. When children say, "These are nice cowboy stamps", they have said everything.

MILLIONS FROM PHILATELY

J. A. Dixie, Plein Street, Johannesburg

As a person who takes a great interest in philately I would like to endorse everything Mr. Prinsloo says.

I am personally interested in the stamps of Britain and I find it very difficult indeed not to draw comparisons.

Does the Government realise that it would receive many millions of rands from overseas if only it would adopt a modern outlook in the philatelic field?

It would be very nice to say that this road or that hospital had been built out of profits from stamps alone.

The early South African stamps are very attractive but no printer or engraver who is proud of his craft would feel flattered to see what is made of his product in the latest issues

I do hope that no Government supporter tells us that we do not need money from stamps and that we have enough. If so, let us spend some on new printing machines to print better stamps.

Acknowledgement, Johannesburg "Sunday Times"

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RHODESIAN STAMPS MAY

BE VALUABLE

Rhodesian philatelists believe the British Government's attempts to stop the sale of post-U.D.I. Rhodesian stamps will only make the stamps more valuable.

In recent weeks Customs officers have raided stamp dealers' premises in Britain and confiscated all stocks of Rhodesian stamps issued after the declaration of independence.

An official of the Mashonaland Philatelic Society said recently: "I do not think this action will stop the sale of Rhodesian stamps in Britain. In fact the value of the stamps may be increased because the stamps will obviously be more scarce."

Local philatelists believe that if British dealers are unable to fill orders for Rhodesian stamps the dealers in this country could get more mail order business from Europe.

The Mashonaland Philatelic Society has suggested to the Post Office Philatelic Bureau that their consignments to Britain should be sent in unmarked envelopes so that there is less chance of them being seized by British authorities.

One of the world's leading stamp dealers, Stanley Gibbons, has stopped listing post-

U.D.I. Rhodesian stamps in their catalogue, but another British company, Urch, Harris and Co., whose offices in London and Bristol were raided recently, still lists the latest Rhodesian issues.

Philatelic experts in Salisbury said today they did not think the British Government would be able to enforce a ban on possessing post-U.D.I. Rhodesian stamps. "They may be able to stop firms or individuals importing our stamps, but the keen collector will always get the stamps he wants."

Acknowledgement, Johannesburg "Star"

MEDICINE AND PHILATELY

Paper read at ELPEX '68 Congress by
 Mr. J. R. Strong

The paper I present to this Congress is basically that which I read to the Rhodesian International Medical Congress, which was held in Bulawayo from August 19th-24th last year. It was prepared for listeners who were not philatelists, and therefore it might appear to be rather elementary fare for this distinguished gathering of specialists.

However, it carries a message which I hope has a universal appeal.

I had hoped that the subject was quite non-controversial, and yet I now discover that dispute has even surrounded the derivation of the word PHILATELY for 40 years or so.

PHILATELY is the English version of PHILATELIE, a word invented by the French in 1864. It means the study and collecting of stamps. As His Worship the Mayor in his opening address so wittily explained.

Its derivation has always been regarded as from the Greek words Philein — to love, and ateleia — exemption from tax. This is a logical assumption since a postage stamp is an acknowledgement of payment for a postal service to be rendered. It is part of a contract, and therefore is not a tax. Rather should it be considered as an exemption of a tax which might have been necessitated in order to maintain the postal service.

But, alas, a learned man in Athens has vehemently challenged this conclusion.

A stamp, he says, actually is a tax — not an exemption from one, and I suppose quite rightly he instances revenue stamps.

Furthermore, he avers the word is derived from Philos — a friend, and telos — tax; that in reality it means love of tax, and therefore should be spelt PHILOTELY.

Agreement between the two schools of thought seems unlikely. For it would mean either unconditional surrender for one of them, or a compromise in the form of a new word, such as PHILOATELY.

For the purpose of this paper, however, I shall adhere to the time honoured name.

Philately has always been popular with the medical profession. Not only have some of the World's finest stamp collections been built up by Doctors, but much of the most important research and study, particularly of British stamps, stands to their credit. This is not surprising, since our training and life's work is based on the development of patience, attention to detail, powers of observation, and powers of deduction. And this rewarding hobby offers full scope for the exercise of all these faculties. The skilled micropathologist could surely revel in the study of minute abnormalities, dots and specks and other aberrations, the appearance of which can convert a worthless scrap of paper into a thing of great value and interest. The accidental discovery, for instance, of a bald patch on a King's head, a gash in a Queen's ear, a cancerous looking patch on her right cheek, all have thrilled philatelists as much as the original identification of the minute sex chromatin body, in the nucleus of the female somatic cell, must have excited its discoverer.

Basically a hobby is a therapy, the effects of which are expected to be beneficial, but which can be abused, and which if ill-chosen, can defeat the whole purpose for which it was designed. Golf, for example, has an acutely hypertensive effect on some. The mountaineer or motor-racer, whose purpose is to "get away from it all", may achieve this object in a way that he never intended. But philately seems not to have any of these dramatic side-effects.

It has been said, and perhaps correctly, that medical men are relatively uneducated. I suppose it is assumed that though we may know a lot about medicine, our knowledge of affairs in general is poor. And if this is true, it can only be because our work is so absorbing and time consuming. For this reason alone the cultivation of some hobby is strongly indicated. In Southern Africa the pursuit of outdoor sport is a natural choice, but in many places in the world this is not so easy. Furthermore, there are some who are disinclined or unable to indulge in this type of relaxation. For the medical man Philately has much to offer. Herein lies great scope for the exercise of artistic ability, for research, for

increasing general knowledge and, above all, for complete rest.

Fervently hoping that in no way will I embarrass any of you, I merely mention in passing the pecuniary aspect of the hobby!

Doctors are notoriously bad business men. How many of us can stand our ground against the Oriental patient who requests a discount for cash? How many of us can defend ourselves against the Collector of Taxes? The average school boy stamp collector can out-bargain most of us. The spectacle of two of these lads negotiating a swop could teach us as much about business methods, as could that of an American trying to sell a second-hand washing machine to an Arab.

Sixty years ago and earlier, collectors mainly aimed to acquire as many stamps of as many countries as they could. There were a few who collected groups of Countries, perhaps the British Commonwealth, or some other country and its colonies. There was a smaller group who specialised in only one or two countries, but few reduced it to a finer art than this. But as stamp production improved and expanded, as designs became more attractive and varied and as more colours were introduced into a single stamp, the widening scope attracted narrower kinds of specialisation until, by about 1930, the subject of topical or thematic collecting became fully established.

And here I want to introduce you to Medical Philately. It is almost forty years ago that medical historian, Fielding Garrison, formally initiated medical philately as a legitimate branch of medical history. Within four years Pharmacist Herbert C. Raubenheimer introduced pharmaceutical philately to his own profession.

Many Governments throughout the world, for various reasons, have chosen to call the attention of the public to medical matters by the issue of appropriate postage stamps. Famous doctors have been portrayed, great medical discoveries and achievements have been commemorated, medical organisations and institutions have been honoured, and universal medical crusades have been sponsored and assisted. In this way the humble postage stamp, not only has served its prime purpose faithfully, but has very materially assisted the noble cause of medicine.

The scope of medical history in philately is vast. Its origin in mythology is depicted on stamps. An Egyptian stamp issued in 1925, shows Thoth, the Wise, who lived about 5,000BC, who was worshipped throughout that country as a moon God, and is believed to be the most ancient God of Medicine. He

was usually represented with the head of an ibis and was invested with rare healing powers. It is told how he drove the poison out of the body of the child God Horus, who had been bitten by a scorpion. Later when Horus and Set were locked in merciless struggle, he intervened, curing Horus of a tumour, and Set of emasculation, by spitting on their wounds.

The first medical symbol recorded in history was the Ankh of Im-Hotep (c. 2780 B.C.) later known as the Crux Ansata or looped cross and was the Egyptian symbol of life and health. The Ankh became the bowl on the top of the staff of Aesculapius, and then eventually the Lamp of Life. During the Crimean War it became associated with the nursing activities of Florence Nightingale who was known as the Lady with the Lamp, and so it became accepted as the symbol of the Nursing profession. As such it appears on many stamps.

Aesculapius appears on several stamps, and the symbolic **Staff of Aesculapius** has been shown on issues of at least 30 countries. **The Winged Staff of Caduceus** with two snakes instead of one is often featured. Traditionally it is the symbol of Commerce but, since 1920 it has been adopted as one of the symbols of medicine, and in fact is today the official insignia of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Hygeia (about 1330 B.C.) the daughter of Aesculapius, and later deified as the Greek Goddess of Health or Hygiene, features on stamps.

Many countries have honoured their great physicians and surgeons on stamps — France and Germany particularly so. It is to be noted, however, that Great Britain has only two such recognitions to her credit — the tribute to Joseph Lister's discovery of antiseptic Surgery, which was commemorated 100 years later by two stamps issued in 1965; and the illustration of Penicillin mould indirectly honouring Sir Alexander Fleming, which appeared on the 1/- stamp of the "British Discoveries" issue of 1967.

Stamps commemorating medical Congresses have been issued in abundance by many countries, the first being a set of three issued in 1887 by the private Postal City Delivery Company of Wiesbaden. The next such issue occurred in 1909 to commemorate the VIth Pan American Medical Congress held in Rio de Janeiro. And from 1927 onwards such honours were accorded to medicine increasingly more often. Special cancellations for such meetings exist in profusion.

World Health Organisation meetings and efforts have been honoured by special stamps

and perhaps the most valuable help to medicine has been through the numerous issues by a great many countries to propagandise or combat specific diseases such as tuberculosis, cancer, leprosy, polio-myelitis and tropical diseases.

The first stamps of this kind to carry a surcharge above their fiscal value, to be set aside for a specific purpose were the charity stamps of New South Wales, issued in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The proceeds above their postal values were set aside to construct a Home for Consumptives, and these stamps were the first ever to aid the fight against a specific disease — in this case Tuberculosis.

The second official postal stamps in the fight against tuberculosis were issued by the Netherlands in 1906.

It was in this year that the American National Tuberculosis Association adopted as its emblem the double-barred Cross of Lorraine. This Cross, as you know, was used as his standard, by Godfrey, Duke of Lorraine, when in 1099, during the Crusades he became ruler of Jerusalem. This cross first appeared on the anti-tuberculosis stamps of Belgium in 1925, and has been adopted by most countries since then. Each year thereafter, Belgium issued a set to aid the Anti-tuberculosis fund, and the list of stamps issued by other countries for this laudable purpose has now become formidable.

The fight against **Cancer** has received great help in this way, as also has **Leprosy Control**.

Malaria, perhaps, has captured the imagination of the world to an even greater extent than tuberculosis, and the number of stamp issues to combat this scourge has exceeded those to fight Tuberculosis.

The United Nations W.H.O. campaign of 1962 for the eradication of malaria was the first truly international effort to stamp out disease, and by the end of the year when it officially ended, 115 postal administrations had taken part and 98 of them had issued special stamps, special cancellations, or other special facilities with part of the proceeds being assigned to the campaign.

Noteworthy as this was, as a truly international humanitarian effort to alleviate mankind's suffering, yet a few unscrupulous agencies prostituted this campaign for their own private gain, without contributing anything to the Malaria Cause. In so doing, sad to relate, they prejudiced to some extent this noble concept.

To be continued

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SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

15th October: Mr. J. Aldis gave us an exhibit of Canadian issues from 1930, supplemented by a complete collection of Pitcairn Island and Queen Elizabeth issues of several West Indian islands, the exhibit was well received by those present, Mr. Thornton proposing the vote of thanks.

The poor attendance at the meeting was due to the absence of a number of members at the Congress in East London.

5th November: After receiving the President's report on the East London Congress, we were treated to an exhibition of Great Britain by Mr. W. Harmer. The exhibit covered the issues from 1840 to date, with many blocks and shades.

Mr. N. Esterhuisen conveyed to Mr. Harmer the appreciation of those present, after which our usual auction concluded a most enjoyable evening.

19th November: For the first time, as far as your scribe can remember, several members combined to give a display. The subject was the stamps of France and a very comprehensive showing was the result of the joint efforts. Participants were: Mr. E. Nagel, with a complete mint collection of all issues from 1947-1965. Mr. R. Bruce, who included the Poste Aeriennne Pair, Marseilles of 1927. Sinking Fund issues, the elusive Victory of Samothrace 1937, the Liberation Issue of Lyon, 1944 and others. Mr. R. Thornton had some nice sets, including Airmails on view and Mr. G. Bülbring presented the earlier stamps from 1849-1914.

The evening can be rated as a success and similar displays in future should prove popular.

3rd December: This was President's evening and the Society was treated to a display of King George VI issues by Mr. G. Monaghan. This comprised numerous colonial definitive sets complete mint and very nearly complete used, and was well received by the members present.

Mr. Fraser proposed the vote of thanks of those present.

17th December: This Saturday afternoon was devoted to the Junior Collectors, both members and non-members. It is pleasing to report a very good attendance. The Geo. Forbes Memorial Cup was awarded to Master D. Fraser for a nice clean collection of U.S.A. and U.N.O. covers, many with 1st day cancellation. The Geo. Forbes Memorial Prize (Philatelic books) was shared by Master R. Dicks, British South-

ern Africa, and Master M. Salzone, Mozambique and Portugal.

During the judging of the collections the meeting viewed exhibits by adult members: Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt, dogs on stamps, Mr. L. Lazarov, Coronation Stamps — King George VI, Mr. J. Malan, Christmas Seals, Mr. E. Nagel, Cape Triangulars and Rectangulars, Mr. T. Strachan, Post Marks of the West Indies, Mr. G. Bülbring, Modern Austrian Stamps. The afternoon was really worth while.

The day was concluded by a social gathering of Society Members and friends who attended a very enjoyable dinner, which brought another year to a pleasant ending.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: At a well attended meeting the President gave a resume of the successful ELPEX EXHIBITION and conveyed the Society's appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the undertaking.

Appreciation was also extended to Mr. Leo Hellmann for his services as Chairman of the Exhibition Committee and it was decided to establish a "Leo Hellmann Award" as a token of appreciation.

These were two entrants in the Feros Cup Competition for lady exhibitors. Mrs. G. Bradley put on "Flowers" and Mrs. J. Hutchinson "Independent Rhodesia". After mature consideration the Judges awarded the trophy to Mrs. Hutchinson.

A pleasant evening was brought to a close by Mr. Hellmann giving a resume of the latest philatelic news items followed by excellent cakes and tea supplied by the ladies.

December: This meeting was not very well attended — the Christmas fever seems to have taken its toll. This, being the President's evening, Mr. Leo Hellmann displayed some pages of his Judaica collection namely, "Jews depicted on stamps", and also some pages of "Stories behind the stamps". Both of these displays were interesting, and the newer members, in particular, enjoyed this deviation from straight collections. Our thanks are due to him for his display. The President's Cup competition also took place, but there was only one entry, namely the 1930-1945 Second World War period of South Africa, submitted by Mr. Terrence Radue, and, as the three judges awarded the necessary percentage to enable the cup to be won, he will be the holder for the next year. This collection embraced the wartime issues of stamps, together with representative covers of the various campaigns, P.O.W. Mail, etc.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary in April next year, we intend staging a small exhibition of member's stamps in honour of the occasion (as if "Elpex" wasn't enough for a while!). Our very best wishes go out to all fellow philatelists for a happy and successful year of collecting in 1969.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: In opening the meeting, the President, Mr. H. J. Suklje, on behalf of all members, congratulated Mr. S. J. Hagger who had received the Study Circle Award for his display of South African Officials at the Stamp Exhibition recently held at East London. The President also stated that it was very pleasing to report that another of our members, Mr. L. Buchen, had been elected President of Federation at the Congress held at East London in conjunction with the exhibition. The balance of the evening was taken up with the exchange of stamps and philatelic discussions between members. Two philatelists from Kempton Park were welcomed into the Society as members and two of the visitors present at this meeting completed application forms and would become full members in the New Year. The Hon. Secretary stated that more Germistonians were becoming interested in the hobby of collecting stamps and that there had been a remarked increase in the membership of the Germiston Philatelic Society.

December: Over eighty people were present at the Braai/veis and Film Show arranged by the Society for its members and their families, in place of the usual Ordinary meeting and display of stamp exhibits. Although there was a slight delay in the distribution of the meat for the braai, everyone present was well supplied, with, not only chops, wors, hamburgers and hotdogs, but also cold chicken and salads. After the braai, a very entertaining film show was provided by one of the members, Mr. B. Clark who was ably assisted by Mr. T. E. Mutch from Gills Photographers. The films selected by Mr. B. Clark were mainly for the interest of the many children present at the social. At the conclusion of the evening's entertainment, the President of the Society, Mr. H. Suklje, thanked everyone for supporting the Christmas Social and wished all A Very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year. Mr. H. Suklje congratulated the members of the Entertainment Committee on their fine work in arranging such a fine social, with special thanks to Mr. B. Clark and Mr. T. E. Mutch for providing the film show.

ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The next Convention of the Anglo-Boer war Philatelic Society will be held as usual in the Crown Hotel, Warwick, U.K., so will anyone interested in this particular field of South African philately who is likely to be in Britain on 3rd May 1969 please drop a line to the Hon. Secretary, J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Pennys Lane Ridheath Northwich, Cheshire: he will be delighted to hear from you.

Membership now stands at 07, having received a boost through the publication of Part A of the Society's revision of Rich's 'Philately of the Anglo-Boer War'? Part A is sold out, but Part B, devoted to P.O.W. camps overseas is now obtainable at 15/- plus 2/- postage etc. from N. Snowdon, 7 Truro Avenue, Stratford, Manchester M 32 8P.F.

THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: The unseasonal cold spell reduced the number of Members/Visitors to 45 but comments afterwards suggested it was one of the most interesting meetings we have held for some time. Firstly, Mr. Sternberg of Gatooma gave an extremely interesting talk on Admirals and also displayed a selection of Double heads — 7/6d. value — to demonstrate the wide number of shades he has located. We were also shown a range of extremely rare Sarawak paper trials. Secondly, the material offered at the auction was of reasonable quality and as the prices were equally attractive the bulk of the stamps offered were sold. A popular last minute decision was to reduce the charge for tea/coffee to 6d. a cup (biscuit shortage!).

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

November: Both meetings enjoyed a large attendance of about 60. The first was a Bourse, which produced much bargaining and bartering. Mr. Vermaak did good business selling items donated to him to be sold in aid of ZAR 100. The second meeting, one of the best this year, was arranged by Messrs. Buchen, Miller & Glassman, who had gone to an enormous amount of trouble not only to show us the stamps of Israel, but to explain some of the history behind it all, and to show us a most interesting film vividly presenting the birth of the nation of Israel.

AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Oktober: Die aand is opgeluister deur 'n baie mooi versameling seëls van Australië. Die uitstaller, mnr. W. Kühn, strewe daarna om 'n versameling op te bou van ongebruikte seëls sowel as gebruikte stelle. Dit is 'n interessante versamelterrein wat mens nie so dikwels te sien kry nie. Mnr. Kühn het die versameling netjies opgestel en bygeskrywe.

November: Jaarvergadering. Die bestuur vir die komende jaar is as volg saamgestel: prof. H. L. Gonin (voorsitter), mnr. A. P. Havenaer (ondervoorsitter), prof. F. G. E. Nilant (sekretaris), mnr. J. M. Becker (penningmeester), mnr. I. J. Bernhardt (2de penningmeester), mnr. H. Fouché (rondsendbeampte), mnr. W. Kühn (2de rondsendbeampte), mnr. N. Dekker (nuusbriefbeampte), mnr. H. P. N. Pretorius (2de nuusbriefbeampte), mej. Visser (verversingsbeampte), verteenwoordigers by die Federasie: mnr. N. Dekker en mej. Esterhuizen. Die voorsitter het vervolgens sy baie mooi versameling van Nederlandse seëls uitgestal. Gelukkig het hy met die seëls van 1852 begin, sodat ook die ou klassieke seëls bewonder kon word. Dit is 'n mooi versameling waarby veel aandag gegee word om mooi afstempelings te verkry. Ons Vereniging van terugkyk op 'n opmerklik voorspoedige jaar, waarin die aantal lede sowel as die belangstelling aansienlik toegeneem het,

terwyl ook die finansiële omstandighede gesond is. Ook die jaarlikse funksie aan huis van die voorstter was 'n groot sukses. Die vereniging gaan met vertroue die nuwe jaar tegemoet.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

October: Butch Daniels who had only returned from the Olympic Games in Mexico the day before, gave a very interesting talk on the Games and some of the backroom stories. Our Society is indeed proud that one of its members should have been selected to represent South Africa at one of the conferences and as a result the Fencing Sport, which Butch represented, was not excluded from the Olympic Games despite the efforts of Russia and several of her cronies. This talk was followed by an outstanding exhibit of Judaica submitted by Mrs. H. Jeidel of CASPIP, Cape Town. The collection contained almost everything falling within the ambit of Judaica and Mrs. Jeidel combined in one collection what many of us divide and display as several collections. The material was good and the write up excellent. There was an accompanying paper which was well written and highly technical. As usual Mrs. Jeidel did not disappoint us and it is no wonder that she collects high awards whenever she exhibits both Nationally and Internationally. On behalf of the Society I suitably thanked Mrs. Jeidel and through the medium of this newsletter will pass on a hint to her that some of her material would enhance part of my collection on Judaica. Well done Mrs. Jeidel

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

November 14th: The first Exhibitor of the evening was Capt. M. F. Stern who tabled a very comprehensive showing of the Airmails of Greece 1926 to 1934. A fine array of First Flight Covers to all points of the compass. Secondly a collection showing the development of the German African Airmails, based on a paper read at the recent East London Congress.

Mr. E. H. Beermann's contribution to the evening "Surprise Exhibit" was just that. Being an extremely well presented colour slide show on Greece interspersed with slides of stamps where they were appropriate. Mr. Beermann's descriptive narrative brought the scenes depicted to life and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

November 28th: The Exhibitor of the evening Mr. H. W. H. Lee showed a selection from his Great Britain collection. A very comprehensive display particularly of the Elizabethan period which showed the change in style of the English designers to the modern idiom.

The second half of the evening was given over to a Bourse. Of over Seventy items offered, very few were sold and only one actually came "under the hammer". Several lots of Catalogues and magazines were also sold. Thanks to Mr. E. Beermann and Mr. D. Watts who organised the Auction.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

December: Our social evening of the year turned out rather disappointing as there was a very poor attendance at the annual film evening.

However, all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening and sincere appreciation is extended to the two individuals for their effort in entertaining us.

Four films were shown, the first, titled "Blue Peter" gave the story of an inter-island schooner in the Netherlands Antilles showing scenes and activities at each port of call. This was followed by "The Language of Flowers" a film on the Dutch flower industry showing the acres and acres of hothouses, the propagation of the plants, the magnificent sight of the flowering tulips, carnations, dahlias and others which are all grown all the year round, and then the auction rooms and the methods used in exporting the blooms.

After refreshments, a South African Tourist Corporation film on Natal was screened, and this included the magnificent Drakensberg scenes, the Natal Game Reserves and all the beach and holiday resorts and then last of all, a film "Hold Back the Sea" told the story of the efforts of the Netherlands in reclaiming the land from the sea, the building of the dykes and of the polders and how the great floods inundated the reclaimed land and breached the walls and the new effort starting from scratch again. This was truly a fine film.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Dinner to celebrate the Seventieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Society, held at the Restaurant Janina on December 2nd, in lieu of the usual monthly meeting was a huge success and not one of the attendance of sixty members and their partners who sat down to the Dinner had anything but praise for the Society's Social Event of the year.

Speeches were kept to a minimum; the fare was excellent and the organisers are to be sincerely congratulated upon a highly successful evening.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

December: The meeting was "the Chairman's Night" when Mr. Turnbull gave a review of the year's activities and paid tribute to the many members who had given their time to MATEPEX and made the Exhibition an outstanding success.

Thereafter the Chairman entertained members to two very interesting exhibits.

The "Sir William Henry Milton" first day covers, issued on the 15th January, 1960, are available from the Society, fully serviced with franking stamp, at 3/- each.

MANICALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: Our very sincere gratitude is extended to Maj. General Richardson, C.B., M.C., for his most interesting talk and display of Seychelles. The talk was most enlightening, commencing with a brief historical outline of the Island and its relative position to the sea routes, through the postal history of the use of overprinted Mauritian stamps, and a detailed explanation of the reasons of the numerous overprinted values on the Islands stamps themselves. The display was most comprehensive and clearly illustrated the talk.

Through the very stout efforts of Mr. J. Thom and a great deal of hard work, we were able to display on the boards which the Society has been contemplating for some time. Certainly a great improvement on displaying on a flat table.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on 15 March 1969. The Hon. Secretary's address is P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria, and items for expertising should reach him a week before the date of the meeting.

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