

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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UNION NOTES

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Recent Printings

The Publicity Officer, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, has kindly supplied the following information concerning the period 31.1.57 to 1.5.57. For the previous list see our May issue.

Animal Series Postage Stamps

1d. — Job No. 5413 contd. On an order for 2,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 9,000 sheets was made on the 10.1.57, the total delivery to 29.1.57 being 208,002 sheets. Same double die cylinder No. 105.

On the same Job No., but from the old double die cylinder No. 3, 4,5000 sheets were delivered on the 29.1.57, the total delivery to 26.2.57, being 120,425 sheets.

On the same Job No., but from the old single die cylinder No. 12, 25,500 sheets were delivered on the 28.2.57, the total delivery to 18.4.57 being 312,857 sheets.

On the same Job No., but from a new single die cylinder No. 97, 9,500 sheets were delivered on the 18.4.57, the total delivery to date being 49,001 sheets.

1½d. — Job No. 11483. On an order for 20,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, a total of 30,337 sheets were delivered on the 26.3.57. Same cylinder No. 36.

2d. — Job No. 132269 contd. On an order for 1,000,000 sheets of 240 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 19,000 sheets was made on the 20.12.55, the total delivery to 26.2.57 being 888,636 sheets. Same double die cylinder No. 20.

3d. — Job No. 691 contd. On an order for 200,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 29,500 sheets was made on the 9.8.56, the total delivery to date being 140,467 sheets. Same cylinders No. 16 Interior, and 107 Exterior.

4d. — Job No. 692 contd. On an order for 110,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, an initial delivery of 6,000 sheets was made on the 29.5.56, the total delivery to date being 102,265 sheets. Same cylinders No. 53 Interior and 93 Exterior.

6d. — Job No. 693 contd. On an order for 112,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, an

initial delivery of 15,500 sheets was made on the 14.8.56, the total delivery to 26.3.57 being 113,764. Same cylinders No. 1 Interior, and 121 Exterior.

Roll Stamps

1d. — Job No. 129844 contd. On an order for 20,000 Rolls of 506 stamps per roll, an initial delivery of 600 rolls was made on the 10.11.56, the total delivery to date being 16,200 rolls. Same Cylinder No. 27.

Picture Post Cards

1½d. Job No. 12533. On an order for 2,720,000 cards, an initial delivery of 236,160 cards was made on the 30.4.57. Chambon printing machine and same cylinders.

Air Letter Cards

6d. Job No. 132274 contd. On an order for 8,000,000 cards, an initial delivery of 72,000 cards was made on the 1.3.56, the total delivered to date being 7,717,200 cards. Chambon printing machine, and same cylinders.

South West Africa

6d. Job No. 13823. On an order for 8,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 6,620 sheets were delivered on the 12.3.57. New Cylinder No. 35.

1/6. Job No. 13824. On an order for 5,000 sheets of 120 stamps per sheet, 5,000 sheets were delivered on the 19.3.57. New cylinder No. 90.

S.W.A. Roll Stamps

1d. Job No. 13775. On an order for 300 rolls of 1012 stamps per roll, an initial delivery of 260 rolls was made on the 12.3.57. New Cylinder No. 112.

2d. Roll Stamp

Referring to the enquiry contained in our May Notes, concerning the sale of the 2d. Roto. Roll Stamp, Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer, of Bloemfontein, states that during the period of 43 years he was employed in the Postal Service, he cannot recall a stamp vending machine having been used for the disposal of these 2d. stamps, and is prepared to believe that they were sold over the counter only.

Mr. Kachelhoffer's wide experience of postal matters over a lengthy period, may be taken as authoritative on the subject, and appears to be in agreement with the general opinion of collectors.

Continuing, Mr. Kachelhoffer refers to the images on the Union's War Effort Stamps, also reported upon in our May Notes, and states that the image on the 1½d. stamp is that of Lt. Bob Kershaw, and further, that he has a signed photograph pertaining to this stamp in his possession. The nurse depicted on the 1d.

stamp was painted by Neville Lewis, and the 3d. stamp contains the likeness of a lady clerk in the Postmaster General's office at that time but he cannot recall her name.

Basutoland Revenue Cancelled Postally

Mr. G. N. Gilbert, of Westminster, writes that recently he was shown a block of thirty-six Cape of Good Hope Queen Victoria Revenue stamps overprinted "BASUTOLAND", and cancelled in black ink with the ordinary postal ring cancellor of "Teyateyaneng" which was in use at the date shown on these stamps, namely 1 July 1899. The owner weakened and parted with a pair, which we illustrate.



Mr. Gilbert observes that at first sight these stamps appear to have been cancelled to order, but feels it is doubtful if this custom of present day practice was in vogue as early as 1899, and also, what object would there have been in cancelling to order such a large number. He would be grateful for any explanation or suggestion pertaining to the condition as enquiries made to the Postal Authorities at Maseru failed to aid him.

Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek Postal Stationery

Referring to Dr. J. W. Harris' enquiry appearing in our May Notes, Mr. L. Dodd, of Pretoria, regrets that he is not able to offer any helpful information, but points out that "Gallo" in the name of the firm should read "Sallo", and in support thereof, produced for our inspection an advertisement Cardboard Perforation Gauge, measuring 3 ins. by 5 ins., and inscribed with the address of the firm whose business was the sale of stamps, as Sallo Epstein & Co., Marlborough House, 128 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

Maybe some of our readers who collected stamps in those good old days when Proofs, Arrow block and Control items were to be had for a little more than the asking, visited these premises.

While on the topic of these present day elusive items, Mr. C. Clement, of Port Elizabeth, writes, in response to our inquiry concerning the Union's scarcest item, that he cannot speak on this aspect, but he has found that the marginal pieces of the typographed PRETORIA 6d., are the "very devil to get" in spite of the fact that he has offered several times their catalogue price. He suggests a rise in the catalogue price might put some blocks on the market . . . !

½d. K.H. Doubly Printed

The classical example of the Doubly Printed ½d. Georgian Union Stamp is catalogued on pages 21 and 32 of Vol. I of the Handbook.

Mr. R. D. Allen, of London, has submitted for our inspection an enlarged photograph, a portion of which is illustrated, of a strip of four



½d. stamps which when shown at a recent exhibition in London, were considered to show traces of double printing. The "doubling" appears to be localised at certain areas along the right portion of the stamps (indicated by arrows) while the areas occupied by the word "inkomste", and also the right margin of the stamps, appear underinked.

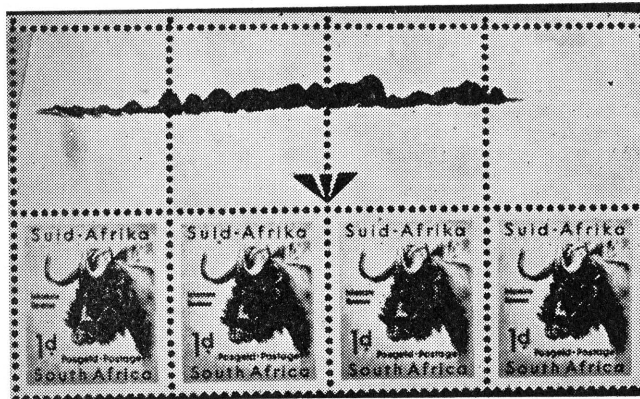
We would be pleased to receive an expression of opinion on the condition, and if any reader would like to examine the photograph of the four stamps, it may be had upon application.

Marginal Smudge 1d. Cylinder No. 12

Full marks go to Mr. C. Clement, of Port Elizabeth, for being the first to draw our attention to a marginal smudge the cause of which undoubtedly sounded the death knell of the 1d. Cylinder No. 12.

This cylinder, the last of the penny series to bear a cylinder number in its lower right corner, was brought into commission on the 26.8.54, and having printed some 312,857 sheets, was discarded in April 1957 when it showed signs of disintegrating. The copper-shell covering the steel core of the printing cylinder blistered slightly but sufficiently to foul the doctor blade with the result that a smudge, illustrated, appeared on the top margin of the sheet above the arrow.

Certain interesting factors pertain to the form of the smudge. Its lower border is not horizontal but is inclined to coincide with the angle at



which the doctor blade was set, while the size of the smudge appears to be progressive. In five consecutively printed sheets obtained from a particular Post Office, its length varied from 63 m.m. to 65 m.m., while we are informed that a smudge measuring about 80 m.m. has been obtained from another Post Office. Also its outline is not constant in that some smudges carry a "halo" — all factors pertaining to the further destruction of the cylinder by the doctor-blade, or may be the doctor blade suffered also.

Multipositive Flaws, 1d. Cylinders No. 12 and 97

We are grateful to Mr. G. N. Gilbert, of Westminster, for supplying the following multipositive flaws common to the 1d. printings from Cylinders No. 12 and 97. These two printings were prepared from the same 22 row multipositive, and we are informed that the 1d. Animal Roll Stamps were also prepared from this multipositive, but in spite of a diligent search on a reconstructed 22 x 12 row Roll sheet, we were not able to pick up these multipositive flaws on the Roll stamps, in fact the roll stamps appear particularly free of flaws. Could a possible explanation be that the 1d. Roll stamps were printed **before** the first definitive issue from Cylinder No. 12, and that the multipositive flaws found on the printings from Cyls. 12 and 97 are thus acquired multipositive flaws?

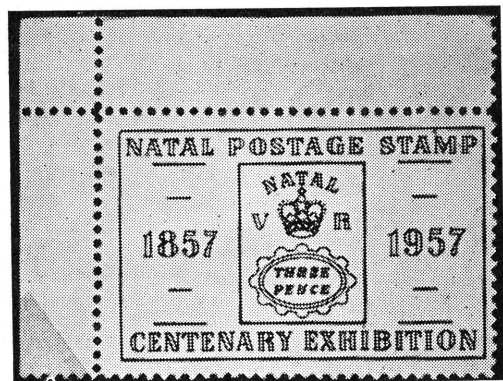
Multipositive Flaws, 1d. Cyls. 12 and 97.

Rows

- 5—2, Two tiny dots above "U" of SUID, near top margin of stamp.
- 16—7, Dot opposite top of "I" of 1d.
- 17—11, Dots above second "A" of AFRIKA.
- 18—2, Dot below "E" of REVENUE, midway between 1d. and INKOMSTE.
- 18—11, Dot below "S" of SUID, clearer in Cyl. 12 printing.

Natal Postage Stamp Centenary

We illustrate the "sticker", issued by the Natal Philatelic Society, in conjunction with the commemoration of the Centenary of the issue of the first postage stamp in Natal. Neatly designed in black on a salmon-pink background, the "sticker" measures 4.75 m.m. by 3 m.m., and is printed in sheets of 20 (4 x 5) on gummed and unwatermarked paper, perforated 11 x 11. We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a sheet of these stickers.



Ghost Slogans of the 6d. Bantam Stamps

We touched on this subject in our May Notes but Mr. R. L. Lawrence of London has set us a conundrum in connection with the matter. He wants to know why the marginal "Ghost Slogans" which showed up on the printings of the 6d. Bantam stamp do not also appear on the 2d. and 1/- printings, although the same slogan cylinder was used apparently for these printings.

We would suggest the following explanation, and in order to follow more easily the manner in which the cylinders were used, we would request the reader to be clear on one point, namely, that the printing of the Bantam stamps was carried out with a combination of two cylinders — one to print the marginal slogan markings and another to print the stamp themselves.

From the Union Catalogue, and also from the records compiled by the S.A. Philatelist, we observe that:

- Slogan cylinder No. 1 was used to print the:**
 - 1½d., First Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 7019, Double roulette, August 1942.
 - 6d., First Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 6916, October 1942.
 - 1/-, First Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 46, November 1942.
 - 1½d., Second Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 7019, Single roulette, December 1942.
 - 2d., First Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 7, February 1943.

1½d., Third Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 43, Double roulette, March 1943.

2d., Second Printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 7, June 1943.

Slogan cylinder No. 1 was then cleaned off and re-etched from a new multi-positive (with the marginal slogans set further out from the stamps and the top slogan language — setting reversed) to form slogan cylinder No. 2, on which portions of the previous deeply etched slogans appear on the side margins of the sheet, mainly on the left margin. This

Slogan Cylinder No. 2 was used to print the:
6d. second printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 6916 only.

A new slogan cylinder (uncatalogued in the Handbook, and let it be named "Slogan Cylinder No. 2A") was now prepared from the same multipositive as was used for slogan cylinder No. 2, and

Slogan Cylinder No. 2A was used to print the:

2d., First printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 6931, January 1944.

2d., Second printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 6931, June 1944.

1/-, Second printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 46, August 1944.

2d., Third printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 6931, July 1944.

2d., First printing, with stamp Cyl. No. 39, July 1944.

Meanwhile slogan cylinder No. 2, which had previously been used for only the second printing of the 6d., was again cleaned off, but this time the cylinder was etched to print the stamps of the third printing of the 6d., and was numbered No. 74. (This cylinder number is not catalogued, see our May notes). In the preparation of this cylinder, the old slogan marks were again not entirely removed, and along with the previous ones, showed up as double "ghost slogans" when this cylinder (No. 74) was used to print the stamps of the third printing of the 6d., along with slogan cylinder No. 3 which printed the marginal numerals and slogans in violet and which was also used for the fourth printing of the 2d., with stamp cylinder No. 39.

Thus the above suggestions would account for:

- (a) the similarity of the flaws on the printings from Slogan Cylinders No. 2 and No. 2A, they being multipositive flaws, and
- (b) the explanation why the marginal ghost slogans which show up in orange in the printings of the 6d., do not also occur in the printings of the 2d. and 1/- — in other words, the reason is, briefly, that a different slogan cylinder (No. 2A) prepared from the same multipositive (as No. 2) was used.

We gratefully acknowledge valuable assistance received from Mr. G. N. Gilbert in the preparation of this summary.

Paarl National Philatelic Exhibition and Congress

We understand that Congress arrangements are well in hand and progressing favourably. The Western Province Philatelists are looking forward to entertaining their colleagues from the North and elsewhere in the true Cape tradition.

The XIXth Annual Philatelic Congress will assemble in the Board Room of the PAARL AFRICAN TRUST COMPANY and will be officially opened by His Worship, the Mayor of Paarl, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 23rd October.

At five o'clock that afternoon, the Administrator of the Cape, The Hon. Mr. P. J. Olivier, will open the National Philatelic Exhibition which is being staged in the Noorder Paarl Church Hall. This will be followed by a Reception to the Delegates and other friends at the beautiful farm of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. le Roux.

On the next afternoon, one of the highlights of Congress Week will be a visit to the cellars of the K.W.V. After a tour of the winery, which is the largest in the world, delegates will be entertained by the General Manager and Directors of K.W.V. We feel sure that this will be a function in the participation of which all visitors will consider themselves more than amply rewarded for having waited 300 years, like Paarl itself!

On Friday, the 25th (if work does not unduly interfere with pleasure — you have been warned!) a bus tour will be undertaken to the Afrikaans university town of Stellenbosch where lunch will be taken with that town's "Dons and Deans". On the way back, tea will be served at one of the Cape's historic Dutch-style houses in the Grootdrakenstein Valley.

In the evening a finger supper will be served at the Bowls Club when the prizes will be handed to those exhibitors who have been able to satisfy the Judges, thereby bringing to a close a highly commendable programme of entertainment, compiled in a manner characteristic of the hospitality of the Cape and to the credit of our Congress Hosts, the Paarl Philatelic Society.

Reverting to the Exhibition, we are informed, as we go to press, that it has been decided to add St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha to the list of those countries scheduled under Item C, Section I, of the Exhibition Catalogue, and that specialised and/or Research collections of these countries will be accepted for Exhibition and Competitive purposes.

Basutoland and Swaziland Interprovincials

Referring to the cataloguing of the Basutoland and Swaziland Interprovincials on page 303, Vol. I, of the Handbook, Mr. E. E. Oldaker, of London, reports that his collection houses the following items on cover and clearly post-marked:

(a) Transvaal used in Swaziland, 1d. Red (S.G. 274), cancelled HLATIKULU, 22 Feb. 1911, and

(b) Cape used in Basutoland, 1d. Red (S.G. 71), cancelled LEBIBE, 8 May 1911.

Mr. Oldaker will be grateful to know if these items have been recorded previously, and if they may be considered rarities?

Typographical Errors

On page 77 of our June Notes, the word "permits" appear in the 6th and 7th lines from the bottom of the second column of text. The word "permits" should read "PRINTS". The "Printer's Devil" again!

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THE 4d. NATIVE HUTS PRINTINGS OF THE UNION STAMPS

By G. N. GILBERT

According to the Union Handbook, only three different cylinders have been used for these printings, which extended from 1932 to 1953.

The number of the cylinder used for the first rotogravure 4d. printings is unknown, and the number of sheets issued of this first printing is also not recorded.

The second cylinder recorded in the Handbook is No. 19, issued in 1936 and the third No. 103, issued in 1952.

If however, the reports of printings published in the South African Philatelist, and issued by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, are studied, the first mention of the 4d. is in the S.A. Philatelist for October 1937, which records that 31850 sheets of the 4d. were distributed from "old cylinder 61".

From then on, the official reports of printings in the S.A. Philatelist issues of April 1938, August 1938, June 1939, September 1940, and June 1941, all show the cylinder number used for the 4d. printings as "old cylinder 61".

The first mention of Cylinder 19 is in the S.A. Philatelist for November 1947, which records that 11,000 sheets were delivered from "old cylinder 19".

This discrepancy led the writer to study the stamps of the various printings to ascertain if there were any signs to suggest that there had been, in fact, four different cylinders used and not three, as shown in the Handbook.

No such signs could be found, and it was strongly suspected that as 61 upside down reads 19, a mistake had been made in the recording of these printings.

Through the courtesy of the Officials of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, the dates of all the 4d. printings from their record book were made available.

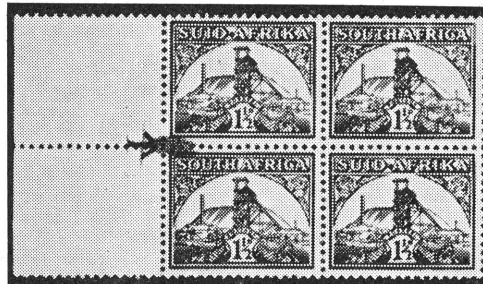
The first of the rotogravure 4d. printings was in October 1932, followed by further printings in December 1934, and April 1936. Up to this date, no official reports of printings had been made available to the S.A. Philatelist, and unfortunately Printing Works records did not give the number of the cylinder used, nor the number of sheets printed from these first three printings, but as the first official report in the S.A. Philatelist for October 1937 mentioned "old cylinder 61", it can be assumed that the April 1936 printings were from a new cylinder 61, and that there were only two printings from the first unknown cylinder.

This would all tie up with the scarcity of the material from the first printings today.

The official records showed six further printings up to 1941, and then there was a gap until September 1947, the War Commemoratives having taken the place of the definitives to a great extent during this period.

Again unfortunately the records did not help with the cylinder numbers, but the theory that the number 61 was 19 reversed or vice versa was put to the officials, and this was actually confirmed to the writer in a letter dated the 20th April 1957 which stated, *inter alia*, "the number of the cylinder is 19, not 61 as stated in the records. The error occurred through the number, which is on the end of the cylinder, having been read upside down."

So the cylinder numbers shown in the Handbook are correct, and it is only regretted that investigations did not bring to light the number of the first cylinder used for the 4d. rotogravure stamps.



AN UNRECORDED PRINTING IN THE 1½d. "SMALL MINE" SERIES

By W. N. SHEFFIELD

The arrow block of the 1½d. "Small Mine" stamps illustrated herewith was recently received by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa Expert Committee for a decision as to its genuineness.

As shown in the photograph, the stamps are similar to those listed on page 128 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue as the "Medium Format", but the arrow is definitely of a design that can be said to be "right out of the blue". It is a type which, to the best of our knowledge, has not been previously recorded on any printings of the 1½d. "Small Mine" stamps, and for that matter is different to anything we have so far seen on any of the Union rotogravure issues.

That it is a genuine piece from a sheet printed in the Government Printing Works, Pretoria, there can be no doubt from the close examination the block has been subjected to, but at just what date, or stage, it appeared in the transition from the 1½d. "Large Mine" to that of the "Small Mine" series, is at present a complete mystery, not only to the Union specialists who have so far seen the item, but also to the officials in the Post Office Publicity Department and the staff in the Government Printing Works.

A reference to pages 128 and 129 of the Union Handbook/Catalogue will show that none of the five sets of arrows depicted as having appeared on the medium format sheets, has any resemblance to the one on the block sent in for expertizing and a search by the staff in the Printing Works has so far failed to reveal any record of production or issue.

Inspection of the piece clearly discloses the language setting to be the same as Plates V and VI, but though the colours are very similar to those of Plate V, the screening is definitely not that known as the "waffle plate" type, but rather of the same texture as Plate VI. Any small flaws, or flecks, on the four stamps, that might be present as a result of the printing process, do not appear on any arrow block in the same position on the sheets of the five Plates listed in the Handbook and indeed, everything points to the fact that at least an

Exterior Cylinder different to any of the others, was employed for a printing of the 1½d. "Small Mine" stamps that up until now has remained unknown.

A senior member of the Printing Works staff, who examined the block, was of the opinion that the arrow had been engraved by hand on the cylinder after completion of the image etching process, and also that the large blob of ink at the tip of the arrow was the result of the engraving tool cutting too deeply into the metal at this point and thereby forming a small "ravine" into which an excess of ink would accumulate and overflow onto the paper when printing. That a tool had been used was also indicated by the two scratches at the prongs of the arrow caused by minute jaggedness at these points and incidentally the green colour throughout the arrow is very uneven with no sign of a screen having been employed.

Altogether a most interesting item, emphasizing once again that there is always something new to be found in "Unions", and if any reader can throw further light on this intriguing discovery the information will be most welcome.

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RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

Mr. C. A. Frost reports that the Federation is to have special cancellers on the occasion of the Queen mother's visit to the territories. Two post offices in each of the three will be provided with these, reading "Royal Visit 2nd to 17th July, 1957, Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Covers will also be stamped with the date on which the Queen mother first arrives in that particular territory.

THE NATAL POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY

By F. G. FROELICH

Before the first "official" Postmaster for Natal, Francis Spring, was appointed in 1851 and when Natal was still a district of the Cape of Good Hope colony, people there for "oversea letters" depended on the services of the small coasting vessels which sailed only as Cargo permitted and for Overberg mail on a system of mail-carrying by a regular mounted horseman, inaugurated by D. D. Buchanan (Proprietor of the Natal Witness at Pietermaritzburg), and taken over, in 1850, by the Government. On the 1st February 1852 an "ordinance for regulating the conveyance and Postage of letters" became

effective. For every prepaid letter between places within the district (Inland-Postage for Natal) not exceeding ½ oz., 3d. was charged — and 4d. for letters not prepaid — Natal stamps not yet having been issued and Cape Triangulars apparently not valid in this district of the Cape of Good Hope (only in 1856 was Natal created a distinct and separate Colony and on the 5th November Pietermaritzburg was elevated to the rank of Capital), the 3d. Postage had to be handed in in cash.

The H. H. Hurst specialised collection of Natal Postage Stamps in Durban contains several early letters stamped PREPAID in red, the CASH payment of 3d. being PEN-INSERTED in red ink and other covers, where the town name and the prepaid Postage have both been entered handwritten, using red ink.

Postage stamps of the value of Three-pence, Six-pence, Nine-pence and One shilling became available on the 1st June 1857 at the Post Offices of Pietermaritzburg and Durban only, the stamps also to be sold, as soon as practicable, at the various Branch Post Offices throughout the colony. The first Postage Stamps of Natal were thought to have been embossed in plain relief on coloured wove paper by Messrs. P. Davis & Son, Pietermaritzburg, but further investigations, as reported by Mr. Wicks, give a different source of supply. The stamps were struck off from dies in the possession of the Distributor of Stamps and were the same as those stamping legal documents. On the 6th July 1859 Lieutenant Governor Scott wrote:—"They are a clumsy substitute for the "usual postage stamps and are prepared with difficulty."

Natal Number one is the 3d. Rose (Pink) although there was afterwards a lower value, an embossed one penny blue, to pay postage for letters sent by any soldier, seaman or marine, in Her Majesty's Service, provided that when a letter was sent it carried the signature of the Commanding Officer. This blue stamp was also used to pay Postage on Newspapers.

Engraved Stamps, showing the CHALON portrait of the Queen, were printed in 1859/60 by PERKINS BACON & Co., on paper without watermark and also on paper showing a small star watermark.

In 1863 Stamps of the same design were now printed by DE LA RUE & Co., at first again on paper without watermark, but as from 1864 with watermark Crown CC. In 1867 a one shilling stamp was issued, showing the Queen in Profile, the Portrait now being in the style of a Coin-relief.

In accordance with a Government Proclamation dated 23rd August 1860, all stamps available for postal purposes had henceforth to bear a distinctive mark in order to prevent the confusion which had arisen in the indiscriminate use by the public of certain stamps for both Inland Revenue and postal employment. In 1869 the current 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1/- stamps were overprinted locally with the word POSTAGE and as from 1870 stamps came complete with overprint from DE LA RUE. Later on, owing to shortages, overprints were again applied locally, including one by which the 1/- fiscal stamp of 1870 (purple brown, watermark Crown CC) was changed into a postage stamp. At the same time the first stamps with the word POSTAGE embodied in the design came into use.

A third group of stamps shows the Queen's profile to the left, within different frames for the various values. On the 2½d. stamp of 1891 the size of the head was considerably reduced.

In 1902 came the stamps of the new reign, showing the head of King Edward VII. All stamps, up to £20 were Postage AND Revenue stamps. In 1908 the 6d. stamp and all values from 2/- to £1 were issued in changed colours and these new postage stamps were now inscribed POSTAGE — POSTAGE.

The fact that Natal postage stamps have freely been used for Revenue purposes is one more of many reasons for the unpopularity of most of the earlier South African stamps. With regard to the first issue of Natal I do not think that contemporary collectors knew that the stamps had been made from fiscal dies. Anybody coming across one or the other of the few that were about could not have taken these little bits of coloured paper, once removed from letters, for anything else but waste. The stamps are very photogenic, like ugly people, who also very often are, and with proper lighting the embossing shows up much better in a photograph than in the originals.

The Centenary and Exhibition — 1957

No commemorative stamp was issued by the Postmaster General. The Philatelic Society of Natal however distributed free of charge a pink label which, although looking rather austere, is the nearest printed reproduction to the embossed original. The correct date of the Centenary, the first day of June, fell on one of Durban's busiest Saturdays. The exhibition started on Monday June 3rd lasting till the evening of June 5th. A special canceller, showing these dates, was used at the special Post Office in the foyer of the Natal Provincial Building, Acutt Str. The event was sponsored by the Philatelic Society of Natal and Mr. J. H. Wicks, Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, introduced Mr. G. H. Hill, the Postmaster of Durban, who performed the official opening. It was the intention of the Natal Society to present to the public as many aspects of Philately as possible and the show was therefore not limited to the stamps or postal history of Natal. On the contrary, there was only one collection of Natal Postage stamps and one of Postmarks used in the various Post Offices in Natal. A collection of the stamps of Zululand and a study of the Postal history of the Anglo-Boer War, showing covers used in Natal during the Republican Invasion, completed the picture of the "Dead Country" Natal. One Cape and two Union Collections, one of stamps of the first first Definitive issue and one of the 1st Air Mail Flights concluded the display of "REAL" Philately. How real one can make it was proved by Jean De Sperati, whose masterpieces were also on view.

The Thematic half of the Exhibition was made up by seven individual collections and one combined display sent in by the Thematic Society, Cape Town. In addition to the stamp exhibits some coins were on view, but Natal never had a coinage of her own nor an issue of Government Notes. Unfortunately no Postal Stationary had been displayed, a vital part of philatelic records of any country, which is apparently also lacking in the Natal collection at the Durban Museum.

INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR IN ANTARCTICA

The working of this world-wide co-ordinated study of natural phenomena starts officially on 1st July, 1957 and goes on till the end of 1958. Good measure for a Year!

Scientists of 44 nations are taking part in this study which goes on all over the world; preliminary work and the equipping of various stations has been going on in some respects ever since 1955.

The most interesting — in fact, practically the only part of the I.G.Y. with a philatelic bearing is the extensive work being done in various scientific fields in Antarctica. At least eleven nations are taking part in this scheme and this has meant the issue of quite a few special stamps, and the preparation of numerous cancellers for the Post Offices which have to be provided at the various stations ashore and also on many of the ships taking the expeditions to the Antarctic. As numerous covers and cachets have been, or will be, provided, it can be seen that there is to be no lack of philatelic records of the I.G.Y. in the Antarctic.

The accompanying sketch map shows the approximate position of the stations already occupied by, or to be operated by, the parties of the eleven nations concerned.

Short notes are given of philatelic features — so far as they are known — of the various countries' expeditions.

1. SOUTH AFRICA.

In addition to special work to be carried out in the Union itself, a party of ten has been sent to Gough Island for meteorological and other work. It had been hoped to have a station on Bouvet Island but a reconnaissance in 1955 showed that it was not a practicable proposition. The work at the older stations on Tristan da Cunha and on Marion Island is also to be extended. The Gough Island party was taken to the island towards the end of May, 1957. Covers have come back with the same postmark as was used during the British Survey Party's stay there dated 27 May 1957. There is no cachet of any kind, however, on the covers.

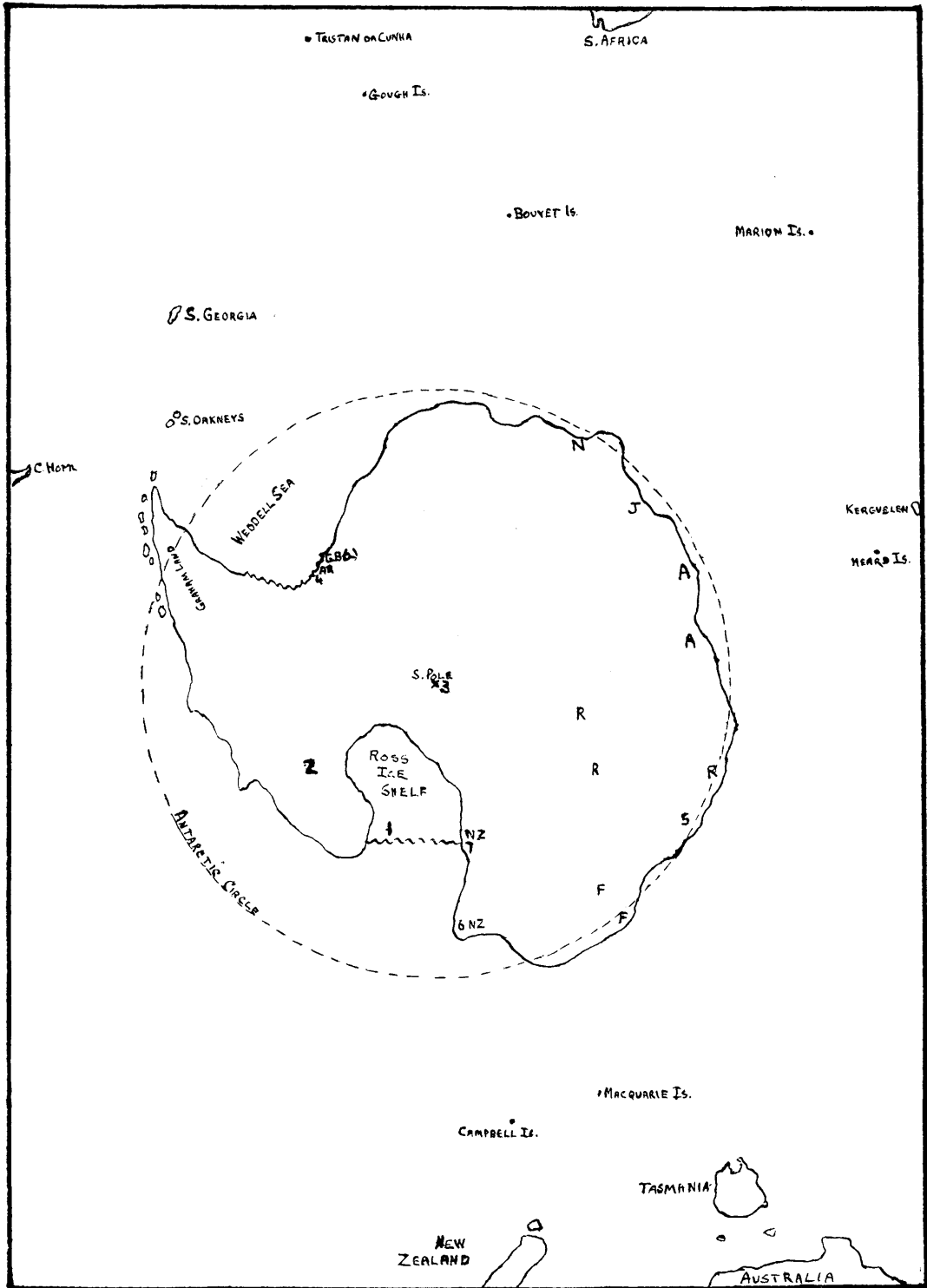
2. GREAT BRITAIN.

(a) On Grahamsland and on the adjacent South Shetland islands there has been a lot of detailed geographical survey work going on for the past few years, with a number of stations which have been providing interesting postal cancellations. The number of stations taking part in the I.G.Y. has been variously stated as from 6 to 10, but whatever the number it is probable that they will come from the following list:—

Deception Is., Admiralty Bay, Port Lockroy, Hope Bay, Anvers Is., Base O, Base W, Half Moon Bay, Argentine Islands, Marguerite Bay.

Four Falkland Is. Dependencies stamps (½d., 2½d., 3d. and 6d.) of the 1954 Antarctic Ship series were overprinted on 31-1-56 with "Trans-Antarctic/Expedition 1955-1958" (See (b) below). Covers from the first six of the list above have been seen with the Trans-Antarctic stamps, also from Signy Island, S. Orkneys and from South Georgia, so possibly these are to be regarded as I.G.Y. stations.

(b) "Shackleton" at the head of the Weddell Sea is the name which has been given to the base from whence the Commonwealth Trans-



Antarctic Expedition under the leadership of Dr. V. E. Fuchs starts off on its 2,000 mile journey to the Ross Sea via the South Pole.

Covers have been seen with the special Trans-Antarctic stamps cancelled by a 30 mm. double circle mark with only "Shackleton" and stars opposite the central one-line date 30 Jan. 1956, which is understood to be the first day in the camp.

(c) In the neighbourhood of Shackleton, but separate, is the British Royal Society's station, which is believed to be officially named "Halley" (for the astronomer). A cover with three unoverprinted F.I.D. id. stamps has these cancelled with a single circle mark with "International Geophysical Year Expedition" and the date in one line across the centre 29 Feb. 1956, a first day cover.

Also in the same neighbourhood are Argentine and U.S.A. stations. These are considered anon.

3. ARGENTINA.

As is well known both the Argentine and Chile have made territorial claims to the area which Britain calls the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

For some years Argentina has had stations with Post Offices named as follows:— Deception, Melchior, Tenente Camara (Bahia Luna), Almirante Brown, Base Gen. San Martin, Esperanza, Orcadas del Sud, and a recently opened one at the head of the Weddell Sea, General Belgrano. From 4 to 8 stations have been stated as participating in the I.G.Y.; presumably some of those in the list given.

4. CHILE.

Chile has had stations named Deception, O'Higgins, Arturo Pratt and Gabriel Videla. From 2 to 6 have been stated as participating and some of those just mentioned may provide them.

5. U.S.A.

The general title for the whole of the U.S.A. effort is "Operation Deepfreeze" divided into I, II, and III, covering approximately 1956, 1957 and 1958. The late Admiral Byrd was in overall control up to the time of his death and he actually took part in Deepfreeze I, including a flight over the Pole. At least a dozen ships are taking part in the Operation, from ice-breakers to oil tankers and the scientific staff at the various stations runs to about 150.

At least seven stations have been or are being established; these are shown on the map by numbers, as follows:— 1. Little America (on the Ross Sea Shelf), 2. Byrd Station, 3. Pole Station, 4. Weddell Sea (in same area as Shackleton and Gen. Belgrano stations), 5. Knox Base, 6. Cape Adare (with a New Zealand station), 7. McMurdo Sound (with a New Zealand station — Scott Base — nearby).

Covers have been seen from Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the above list, also from various ships, and from U.S. Navy 17046, which is the Operation's Base in New Zealand.

The U.S.A. has not issued any special stamps, but a number of the station post offices have both machine and hand cancellers and a number of the ships have their own post offices. Taking into consideration the numerous cachets that have been made, the combinations and permutations of cachets, ship cancellations, and

station cancellations will give an enormous number of possible U.S.A. covers.

Working round Antarctica clockwise from the Weddell Sea we come to the following countries' stations:—

6. NORWAY. (N)

Very little information is available about this country's expedition, but it seems that they do not wish to handle any philatelic mail.

7. JAPAN. (J)

The Japanese base is situated on the Prince Harald Coast of Queen Maud Land. A special cover has been seen, with an inscription "Japan Antarctic Research Expedition I", which is (?) repeated in Japanese. The cancellation, in red, has a Japanese inscription round the top, under that is the date, 30-1-1957, then a number of penguins, at the bottom another Japanese statement and "Prince Harald Antarctica".

8. AUSTRALIA (A)

Australia has issued a 2/- stamp inscribed "Australian Antarctic Territory" which features a map and a party raising a flag. The stamp however is valid for use in Australia as well as in the Antarctic.

There are two stations. (1) The western one is at **Mawson** which has actually been in operation as part of A.N.A.R.E. (Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition) for about four years (2) Some 300 miles eastward a station has been set up in the Vestfold Hills, named **Davis**, after an earlier Australian Antarctic explorer. This should be a very interesting area as air flights have shown ice-free lakes there. A cover from it has a single-circle postmark reading "Davis/A.N.A.R.E." at the top and below "Aust. Antarctic Terr."; the date, in one line across the centre is 14 JA 57.

9. U.S.S.R. (R)

Russia has named its base **Mirny**, after the ship of the Russian Admiral Bellingshausen who made a circum-polar voyage to the Antarctic in 1819. It is purposed also to have two stations in the interior, the farther south one to be at or near the "Pole of Inaccessibility" i.e. the spot furthest from any point which has already been reached.

A special 10k stamp has been issued with a map bearing red flags indicating the sites of the three stations.

Covers have arrived, one apparently sent by air (there is a direction which appears to be "Moscow-Antarctica/Par Avion" (so far as we can read the Russian). Another seems to have come from the ship "OB", which was one of those taking the actual landing parties and their stores. It is understood that the OB is to make a circum-polar tour doing oceanographical work.

10. FRANCE (F).

Passing by the U.S.A. Knox Base we come to Adelie Land where France has set up a base on the coast and has another station inland.

Special stamps with Antarctic motifs were issued in 1956 for the T.A.A.F. (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises, including Kerguelen, St. Paul & Amsterdam Is, as well as Adelie Land). Covers from the last mentioned with stamps cancelled 9-1-1957.

11. NEW ZEALAND (N.Z.).

Four special stamps (3d., 4d., 8d. and 1/6d.) have been issued for use in the Ross Dependency and they are only valid there. New Zealand has two stations (1) At Cape Adare

along with a U.S.A. station — no covers have been reported so far from there. (2) The other is near McMurdo Sound at the western end of the Ross Ice barrier. This has been named the Scott Base and is the terminal point for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Sir Edmund Hillary, of Mt. Everest fame, is in command there and his task is to lay out depots of Food, etc., between there and the S. Pole for Dr. Fuchs' party to pick up in the latter half of their crossing from Shackleton Base on the Weddell Sea.

An official souvenir cover has the postmark "Scott Base/Ross Dependency" with date 11 JA 57. The cachet in colour has "Trans-Antarctic Expedition/1956-58/Scott Base" and an Emperor Penguin standing on an ice-floe.

There have been rumours of expeditions being sent by Germany and by Spain, but no authentic information anent them is available.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

Dr. ALEC KAPLAN

Dr. Alec Kaplan started stamp collecting in 1906 and has maintained a keen and active interest in the hobby since then. On arriving in Johannesburg in 1908, he joined the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society, and has been a member since then and next year hopes to celebrate his Golden Jubilee as a member of this Society.

He was first elected on to the Committee in 1920 and has served on the Committee on and off for a period of about 25 years. In 1923 he was appointed as the Official Delegate of the Society, to the International Stamp Exhibition and the Tenth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held in London. There through the aid of the late Fred J. Melville he learned the intricacies of judging at International Exhibitions.

It was at this Exhibition that he had the honour of being presented to his late Majesty King George V.

Returning to South Africa in 1925, he again took an active interest in Society and Philatelic matters and served on the jury together with Fred J. Melville, E. Tamsen, J. H. Chamberlain and others at the International Philatelic Exhibition held at Durban in 1928.

From that time on, until 1956, he served on all other South African National and International Exhibitions as a member of the Jury and in 1948 he was appointed the Chairman of the Jury at the National Exhibition held at East London.

In organised Philately he has served for many years on the Executive of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. He has been Vice President for three periods and President in 1952/1953.

He has also been the Chairman at different times of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, the Germiston Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Section of the Jewish Guild.

Although he has collected most countries in Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East, his chief interests have always been the stamps of Southern Africa and European Classics. He has amassed many study collections

and has had high International and National Awards for his collections of Palestine, Southern Rhodesian, Holland and France, amongst others.

His research work has been embodied in more than 100 articles in the World Philatelic Press. During 1927, 1928 and 1929 he contributed weekly philatelic columns to the Rand Daily Mail and during 1937 and 1938 weekly articles to the same newspaper. Also during 1938 and 1939 he wrote weekly philatelic columns to the Daily Express. During 1951 and 1952 he acted as Chairman of the Editors of the Handbook/Catalogue of the stamps of the Union of South Africa.

From the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg he received the F. J. H. Lang Cup of Merit for 1947/1948. In 1953 at the Bulawayo Congress he was awarded the Skinner Cup and in 1956 he received the Legator Cup from the East Rand Philatelic Society. In 1957 he received the Scroll of Honour from the Germiston Philatelic Society.

At the Philatelic Congress in 1948 held at Port Elizabeth he was elected to the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists.

Besides collecting stamps, he is a keen coin collector, has written several articles on South African Coins and in 1951 he published the "Catalogue of Coins of South Africa". Amongst other hobbies, he collects English First Editions, early South African Maps, Antiques and numerous side line collections. He is a keen bowler and collects bowling club badges.

968 Pretorius Street,
Arcadia,

Pretoria.

22/4/57.

The Editor,
S.A. Philatelist.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the article by J. H. Rathbone in the April issue of the S.A. Philatelist please note that URUGASMANHANJIYA is the correct spelling of the Camp name. I have a very clear strike of the Censor mark and there is no doubt about the 'H' even though I have often seen the spelling of this Camp name with 'U' instead of the 'H' when it is referred to in articles.

My cover has a camp postmark I have not previously seen described and I also have a loose Ceylon stamp with the postmark, the description of which is given below:

Size: as for Diyatalawa Camp (fig. 1 of Article).

Wording around: Urugascamp (appears to be one word — not two).

Date: FE17/02.

I shall be pleased if this information can be published to bring Mr. Rathbone's excellent article up to date.

Yours faithfully,

W. NEWLANDS.

BOER P.O.W.'s IN CEYLON

Mr. Rathbone's article in the S.A. Philatelist of April, 1957, p. 49 reminded Jack Burrell that in his town, Krugersdorp, there was living Mr. F. R. N. Findlay, who had been the Chief Censor at Diyatalawa Camp. Thinking that it

would be of interest for me to meet him, I was put in touch and we foregathered one morning at Mr. Findlay's house, where Mrs. Findlay kindly dispensed morning tea while we chatted.

There was present also a Mr. L. M. K. Edmeads who had been a P.O.W. in the camp during Mr. Findlay's term of office. He is now a "retired gentleman of leisure" living in Krugersdorp.

"URUGAS . . ." Camp. Having in mind Mr. Newlands' note about the spelling of the name of this camp (See page 103) the first question I put (without giving any indication of why I was putting it) was "How did you pronounce the name of the camp beginning 'Urugasman'? Both gentlemen replied without any hesitation, "UrugasmanHandiya", the "H" sound being perfectly clear. I then told them why I had put the question and said "Presumably it was spelled with an "H" and not a "U" before the "andiya" and the answer was "Unquestionably".

Being rather a doubting Thomas, and as all of the few censor marks I had seen appeared to have a "U" and not an "H", I asked Mr. Findlay if he happened to have the word in, say, any kind of official printed notice. Unfortunately he could not produce anything of the kind, explaining that his duties had kept him fully occupied at Diyatalawa and that he had not been at any of the other camps and had little communication with any of them.

My conversation, however, satisfies me that

the name should be spelt with an "H". I can only suggest further that the marks giving rise to the idea of a "U" in place of an "H" came from a handstamp that was either badly made or was worn. Alternatively it might have been poorly impressed, but then it probably would not always have been one and the same letter affected.

Diyatalawa Camp.

This was by far the largest P.O.W. camp in Ceylon, fairly high up in the hills, with a pleasant and healthy climate. Judging from Mr. Findlay's photographs it was in lovely scenery, though it may be doubted if that appealed much to prisoners!

Censor. Mr. Rathbone has already identified the initials F.R.N.F. seen in Censor's marks, Mr. Findlay identifies "O.H." as those of Mr. O. Hansen and "E.J.B." as those of Mr. E. J. Baumann.

The other three sets of initials "K.A.R.N.", "A.D.R." and "A.C." were probably, according to Mr. Rathbone, those of censors coming in at a later date. Mr. Findlay agrees; he cannot identify to whom the initials belong, but as he explained, he was not at the camp for the whole period it was functioning.

Size of Mail. Mr. Rathbone mentions 30,000 letters a month being handled by the censors. This is quite believable after a glance at the accompanying photograph of Mr. Findlay's office with the peon looking at a mail he has just brought in for censoring.



Miscellaneous Notes.

The Postmaster at the camp was one Mr. John F. Faure and although he had an office stamp with his name on it, there was apparently no occasion for this mark to come the way of philatelists.

Mr. Edmeads informed me that there three Rugby Football teams in the camp called respectively "Franchise", "Suzerainty" and "In-

dependence". They competed for a magnificent ebony-wood cup, turned and carved by a German P.O.W. It stood about 18 inches high. He thinks it was brought back to South Africa and is now in the Bloemfontein National Museum, but would like to know if it really is there.

As has been the case in many camps there was local paper currency in the shape of "Good-Fors" which were only valid for spending by P.O.W.'s at the Camp Store.

Two newspapers were published in the camp, one called "The Barbed Wire Budget" and the other "De Krijgsgevangene — The Captive".

Ragama Camp.

Mr. Rathbone says this was a camp started for foreign (non-Boer) P.O.W.'s who had been giving trouble to the authorities. Mr. Edmeads (and he had been in a position to know) told me there had also been some Boer P.O.W.'s sent there, irreconcilables and such like who were trouble makers, also some who had made attempts to escape but had been recaptured.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TRIANGULARS.

RECTANGULARS. POSTMARKS.

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

References from new customers, please.

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REVIEWS

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part Four by K. M. Beaumont & J. B. M. Stanton price 31/7 post free from the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W.1. (A limited de luxe edition is offered at £2/12/6).

This volume follows its three predecessors, the last of which brought us to the end of the King Edward VII issues, and covers the issues of King George V. Whereas, however, the previous volumes were, at least to some extent, revisions of the work of J. B. Seymour previously published by the "Royal", this volume is entirely new ground and the authors have endeavoured to be as complete as possible, rather than miss some feature in this first major textbook of the period.

Unhappily, perhaps, they have chosen to cover the ground one denomination at a time, which was a useful approach to the complexities of the Edwardians, but rather defeats itself in the Georgians which lend themselves much more happily to treatment in sets more or less on the lines of the standard catalogue listings; once the tangle of the issues at the outset of the reign has been disposed of, and this is the concern only of the 3d. and 1d. denominations, the adopted approach is to be deprecated and reaches its most absurd at the points where the occasional commemoratives cross one's path. This may, incidentally, account for such omissions as the SPECIMEN overprint on the Harrison 1/- (SG 449) and the 2d. and 3d. of the same set, which happen to be of particular interest to students of Specimens. The comparative lucidity of Chapter 16, in which all denominations of coil and booklet issues are treated together, speaks for itself.

In addition to the main text, there are five appendices, one of which, on the use of the quartz lamp, is a most admirable article and can be read with advantage by many without particular regard to these issues. It is gradually becoming generally understood that the quartz lamp is invaluable in distinguishing issues hitherto notorious for the difficulty of their shades — not only the Georgians and Edwardians of Great Britain but also such issues as the Rhodesian Double Heads, for example — and makes possible sound identifications in many instances where previously the student would be inclined to trust the (all too fallacious) discernment of a known specialist.

The last consists of the very entertaining correspondence to and from the designer G. W. Eve (the interpolations from Seymour Bennett are a particular delight) and rounds off the work most happily.

The authors have been able to use the incomparable reference material housed in the Royal collection and in the Adams and Field collections and have thus been able to throw light on many previous obscurities especially in the difficult early issues. Throughout there is extensive reference to the preparatory material which hardly exists outside the collections mentioned and it is of immense help and interest to have this recorded in this volume, in many instances accompanied by illustrations of the inaccessible items. Some interesting results include the discovery that the great improvement

to the designs achieved by making the background to the head solid, which first appeared in the Harrison photogravure issue, had been anticipated but disregarded in the much earlier Motley process essays — yet another instance of the infallibility with which the official mind always seems to pick the less satisfactory designs from those submitted!

A further set of illustrations very capably describes the "re-entries" on the high denominations: this was a felt want not previously satisfied by any of the catalogues. Mention might have been made of the distinctive appearance of the original perforation on the Wembley 1924 stamps — the minute holes are readily discernible — and that this perforation is significantly rarer than the later normal perforation. To sum up, this is a worthy successor to the other volumes in the series, and will doubtless stimulate interest in a period recently somewhat neglected.

The True Book about Stamp Collecting by Russell Bennett, price 7/6 from Frederick Muller Ltd., 110 Fleet Street, London E.C.4.

This is a recent addition to a series of some four dozen books for young people on a variety of subjects and represents a readable approach to stamp collecting by way of themately. Several suggestions for themes are taken in turn and explored in an informative way, with a final chapter containing advice on the choice of albums, writing-up styles, &c., most of which is thoroughly commendable.

The author is firmly committed to the idea that the thematic approach is the most suitable for the young collector, and expounds this thesis in, admittedly, convincing terms!

ADMIRAL BYRD

Reference must be made to the death of Admiral Byrd on 11 March. For philatelists his death has an added meaning, as his Antarctic expeditions, five of them, brought many pioneer covers to their albums, in addition to the special stamps issued in connection with his second expedition in 1933.

He was the first man to fly over both poles and he was actually in overall charge of the present American Operation Deepfreeze, the biggest ever expedition taking part in the International Geophysical Year's work. It is particularly sad that he was not able to see this through to a conclusion.

We are indebted to our German correspondent, Mr. Joachim Dill, for three most interesting covers.

The first of these should have reached us long since, as it was sent on the inaugural flight by SABENA from Brussels to Bucarest on 13 March 1957, with the usual directions for return, which would have brought it to us about a week later if they had been complied with by the Roumanian Post Office in terms of their U.P.U. obligations. Instead, it was sent **some six weeks later** back to the Brussels office of SABENA, whence it has by kindness of the SABENA organization been at last transmitted to us. If the same has happened to many other philatelic souvenirs of this occasion, no doubt the uninformed individual responsible will have had the red hammer on his knuckles by now!

The second, from East Berlin, shows a slogan postmark of 31 May "Kleine Atomwaffen in Deutschland" (Ban atomic weapons in Germany); while the third commemorates a specialized Thematic Exhibition "Flora and Philately" associated with a horticultural exhibition in Cologne. The stamp has a somewhat formalized design of a tulip and a posthorn.

The S.A. Philatelist by air.

Readers in the United Kingdom can have their copies sent by second class air mail for an additional charge of 2/- per copy. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this facility should inform the Business Manager, enclosing the requisite remittance.

S. AFRICAN COVER DESIGNER

Covers designed by Mr. H. J. de Wet of Cape Town for various special South African stamps and occasions are probably known to a number of our readers as things of beauty and craftsmanship.

"Stamp Collecting" reports a recent **tour de force** on his part in connection with the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to Tristan da Cunha. He was asked by radiotelegraph from the island 36 hours before a ship was due to sail, to design, print and send a supply of covers. He did it — produced a design, had envelopes made from hand-made paper, and 140 printed from a line block, in time to catch the ship.

To save correspondence please note that Mr. de Wet has none of the covers left.

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PANAMA "POPES"

The project of an American syndicate to prepare 259 stamps depicting all the Popes down the ages, the profits being divided between the promoters and the Panama Government, has flopped. Twelve of the stamps were actually printed but sales were very small, not nearly enough to pay costs of printing, advertising, etc., instead of bringing in profits of millions.

Strangely enough the low sales have made these few a philatelic success and they are already selling at over face value. But the promoters of the scheme get no benefit thereby.

SOCIETY NOTES

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

6th May. The annual Allen Cup Competition was held and it attracted three entries, as follows:—

- (1) Mr. J. Slagt — Netherlands pre 1900.
- (2) Mr. D. P. Coetser — Russia.
- (3) Mr. J. M. Weinstein — Israel Commemoratives, 1948-1953.

After viewing these all-foreign exhibits the remaining members then voted and the collection of Israel Commemoratives was declared the winning one for 1957, with the collection of Russia being chosen as runner-up.

20th May. The Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society paid us their annual visit and the following were the collections that were displayed for our enjoyment:—

- (1) Dr. C. Been's Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, with the emphasis on the postmarks from the countries concerned.
- (2) Mr. P. Roux's Israel exhibit which won the Cecil Trophy at the Railway Society's last meeting.
- (3) Mr. D. Brown's Antigua, Bermuda and Dominica from George VI to date.
- (4) Mr. W. Kriste's Denmark.

The programme was a distinctly balanced one and the exhibits all contained items that were of great interest and beauty. Altogether it was a most pleasant evening's entertainment and our thanks are extended to our neighbours for providing the fare that made the evening.

J. M. W.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Wednesday 8th May. The big attraction of the evening was the Cecil Trophy Competition which drew a total of four entries, two of which we are pleased to say were received from country members. The exhibits displayed included Mr. J. Kriste's "Argentine Covers", Miss C. Woodroffe's thematic collection "My Travels in Stamps", Mr. P. Roux's "Stamps of Israel" and Mr. D. Brown's "Selection from the West Indies". Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Mr. Pierre Roux on being this year's winner of the Cecil Trophy with his very fine Israel collection and to Miss C. Woodroffe on being the runner up. Also our thanks are extended to the other two entrants whose collections were of a high order and a pleasure to see.

J. M. J. McCg.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

Our 400th meeting, on **14th May**, had a very gratifying attendance, and nobody could say the exhibits were not worth it. Mr. B. Joseph showed some more of his many "Switzerland", this time mainly earlies, some lovely first issues and some even better looking forgeries (meticulously marked as such, of course); and Mr. W. S. Yelland regaled Union collectors and astounded non-Union collectors by his extensive study of the booklets and coil stamps of South Africa, some of which are now already passing into the rarity class. And most pleased must have been Mr. Grabowski who won the competition's first prize, a finely postmarked British Postal Union Pound.

The following meeting, on **27th May**, however, was disappointing as regards numbers, and this all the more so since again the displays were of abiding interest. Mr. H. Markowitz who has shown us the other occupied Zones of Germany previously, finished up with a well-nigh complete array of the French Zone and the issues for Berlin, very costly stamps and sheets in the first half, and very beautiful stamps in the second; and Mr. G. D. B. Williams had sent his "Rhodesian Postmarks" in for showing, along with a paper which showed how much original research this comparatively small display had entailed, and also, how much more he and others would still find to do.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

May 9th. Mr. H. R. Savage entertained members to a most unique evening when he presented his "Union Pictorials without Tears". Most collectors have been used to seeing sheet after sheet of mint Unions, but on this occasion shown were used blocks of four of the Union Pictorials, plated according to the Handbook. Few realise how difficult the gathering of such a collection can be. In addition the mounting was excellent.

May 23rd. This was the evening of the Kaganson Cup (Thematics). Two exhibits were shown for this competition, "United Nations" by Mrs. Hilda Jeidel, and "Men at War" by Mr. F. L. Archer. Mr. Archer's collection won the Cup for 1957. This covered the story of War as depicted on stamps of the World.

M. F. S.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

May 13th. This was the first of the showing of a number of Durban exhibits, "Music on Stamps", belonging to Mr. Selwyn Smith, the President of the Natal Society. Magnificently written up and complete in all facets, covering Musicians, their Music, Instruments, librettists, patrons etc. There was a record gathering to see this exhibit which attracted so much attention that the President was asked to give an interview in connection with same over the Radio.

May 27th. On this evening a further guest evening was the showing of "Famous Men" belonging to Mr. R. A. Gilzean also of Durban. This was a clear exposition of such men that have made history. Again the members turned out with visitors to see yet another fine exhibit. The Club has cause to be thankful to Durban for sending down these interesting exhibits.

M. F. S.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

May 7th. Mr. Lederer showed his collection of South America, which showed the beginnings of future care and a fine collection.

May 25th. At this meeting no less than 3 new members attended showing the gradual interest taken by students. First Mr. Katz showed his collection of Queen Elizabeth II. In this he showed the foundation to a very pleasing collection. The Hon. Secretary then presented a paper on "Sperati — the Master Forger".

M. F. S.

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Wednesday, 15 April 1957. A short talk was given by Mr. John P. Frew, the Studio Manager of E. S. & A. Robinson, on how it had come about that he had been asked by the Government Authorities to design the Peace stamps issued for the Union of South Africa and South West Africa. Mr. Frew first of all outlined the history of his war time service and then continued with his record of how he set about to design the various stamps, his very first attempt at stamp designing.

I. S. B.

THE O.F.S. & BASUTOLAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

April Meeting: Mr. A. H. Scott exhibited his simplified "Swiss" — these were mounted on printed loose-leaves, and to quote Mr. Scott — "The answer to the collector who has not the time or the ability to write up a collection."

In addition to the definitives, commemoratives etc., the collection was fairly well represented in issues from the League of Nations offices officials and postage dues.

An interesting display of "Queens" by Mr. H. E. Roux, covered all the "Queen Elizabeth II" definitive issues to date, and included all the Aden colour and perf. changes, as well as the Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland issues before Federation.

A display of covers was the surprise item of the evening given by Mr. A. L. Meyburgh. This display was again shown at the Museum Congress, and a full write-up appears below on the article covering the Society's exhibit there.

Museum Congress

Some 40 delegates from Southern Africa and Federation attended the Museum Congress at Bloemfontein during the second week in May. At the request of Dr. Hoffman, Director of the local Museum, the Society provided various displays on Tuesday evening the 7th May, as entertainment for all attending delegates. These displays were very well received, especially by those delegates whose interests included philately.

The following is a short account of the exhibits which were shown:

Oranje Vrij Staat by Mr. John Price.

This exhibit was of a very high standard, showing many major varieties. A block of 15 **Commando Brief Labels** in imperf. condition was one of the many outstanding items. Other interesting items included the 1/-, 5/-, 10/- and £1 Post Noot (Postal Orders) and no less than four copies of the "Iostage for Postage" errors. **Pre-stamp and Early Covers** by Mr. A. L. Meyburgh.

Mr. Meyburgh again showed a collection of covers reaching the high standard that we have

come to expect of him. His exhibit included many rare and interesting items, among others there were numerous pre-stamp covers, three copies of the famous "Tin Can Mail", and excellent copies of both the Mulready and South Kingston envelopes, and ending with several more recent covers of extreme interest.

Netherlands by Mr. A. H. Scott.

A very fine collection of Netherlands ranging from 1852 to 1956 was shown, with many fine items among the earlier issues. This collection was mounted in a special album, which added to an attractive presentation. Although not complete among the early issues, it was most pleasing to note the very few gaps still to be filled. **Union of South Africa** by Mr. C. E. Kachelhoffer.

Many must have been pleasantly surprised at this really excellent presentation. Although space only permitted a cross section of this collection, it nevertheless contained any amount of rare and interesting items. Among these were the MacKay, Immelman, Harrison essays, the Darmstad Trials, Waterlow proofs, 2nd Airmail plate proofs and design and coloured essays of the first 1/3 stamp (Springbok), that caught the eye. Other items of particular interest was a card with first Airmail set autographed by the P.M.G. at the time, as well as an English and Dutch commemoration card of the 2nd Union Commemoration of 1910. This display ended with covers of the current Animal series bearing excellent drawings of each animal depicted. **Anglo-Boer War Covers** by Mr. A. L. Meyburgh.

This very fine collection needs no introduction and created much interest. Among some of the more outstanding items was a cover of the siege of Ladysmith, a copy of the "Mafeking News", No. 10, dated 14th November 1899 and finally an envelope addressed to Major Huneberg, Box 411, Pretoria, stamped with no less than 54 1/2d. Transvaal stamps overprinted E.R.I., all perfectly cancelled.

Covers of Pretoria Centenary by Mr. G. H. van Rooyen.

Mr. van Rooyen produced a collection of covers which proved most interesting. Each envelope was made up of photographs of various historical importance pertaining to Presidents Kruger and Pretorius. In addition to these covers, Mr. van Rooyen had envelopes addressed to each of the various Cabinet Ministers since 1948 and autographed by them mounted opposite a photograph of each of the Minister in question.

Thus an interesting evening came to a close, with the interests of Philately, we feel sure, having had yet another most welcome boost.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC
SOCIETY

2nd April. Three displays were given during the evening: Mr. F. W. A. Knight — Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland.

Dr. J. W. Harris' "Sanitary Fair Commission" Stamps of the U.S.A. — the precursors of Red Cross Stamps — accompanied by a talk, and finally — Mr. G. K. Forbes with his latest craze of "Cut Outs" and "Throw Outs".

16th April. Mr. J. F. Slabbert, one of our younger members, showed a rather nice lot of the Belgian Congo and U.S.A. Commemoratives. Some special interesting items were provided by other members.