

The South African Philatelist

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SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

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

REGISTRATION ENVELOPE

A new "registered letter envelope" was delivered to the Post Office in October, 1969. Printed locally by Pirie Appleton & Co. Africa (Pty.) Ltd., it is very similar to the one, by the same firm, in June 1968. (Description in S.A. Philatelist Oct. 1968.) It is of the same size and make up, but differs in the following respects: the paper is white instead of cream; the language order throughout is reversed, and, most strikingly, the flap is perforated by 40 holes (10 rows x 4). It is supplied in packets of 10.

It is understood that this is an experimental issue, for the holes in the flap will make tamping, steaming open, both more difficult to do and easier to detect. It would appear that not many were printed and but few post offices have received any of them.

PICTURE POSTCARDS PHOSPHORISED

A new issue of postcards was issued in November 1969 showing radical changes from the previous issue of November 1968 (described in S.A. Philatelist Feb. 1969). The cards show the same scenes in the same colours and the stamp is a very pale blue with a frame of phosphor about 5 mm. wide around it. This frame is clearly visible to the eye. The paper is very similar to the previous, namely white,

glossy and coated, but now it is of Spanish manufacture and is 15½" wide.

The printing factors are changed. There is now no separate cylinder for the Stamp (Z14); that is now for the phosphor, and the stamp is printed by the blue cylinder, Z25, from a new design including the stamp. The cylinders now are Z9 yellow, Z40 red, Z17 blue, Z25 black and Z14 phosphor.

PHOSPHORISED POSTAL MATERIAL

The following material has been issued up to the end of November 1969, with the date of delivery and in order of appearance:

Definitive Stamp: 3c. Cyls. 238, 239, A and B. 15 Sept. 1969.

Commemorative Stamps: ZAR 100, 2½c. Cyls. 8.27.18 A, B, C, D. 6 Oct. 1969.

Definitive Stamps: 1c. Cyls. 273.274, A, B, C, D. 6 Oct. 1969.

7½c. Cyls. 285.284. A, B. 3 Nov. 1969.

5c. Cyls. 282.283. A, B. 12 Nov. 1969.

Aerogrammes: 2½c, 5c. Exact date uncertain but reported to have been about the end of October 1969.

Picture Postcards: 12 November 1969.

It is understood that, of the phosphor printing cylinders, there is one for the 1c and 1½c values and two for the other values and there are two widths of bands 3 mm. and 5 mm.

WHAT PHOSPHORISING WILL MEAN TO THE COLLECTOR

Since it is now the declared policy of the Post Office to issue stamps that have been phosphorised, it will be interesting to see how it will affect the stamp collector insofar as what he will now be able to collect, and, if he goes for completeness, what he will have to collect. In the first place, will the phosphor bands rank with other details of a stamp, making it especially collectable? For example, take a case in point: A collector of printing abnormalities might come across, or be offered, a stamp with the phosphor band across the stamp instead of along the gutters. This would appear to be a rare condition, in a class with other gross misalignments, or overlapping of colours, so well sought after. Now, if we know how these bands are printed, we would see that the condition need not be rare. Shortly explained: all the sheets, as they emerge from the printing machine, are not examined under the ultra violet light to detect abnormalities of the phosphor; possibly two or three in a roll of say 5,000 sheets are taken out for examination. And very reasonably so too, for the bands are not part of the design of the stamp but are there only for the letter facing machine.

Of far greater importance, however, is the number of panes of a sheet in future printings. These panes are alphabetically marked A, B and so on. Basically, we must remember that, in any of our stamp printing machines, the phosphor bands require an extra cylinder. Hitherto the Goebel 830 two cylinder machine could, and did on occasion, print any of the two colour stamps. Now, with phosphor, it cannot. By the same token, the Goebel 840, three cylinder machine, printed the three colour stamps ($\frac{1}{2}$ c, $12\frac{1}{2}$ c, 15c, 20c and R1 definitives). Now, with phosphor, it cannot. It can, however, print any of the two colour stamps, and with phosphor; indeed, the four definitive values so far printed, with phosphor, namely the 1c, 3c, 5c and $7\frac{1}{2}$ c, are all two colour stamps.

There remains now the five cylinder machine, the Albertina, which, as things are at present, will have to print the phosphorised three colour stamps. And therein lies a matter of great importance to the stamp collector. The Albertina is a large machine with large cylinders and it would be wasteful and uneconomical to print sheets as they now are, namely with one or two panes. We venture to predict that four panes, A, B, C and D will

be the norm. Furthermore, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that there be eight panes to a sheet.

The position then will be this: the Goebel 830 machine is ruled out — at all events its days seem to be numbered — unless we get mono-coloured stamps which is unlikely, although we have had them in the past. It seems that the work will have to be divided between the Goebel 840 and the Albertina and, with the Albertina taking on more of the two colour stamps, and that means more panes per sheet.

There is no doubt that the most popular form of Republican stamp collected is the cylinder block of four and occasionally, when necessary, of six, showing the cylinder and sheet numbers. Now, the sheet numbers of the Albertina machine are large, and, with the cylinder number and pane letter, could spread the length of three stamps. So a cylinder block could comprise six stamps. The effect is that there is more for the collector to buy if he wants his collection of cylinder blocks complete. And that can be an expensive business. Consider a possible printing of a 20c stamp of four panes and a cylinder block of six. A set of cylinder blocks, at face, would cost R4.80. It would be well to bear these facts in mind when giving standing orders for new printings. Some consolation will be found in the fact that the 50c and R1 values will not be phosphorised.

From a budgetary point of view this new development could give rise to concern among collectors. The Post Office is no doubt aware of the disabilities outlined above and it will be interesting to see if anything will be done about it. Permit us now to venture into the realm of speculation. Several remedies come into mind. Firstly, the format of the sheets may be changed — more stamps per sheet with less panes — not a very practicable solution for the large format stamps (2c. upwards) as the sheets are awkward to handle. Secondly, and here we ask, can the machines be changed or adapted? Can the Albertina have smaller cylinders, smaller circumference? All printings are not for millions of sheets! Then there is the Goebel 840 machine. It has three "heads" each with its cylinder. From a cursory examination these "heads" appear to be replicas of each other. Would it be possible to "insert another head" for the phosphor printing. There is enough space for one in its hall at the printing works.

There is another possibility which will be regarded with mixed feelings. The pane letter

may be omitted entirely. In the past we have had issues without cylinder numbers, others without sheet numbers, and what field days they gave specialists! It is unlikely that all the panes of a printing will be identical, so obviously there will be the challenge to specialists to identify the panes. Specialists will enjoy themselves but certainly not will the average collector.

PRECIS. Collector, be prepared for more items to collect if you want completeness, and be aware that cylinder blocks in the future are not always blocks of four.

POSTMARK NOTES

By David Allison

Travel Now, Pay Later.

We're always seeing airlines' advertisements which exhort us in these terms to spend money we haven't got. The New Zealand post office has adapted this phrase in a slogan which has been in use this year:

GENERAL ELECTION 1969
ENROL NOW
VOTE LATER

Somehow this slogan caught my attention because of its rather neat wording, and so I mention it here.

Travel Now, Arrive Later.

My next postmark was used because of the dock strike in New York last winter (summer in South Africa). To my mind it makes quite an interesting item for a collection. Unfortunately, my specimen is not complete, and I have had to guess the letters underlined. This inscription was used instead of a slogan on a New York machine in February 1969:

DELAYED BY STOPPAGE
IN STEAMSHIP OPERATION

This envelope was undeliverable in New Mexico early in March, and returned to the senders in Cape Town in mid-September. It must have been delayed again somewhere!

New Post Office List.

Collectors of South African postmarks may like to know that a new edition of the list of post offices has been published. It is announced in the October, 1969, Post Office Bulletin that the 1968 edition of the List of Post Offices is now available at 60c a copy. This edition contains all the amendments up to and including those published in Post Office Bulletin No. 39 (April 1968).

Medical Congress Postmarks.

In the August, 1969, issue of "Stamp Magazine", "Afrikander" draws attention to the special datestamp used at the 1954 Medical Congress in Port Elizabeth. This postmark (which he illustrates) was used on less than a thousand items of mail, and is quite scarce to-day.

Handstamp collectors who decide to collect these Congress postmarks will probably find it quite difficult to obtain even a representative collection. In some years (e.g. 1954, as mentioned above, and 1957, for which see "S.A. Philatelist" January, 1958, p. 4) specially made datestamps have been used. On other occasions relief cancellers have been supplied. These are single circles, usually not easily legible, uninteresting until you know a bit about them and fascinating if you do. Looking through some notes made years ago I see that the post offices at the Medical Congresses of 1933 and 1949 used these cancellers; unfortunately I don't possess either of them.

Notice that these postmarks fulfilled a definite postal purpose, unlike many of the special handstamps which appear in such profusion in some other countries. Partly for the very reason that they are not made primarily for collectors, they will take a great deal of finding. Some may no longer even exist. Similarly, it would take a long time to collect the relief handstamps used at the Rosebank Show post office, in the days before the show moved to Goodwood and became the Cape Show, where the post office uses a permanent handstamp nowadays.

Rhodesia goes decimal.

The conversion of Rhodesian meter franking machines to decimal currency has begun. A meter mark from machine N 534 used in Bulawayo on 20 X 69 has two of the old Neopost dies from which the word SOUTHERN and the royal monogram were evidently removed a few years ago, and the values shown are $\frac{1}{2}$ c and $3\frac{1}{2}$ c. These are evidently being used at present as $\frac{1}{2}$ d and $3\frac{1}{2}$ d dies, as the envelope on which they occur probably required 4d postage to be paid.

Victoria Falls handstamp.

For years the Rhodesian post office has used an illustrated postmark slogan to encourage us to "See the Victoria Falls". Now the post office at the Falls has a handstamp showing the waterfall. Between two concentric circles are the words VICTORIA FALLS (at the top), and RHODESIA (at the bottom). The view of the Falls fills the lower

MOON STAMPS AND COVERS



Collectors may be interested to learn that the majority of the Moon items listed below were sold out at the Post Offices either by advance subscription or on the day of issue. The investment potential of Moon issues is therefore obvious and this, of course, is in addition to their extreme historic interest.

Collectors throughout the world are clamouring for these stamps and covers, and now is a good time to commence a collection at ground-floor prices.

APOLLO 11 MOON COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

	MINT	F.D.C.
1 Belgium plus Souvenir Sheet	90c	—
Souvenir Sheet only with First Day postmark affixed	—	80c
2 Czechoslovakia	R1.10	R1.60
2 Dahomey	R1.35	R1.60
1 Great Britain, SOUTHAMPTON special unique postmark	—	70c
9 Grenada plus Souvenir Sheet	R1.70	*
1 Hungary Souvenir Sheet	R1.35	—
4 Maldive Islands	90c	*
1 Poland Souvenir Sheet	R1.60	70c
		(single stamp)
1 Roumania Souvenir Sheet	R2.50	R2.90
1 Rwanda Souvenir Sheet	R2.75	R3.00
5 Seychelles	75c	95c
5 South Korea plus Souvenir Sheet	95c	—
6 Togo plus Souvenir Sheet	R2.75	R3.60
3 Trinidad	75c	*
2 Western Samoa	70c	R1.35
1 U.S.A.	12c	65c
COMPLETE COLLECTION AS ABOVE	R18.50	R16.50

First Day Covers marked with an asterisk are expected.

J. SANDERS (PHILATELIST)
LIMITED

5/7, COMMERCIAL ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND.

half of the inner circle, and the date in one line is above this picture. This handstamp was first used on 21st June, 1969, and my thanks are due to the Postmaster at the Falls for this date.

That's all for this time — except to wish you all lots of fun with your postmarks in 1970.

ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF JOHANNESBURG,

CLLR. P. R. B. Lewis, on the occasion of the opening of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa Congress, 7th October 1969

Dit is vir my beslis 'n genoë om hierdie een-en-dertigste kongres van die Filatelistiese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika te open. Ek verneem dat daar nie slegs uit die vier Provinsies van die Republiek afgevaardigdes is nie, maar ook van so ver as Suidwes-Afrika, Rhodesië, Zambië en oorsee.

Ek wil in die besonder almal verwelkom wat nie van Johannesburg is nie, maar hier is as besoekers. Ons is altyd bly om besoekers te kry maar veral dié wat vir 'n besondere doel soos hierdie kom, waar hulle mense met die selfde belangstelling kan ontmoet.

Ek is jammer dat Johannesburg 'n beton-oerwoud genoem word. Dat ons hoë geboue het, is waar. Maar dat hier 'n oerwoud is, wil ek ontken. Die Burgemeester kry in sy amptstermy n die geleentheid om sy medeburgers te ontmoet en kennis te maak met die bedrywig-hede van die stad. Dit is verbasend hoe besig mense is en aan hoeveel goeie werke hulle deelneem en die groot verskeidenheid stokperdjies wat mense se vrye tyd in beslag neem.

Yesterday we had the pleasure of attending the opening of the ZAR 100 Exhibition. The address by Mr. Rive gave an insight into the history of stamps at that time. I am quite sure that this Exhibition will add terrifically to the interest of those attending your Congress.

ZAR 100 takes us back to 1869 and I, for one, find history intensely interesting. 1869 — what were the conditions at that time? In the Z.A.R. there were ten Post Offices, and no telephones. I have endeavoured to ascertain the population of the Republic at that time, but the first census was not taken until the 2nd April, 1890. 1869 — this was two years before the discovery of diamonds in Kimberley, and the credit of the Z.A.R. was such that the Vrystaat Republiek would not accept the Z.A.R. currency as good tender. It was the discovery of diamonds in 1871 that attracted so many newcomers to South Africa. The dis-

covery of gold on the Rand was not until 1886, but in the meantime there had been diggings in Lydenburg, Pilgrams Rest, the alluvial gold at Kaapsche Hoop and the Barberton Gold Fields. It was the capital which accrued so easily to the tycoons at Kimberley that provided the capital to exploit the gold discovered on the Rand.

Few of us realise the struggles of those early years. Do you know that the year before the outbreak of war in 1899 111,697 Bantu were employed on the mines of the Witwatersrand. When the mines were re-opened after the war, only half those employed in 1899 could be recruited to work on the mines. In July 1903 the number employed was 55,507. To try and solve this desperate situation, the Milner regime consented to the introduction of Chinese labour in 1904, and by December 1904 20,918 Chinese were employed on the mines. By 1907 the number of Chinese labourers had increased to 57,828. The employment of Chinese in the Transvaal had serious repercussions on British politics. The Liberals exploited the cry of "Chinese Slave Labour in the Transvaal" to defeat the Conservative Government in the 1907 elections, and Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal Leader, became Prime Minister.

Self-government was granted to the Transvaal, and the laws permitting the use of Chinese labour were repealed, and the Chinese were repatriated. By 1909 the number of Bantu employed on the mines had increased to 154,071.

After the Anglo-Boer War there was a terrific boost in property values. The municipal valuation of land in 1906 was R29 million. At the next valuation in 1907 the values had dropped to R21 million. By 1910 the figures had dropped to R14 million and the values fluctuated between R14 and R16 million from 1910 to 1928. By 1934 the values had increased to R27 million. It took all this time to come back to the 1906 values, in spite of the fact that the population of the city had increased, and that a tremendous number of new townships and suburbs had been created.

In his Budget Speech of 1931, Havenga replied to a suggestion that the income tax on the higher brackets should be increased, by stating that he felt this would serve very little purpose, as there were only 1312 people in the Union of South Africa with incomes over £2000: per annum, and 142 with incomes of over £7000: per year. From these figures you will realise that it was not until after the abandonment of the gold standard, and, in later years, the discovery of the new gold fields in

FROM OUR RARE STAMP DEPARTMENT

BECHUANALAND	1887 £1 lilac and black, S.G. 20, fresh unused o.g.	R206
	1889 4d. on ½d. vermilion with inverted surcharge, S.G. 58a, used, a rare stamp	R516
	1920 5/- bright carmine, S.G. 87, unused o.g.	R27.50
	1961 Decimal Surcharges, complete set used on first day cover, including the rare one rand, type I	R164
RHODESIA	1910-16 £1 crimson and slate-black, S.G. 166a, superb unused o.g., showing the variety "gash in ear"	R559
SOUTH AFRICA	1931 Flown cover from Lympe, England to Cape Town, bearing a Great Britain King George V 1½d. stamp with Hythe and Lympe c.d.s., and a 2d. South African stamp with Cape Town c.d.s. The flight began on 31st October and finished on November 5th, taking 5 days, 8 hours and 27 minutes, beating the previous record. The pilot was Miss Peggy Salaman and approximately 10 covers were carried	R129

ALL THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE OFFERED SUBJECT UNSOLD

If you are interested in any of the above items, or in any similar material, please contact:

John Farthing — British Commonwealth Countries.
 Steven Kander — Foreign Countries.
 Les Hallam — Great Britain.

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UNUSUAL ITEMS IN CHOICE CONDITION

S.W.A.	1930 Air 4d S.G. 72b ovp. inverted Mint marginal copy	R30
RHODESIA	1909 £2 S.G. 113e, the rare white paper, very fine used. (See Robson Lowe Encyclopedia) Cat. £45 plus 50%	R100
	1909 101a, 103a (2 shades), 107a, 108a. All no stop, fine used. Cat. £7-10-0	R15
	1922-27 1d to 5/- variety cleft in rock, all in corner pairs, superb Mint. Robson Lowe Cat. 4-6 times normal	R150
NYASALAND	1908 1/- die proof of frame, marked after hardening; fresh and immaculate	R120
SWAZILAND	1933 ½d to 10/- corner plate number blocks of four, Mint extremely fine and rare thus	R110
CANADA	1873/7 1c S.G. 91 brilliant unmounted Mint perfectly centred. Cat. £18 plus 100%	R60
GIBRALTAR	1935 2d, 6d Extra Flagstaff; 6d in mint corner block of 4. Cat. £26 plus	R50
CAPE: MAFEKING	1900 1d. S.G. 18 deep blue, fine used. Cat. £50	R60
CAPE	1853 1d. S.G. 1a. Remarkable colour, light clear pmk. Exceptionally fine. Royal cert, Cat. £40	R70
FALKLAND ISLS.	1938 5/- S.G. 161a. A beautiful used copy. Royal cert. Cat. £25.....	R50
SOUTH AFRICA	1926 ½d. S.G. 30ba. Tete-Beche Mint. Very fine, Cat. £60	R110
	1913-21 £1. S.G. 24a. A selected copy, well centred, brilliant Mint. Cat. £80	R150

JOHN MENDELSSOHN B.P.A.

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the far West Rand and the Klerksdorp and Welkom areas, that the transformation took place.

May I now tell you a few things about what is happening in the Johannesburg of today.

Until recently the municipal area of Johannesburg was 94 sq. miles, and of this area more than a quarter, some 23 sq. miles, was proclaimed mining ground. Recently, as a result of the incorporation of areas to the north-east and north-west, the municipal area has been increased by 11 sq. miles. As from next year a further 93 sq. miles is to be added to our boundaries, this area being to the south of Johannesburg, and will include 21 sq. miles of Soweto, the area where our Bantu population live. This area has always been administered by the City, although it has not formed part of our municipal area. Portion of this area is Lenasia, the group area for the Indian people, and Nancefield, which is a coloured group area.

A portion of the southern boundary will now be the Klipriver. The effect of the incorporation of this area to the south will be to make the central business district of the city the centre of the municipal area. Previously there was limited development to the south, the main development being to the north. Now that the gold mines in the municipal area are reaching the end of their lives, the proclaimed mining area will be put to other use. These mines, during their lifetime, produced gold which, at today's values, equals R3,000 million. Residential areas are to be laid out, and on the Crown Mines alone it is anticipated that a population of 40-45,000 people, the equivalent to the white population of Springs, will be housed. The developers feel that this area can be converted into the garden area of the city.

One huge development which is taking place is the Carlton Centre. This is being built on 5½ blocks and will occupy six acres. The Carlton Centre has four aspects. The Centre has been excavated to a depth of 95 feet, and as this depth is below the water table, problems have been created about the disposal of the water that will seep into this area. This necessitated a survey of the buildings in adjacent blocks in order that the state of these buildings could be recorded before excavations began, so that claims could not be made for damage to properties where in fact the buildings were already in a dilapidated or cracked condition.

A shopping centre is being built on the lower levels, which will be 14 acres in extent. An office block, which will be 50 storeys above ground level and 670 feet in height. The top

of this building will be level with the observation tower of the — now here I am a little confused as to whether I should call it the Hertzog Tower or the Albert Memorial. There will be a Hotel block of 30 storeys to accommodate 1200 people and, in addition, there will be a large exhibition hall of some 60,000 sq. feet.

You can visualise the problems this has created for the City in that when the municipal services were provided, it was never anticipated that there would be such a concentrated demand from such a limited area. It would be necessary to provide new water mains. The peak electricity demand for the Centre will exceed the peak demand for a town such as Kimberley. The consumption of water will be some 300,000 gallons per day, and the 1600 sewer points will necessitate the installation of sewer mains which will have a peak capacity at the rate of 800,000 gallons per day.

One of the beneficial effects of the change in the City's bylaws regarding the maximum height of buildings is that now that tower blocks can be built, a large portion of the ground floor area will become open spaces. The Carlton Centre will only occupy one-third of the ground floor area, the Trust Bank some 20% and the Standard Bank 30%.

I do hope these few facts, and the contrasting of the old with the new, will make us realise that it is only really in the last 35 years that we have experienced this accelerated rate of growth. I do hope that all our visitors to Johannesburg will enjoy their stay, and that your Congress will be interesting and productive. I now have pleasure in declaring the Congress open.

PHILATELIST CALENDAR

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of "The Philatelist Calendar 1970" which reproduces, on six large pages of 16" x 11¾" format, conveniently ring-hinged at their top margins, the calendar details two months on each page, along with illustrations, in their natural colours of rare stamps and covers pertaining to various groups such as Great Britain, the 20th Century British Empire and Mauritius. The production affords a picturesque and entertaining philatelic assembly.

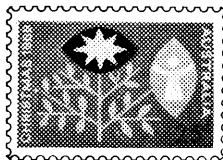
The calendar is published by "The Philatelist" in conjunction with Messrs Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London S.W.1., from where it may be obtained at R1.10 each, including postage, packing and a special 12 word greeting card if the calendar is to be used as a present — an ideal yuletide gift.

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AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

to the XXXI Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa held at Johannesburg from the 7th to the 9th October, 1969

Before reviewing the affairs of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and commenting on them, I want to pay tribute to our hardworking Hon. Secretary, Mr. K. E. W. LYDALL, whose very efficient handling of the day to day affairs of Federation have ensured its effective functioning. To this I also want to add my own warmest thanks for the assistance he so readily gave me during my term of office.

The number of affiliated Societies and Study Circles remained unchanged during the year under review. The attendance of substantial numbers of delegates at the four meetings of the Executive Committee held during the year, details of which are given in the Executive Report, and the discussions which took place, again proved the usefulness of this committee as a liaison between Constituent Societies until the following Congress.

Whilst delegates representing societies of which they are actually members, are in a position to acquaint the Executive Committee with the views held by their societies, this unfortunately is not the case where members of local societies act on behalf of societies which are situated too far from the seat of the Executive to enable their own members to attend. It has become quite evident that contact between them and the societies they represent is virtually non-existent and they are very often at a loss to know what attitude to adopt when contentious matters are being discussed. As the Agenda for the Executive Meetings is posted to all Constituent Societies in good time, there is every opportunity to acquaint the local representatives with the points of view they are to put forward. Needless to say, every society so represented is also entitled to receive a report from its delegate containing explanations where applicable, of the stand adopted by him.

School Philately has been a topic of discussion at virtually every Congress but it must be admitted that no real headway has ever been made. We know that almost every child collects stamps at some time or other, only to discard them as soon as some other subject attracts his or her attention. The inevitable conclusion is therefore that one is either a born stamp collector or that one acquires an interest in this hobby at a more mature age when one is able to see the advantages and pleasure to

be derived from stamp collecting. The vast number of adult collectors which incidentally, is growing constantly, proves this point and there need therefore be no fear that this hobby will ever become extinct.

It is also an established fact that a very large number of serious collectors have no contact with Organised Philately and for reasons of their own do not wish to join existing societies. It is worth considering whether ways and means can be found to bring these outsiders within the orbit of Federation and this may perhaps even find a further substantial outlet for the "South African Philatelist".

It can be stated again that the relationship of this Federation with the Department of Posts and particularly with its Publicity Department continues to be a most cordial one. We are grateful to Mr. Z. L. Nel, the Publicity Officer, for his courtesy and ever present willingness to assist in all matters philatelic.

It is also most gratifying to see that a suggestion made by a delegate of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle at last year's Congress, that sets of South African stamps, suitably packed, be made available to tourists at ports and airports, has been accepted by the Postal Authorities. Such packets are now obtainable at the Post Offices at Jan Smuts Airport, Cape Town and Durban and naturally also at the Philatelic Bureau in Pretoria.

My predecessor in office in his presidential address has pleaded with the Government to consider the annual issue of a set of Charity Stamps, the surcharge of which would provide Welfare Organisations which much needed funds which the Ministry of Social Welfare cannot provide from its own Budget. This plea was not new and I clearly recall the objection to such issues voiced by the representative of the Department at a Congress some years ago, when he said that the cost and difficulties in accounting for the surplus were such that they would defeat the object of such issues.

Modern office machinery and methods should easily overcome the objections raised a long time ago and I would like to join the Immediate Past President in his appeal to the Government to reconsider this matter. Large sums of money are being raised annually in many countries through such stamp issues and if the stamps are attractive enough and the surcharge moderate, the success of such issues in South Africa would be assured.

The following Sub-Committees were constituted at the first meeting of the Executive Committee: Expert Committee, Publications Committee, Congress Award Committee and Philatelic Estates Committee. In addition a

Recorded Lectures Committee was appointed to act in collaboration with the Publications Committee. All committees functioned well during the year under review and I wish to record my sincere appreciation of their sterling services.

I would also like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Honorary Officers of Federation. It was a matter of great satisfaction to me to find at the Executive Meetings Vice Presidents who undertook long journeys to be able to assist me with their experience and wise counsel. Our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Michelson has successfully coupled the burden of this office with that of the Chairman of the Publications Committee. His services to Federation were most valuable and we owe Mr. Michelson a deep debt of gratitude. I also have to thank our Auditors, Messrs. Stern, Glassman & Co. in the person of Mr. Glassman for the very satisfactory manner in which the annual audit is being conducted.

I would, however, fail in my duty were I not to mention the very high standard of THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST maintained throughout the year by its Editorial Board consisting of Dr. T. B. Berry, Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer and Mr. S. J. Vermaak. Special thanks are due to the last named who by his untiring efforts as Business Manager has succeeded in maintaining a satisfactory financial state of affairs for our publication.

I am fully conscious of the great honour bestowed upon me when I was elected President and now that my year of office is drawing to a close, I would also like to thank all members of the Executive Committee who by their kind co-operation have made it a pleasure to serve the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa.

LEO BUCHEN, F.R.P.S.L.

CAPE TRIANGULARS — IS THIS THEIR ORIGIN?

by

Commander F. W. Collins, RN (Ret'd)

Reproduced from the "London Philatelist" by kind permission of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

On Monday, March 30th, 1843 Mrs. Caroline Thomson, probably a resident in Simons Town, wrote a note to her friend, Mrs. Maclean at the Royal Observatory enquiring about



a house servant for "the medical man down here at the Hospital, Dr. Shea".

As was her custom she carefully folded the small double letter-sheet five times to produce a triangular shaped missive, which was marked with a manuscript '3' in red, being the rate for a single letter from Simons Town to Cape Town. It later received the G.P.O. crowned oval handstamp then in use at this office (Jurgens Type 16).

Before this date and for years afterwards we can surely assume that she sent out her triangular notes, though few are likely to have copied her because of the greater ease of making the two folds for a normal rectangular letter. But many people must have been intrigued by her habit and it is likely, in such a small society as existed in the Cape at that time, that Mrs. Bell, wife of the Surveyor General must have seen some of Mrs. Thomson's little triangles. What more natural, when her husband was puzzling out how to design something original for their new stamps that one of them suggested 'why not a triangular one?' If the design for the figure of Hope was, as Mr. D. A. Stevenson suggests in his standard work on these famous stamps, taken from a Roman coin of AD 134, the story of how the design was evolved may now be complete.

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PHOSPHORESCENT TREATMENT OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE REPUBLIC

by

Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer

(Continued from Page 283, December 1969)

Then there was an unusual display at the Exhibition, under the same title as this paper. Numerous specimens were shown under the U.V. light to demonstrate the various types, and accompanied by a tape recorded question and answer commentary wherein the well known voices of Messrs Burrell and Mephius were readily recognised. A number of people later remarked that they thought this display was the highlight of the Exhibition. It seemed to have made a greater impact upon them.

Then, on the Thursday a party of about twenty paid a visit to the Govt. Printing Works in Pretoria. Three printing machines were operating, each with its cylinder printing phosphor bands or frames; the Goebel 840 on the 7½c stamp, the Chambon on Aerogrammes and the Albertina on picture postcards. The last printing cylinder on each of these machines imparted the phosphor frames around the stamps; the phosphor compound looked like a greyish white gum, sticky to the touch and very adhesive. It would appear that very perfect cylinder alignment, that is, that the frames be only on the white margins of the stamps, is not so essential; in fact the autotron of the Albertina looks after its registration while registration of the Goebel 840 machine is checked every now and then by taking a sheet from the run and examining it under an ultra violet lamp on a table nearby. The result is that perfect registration between the phosphor frames and the stamps would seem to be the exception rather than the rule.

And now, as regards the phosphor bands themselves, first of all they come from screened cylinders with a coarse screen, 150, instead of the usual 200 or an occasional 175. They are not always of the same width. Of the three stamps as yet issued, the widths are as follows; the ZAR 100 2½c and the definite 1c, cylinders 273-274, 5mm. while the 3c, cylinders 238-239 has two widths, 2mm. along the margins of the sheet, and 3mm between the stamps.

The characteristics of phosphorescence on the stamps are fully described in Mr. Mephius' paper which will be published in due course, but an examination of the three stamps now available show certain features which will have to be followed up as more printings become

available. There definitively is a change in the colours of the stamp and of the paper, particularly under U.V. lamps. It may be the newness of the phosphor cylinder colouring the paper and may wear off, as has frequently happened in the past. The faint yellow of the bands are discernible to the eye, too. And then it has been stated that if these stamps are exposed to strong sunlight for a long time the power of phosphorescence disappears. Time will tell.

The Philatelic Bureau provided a photostatic copy of the pamphlet describing the facer/canceller machine. We hope to present a detailed description of it later. There are two models and are described as follows "Modular letter facing machine F8400/1 standard type, for the detection of fluorescent or phosphorescent postage stamps. Input rate 30,000 items/h." And the second "Modular letter facing machine F8400/V, small size, with double passage of mail through the machine, ideal for small and medium post offices". It was since learned that the first machine would first operate, not on the 7, 8 and 9th October at Port Elizabeth, but about a week later.

UNION POSTAGE DUES IN MINT SETS

(Pairs and blocks pro rata)

1922	Rouletted S.G.D8-10	Set of 3	35c
1922/26	Perforated D11-14b	Set of 5	45c
1927/28	Bilingual D17-20	Set of 5	95c
1943/47	Bantams D30-33	Set of 7	R1-25
1948/49	Capital D D34-38 incl 36a	6	R1-25
1950/58	Hyphenated D39-44 incl. 40a	9	R2-00
1961	Decimals D45-50	Set of 6	85c

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DIE POSSEËLONTWERPE VAN W. H. COETZER

(Voortgesit van Desember, 1969)

(Dit spyt ons dat daar iets aan die begin met die illustrasies verkeerd geloop het. Ons hoop om aan die end van die reeks 'n regstelling te plaas.)

Plaat 5: Skets van die kunstenaar se eerste ontwerp van die koevert.

'N ONVERKLAARBARE RAAISEL

'n Reklameportret van die Coetzer-seëls is deur die publiseitskantoor van die Departement Pos- en Telegraafwese in 1938 aan koerante en vooraanstaande persone gestuur. Die deursneë posseëlversamelaar was nie van hierdie reklamestuk bewus nie. Versamelaars wat wel een in die hande gekry het, het afbeeldings klaarblyklik sonder die nodige sorg as korrek aanvaar, met die gevolg dat 'n blante vergissing nie voor 1957 pertinent onder versamelaars se aandag gebring is deur middel van 'n artikel wat in die *South African Philatelist* van September van daardie jaar verskyn het.

'n Vlughtige vergelyking van die 1½d.-eeufesseeël en 1d.-herdenkingseeël met hulle ewebeelde op die reklamestuk bewys 'n omruiling van die raamwerk van dié twee seëls, 'n algehele afwyking van die kunstenaar se ontwerp. Om dit te kon bewerkstellig moes 'n groot mate van bywerking van die Coetzer-ontwerpe deur die Staatsdrukker se kunstenaars geverg het, anders sou die hoeke van die binnebeelde 'n onafgeronde oorvleueling gewys het. Hoe dit gekom het weet niemand nie en die raaisel sal maar onopgelos moet bly. Die ontwerp-kunstenaar is dronkgeslaan. Trouens hy was salig onbewus daarvan en het nou tot die ontnugtering gekom dat sy boek *My kwas vertel* wat in 1947 verskyn het hierdie onjuistheid bevat, kompleet met verkeerde beskrywings van ontwerp en simboliek.

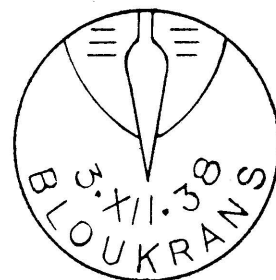
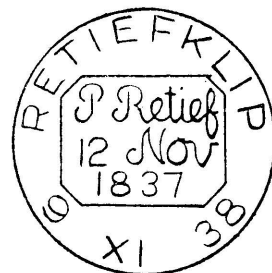
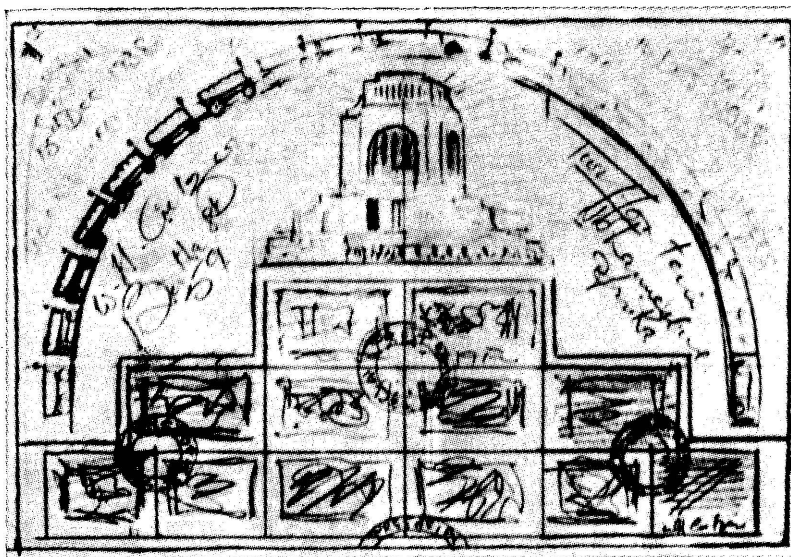
Die verandering van 'n kunstenaar se aanvaarde seëlontwerp kan verstaan word. Maar hier het ons te doen met wat amptelik voorgelê is as portrette van seëls wat werklik gedruk is en gereed is om op 'n bestemde dag uitgereik te word. Wat het hierdie verandering veroorsaak? Op watter stadium was dit gedoen? Wat het van die gedrukte seëls geword? Tergende vrae!

GEDENKKOEVERTE EN -POSTSTEMPELS

Koeverte en posmerke is nou wel nie posseëls nie maar hulle verteenwoordig noodsaaklike onderafdelings van filatelie, veral waar hulle met belangrike en geskiedkundige aangeleenthede in verband gebring word. Die opdrag aan Coetzer om ook ontwerpe vir twee eeufeskoeverte en vyf posstempels voor te lê, was feitlik 'n vanselfsprekende voortvloeiing van sy Voortrekker-seëlontwerpe.

Soos alom bekend was die simboliese Ossewatrek van 1938 deel van die Voortrekker-eufeesvierings en sou dié Trek al die belangrike Voortrekkerroetes van weleer meemaak. Die langste Trek het op 8 Augustus 1938 van die Van Riebeeck-standbeeld in Kaapstad vertrek om vir oulaas op 15 Desember 1938 by die Voortrekkermonument uit te span.

Een van die Coetzer-koeverte is bestem om langs die verskeie Trekke gebruik te word sodat die stel gedenkseëls met spesiale posstempels gerojear kon word.



PLAAT 5: SKETS VAN DIE KUNSTENAAR SE EERSTE ONTWERP VAN DIE KOEVERT.

Die koevert is 9 by 6 duim groot en die ontwerp is in 'n rooibruijn kleur. Dit toon 'n Trek oor die Drakensberge. Voor en links, die berg-op is 'n ossewa met 'n span van 16 osse. Die span is groter as die gebruiklike,

maar is simbolies van ons groot geskiedkundige dag, 16 Desember. Oor die kruin van 'n hoë oorhangende krans sak 'n ander wa die berg-af terwyl drie Trekkers swaar rem aan 'n riem wat moet keer dat die wa nie

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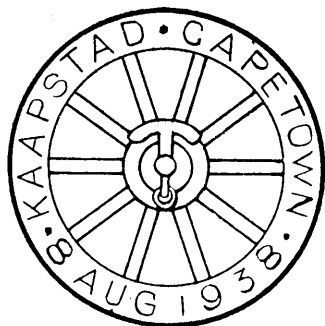
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- ★ Ons het honderde stelle in voorraad.
- ★ Ons het allerlei bybehore beskikbaar.
- ★ Ons nooi u uit om te kom kyk.



die krans aftuimel nie. Tussen die twee staan 'n Trekkersvrou en -dogtertjie hoopvol die gevaarlike maneuwer en betrag. Die Voortrekkers se optimisme word weerspieël deur die bossie veldblomme wat die dogtertjie vashou. Die moeilike terrein en hoë kranse waaroor die Trek gaan, simboliseer ook hier die gevare wat die Voortrekkers moes trotseer en die heldemoed wat hulle aan die dag gelê het.

Die tweede kovert kom in grootte en kleur ooreen met die eerste. Dit is bedoel om by die Voortrekkermonument versprei te word.

Hier (Plaat 5) verskyn 'n skets van die kunstenaar se eerste ontwerp. In sy finale afwerking verskil die kovert van die eerste ontwerp in dié opsig dat die woorde „Voortrekker-“ bo links en „Monument“ bo regs horisontaal staan en die jaartalle „1838“ links en „1938“ regs vertikaal om die boonste hoeke van die kovert te vorm. Die boog van 16 kakebeenwaens herinner weer eens aan die dag 16 Desember. Voor elke wa staan 'n sweepstok regop, met 'n brandende lantern aan elk, soos by die Slag van Bloedrivier om die omliggende gebied te verlig teen die gevaar van 'n nagtelike Zoeloe-aanval. Hier het ons laertrek en lig na 'n lang en moeilike skof wat op 15 Desember sy bestemming bereik het. Dit simboliseer die eindelike vestiging van 'n volk, vrede en skone, onbelemmerde, vooruitsigte.

DIE STEMPELS

Eupeesposstukke is by al die belangrike punte op die verskeie roetes van die 1938-Ossewatrekke gestempel maar slegs by die



vyf wat die diepste indruk op die Voortrekker-geskiedenis gelaat het is Coetzer-stempels gebruik, te wete Kaapstad, Retiefflip, Bloukrans, Danskraal en Bloedrivier.

Al die stempels is rond en simbolies-dekoratief van ontwerp. Dié van Kaapstad is 43 mm. in deursnee met die ander vier 35 mm.

Die treffendste van die vyf is Bloedrivier wat in die boonste helfte die monumnt toon wat op die plek van die Slagveld van Bloedrivier opgerig sou word. Die onderste helfte bestaan uit twee halwe sirkels waarvan die binneste die datum 14—16.XII.38 dra en die buitenste die naam Bloedrivier.

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SILINDERBLOKKE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

The September issue of your paper, just to hand on page 203, gives us welcome information concerning proofs in the G.P.O. Archives.

I do NOT agree with the remarks under item 4 — The Actual Printing Plates, i.e. "Is this in fact a flaw etc. etc."

The variety is heavier than the normal and has recently been the subject of an illustration in THE SPRINGBOK with pertinent remarks.

In addition the writer refers to the early catalogue when he mentions variety "V D", the most recent and mentions "V 4":

Perhaps if you reproduced the illustrations it will explain the point very clearly.

Yours,

R. D. ALLEN.

* * *

Dear Sir,

One wonders whether by any remote chance the Post Office was responsible for a space-filler in a recent Government Gazette — Page 11 of copy attached — reading 'Save Time and Money, Use Franking Machines', and if so, why!

Yours faithfully,

M. M. WOOD.

* * *

Dear Sir,

Can anybody elucidate please!

Some canny type has written to ask if there was a Travelling Post Office attached to the "Royal Train" or Pilot Train, which carried the Duke of Connaught and his party on a Tour of the Union in 1910. I personally have never heard of this Post Office.

Secondly, can that Tour be classed as a Royal Tour? As far as I am aware the issue of the Double Heads of Rhodesia were supposed to have originally commemorated the visit of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra (of Tek) to the Union and Rhodesia in 1910, but unfortunately the King (Edward VII) passed away and the successor, King George V was unable to take his place, the Duke of Connaught being chosen to represent King George V on this visit.

The Double Heads on the Rhodesian stamps of 1910 were changed to that of King George V and his Queen Mary in place of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

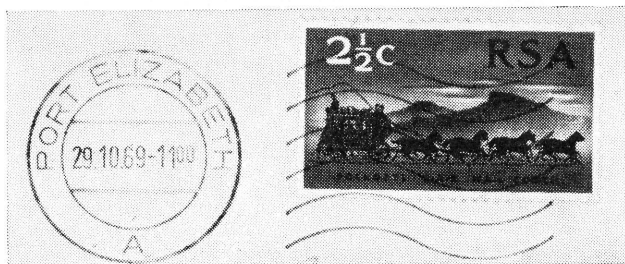
Are there any comments forthcoming on either of these queries?

There is nothing like starting a hare, but Mrs. Buton says in her recipe for jugged hare,

that you must catch your hare first — any catchers, I mean takers?

G. D. B. WILLIAMS.

NEW POSTMARKING MACHINE



The South African Philatelist of June 1928 records the fact that Port Elizabeth, East London and Bloemfontein are now using electric cancelling machines which impressions bear wavy lines between the date circles and that the machines appear to be of continental manufacture.

Port Elizabeth again appears to be in the forefront of handling mail matter for it is the second centre at which an Automatic Letter Facing machine has been installed, the first being at Pretoria.

Mr. J. T. Strachan, of Port Elizabeth, reports this installation and has kindly furnished an impression of its dater, illustrated, which, differing from the earlier single-circle one, comprises two circles of 28.5 and 19 mm. diameter respectively, with the date and time in numerals placed centrally, and an 'A' or a 'B', indicative of the dater used, positioned in the lower segment of the circles.

It is believed that the 29 October 1969 dates the first trial run of the machine when a small quantity of mail was franked and was passed into the post.

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PRECISE NOMENCLATURE

Now that South Africa has introduced the new stamp printing techniques of PHOSPHOR FRAME response to Ultra Violet light as well as the longer established FLUORESCENT paper, it clearly becomes necessary to standardize our nomenclature to avoid confusion.

May I suggest that "P.F." becomes a standard abbreviation for PHOSPHOR FRAMES, and "F.P." for FLUORESCENT PAPER. "P.F./O.P." would then be read to mean: Phosphor-framed but ordinary paper, which is also technically possible, although no such emission has yet been seen from Pretoria.

Finally PHOSPHO-FLUORESCENCE as a general term instead of the lengthier phosphor-framed, fluorescent paper is proposed for general acceptance in the literature in view of the forthcoming issues all to be in this condition (except the 50c and R1 stamps). This is in preference to FLUOR-PHOSPHOR stamps on the grounds that in English the first of two adjectives denotes a modification to the second, (e.g. yellow-green indicates basically green but with a modification towards the yellow side of the spectrum). As the fluorescent paper has been the original treatment giving an ultra-violet response, it would appear to be the correct order of working to express our new issues as PHOSPHO-FLUORESCENT.

R. G. L. MEPHIUS.

REVIEW

CATALOGUE DES PLIS AEROPOSTAUX TRANSPORTES PAR AVIONS á REACTION ET TURBO-PROPULSEURS DE COMPAGNIES AERIENNES FRANCAISES.

CATALOGUE OF FIRST FLIGHT COVERS CARRIED BY JETS AND TURBOPROPS OPERATED BY FRENCH AIRLINES, by J. Holtheau, of the Cercle Aerophilatelique Francais, 22, Avenue de la Mer, F.44 — PORNICHET France. Price Fr. 5,80 postage included or U.S. Dollars 1.00 or 7 postal reply coupons.

This 23 page cyclostyled catalogue covers all flights from 1953 up to 1.4.69 and all items are priced. Although not giving details of the flights, all items are numbered and clearly set out and all stages covered. All is in both the French and English languages, which makes same more than useful to aerophilatelists in

South Africa. It is an excellent publication and should find a place in the library of every collector. As a reference it is invaluable. Mr. Holtheau is an authority in this field and that alone ensures that nothing has been omitted and all is authentic. The prices shown are based on values worked out by several collectors who consider they represent the actual real value of the market, which is also most useful.

M.F.S.

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A "JUMBO" SIZE HAND CANCELLER

Commenting upon the description of the above canceller, which appeared on page 220 of our October number, Mr. R. McDougall, of London, writes that he possesses a similar cancellation, the circles measuring 65 and 38 mm in diameter, but there is no trace of any number or letter within the inner circle and a star appears instead of a short line in the lower segment between the circles.

The strike is a double one on a block of eight of the 3d value stamps, U.H.C. 39 b, which dates it about 1935.

As with Mr. Hofman's example, the stamps are tied to brown paper but Mr. McDougall queries this point as whether it indicates parcel-post as small packages, or covers, were

made up with brown paper instead of large envelopes. A small package might have been properly registered as a letter, or even as Small Packet Post.

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RHODESIA: MORE MARDON VARIETIES

by
J. V. WOOLFORD

With new printings of Rhodesian stamps always threatening to appear, the only way to keep track of them is to make notes of each printing as it comes. New printings of the 1d have turned up, and they make the second printing of that stamp out of date, so that it becomes a compact group for study. Many Post Offices in Rhodesia still have stocks of the second printing so there is plenty of material about for those who have yet to complete their collections of this stamp. Any delay will leave many of the varieties out of reach, because they will be out of sight.

The second printing was from cylinders 2A and 2B only. Quite a few flaws are described in Part 3 of the Guide published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group, but there is more to it than that, and a detailed examination of these stamps is worth while. A block of 24 stamps from the top left of the sheet is in existence showing damage to the background under OST of POSTAGE. Sheets from cylinder 2B have no such flaw, so the obvious conclusion is that this block is from 2A, but if you agree it is not possible to tell the difference between 2A and 2B apart from the cylinder block, you are left with the possibility that the flaw is a batch flaw on 2B. However, I believe that in many cases it is possible to distinguish between the two cylinders by the colour of the buffalo. Cylinder 2B has a brighter shade of mauve than 2A on all cylinder blocks and part

sheets I have examined. Going by this the variety mentioned is from cylinder 2A, though this does not prove that it is constant. Anyone having a full sheet of stamps from this cylinder is asked to check for this flaw on 4:6. If it is constant it is worth having because it is a better variety than many that are catalogued.

Cylinder 2B has a great number of varieties, though none as good as that one. The Guide mentions the mark above E of POSTAGE on 16:10 but only in small print; in my opinion it should have been in large print as it is a collectable variety, easily seen without a glass. On 16:8 there is a weak entry of the buffalo's head, giving it the appearance of being rubbed. A marginal block of 25 will include both varieties. A cylinder block from 2B shows a good fading of the Queen's head on 20:1. Many collectors who have such cylinder blocks do not know about this, so it should be checked. It would be interesting to know if there are any sheets without this flaw; the many sheets and cylinder blocks examined all show it.

Moving away to the top right corner of the sheet we come across one of the freaks that occur so often that they ought not to be called freaks! Sheet No. 55297 had damage to the bottom of the right leg of the H of RHODESIA. By sheet No. 55555 this had vanished, leaving behind no scar or any other mark, and it would be interesting to know if it had been observed on any sheets before No. 55297. This type of flaw can be quite amusing if it is caught in the act of vanishing, so to speak.

There are other varieties worth mentioning, apart from those described in the Guide. Row 7:2 has a damaged S in POSTAGE, and 10:2 a damaged B in BUFFALO. On row 10:10 there is a ring under OS of POSTAGE of the sort that is usually a "Batch flaw", but this one has turned up on so many sheets that it must be constant. It has also been seen on the 5/- booklets issued this year (1969). It must be repeated that anyone wanting to make a specialised study of the 1d stamp of the second printing should do so while stocks are still on sale at some Post Offices.

Collectors relying on the Guide for a description of the 2d first printing should note that the information given in the Guide is out of date. The varieties mentioned for cylinder 1B on rows 1:7, 2:11, 4:3, and 9:5 are no longer there, and the "Flaw in the Queen's left eye" on 6:1 has vanished although the bulge on the oval on the same stamp is still there. The varieties listed in the Guide were batch flaws presumably, but this is not to denigrate the compilers of the Guide; many flaws

thought to be constant have a habit of vanishing just when you think you have tracked them down!

The new printing of the 3d has a collectable variety on cylinder 1B row 17:3, a dark blob in the oval behind and below the Queen's hair. In general the new printing is altogether sharper and brighter than the old, which does not have this variety.

This brings us to the 5/- booklets, which exist in two types. The first contained the old printings of the 1d, 2d, and 3d, and was not interleaved. The second has interleaving and contains a mixture of printings of the stamps. I have one booklet that has the second printing of the 1d on the first pane, and the third printing on the second pane. Another shows the third printing on the first pane and the fourth printing on the second pane. Some of these may be rare, but Mr. Pollard of the Salisbury Stamp Co. thinks that all you need to fake these booklets are a few blocks of the right stamps, a few staples, and a few covers. So even if you **do** have a rare booklet you are going to have a job to prove it! Mr. Pollard probably believes that I am telling him the truth when I say my booklets came from the Post Office, but how to convince anyone else is beyond my powers. Seriously, don't spend money on "Rare" booklets because you won't be able to convince cynics like myself and Mr. Pollard that you have not been taken for a ride.

The new printing of the 4d from cylinder 1A is a much sharper printing than the old, and shows how Mardon have improved since they took over the job. The varieties listed in the Guide have been cleaned from the new printing, though the tiny dark dot at the top of the L of EMERALDS is still there on all stamps. Some Post Offices have stocks of the old printings from cylinder 1A, and at Sakubva a month or two ago I bought a block of 21 printed in the darker shade.

In an earlier article published in a rival magazine I remarked that the 6d printings from cylinder 1C are different from those from 1A and 1B in that there is greater contrast between the two shades of green in the background. At the time the statement was made with great caution, but as many sheets and cylinder blocks have been examined since then, the caution can be disposed of now! There is a bigger contrast between the two green shades in the background on stamps from 1C, and with practice it may be even possible to tell stamps from cylinder 1A from those from cylinder 1B. However, it now seems likely that

there will have to be a new printing of these stamps on German Chromo paper, so once again supplies of the current printings should be obtained while stocks last. If and when the new printings do appear, we must hope that they are not going to be identical with the trial printings made about three years ago on the same paper.

On the old printing several of the varieties listed in the Guide have called it a day. On sheets from cylinder 1B the multipositive flaw on rows 2:1, 2:6, 5:1, 5:6 (WHITE MARK JUST BELOW OVAL) seems to have become constant on 2:6 only. Also the flaws listed on 2:7 and 6:5 have gone. On sheet No. 21,956 a few screen flaws seemed to be appearing, and it will be interesting to see if any wearing of the cylinder has occurred.

The 1/- : 10c has been reprinted, but the difference in shade is very slight. The old printing of this stamp was uniform on all three cylinders as far as shade went, though the maize cob can be seen on mint stamps sometimes to be lighter on 1C than on 1A or 1B. On used stamps this is not a reliable test, unless you have a lot of C.T.O.'s, always available from the Philatelic Bureau!

Moving on to the 2/- value, there is a useful constant variety on row 6:9, cylinder 1C. The Queen's head is much paler on this stamp than on others in the sheet, and it is a mystery to me that no notice has been taken of this before. A cylinder strip of three shows the flaw to advantage as it then appears between two normal stamps. The 2/- : 20c printing is an entirely different stamp and does not show the flaw.

The 5/- stamp is an interesting study, and some Post Offices seem to have run out of cylinder blocks, so it **may** have to be reprinted fairly soon on Chromo paper. The doubling of the Queen's head and figure of value on 5:5 and 6:5 can be obtained in an imprint block from either cylinder. Don't expect anything too spectacular; the variety is certainly worth having, but it is really a thickening of the frame of the oval and a blurring of the Queen's head. The figure of value has a faint outline to it. It is generally accepted that there is no way of telling the difference between stamps issued from the two cylinders, but it is possible that those from 1A have a slightly lighter blue than those from 1B. It is also possible that the shade will vary from one part of the sheet to another! (Just to make it easy). Incidentally, why didn't Mardon stick to the Trial Run printing for these stamps — they look much nicer than the "Normals".

The Guide mentions the variety on row 2:4 of the 10/- from cylinder 1A in small print, but it is a popular flaw and many collectors want it. The Trial Run is a much sought after stamp, and one dealer told me it is very difficult to come by copies, most having been absorbed in collections long ago. With a printing of about 7740 prices are likely to rise even more. While on the subject of the 10/- stamp I must correct the Guide again! The variety on cylinder 1B, row 2:7 has become a vanishing flaw on account of having vanished! Thank heaven I do not have the job of compiling the Guide.

Information coming in from the "Underground" suggests that the variety on the £1 on row 2:10, cylinder 1B has joined the ranks of the Invisible by vanishing. There is no need to mourn the variety on 5:9 on the same cylinder as my informant (a much better word than "spy") informs me it is still there. Cylinder blocks from 1A are scarce and the Philatelic Bureau has run out of them. However, I was able to pick up a cylinder pair of 1A at a certain Post Office last month (August). Many Post Offices still have stocks of the Harrison printings of the £1, so the distribution of these must have been uneven.

It will be interesting to see how many of the current Sterling stamps have to be reprinted before Decimal Day, Feb. 17th, 1970, because we are bound to have some new issues then. No Government will allow an opportunity for issuing new stamps to pass, and perhaps the Rhodesian Post Office will regale us with a whole series of overprints. Perhaps not, but those who have any gaps in their Rhodesian collections should complete the current set while it is current. Any late reprints could be quite scarce.

A CENTURY-OLD CONNECTION

by

A. Leslie Leon, F.R.P.S.L.

The firm of Thomas de la Rue & Co. Ltd. of London has had a long and fascinating career from its origin as a small printing establishment in the Channel Islands in the eighteenth century to becoming one of the industrial giants in London at the present time. Much of this history was told in a book entitled "The House that Thomas built" published some three years ago, but that volume does not make mention of the firm's South African connections.

De La Rue took over the plates for the Natal stamps from Perkins Bacon & Co. in 1862 and printed all the stamps for the Colony until it joined the Union in 1910. Early in 1863, they were handed the four plates used for the printing of the Cape of Good Hope triangular stamps and continued as the printers for the Colony also until 1910. The Orange Free State gave its first order in 1868 but the Transvaal did not become a customer until after the Anglo-Boer War.

The newly-formed Union of South Africa turned to the Company for its first stamps and they continued to print for us until the advent of the pictorials in 1926. Even for this issue, however, they were consulted and produced essays, although they were not successful in obtaining the contract. Direct contact with South Africa was thus maintained for a period of 64 years.

Many years later contact was renewed in quite a different manner. During the second World War the establishments of the Company in Bunhill Row, London, were severely bombed and many priceless records were destroyed. In the fifties of this century, Messrs de la Rue decided to build a reference collection of every stamp that the firm had printed. As their first stamp was a revenue stamp produced for Great Britain in 1853 and their postal and revenue customers were the Governments of most of the countries of the world, this was a formidable task. By 1963, however, they had almost succeeded and were anxious to complete the collection in the year which marked the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Company.

Only one stamp was missing, and despite enquiries in many quarters overseas, a copy could not be located. Eventually the Company wrote to a collector in South Africa, who was able to send what was wanted — the £1.10.0 value of the Queen's Head Revenue stamp. In fact, they received a strip of three cancelled in the Deeds Registry — a correct revenue usage. As this was a Natal stamp the search might have ended sooner had the Company enquired first in Natal!

Having successfully completed the collection, Messrs de la Rue decided to hand it over, with some of its archives, on permanent loan to the British Museum, where it may now be seen on request to the authorities. In terms of a British Act of Parliament passed many years ago, items given or lent to the British Museum may never be released, so that institution remains the final home.

PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meets on the second and fourth Thursdays
of every month in

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South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Bldgs.
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at 8 p.m.

VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.

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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

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Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor),
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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).
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P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp

Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511;

Home: 660-4085

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 483, 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.

SOCIETY NEWS

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

October: The 1st meeting in October following only two days after Z.A.R. was not well attended, but for those who did get there, had a treat in store for Mr. Naylor showed his prizewinning "Kings Heads" with some additional material as well. The competition evening for the Robertson Cup on the 27th was well attended. There was a fine display of five Exhibits all predominant in K.E. VII & Geo V as the rules for the cup stipulate. 1. Mr. Sampson (a new exhibitor) showed his fine collection of Australia, 2. Dr. Von Varendorf Tanganyika, 3. Mr. Viner the Empire of India, 4. Mr. E. Stern the ED VII & Geo V section of Falkland Islands, 5. Mr. G. Burdett's Great Britain. Prior to these exhibits Mr. Seligman President of the Afrikaanse Society spoke of his ideas to promote Junior Philately, he said his Society hoped to hold a Christmas meeting on Saturday Dec. 6th, to which all Junior members in Johannesburg & the Reef would be invited. They would like to give each child some philatelic gift, and help from interested members would be welcome.

THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October: The meeting of the Society was held at the usual venue. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming visitors and members and the £1 minimum Reserve Auction was then conducted by Mr. Brooke — despite the inclement weather over 40 members and visitors attended, and the majority of lots offered were sold. Amongst the items of interest sold were 13 'Waxed Moustache variety' of the Rhodesian Admirals with photographic enlargement and position plan which was sold for £20.10.0. A large number of Mardon trial printings, some of them very scarce were also on offer, and all were sold. The Auction was followed by an Exhibition for the Pienke Cup by Mr. Lee Graham whose comprehensive and well presented display of Churchill Commemoratives was admired by all — our sincere thanks to Mr. Lee Graham for his efforts and our congratulations on his well deserved award of 95% by our judges. At this stage, a word of thanks to our judges who faithfully turn up to all meetings: often unprepared for what they might find themselves faced with, and yet, always they manage to present the Secretary with individual marking sheets which never vary by more than one or two marks! The meeting thanked Dr. Goldblatt for his donation of a cup for the coming year for the best thematic display.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October: This meeting was held on Monday, 6th October and despite the opening of Z.A.R. 100 a good crowd turned out to see an entertaining exhibition provided by Mr. Eskell and Mr. Schlieben.

Mr. Schlieben showed Germany 1924—1939 with the emphasis on the Zeppelin issues, mint, used and on cover. This outstanding exhibit was up to Mr. Schlieben's usual high standards. Mr. Eskell showed a straightforward collection of Norway which was preceded by a short talk on Norwegian history and its influence on Norwegian stamp design. This was a most interesting display of a much neglected country. Thank you Messrs. Schlieben and Eskell for a most entertaining evening.

We regret to announce the passing of Mr. W. H. Bottomly in August 1969. Mr. Bottomly joined the Society in 1938 and was one of our staunchest members.

BELVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October: Mr. Stinson showed his competitive entry for the Lee Cup, namely S.W.A. The exhibit was strong in Kings head issues, overprinted, and amongst the varieties noted were SG 1(a) "Wes" for "West", "A.F.R.I.C.A." for "Africa", as well as numerous varieties which illustrated the wear of the type at different stages. The entry was very well received, and will be a strong contender for the Lee Cup.

Mr. Graber showed Great Britain Control Blocks, which is an exhibit which is not often seen.

ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE

The 16th Annual General Meeting was held on 14 October in the Board Room of the Alliance Insurance Co. at 88 St. James' Street, London, W1. Mr. L. Fortnum was elected President for 1970. Messrs. G. D. Buckley FRPSL, W. B. Marriott and A. R. Allison were re-elected Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

An interesting display of Imperial Military Railways and Official covers was given by A. G. M. Batten, FRPSL. This was followed by a study of the 4d. on 6d., 6d ERI and 1s on 5s. of 1902.

Meetings during 1970 will be held on 4 April, 30 May and 19 or 26 September. This last, the AGM, will be held at a different venue in conjunction with the TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE during the London International Exhibition, PHILYMPIA 1970, for the convenience of overseas Members.

Copies are still available of the OFS Handbook Vol. I at 66s post free (Silver Gilt Award at STAMPEX 1968). It is anticipated that Vol. II will be published in the autumn of 1970.

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

The last Meeting of the year was held on 11 October in the Board Room of BPA, 446 Strand, London, WC2.

A display of 'Interesting Items from the Transvaal' was given by Members present and in addition Mr. Buckley, FRPSL, showed the early Cape Embossed Revenue stamps. These were preceded by a page of the rare impressed 'V.O.C.' monogram of 1792.

Meetings next year will be held on 14 Jan. (AGM), 25 April, 11 July and on 19 or 26 September (in conjunction with the Orange Free State Study Circle) during PHILYMPIA 1970 for the benefit of overseas Members.

NATAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October 1st: A well attended meeting opened with "Question Time" during which questions relating to such items as extinct S.A. plain names, how to soak off stamps, etc., were debated. This innovation was well received and promises well for future meetings.

Thereafter Messrs. Clark and Goede demonstrated the use of the Ultra Violet Lamp in Philately to an appreciative audience.

October 15th. The feature of the meeting which was a Swop Night was a talk on Postal History by Mr. Harte of London, followed by a discourse by Mr. Boseley on his recent tour in England and Europe wherein he reported upon the philatelic aspect and the stamp trade there. Mr. de Goede thanked the speakers and an enjoyable evening concluded with an auction.

THE S.A. STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

September: Informal discussions, particularly relating to ZAR 100 occupied most of the meeting time.

October: The meeting was held in conjunction with ZAR 100 celebrations in the Sable Room of the Wanderers Club and was attended by a representative gathering and delegates to Congress, their wives and visitors.

Mr. S. P. Naylor read a paper on the Waterlow Die Proofs of the 1926 ½d., 1d. and 6d. values and Dr. H. J. Raubenheimer presented a paper on the sidelights on the Van Riebeck Covers and the Coach Routes.

An interesting meeting closed with a discussion on the latest "phosphor" stamps.

November: A well attended meeting opened with an interesting auction which was followed by Mr. P. Venter displaying a very commendable exhibit of all the Postal Stationery pertaining to the ZAR 100 Exhibition.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: In the absence of the President, the Vice-President, Mrs. C. F. de Kock, took the chair to welcome the guest that evening, Mr. L. Abrams, from Johannesburg, two visitors who may possibly join the Germiston Society and ten members. After the usual news on the latest RSA issues and the viewing of Danish and Botswana First-Day covers, it was the turn of Mr. L. Abrams to provide the exhibit. Mr. Abrams, before tabling his exhibit, read a paper describing the various Israelian covers which would be on view, all of the covers and the stamps being of a Maritime Theme. A most interesting display, thoroughly enjoyed by all viewers. Mr. S. J. Hagger conveyed thanks to Mr. L. Abrams for coming to Germiston and for providing the exhibit. Mr. H. Birkhead, the Society's Hon. Auctioneer, arrived at the meeting rather late, but he was in time to conduct a small auction. Mr. H. Birkhead had with him a Philatelist from Rhodesia, none other than Mr. Rudman who was the Mashonaland Philatelic Society's delegate to the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Mr. Rudman stated how pleased he was to have had this opportunity of attending a meeting of the Germiston Society; he brought with him Best Wishes from the chairman and members of his Society in Salisbury."

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October: The Society Cup competition drew a good attendance. Quite a few collections were entered, all of a good standard, and this gave the judge (Dr. Freund) a difficult task in selecting the winner.

The following collections were tabled:

Stamp Curiosities / Sport on Stamps — Mr. A. L. Meyburgh.

Basutoland's Early Covers / France — Mr. A. H. Scott.

American Flag Covers — Mr. O. Winterburn.

Mourning Stamps — Mr. J. Hodgson.

Europe in 21-Pages — Mr. I. M. Jordens.

Sport on Stamps — Mr. Christowich.

France — Mr. S. Marus.

The selection of France by Mr. S. Marus took the honours, and specially mentioned were the Mourning Stamps and American Flag Covers. Refreshments rounded off a pleasant evening.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WEST RAND

November: The meeting was one of the highlights of the year in that it was the occasion of the visit of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.

In accordance with the usual procedure on these occasions, the formal business was quickly disposed of and the meeting was handed over to Mr. Ken Lydall, the leader of the visiting contingent.

We were then treated to three exhibits. The first was an outstanding exhibit of the Australion Commonwealth; this was followed by a collection of Ceylon since independence and then a collection of Canadian booklets.

The exhibits attracted much attention and sincere appreciation was extended to our visitors for an excellent show.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

November: The latest Auction Catalogues were discussed and a short discussion followed on the prices of early Israel which do not appear to have reached the ceiling. The P.R.O. also reported on Z.A.R. 100 and a short discussion took place on the exhibits and the method of judging. It is hoped that some of the members of the panel of jury will at a future Meeting deal with the question of judging and how to prepare an exhibit in order to obtain the best possible results.

The following members then displayed from twelve to twenty sheets of the mentioned collections:

M. STANGER — Recent Issues of Israel, shown on the printed sheets;

M. WULFSOHN — Recent Issues of Israel, (shown on his own sheets);

I. A. MILLER — "Operation Muskateer" of 1956;

MR. TAYLOR — The First Issues of Palestine.

Mr. Buchen expressed the thanks of the meeting and discussed each exhibit giving members an insight to the displays. He welcomed particularly Mr. Taylor's exhibition and the method of the study employed by him and said it was a pleasure to see a new Member show such interest.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

November: The attendance of 45 was a little below average but was nevertheless quite gratifying.

Mr. Kagan showed us his collection of Israel and introduced it by saying that out of a total issue of 440 stamps only four were missing. On all issues where "tabs" existed only 16 did not have this adjunct. It was a most interesting exhibit and the opening page with a cover of the issue before "Israel" came on to that country's stamps was a rarity indeed. Recently some Italian concern has forged this issue, but omitted to notice that the higher values are printed on toned paper and the forgeries are all on white paper.

As a second display, Mr. Lee-Graham, put up a small thematic exhibit of French Art. As is well known, there are some beautiful art stamps emanating from the French printing presses and this collection was greatly admired.

During the evening the Chairman commented on the successes of Rhodesian exhibitors at ZAR 100 — one gold, The Unipex award, one silver gilt, one silver with felicitations, two bronze and a Certificate of Merit. Perhaps we are not so far in the "bundu" as people might think! The above is not a bad record for one Society.

A book plate made of Rhodesian copper, suitable for insertion on an album page, has been donated by the Society to The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa as an award at Congress Exhibitions for the best collection of Rhodesia. We congratulate Mr. Birkhead on being the first winner of this award.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

October 21: Mrs. Fourie presented us this evening with a very pleasing display of New Zealand, covering the period 1915 to date.

There were a number of mint items in the display, and the majority of the used copies were finely cancelled.

In passing the vote of thanks, Mr. G. Monaghan complimented Mrs. Fourie on the layout of her sheets, and particularly on her writing up which was extremely good.

The evening concluded with a lively auction, some of our junior members competing strongly against each other.

November 4th.: Mrs. R. Ipp gave us this evening an extremely good display of Switzerland, well laid out, and very neatly written up.

Whilst the sheets were being put up, Mr. Ipp read a paper prepared by Mrs. Ipp, which indicated the amount of work and research undertaken for this display.

Commencing with the perforate issues of 1862, the display was complete up to May 1968. The majority of the cancellations were light, and overall, the condition was very good. Members had a double treat this evening, by virtue of Mr. Ken Baker's having come up from Port Alfred to deliver a talk on the "B53 Cancellations of Mauritius".

This was a most interesting and knowledgeable talk, supported by examples on display.

November 18: We had a very good attendance of members this evening, as well as a number of visitors.

The competitive displays this evening were presented by four of the Society's keenest thematic collectors.

Mrs. Fourie gave us a delightful showing of paintings, well presented and beautifully written up. Mr. Katz, who asked that his display be non-competitive, showed a general thematic collection, part of which had been shown before, and it was noticed how much further this collection has developed. Mr. Pavitt displayed dogs on stamps and a most attractive collection it was too. His mounting of the stamps was most unusual and the writing up extremely good. Finally Mrs. Scott showed her collection of "sailing vessels through the ages", and here too, in this unusual display, it was noticeable how much progress had been made since we saw the nucleus of her collection some months ago.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: This was our "Ladies Night", when lady members compete for the Feros Cup. As an innovation, we had a lady as "President" for the evening, and Mrs. Hutchinson really did a good job, so much so that we are going to have this as an annual affair. Mrs. Ashford gave a short paper on "Why I Collect Stamps", and this was very well received by all members present. There were 4 very good entries for the competition, namely Mrs. G. Bradley — "Birds"; Mrs. M. Katz — "Art"; Mrs. D. Radue — "Yugoslavia"; and Mrs. Ashford — "Swiss Charities". It was a close competition, but Mrs. Katz, with a silver medal award behind her, emerged as winner.

Mr. Shingler gave a short address on his recent trip overseas, with emphasis on his experiences in the philatelic world, and the trends for the future. It would appear that the pure speculator has done a lot of harm to the collector, but that the market is starting to reach a realistic level, with the possible exception of G.B. He also gave his views on "ZAR 100", which had gone off so well.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on the Third Saturday of February 1970.

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

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