

# The South African Philatelist

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## SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

By DR. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER.

Hon. Associate Editor.

### NOTES ON THE RSA WATERMARKED PAPERS

The South African Stamp Study Circle recently asked two of its members to lead a discussion on the various stamp papers bearing the RSA watermark. It was because there had been so many arguments about those papers. All had agreed that the two types, the Harrison and the later Swiss papers were supposed to bear a watermark, for that was the information received from the Government Printing Works, but so often there was no trace of a watermark whichever way the paper was examined.

Then the question arose: would it be correct to term a paper "RSA-watermarked" when there was no watermark. As it happened, all these papers were "chalky" and so they were simply termed "chalky paper" by some authorities. The official term given by the Printing Works was "Coated RSA watermarked paper". Notwithstanding all this there was still no answer to the many questions, not only put to the Study Circle but also in correspondence to the "experts".

We can say that there were five main groups of these papers and they appeared in sequence as follows: (1) Harrison, distinct mark; (2) Harrison, indistinct to missing mark; (3) Swiss, distinct, tête-bêche mark; (4) Harrison, distinct mark; (5) Swiss, indistinct missing tête-bêche mark. A further complication arose in that frequently one

could find a distinct, an indistinct and a missing mark on the same sheet.

All the Harrison papers have their mark facing in one direction, usually upright when viewed as they emerge from the printing machine, and the Swiss papers show the mark in tête-bêche formation, that is the marks are upside down in relation to each other. There has been one occasion when the Harrison paper appeared with its mark reversed and that was in 1963 when two issues appeared on that paper, the 1c from cylinders S33 S13 and the 2½c Red Cross — incidentally both these issues also appeared on the normal RSA watermarked paper.

The two members of the Study Circle have not been able to undertake exhaustive tests on the papers, chemical or microscopic, but have examined them as philatelists and in a way that the average person could undertake. There are certain features that are common to all the papers. The quality is very good, above average, we believe; the gum is good although specimens have been shown where it has been streaky; one sheet was shown where the gum was normal at one end and absent at the other, having tailed off like paint from a drying brush; but these are very seldom seen. Joins are very seldom seen too, there have been different types which have been difficult to explain. All the papers are

very white; generally one can differentiate between the Swiss and the Harrison papers when they are held next to each other, the Swiss is somewhat whiter than the Harrison. Some knowledgeable persons have claimed that they can determine the paper even without the watermark.

All the papers react to the Silver test, that is, the Silver pencil leaves a black mark on the front of the paper — on the printed side. It was stated, however, that the Silver pencil test is not a conclusive proof of a chalky paper and that other types of coated paper can also give a positive reaction to the Silver test. It was interesting to note that when the gum on the other side was "floated off" or even rubbed off hard under water the paper does not react to the Silver pencil test. This is of interest when referring to used stamps and it is of significance when dealing with the ultra violet lamp.

The presence or absence of the watermark is of primary importance, and therein lies the big difficulty that faces us. It is disappointing to have to record that, up to the present there is no simple means of telling what is the watermark and what is its direction in every case. When we view a whole sheet we can generally tell. The margins are, as a rule, the best places to examine. Then also, the gummed side can help; when the sheet is moved about so that the reflected light strikes it at different angles, the mark can suddenly be seen through the gum. But when we deal with a stamp itself, there, too often we have a hopeless task. We have to use a watermark detector. Certain volatile liquids such as benzine, carbon tetrachloride are recommended. They are applied to the stamp and as they evaporate, the mark shows up, or should show up. We must beware of carbon tetrachloride however, it can be ruinous to the colours. (If you have a van Riebeeck 1s stamp to waste put some on it and see what happens.)

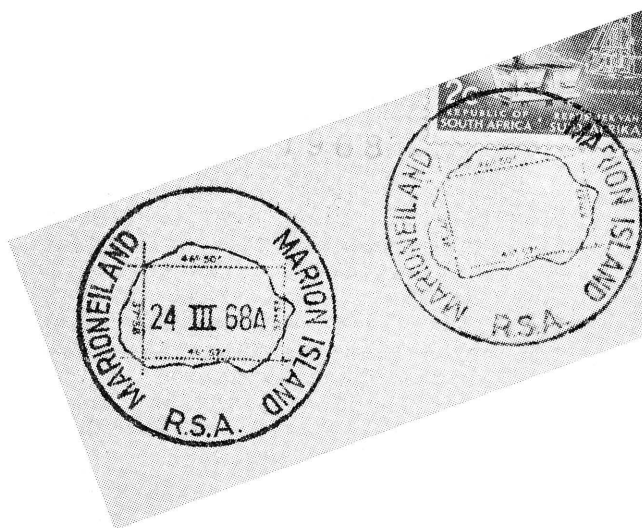
So far we have dealt with the study of the paper as viewed in daylight. But we have a most valuable ally in the ultra violet lamp, the so called "black light" which we use in a darkened room. It is often regarded, however, as a dangerous instrument as its rays are harmful to the skin and eyes. True, there are some which can do you no good and they can be expensive, but there are others, simple, safe and cheap and which are excellent; the light source is a neon like tube.

Under this light we immediately see a striking change. The front of the paper almost glows luminously, it is fluorescent, the Swiss paper even more so than the Harrison. But the gummed side shows the deciding factor.

On the Harrison it is almost as bright as the front, but the Swiss gummed side is not fluorescent at all; it has almost a light slate-blue colour and it also has a somewhat mottled appearance. And now another feature appears in these papers, and that still awaits an explanation. Soaking off or rubbing off the gum under water makes no difference to the effect of the black lamp. We have seen that there is no reaction to the Silver pencil test when the gum has been "rubbed off" and now we notice that that surface still remains fluorescent on the Harrison paper, obviously the "coating" is not removed by "rubbing". The question now to be answered is what exactly is "coated paper". In short, we have the Harrison paper fluorescent on both sides and the Swiss paper fluorescent only on the one side. Are these papers made of layers as we notice in that of the current postcards on the Japanese paper, or are they just surface treated? A treatise on this subject will be welcomed.

We have mentioned the various items of information brought forward at the Study Circle. They are what are known to us up to the present, and it does seem as if the next move is up to the scientists and paper manufacturers, with their knowledge, to enable us to describe exactly what we now call "Coated RSA watermarked paper".

### ITEMS OF INTEREST



#### Marion Island and Sanae Datestamps.

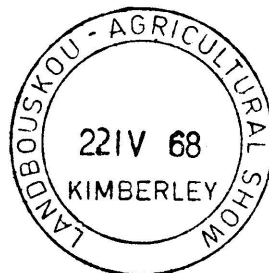
There appears to be some misunderstanding about these two datestamps. Collectors have asked why they have not heard of the visits of the research ship RSA to those parts. They

were expecting bulletins from the Post Office to enable them to send their covers for the special datestamps.

The Publicity Bureau has given us the following information. The RSA normally leaves Cape Town in December each year for Sanae in Antarctica and in February or March for Marion Island. We quote from Philatelic Bulletin No 51 which lists the special date stamps in use at present. "Orders for impressions of the datestamps used at SANAE and MARION ISLAND should be forwarded to the Philatelic Bureau G.P.O. Pretoria". We were told that ordinary mail rates apply and that covers must be in well beforehand for the Sailings. There are no bulletins sent out advising of the Sailings.

The illustration shows a strike of the damaged canceller which had been returned to the Republic and that of its repair.

**THE KIMBERLEY AGRICULTURAL SHOW**



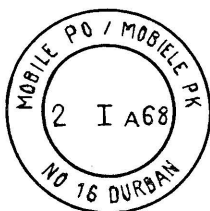
*The date stamp, a description of which appeared in our May Number.*

**POSTMARK NOTES**

by David Allison

**Slogan Design Survey**

The latest "Quarterly Bulletin" of the British Postmark Society includes a report of a slogan design survey conducted by one of its members. All members had been asked to complete a questionnaire, and amongst other things they were requested to select (a) the ten most attractive, (b) the ten most effective, (c) the ten worst British slogans introduced since April, 1963. As always, one man's meat was another man's poison — a local publicity slogan used at Widnes tied for fifth place in the list of attractive slogans and for fourth place in the list of worst slogans. A particularly large total of votes for attractiveness and general effectiveness was given to the various slogans used at Bath, and one of them is illustrated here.

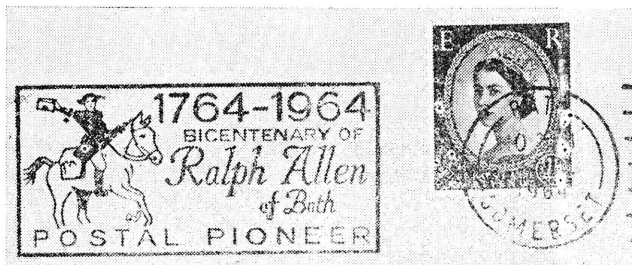


R MOBILE 16  
3512

**Mobile Post Office No 16**

On 2 January, 1968, Durban acquired a third van, designated Mobile Post Office No. 16. It was equipped with a double-circle bilingual canceller, bearing the number 16, but apparently without registration cachet or labels, for at the present time the registration insignia is applied in manuscript, a mark authorised in 1882.

The circles of the canceller measure 27 and 18.5 m.m. respectively and the lettering, 2 m.m. in height, is of a thin and narrow type, resulting in a weak impression.



Many of those who took part in the survey remarked that continental slogans, especially French, were on the whole much better designed than British ones. It is a pity that ours must be amongst the least attractive and least effective in the world. But all the same there

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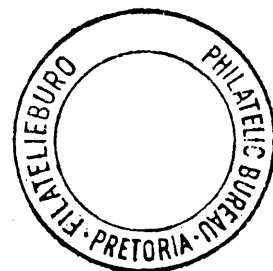
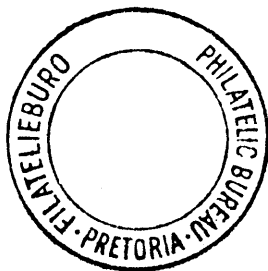
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Deposito-rekenings kan geopen word.

is a good deal of interest found in collecting and studying them, and here we are not overwhelmed by new issues as British collectors are — the latest British Postmark Society list covering a period of four months contains 48 new slogans.

### Highest Post Office?

I am indebted to Mr. P. A. Donoghue, of Maseru, for a first-day specimen (20 III B 68) of the SANI TOP handstamp. This is a new postal agency in Lesotho, at the summit of the Sani Pass, 9400 feet above sea-level. Mr. Donoghue points out that this is the highest post office in Lesotho and wonders whether there are any higher ones in Southern Africa. Does anybody know?

The date-stamp is of the usual double-circle type, with diameters about 26 and 18 m.m. The name SANI TOP appears above, and LESOTHO below.

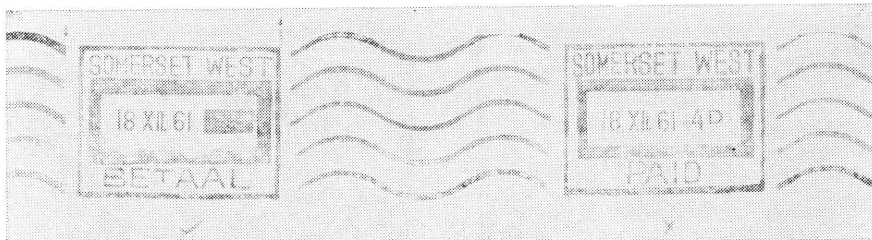
### Central African Trade Fair

In these notes last July an account was given of the three postmark slogans which have been used at Bulawayo to advertise this Trade

Fair. The newest of the three — i.e. the one with the badge — has been used again at Bulawayo in March and April this year, and the oldest one — i.e. the one with the year "1960" chipped out — has been used at Belmont — Bulawayo. This is the first year I have seen a Trade Fair slogan used at Belmont, but I have no idea whether or not one has been used there previously.

### A New Slogan

To Publicise the Soil Festival which reached its climax on April 6th, the slogan "Support the Soil Festival" was used at the usual nine towns. The earliest date of use I have seen is March 25th (Bloemfontein, Cape Town and Durban), and the latest is April 8th (Pietermaritzburg). The intention was evidently to use it until April 6th. My thanks are due to Mr. R. Jones of Bloemfontein for reporting this slogan. The English version comes first on specimens from Bloemfontein, Durban and East London; the Afrikaans wording comes first in Cape Town, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria specimens. Both arrangements were used at Johannesburg.



### Other Matters

The Post Office seems to be finding it hard to make up its mind about Somerset West. From 1961 or earlier, the paid machine postmarks have had the name SOMERSET WEST on both the PAID and the BETAAL datestamps, so that evidently this form of the name has been regarded as correct in both languages. (The 1960 Post Office list gives the same impression; only WEST is shown, not WES). Likewise the ordinary machine cancellation had had WEST on both datestamps. On the morning of March 6th this year, however, a change was made to SOMERSET-WES on both datestamps, although early in May the Pairs were still as before. The story of the spelling in the 1950's is more complicated, and space is lacking for even

the very incomplete version I could write.

In July 1959, numbered datestamps were re-introduced at Johannesburg. Numbers 1, 3 and 4 were recorded then and 5 appeared later (See "S.A. Philatelist", July, 1964, page 131). There have been several datestamps, single and double circle, numbered 1, 3 and 4, but it seems that always the "1" has been used on the airmail machine. Occasionally there has been evidence of a second airmail machine, when an airmail letter has had an "A" postmark conspicuously different from the A's concurrently in use on surface mail. Now Johannesburg 2 has appeared, sharing the airmail work with Johannesburg 1. My first recording of this is 17.30 II-IV 1968, but the shape of the lettering strongly suggests that it was supplied along with the

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Johannesburg 5 datestamp, i.e. not later than 1962.

Second dies of the "Soil and Water are Precious" slogan have been brought into use at Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria. Cape Town now has a fourth die of the "Get Home Safely" slogan.

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### REGISTRATION LABELS

Until a few years ago, South African registration labels looked so much like British ones that one imagines they were printed in England; then slightly narrower ones, with different styles of lettering began to replace the "English" ones, and these now predominate. No doubt they are printed in South Africa.

Rhodesian registration labels are evidently being printed here now too. A registered letter sent from the Philatelic Bureau in Salisbury on 26th April 1968 bore the first of these labels, evidently printed in South Africa, which I have seen, but of course they may have been in use for quite a long time. The office name is given in three lines on this label: PHILATELIC BUREAU SALISBURY.

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### REVIEW

#### THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

THE PHILATELY OF THE BOER AND BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

PUBLICATION No. 1

Published by The Anglo-Boer War  
Philatelic Society

Obtainable from Mr. N. Snowden, 7 Truro Avenue, Stetford, Northwich, England, Price 12/6 (approx. R1.10), Postage etc. 2/- extra (20c)

A great step has been taken by the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, who have now published Part A of their revised version of Stephen G. Rich's well known book, "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War". Here indeed is a highly commendable piece of literature, a compilation of many hitherto unknown facts about a fascinating, if somewhat unorthodox War.

The patience of the Boer War collector has now been rewarded threefold by a publication which lists meticulously the history of the camps, the types of censor markings used, and illustrates with excellent drawings, all

known types of censor and other markings.

Since Stephen Rich published his wonderful record of the philately of this period in 1943, a wealth of material discovered by ardent collectors had not been listed, and often the collector has had to search diligently through numerous notes and scattered information to glean some knowledge of a particular item of interest.

This publication deals firstly with the Boer camps for British prisoners, then the British camps for the Boers, and finally the later Burgher and Refugee camps. It does not deal with the tremendous volume of Prisoner of War mail that exists from camps overseas. This will follow in a second section, and it is hoped that it will be published in the not-too-distant future. A helpful and interesting innovation appears in the form of footnotes of sources of reference throughout the text. Thoughtfully omitted are the lengthy suppositions and reasons for the War, and the pre-War history. From first page to last, the subject is the history and philately of the camps — the history is relevant, poignant and piquant (a fair amount is quoted from the contents of letters found in the envelopes of philatelic interest) and the scheduled information on the censor marks accurately tabulated for clear identification.

Each headed paragraph contains a remarkable history of the camps, Superintendents and clerks are mentioned by name, census figures are quoted with dates, and all are followed by a section — "Philately" and subsequent, relevant philatelic data. There are 80 pages, with 4 plates of handdrawn illustrations — the best I have seen yet — on the last 10 pages are check lists of censor marks and cachets. Nothing has been overlooked, no amount of erudite study has been spared, and no amount of praise can convey to the compilers of this publication how welcome this edition is going to prove. It is a must for the Anglo-Boer War philatelist. M.A.B.

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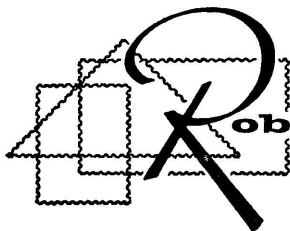
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## GRIQUALAND WEST BARRED NUMERAL POSTMARKS

In the South African Philatelist of August 1967 I contributed a short note on the numeral "10" of the so-called diamond-shaped barred numeral cancellers.

At that stage Nos. 2, 4 and 7 remained unidentified, although Nos. 2 and 4 were known off cover, No. 7 not being recorded in any form so far.

Now my attention has been drawn to a cover which enables us to identify the location of the numeral "4" as BARKLY, in Griqualand West, in 1874. The cover in question was sold at a Robson Lowe Auction on 15th November, 1961, as Lot 320 and was most fortunately illustrated in the catalogue in question.

The description of the item is as follows:- "1874 (May 7th) cover from Barkly bearing Cape of Good Hope 1864 1/- (3) with two clear impressions of the "4" numeral in diamond — within — bars cancel and Barkly c.d.s. alongside . . .

The supporting illustration confirms without question the use of the numeral "4" so that the record may now safely be amended to include this identification of the eight numbers now identified six have now been shown to emanate from Griqualand West against two having been used in the Cape. The suggestion that this type of canceller was essentially for use in Griqualand West seems now to be supported by the evidence.

It may be of interest now to list these diamond shaped barred numerals and their known locations which are as follows:-

|       |  |      |
|-------|--|------|
| No 1  | DE BEERS N.R. (N.R. —<br>New Rush) 1873 KIMBER-<br>LEY .....                                       | 1873 |
|       | (De Beers New Rush was re-<br>named Kimberley 1873)  |      |
| No 2  | only known off cover   |      |
| No 3  | JUNCTION R. and M. ....  | 1873 |
| No 4  | BARKLY (later renamed<br>Barkly West) .....  | 1874 |
| *No 5 | Somerset West .....  | 1895 |
| No 6  | or 9 DU TOITS PAN .....  | 1882 |
|       | BEACONSFIELD .....   | 1888 |
|       | (Du Toits Pan was renamed<br>Beaconsfield in 1883)   |      |
| No 7  | No example recorded  |      |
| No 8  | LANGFORD .....   | 1882 |
|       | DOUGLAS .....  | 1893 |
|       | (Langford Post Office abo-<br>lished in 1883 with the open-<br>ing of a post office at<br>Douglas) |      |
| No 9  | See note regarding No. 6   |      |

|        |                   |      |
|--------|-------------------|------|
| No 10  | THORNHILL .....   | 1890 |
| *No 11 | HOETJES BAY ..... | 1900 |

The dates shown are the earliest examples known to me.

\* The numbers marked with an asterisk, 5 and 11, are the only two that were NOT used in Griqualand West.

**Reference:** The Postal History and Postmarks of Griqualand West by Rex Reynolds published in the Postal History Journal, July, 1966.

J. M. WEINSTEIN

## COMMONWEALTH NOTES

By J. Woodgate

**Antigua:** A tourist set will be issued on the 1st July.

**Ascension:** 3 stamps for a human rights issue will appear on the 8th July. They will have a common design of chain links and the Human Rights flame symbol.

**Australia:** Certain of the definitives issued in 1966 will be replaced with a new series of floral emblems for various States. The values affected are 6c, 13c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c.

**Bermuda:** A set for the New Constitution will be issued on 1st July.

**British Honduras:** A 22c and a 50c stamp will be issued on 15th July as part of the International Human Rights Year.

**Canada:** A further stamp in the Canadian sports series will feature lacrosse. It is due on the 3rd July.

**Fiji:** The long-awaited new definitive set is now scheduled for the 15th July. The set will only go to £1 and not £2 as was originally expected. As Fiji did not devalue, the Fiji £ is equal to R1.80 or £1.08 Sterling. The face value of this set is therefore R4.68.

**Malawi:** 4 stamps depicting locomotives used in Malawi will be issued on 24th July, the values are 4d, 9d, 1/6 and 3/-.

**New Zealand:** The 22c stamp due earlier this year will not be issued. Instead, due to devaluation, a 28c definitive is due on the 30th July. This stamp will cover the rate for airmail postage from New Zealand to Europe.

**STUDY YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS  
AND POSTMARKS.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SCARCEST OF ALL SOUTH  
AFRICAN 'CRASH' COVERS?THE "PAARDEBERG" DISASTER  
15/10/51

Dear Sir,

I refer to Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey's article under Airmail notes in the May 1968 issue.

I have in my possession a cover which was posted in S.W.A. franked with a vertical pair of SG 75, and postmarked: Keetmanshoop, 13 X A51. The cover is a printed reply envelope to a Chemist in Durban, by the name of A. H. Todd. The cover is hardly scorched, and is imprinted with a purple cachet: SALVAGED CRASHED PLANE 15/10/51.

Mr. Godfrey mentioned the cachet to read salvaged CRASH plane, whereas my cover says CRASHED: The cover is not backstamped in Durban.

I hope that this little piece of information will help to establish how many of these covers survived, as indeed I do also believe that they are very scarce indeed.

Yours sincerely,

H. W. Vlegthert.

★

Sir,

Page 101 of the magazine dated for May 1968 there appears an article by Mr. I. H. C. Godfrey under heading AIR MAIL NOTES re South African "Crash" Covers.

I was stationed at Eshowe and received a letter from Cape Town addressed as follows: Mnr. en Mev. E. J. M. Durr, p/a Magistraat, Eshowe, Natal. The stamp got lost in the rain.

The postmark is dated 13 Oct B 51. The name of the place of posting is eligible but a letter A appears. Space for the stamp is visible and the postmark is broken, that part on the stamp being missing.

The envelope is imprinted in purple ink "SALVAGED CRASH PLANE 15.10.51". The envelope I have was not backstamped. The writing shows that it was in the rain.

Now I notice it was posted at Gouda on 13th.

Yours sincerely,

E. J. M. Durr.

Dear Sir,

## Paardeberg Disaster 15.10.51

With reference to the note on page 101 of the May, 1968, S.A. Philatelist, I do not know what two covers are referred to, but there are covers that I know of in the following collections:- D. Slater-Kinghorn (one cover) and Mr. Walker of Durban (one in "Phooye" collection).

I am uncertain regarding the following, but I have an idea the gentlemen stated also possess a cover:-

Mr. R. A. Escolme of Durban, Mr. A. Leon of Durban, Mr. G. Milner Palmer, Mr. J. M. Weinstein of Pretoria.

Yours faithfully,

D. Slater-Kinghorn.

★

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read of the "Salvaged Crash Cover" rubber stamp on page 101 of the May S.A. Philatelist. I have a cover with this, without any backstamp.

Yours sincerely,

David Allison.

★

Dear Sir,

Referring to Mr. Godfrey's comment about the Paardeberg Crash Cover of the 15 October, 1951, I have one of these covers housed in the Phooye Collection.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. Walker.

## LOOPING THE LOOP

Dear Sir,

Tanding's notes in the May issue about the positioning of the castle on the 2½c air letter form have reference.

The castle in an upright position resembles an asbestos-clothed squat monster from outer space. Let's hope that it remains as it is. In any case, I do not think that the design (with built-in air liner) would meet heraldic conventions, nor was it intended to do so.

Yours faithfully,

I. G. Gouws.

## AN APPRECIATION

Dear Sir,

My wife and I have just returned from our first (but not, we hope, our last) visit to your country; unfortunately we were only able to see a small part of South Africa.

I was greatly touched by the welcome given us by Philatelists in Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth; some I had come to know over the years, through correspondence or visits to The Royal Philatelic Society, London — others I had not met before. But our common interest forged new bonds and I have made many new friends.

I was privileged to see collections of very high standard and was impressed by the knowledge and patient study which had helped to form these collections. Everywhere I met enthusiasm amongst collectors and this was most refreshing.

I cannot thank adequately all those who showed such kindness to my wife and me, but hope that this letter will, in a small way, show our appreciation.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. E. Gilbert, F.R.P.S.L.

## MEMBERSHIP WAS RESTRICTED

In the early days of the Chicago Philatelic Society an applicant for membership had to prove that he owned a stamp collection before his application was considered.

Writing in "Western Stamp Collector" (U.S.) editor William Wylie says there was a good reason for this rule, which may seem strange to today's collectors.

At the time the society had its own club-rooms — a suite in a downtown office building which in that era was available at a quite modest rental. It was used for the club's meetings and every member had a key so he could drop in whenever he saw fit.

Eventually the society's leaders discovered the rooms were being used for gambling and other definitely non-philatelic purposes. Individuals were seeking membership, not because of any real interest in stamps or stamp collecting, but because they received clubroom privileges at a low cost. To keep those whose interest in the clubrooms was non-philatelic from outnumbering the collectors, the society began requiring all membership applicants to prove they possessed collections.

Mr. Wyle went on to make these comments:

"The rule was abandoned long ago, but now and then members of philatelic organisations wonder if possibly it wasn't essentially sound.

"In a good many philatelic organisations there's a feeling that too many of the members have merely an oral interest in stamps and stamp collecting.

"There's a lot of talk about stamps at the club's meetings, but a lot of the conversation has only indirect connection with stamps and stamp collecting.

"With a few exceptions, the only members who ever bring stamps to meetings are those who want to make sales.

"Only a handful of the members even enter exhibitions or show their collections at club meetings.

"When a club arranges a 'Favorite Stamp' programme and asks everyone to bring some stamp or cover and explain why it has a special appeal to him, relatively few of the members participate and a good many of those who do talk about some stamp which has appeared in recent months.

"A good friend writes that he seldom goes to meetings of his local club and more because most of those he meets there are individuals he describes as stampless stamp collectors."

*Acknowledgement "Stamp News"*



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## MOEG VIR DIE STORTVLOED MODERNE KLEURPLAATJIES?

**Hoekom dan nie posgeskiedenis-stukke  
versamel nie?**

Met al die onsekerheid wat die wêreld deesdae teister het die finansiers en kapitaliste vertrouwe in geld verloor. Goud en diamante is ook nie meer veilig nie. Die gevolg is dat hulle al hoe meer seëlwaarts keer. Vir die posseëlversamelaar het dit ongelukkige en onuithoudbare gevolge meegebring.

Net waar jy gaan kry jy hulle of hulle agente waar hulle die wêreld se seëlbeurse en -veilings oorheers. In hulle ywer om hulle geld veilig en vry van al die belastings te belê, jaag hulle mekaar op — vertrap hulle eintlik die opregte seëlversamelaar — met die gevolg dat die deursneë versamelaar nie meer die minste hoop het om 'n redelik goeie versameling van ou en klassieke seëls naastenby volledig te kry nie. Hy word dan teen wil en dank gedwing om hom by die meer moderne seëluitreikings te hou.

Maar, helaas, ook op dié gebied word hy in die wiele gery deur die parasitiese groeiers wat die hedendaagse seëluitreikers oral in sy veld plant. Net waar hy gaan of draai word hy toegegooi onder 'n stortvloed kleurvolle plaatjies wat nie vir posdoeleindes uitgegee word nie maar net om die skatkoffers te vul, en dít ten koste van die onskuldige en niksvermoedende seëlversamelaar.

Êrens tussen dié twee uiterstes moet die versamelaar vir hom 'n aanvaarbare middeweg vind. Tou opgooi wil hy tog mos nie. Nou wat staan hom dan te doen?

Nou ja, wat dan? Wat van 'n studie-versamelingsposgeskiedenis, posstempels, krygsfilatelie of iets dergelyks? Weliswaar lyk

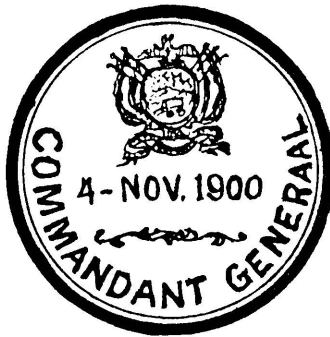
so 'n versameling uit die aard van die saak nie so netjies en mooi soos 'n versameling van posseëls nie maar dit verryk die versamelaar se kennis en gee hom baie plesier en voldoening.

Uit eie bodem kan 'n versameling Suid-Afrikaanse posmerke saamgestel word. Daar is reeds 'n aantal versamelaars wat hulle hierop toelê en 'n nuttige handleiding is beskikbaar. (Kyk na die advertensie „Union of South Africa. South African Postmarks”, elders in hierdie tydskrif). As u lus het om dieper in hierdie veld te waag, kan u nie beter as 'n versameling oor die filatelie uit die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog nie. Trouens, hierdie is 'n baie gewilde onderwerp met aanhangers in haas elke wêrelddeel. In Engeland is daar 'n baie sterk en aktiewe vereniging „The Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society”. Dié vereniging het pas 'n baie oulike en leer-same handleiding die lig laat sien. (Dit slaan ons dronk dat ons mense vir die buiteland moes wag om ons te sê wat op eie werf plaasgevind het). Hoe dit sy, die werkie kos 'n nietige „veertien-en-ses”, bestaan uit 80 bladsye met 57 afbeeldings van al die bekende Vryheidsoorlog-, sensor- en -kampstempels. Dit is verkrygbaar van die vereniging regstreeks of van C. E. Sherwood wat gereeld in die South African Philatelist adverteer.

Hier volg 'n inleidende grepie uit genoemde boekie:

Gevangene wat die Boere aan die begin van die oorlog gencem het is na Pretoria geneem waar die manskappe op die Renbaan gehuisves is en die offisiere en hulle lyfwagte in die „Staats Model School”.

Afgebeeld is die handstempel wat onder andere vir waarmerking van passe gebruik is. Hoewel die stempel nie so aandui nie, is



dit tog vir sensordoeleindes gebruik. Daarentrent is nie die minste twyfel nie want daar is baie koeverte wat die afstempeling dra. Die Staats Model School was geleë op die perseel op die hoek van Van der Walt en Skinnerstraat. 'n Rukkie na die oorlog is dit as die „Central Junior High School” gebruik.

Iedere land het 'n posgeskiedenis en haas elke land het 'n oorlog beleef of aan een of meer deelgeneem. Neem maar byvoorbeeld Suid-Afrika: Frankryk, Duitswes- en Duits-oos-Afrika in die Eerste Wêreldoorlog en Midde Ooste, Italië en elders in die Tweede Wêreldoorlog, sowel as in Korea daarna. Die veld is dus onsaglik om van te kies. Poststukke om posgeskiedenis of krygsdeelname uit te beeld bestaan. Hulle moet maar net gesoek word.

Hieronder is 'n voorbeeld van een wat aandui dat die Springbokke in die Tweede Wêreldoorlog in Egipte diens gedoen het:



Toe die Sweedse Magte in die jaar 1705 in die Ou Duitsland militêr moes optree is die Sweedse Veldpos gebore. Hulle het egter nie voor 29 Junie 1871 'n spesiale posstempel gebruik nie. 'n Afbeelding van dié stempel met datum 18.6.78 verskyn hieronder. In die jongste tyd doen 'n Sweedse bataljon diens net waar die magte van die V.V.O. te vind is. Een van die stempels word ook hier gewys:



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## CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF EMPEROR THEODORE OF ETHIOPEA (1868—1968) (April 18, 1968)

by Capt. M. F. Stern, F.R.G.S., F.R.P.S.L.

On April 18 1968 three stamps were issued: 10c, depicting portrait of Emperor Theodore; 20c, portrait of the Emperor with lions; 50c, Crown of the Emperor. Emperor Theodore reigned over the Empire of Ethiopea from 1855 until 1868. April 22, 1968 marks the centenary of his death. In 1818 a son was born to Dejazmatch Haile Miriam of Quarra. He was named Kassa. He was sent to a clergy school and acquired a keen interest for learning and applied himself to the study of Amharic, Geez, literature and theology. His childhood and adolescence were spent in an often harsh environment of struggle. This was the era of the Grand Lords when authority in Ethiopea was split among the Lords of the four main regions of Gondar, Gojjam, Tigre and Shoa with each Lord vying for the other's power. Kassa's environment instilled in him the desire to bring unity and harmony to Ethiopea. As Kassa became attuned to political realities, he began to consolidate his military and political power. This led to clashes with the Lords but in the end Kassa emerged the successful unifier of Ethiopea and on February 7, 1855 Kassa was appointed Theodore Emperor of Ethiopea. His was not a peaceful reign. Almost immediately after taking the throne, Theodore found his Empire faced with external threats and pressures. Activities of some foreign missionaries and consular representatives within Ethiopea, forced Theodore to take certain measures which eventually brought him into conflict with Great Britain. This conflict ultimately resulted in an armed confrontation between the British Army and Theodore's forces at Magdala, Theodore's high mountain fortress located in the northeastern part of Ethiopea. A fierce battle ensued with Theodore realizing that the defeat of his army, fighting without the benefit of modern weapons, was inevitable. On Easter Monday 1868 Theodore dismissed his followers and retired to Magdala. It was there Theodore chose to take his own life rather than allow himself, an Emperor, to be captured or killed by foreign hands. He is a national symbol of Ethiopian unity, pride, unique heroism, courage and national dignity.

A NEW SUSCRIBER HELPS THE S.A.P.  
ON ITS WAY. KEEP IT UP!

## ORANGE FREE STATE

### Occupation Issues — a side line of war!

by Gladys Driver

Bloemfontein was entered and occupied by Lord Roberts and his army on the 13th March, 1900. The following day, the Post and Telegraph offices were in the possession of the army: this proclamation was issued three days later:

"Whereas it is deemed necessary for the welfare of the Orange Free State that Postal and Telegraph Services shall be resumed in the aforesaid Republic, as far as circumstances permit, NOW THEREFORE I, FREDERICK SLIEGH BARON ROBERTS OF KANDAHAR, K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., V.C., Field Marshall and Commanding-in-Chief of the British Forces in South Africa, do hereby nominate and appoint David George Anosi Flack, Administrator of the Civil Posts and Telegraphs in such portions of the Orange Free State as have been, or may hereafter be occupied by the British troops. And I do hereby order that the Postal and Telegraph services shall be resumed in the portions of the aforesaid Republic already referred to, from the nineteenth day of March, 1900, under the existing Laws and Conventions of the Orange Free State, subject to such alterations as may from time to time be notified.

Given under my hand at Bloemfontein this Seventeenth Day of March, 1900.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

ROBERTS,

FIELD-MARSHALL,

Commanding-in-Chief British Forces,  
South Africa."

The Postmaster-General issued a notice that Orange Free State stamps were no longer valid for postal purposes and the work of surcharging the stamps was carried out by a printer in Bloemfontein. The surcharging of these stamps started a rage throughout the occupying army. Advertisements in "The Friend" the official army newspaper, offered Kruger sovereigns and Transvaal pennies for sale, but none of the postage stamps of the former Free State, or the newly surcharged issues in use by the army. Though the Transvaal pennies fetched twenty-five shillings and were in great demand, the real enthusiasm of collectors was for postage stamps. Officers, as well as other ranks, were busy buying stamps and having them erased to make them more valuable. A contributor to the newspaper stated that war

trophies, as such, were few and hard to get. It seems that the energy of collectors was expended upon the acquisition of new and old postage stamps. Generals, Colonels and Tommies busied themselves in the craze. The writer stated that a well-known London man cleared a profit of £300, whilst still reserving a handsome collection for himself.

The army newspaper dated April 11, 1900 carried an amusing article by a man just back in Bloemfontein from a run to the Cape. He found the Market Square, the club, the hotels and street corners grouped with people intensely interested in the discussion of some all-important subject. The writer went on to say:

"The only intelligible word which I could detect was 'Dot'. I passed on to a second group where the same 'dot' arrested my attention; then to a third, which was also 'dotty', until I helplessly wandered about on the verge of 'dottiness' myself. Finally, blind to all danger, I plunged into a group of 'dotters', grasped one of them by the arm, and in reply to my appeals heard him hiss, 'Surcharged stamps you fool, misprinted, **without dots**'. Then I understood, and soon learned the subtle differences which add to, or subtract value from the surcharged Free State stamps. Finally I became the proud possessor of a 'dotless' one myself, and became hopelessly 'dotty'. To the end of my days I will always realise that affairs of State, literature, art, even money, are secondary to the importance of obtaining 'the entire set', especially if they are from 'the bottom row' and 'dotless'. This mania has taken possession of the whole army.

"From Tommy to General, the last biscuit, or a drink of whisky, or a pass to be out after 8 p.m. can be extracted by producing a 'dotless' stamp. Kruger could end this cruel war by simply sending out a dozen men mounted on swift horses, wearing white coats with the entire set pasted on the back. These scouts should ride in close to our lines and then turn round showing their backs. The moment the army saw the sets, they would make a rush and the scouts would ride fast in different directions, by nightfall the Imperial Forces would be hopelessly scattered and lost in the boundless veldt. Kruger's scouts would be perfectly safe, for no one would dare to raise a rifle in their direction. Such an act might bring down a set; but imagine if you can the fate of the miscreant if one 'dotless' stamp should be punctured or if — horrible thought — a chance scattering of lead should dot some of the precious bits of paper."

The writer having enquired about these stamps, found Major O'Meara seated in a small room at the National Bank, sorting out

from a huge collection the stamps which were to be surcharged. Watching the Major, who with wonderful skill and discrimination picked out bits of paper which were obsolete and which accidental surcharging would have made of untold value, and set the whole world of collectors into a hysteria of speculation. The writer stated: "the last stage of dotlessphobia had fastened itself on me, I have abandoned myself to full indulgence."

Few fortunes could have been made out of these stamps; the philatelic magazines after the war, carried advertisements like the following:

"Having returned from South Africa with a large stock of Transvaal, O.R.C. and other South Africans. Will be glad to hear from Collectors interested in these stamps. They are in fine condition and priced (with few exceptions) at half Gibbons or less.

J. S. Roe, Halesworth, Suffolk."

Another Suffolk Volunteer spent much of his service pay on buying South African stamps. After returning to England he compiled a diary made up of extracts from his letters to his mother. The extracts below refer to the forces mail and to his philatelic investments.

"Feb. 8th, 1900. A postcard from Brury St. Edmunds; we sail for South Africa next Sunday aboard the 'Doune Castle' from Southampton."

"March 7th. I am writing this to catch the mail steamer 'Scot' which leaves this evening."

"March 17th. We are anxiously awaiting the mail bag, we have not had any letters since leaving England. Oh! for news of home."

"March 26th. It is very disappointing to find everybody gets a letter except yourself, every time the mail comes in. You have no idea what a letter from home means out here. You should find out when the mail leaves England and post accordingly."

"April 9th. (Beaufort West) Since writing last week, a mail steamer has been sunk and several mail bags were lost. I hope my letters have not met with a watery grave."

"April 28th. Here is a list of what I am sending packed in a cigar box, and sent by the same mail as this letter:

Queen's chocolate box, presented outside Ladysmith.

Piece of Boer shell, picked up in Ladysmith. 14 photos taken here, also the bill (a curio in itself).

A Bottle of rubies, from Barkly West.

2 Locusts, Mimosa thorns, Boer stamps, Kruger penny, shillings, and halfcrown.

Local paper, and other odd items.

I hope you will get them safely. I have paid the postage this end."

"May 9th. Save all the postage stamps as they are surcharged with V.R.I. and are curios in themselves."

"July 31st. We received three weeks mail. Previous to this mail we had not received any letters or papers since leaving Roodeval on May 27th. You can imagine how welcome the mail was this time."

"July 31st. The Regimental postman is now stationed here, so I shall now get my letters from him, as I have asked him to keep mine back. The rest of course go to the Regiment."

"Oct. 4th. Our postman is now sorting out our letters, I must finish this to catch the mail. Your letter, if any, I shall get within an hour from now."

"Oct. 4th. Our postman has gone to Bloemfontein again and although the letters are in we cannot get them until his return tomorrow."

"Dec. 22nd. I received five letters yesterday, the first read was yours. Hang! the pencil, I cannot use it any longer, I have run out of ink and it is fearfully hot and dusty. Can you notice where the sand scratches the pencil as I write? I hope you got my registered letter, in it are the following:

A complete set of South African stamps,

Three Kruger sixpences, A railway ticket, from a place named, Herinnering-briefji (you may call it what you like) I gave it up with the tickets."

"April 9th, 1901. On the way home! we were marched straight on to the transport vessel. It is named the 'Tagus'."

"April 29th. Steamed into Southampton Docks."

In 1929, this Volunteer wrote in his diary:

"I bought a lot of South African stamps with my spare cash and expected to make quite a lot out of them as time went on. I was disillusioned after thirty years. I took them to Whitfield King's and they offered me face value for them, saying so many men had done the same thing that the market was glutted with them — I brought them away with me."

*Acknowledgement "The Stamp Lover"*

## A PLEA FOR TOLERANCE

By J. Ryan

The increasing number of new issues, many from small and obscure states, has led to a flood of protests in the pages of the philatelic press and has culminated recently in the decision of Stanley Gibbons to banish certain of these issues to the comparative obscurity

of the Appendix to their catalogues.

The theme of most objectors has been that this new material can only harm philately, by cheapening and debasing it, and that dealers and publishers ought to join with collectors in fighting against it and in following the lead given by a firm of Gibbons' standing. A look at the realities of the situation, however, shows that this is not going to be such an easy task as might first be supposed.

Governments have found that postage stamps offer a splendid and easily-exploited method of propaganda and profit, and it is very unlikely that they will be prepared to sacrifice these advantages willingly. However desirable it might be to turn back the clock, such a course is impossible; a glance at the change in the policy of British commemorative issues in the last 10 years and the recent spate of omnibus issues of the Commonwealth is enough to illustrate this. The question is not whether we can prevent these issues, but whether we can learn to live with them.

Consider the three main groups concerned in stamp collecting: the governments which issue the stamps, the dealers who sell them and the people who collect them. The influence that collectors have on governments is limited, although it must exist as we hear of countries that have "reformed" their philatelic habits. Unfortunately, the tendency of the newly-emerging states of Africa and Asia is to fragmentate rather than amalgamate, and it does seem likely that the number of countries mending their ways will be easily outpaced by newcomers jumping on the bandwagon. As for dealers, the effectiveness of the action of Stanley Gibbons remains to be proved, and again it can only apply to a tiny proportion of the objectionable issues involved. The idea of philatelic agencies is deplorable, but providing that the stamps are freely available for sale in the states involved, there is very little that can be done about it. In any case, most people will agree that there is something faintly ridiculous about a country being promoted or demoted from Appendix to Catalogue according to its current behaviour.

One important fact must always be remembered: dealers are in business to make money and not to uphold other people's moral standards, and they must make money to survive. Stamp collecting is lucky to have a very great number of small firms operated in people's leisure hours from home addresses, where both profit margins and profits can be small. The larger organisations, however, must be run on strictly commercial lines, they must make profits, and big ones, if they are to

continue to exist. Under these circumstances, it is unfair and unrealistic to try to impose restrictions on them as to what they may or may not advertise, or may or may not sell.

Similarly, with the philatelic press it is useless to expect a magazine to refuse advertisements relating to a certain country because one does not approve of that country's policy. A magazine exists partly on the revenue from advertisements, and it is, after all, a fact that we still have freedom of choice. I would rather choose from a large number of dealers and if I think that some are offering unsatisfactory material I will not buy from them. I would rather have a fine, fat copy of a magazine and those advertisements which do not interest me, or which offend me, I will ignore.

A reason often advanced for the banning of much suspect material is that the lower values tend to be sold in packet form to junior collectors who cannot be expected to realise what they are buying. Here again, I think the dangers have been over-emphasised. It is most important for children to be taught to refuse thinned, damaged or heavily-postmarked stamps, and any adult who gives a child such material, and any firm incorporating it in their approval sheets, is doing a great disservice.

As to what children collect, this is not so important. By the time the junior collectors have reached their teens they tend to lose interest in the gaudier productions of various small states and sheikhdoms, and as for younger children, they do not look upon their stamp collecting in the same light as adults. (Perhaps that is why they get so much pure pleasure out of it!) They are often perfectly happy to collect stamps for their colour, shape and design and not for any other reason.

It is very easy to apply adult standards to children, but each age brings its own delights and a boy might very well be happy to collect stamps depicting footballers, athletes or scouts without being in the least concerned about their postal validity. It is not even necessary, as some people insist, that they should realise the nature of the stamps in their collections.

An old album of mine which I used as a schoolboy still contains a set of Monogolian pictorials which Gibbons steadfastly refuse to include in their catalogue. Looking at them now, diamond-shaped, mounted so carefully with the pieces of gummed brown paper which were common during World War II, I have no feeling of being cheated, but only the recollection of the pleasure which their acquisition gave me. And after all, most of us still collect stamps for pleasure.

## WANTS, OFFERS & EXCHANGE

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There is plenty to interest everyone, and as far as undesirable issues are concerned, let us have not instructions but more information. Let us know which stamps are not readily available at post offices, tell us which countries are philatelically controlled by an agency, but having done that, please let us make the choice ourselves.

*Acknowledgement "Stamp Collecting"*

**GIBBONS SHARES OVERSUBSCRIBED**

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. announce that the offer for Sale by Tender of 950,000 Ordinary Shares of 5/- each of Stanley Gibbons Limited was heavily oversubscribed. The striking price has been fixed at 20/- per share; at this price and above 2,006 valid applications were received in respect of 4,891,400 shares. In addition applications from employees at the minimum price of 12/6d. per share were received and accepted for a total of 65,100 shares.

Letters of Acceptance and Regret were posted on Thursday, April 11th, 1968, and dealings on the London Stock Exchange started on Tuesday, April 16th, 1968.

*"Philatelic Trader"*

**THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA  
SALE**

The sale conducted by Messrs. H. R. Harmer, Inc., New York during May, 1968, realised over a quarter of a million dollars.

In addition to a wide group of collectors and dealers from the United States there were many visitors from outside including one from Italy, three from England, and three from Canada. Mail bidders were even more world-wide, the auctioneers reporting bids having been received from twenty-one countries.

**POLYVINYL ALCOHOL GUM (P.V.A.)**

The new P.V.A. gum, the adhesive presently being used, is so invisible normally, that a small mount of pale yellowish matter is added to make it possible to see that the stamps have been gummed.

# SOCIETY NEWS

## EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**April:** We had an attendance of 35 members and visitors at this meeting, and, in line with our new policy, it was an "instructional evening". Mr. John Shingler, President of Federation, with the use of pages of New Zealand stamps mounted by Mr. Gavin Knott, gave a talk on the mounting and display of stamps. This proved very instructional and helpful to our new members and the juniors, and, I am sure, all of us gained some benefit from it, particularly from the half-hour of free discussion which followed.

**May:** Our May meeting, held a week earlier due to a conference to be held at the museum during the next week, was very poorly attended, and what a philatelic treat the absentees missed. Charles King's excellent talk on the stamps of the Orange Free State was, I am sure, appreciated and enjoyed by all present, and some little known facts about these fascinating stamps were given us. This talk, coupled with a display by Dr. Drusinsky of most of the stamps spoken about, was the highlight of the evening.

The auction was small but brisk, and some good prices were realised, particularly for "ELPEX" items. We are "crawling" towards our target figure, and the entries are rolling in, so it looks as though we are set for a bumper show.

## THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

**April:** On Sunday 17th March a party of Society members travelled to Gwelo as guests of the Midlands Stamp Club and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent in viewing exhibits and discussions. Thank you Midlands for that perfect day.

It was never thought that our present rendezvous would look like bursting at the seams, but with a record attendance of 56 visitors and members at the Monthly Meeting of April 3rd our newly elected Chairman, Mr. W. H. Turnbull, began to develop a worried look.

Mrs. M. Strong, a newly elected member, put on an outstanding display of fourty sheets of "Birds on Stamps" classified into ornithological order.

### MATAPEX

An exhibition of Rhodesian stamps is to be held in the Small City Hall during 4th — 6th November. This will be staged during the City of Bulawayo celebrations being held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Occupation of Matabeleland.

The theme of the exhibition would be all stages of Rhodesian History as depicted on its stamps.

Three special stamps will be issued and a special stamp cancellation has been approved.

## THE MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**March:** The meeting was the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Society attended by some 57 members and 17 visitors.

The office bearers submitted their reports which were duly adopted and the following were elected for the coming year:

Chairman: Mr. R. K. Brooke; Hon. Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent: Mr. J. Davenport; Hon. Auditor: Mr. Wimbush; Committee Members: Mrs. J. Duncombe, Mrs. R. Ellison, Messrs. Peinkie, Webb, Walters and Rudman.

No Secretary was elected, but, after gentle persuasion Mr. Brooke volunteered his services for the coming year.

**April:** Considerable interest was shown by all members in the very fine collection of Cape stamps displayed by Mr. D. T. Carter. Particularly interesting were the Cape Triangulars, the Good Hope Overprints and the Mafeking Siege Stamps. We congratulate Mr. Carter on his presentation and record our appreciation to him for making this fascinating display available to us.

## WORLD PLOUGHING ISSUE

A heavy demand for the World Ploughing Issue was experienced at all Post Offices on the morning of 26th April and many had sold their entire stock by noon. Although it was rumoured that a reprint would be made the P.M.G. has since stated that this is not so. Therefore the numbers sold are as quoted in our February Newsletter.

**Rhodesia Medical Congress:** to be held at the Technical Training College, Bulawayo, from the 19th — 25th August 1968. No special stamps will be issued for this event.

**Matabeleland 75th Anniversary Philatelic Exhibition:** to be staged by the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia in the City Hall, Bulawayo from the 4th — 6th November 1968. Stamps to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Matabeleland will be issued on 4th November 1968. "Matapex" impressions will be available only from the City Hall Post Office in Bulawayo.

## BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**April:** At a successful meeting last month, we were most fortunate in obtaining Mrs. Coe as our Guest-Exhibitor, and she showed and talked on her magnificent collection of "Horses on Stamps". This exhibit had won the A.T.A. Award at the Paarl National Exhibition in 1965. Mrs. Coe traced the ancestry of the Horse, dealt with the War Horse, the Horse as a Beast of Burden, the Horse in Sport, etc., and her stamps illustrated the various Horses and their activities. The exhibit was greatly admired by all ensured an evening full of interest.

For some time it has been felt that the Society should have its own Philatelic Library. Nothing positive has been done in this connection, however, and we were most pleasantly surprised recently to receive a letter from a lady, who wishes to remain anonymous, offering to the Society the "South-African Philatelist" for the last few years, as well as other books

of Philatelic interest. The offer was gratefully accepted, and will form the nucleus of our Philatelic Library. Any further contributions will be most welcome.

### PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**2nd April:** Mr. A. Leslie Leon of Durban is being most sincerely thanked for sending us his lovely collection of the stamps of The Gambia. It was introduced by Mr. T. J. Strachan on his behalf by the reading of a very lucid and clear paper on the salient features of these interesting stamps. Supported by this knowledge it was easier to appreciate the well laid out sheets on display and not miss such gems as the Malformed S of Postage in 1898 issue or the split A in Postage of the 1912 set or the double surcharge on the 3/- stamp of 1906. Besides the early "Cameos" we admired Die Proofs and Specimens and a very fine range of Airmail Covers across the Atlantic from Dakar and Bathurst to South America. An enjoyable evening concluded with an auction.

**16th April:** Mr. E. Nagel preceded his exhibit of Cape triangulars with a most interesting and informative talk on their history and printing. The exhibit itself, which was first class, included several pairs and blocks of 4, many stamps having wide margins.

Included in the exhibit were a number of woodblocks, a very nice block of four of the 1/- of the 1863 issue and an interesting cover carried from Grahamstown to King Williams Town in 1855.

A lively auction concluded the evening.

**7th May:** The main exhibit at the meeting was the Netherlands and Netherlands Indies, by Mr. L. Lasarow. In his introduction Mr. Lasarow explained that this was a new collection, still very much in the course of formation and that there were unavoidable gaps. The display was well received and members who are reluctant to exhibit because their collections are not sufficiently complete, could take courage from Mr. Lasarow's example.

An interesting auction was followed by a discussion on the question "If one cannot afford to buy a complete set of stamps is it advisable to get the most expensive values or to get the lower values and hope to be able to afford the higher values later?" The question was discussed by Mr. G. Bülbring and thereafter comments from the floor were invited.

### ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE

The first meeting of the year was held on 30 March in the Board Room of the Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd, at 88 St. James's Street, London, S.W. 1. Further studies were made of the 1d on 5s Provisional of 1881, the Revenue issues and the R.D.M. officials.

The first part of the O.F.S. Handbook was published earlier in the year and is available at 66s (or equivalent) post free from B. H. Poyner of 76 Second Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex. The publication has received excellent reviews and a Silver Gilt Award at STAMPEX 1968.

### SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

**April:** This meeting was exceptionally well attended no doubt to do honour to Mrs. Colman who displayed her collection of Judaica and read a paper — copy of which is attached. Mr. Leo Buchen in suitably thanking Mrs. Colman pointed out the excellence of the display, the manner of the write up and drew particular attention to the considerable improvement to when a large portion of this same collection was seen several years ago. This improvement did not only apply to quality and quantity but to the actual write up and mounting of the items.

Mr. I. A. Miller gave the usual stamp news and displayed some of the latest items. The meeting closed with a small auction.

### 1968 COLOUR SLIDE COMPETITION

The South African Zionist Federation is holding another competition for which the closing date will be the 31st August 1968 and the theme "Israel 1968". Only colour slides since June of last year will be acceptable. Further particulars are obtainable from Mr. I. A. Miller.

**May:** Our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Max Stanger, was very suitably complimented on a fine display entitled "Cornering the Market" which showed a collection of Plate Blocks from approximately 1949 to date. The collection was practically complete and showed various shades. Whilst I personally enjoyed viewing the collection, I must admit that I am not particularly enamoured with ready printed album sheets and prefer hand work no matter how poor.

Various new issues and latest news were submitted by me.

### PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

**April:** The first meeting began with a talk on "Thematic Collecting" by Mrs. Wedderburn-Maxwell, very well illustrated by Mr. Boss's "Birds", Mr. Hartman's "Red Cross" and Dr. Wulfohn's "Doctors". In thanking Mrs. Wedderburn-Maxwell Dr. MacNae expressed some of his views on the subject, and stressed the difficulty in obtaining material. The exhibit of the evening was also by a thematic collector, Mrs. Koralek, who showed us her collection of Madonnas. The Society has seen this collection before, but it has increased enormously and Mrs. Koralek must have put in some hard work to bring it to this degree of completion.

At the second meeting of the month we were privileged to have as our guest speaker Commander Collins, who was on a short visit to this country. He spoke about the stamp market in England, of how the British public are investing money in silver or stamps without knowing much about what they are doing, making it difficult for the collector to obtain material. He feels there will be enormous rises in the 1969 Gibbon's Catalogue, partly to compensate for devaluation and partly because of demand. He advised members, when buying on overseas auctions and unable to see what they were buying, to avail themselves of an official

buyer who will examine material and buy on their instructions.

At this meeting there were two outstanding exhibits: Mr. Economides showed his U.S.A. from 1901 — 1935 and Mr. Leon, unable to be present, sent up his collection of Natal. Both exhibits were preceded by a paper. Commander Collins proposed the vote of thanks to both exhibitors, and answered a few questions put to him by members.

### ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

**April 11th:** Mr. C. B. Rowe tabled New Zealand "Pictorial Issues" mint. This Exhibit consisted of the first three of these issues, with particular emphasis on the perforation and watermark varieties. The King George VI period was covered by a very fine showing of plate block material.

After the interval Mr. Slater-Kinghorn's guest exhibit of "Great Britain" Prestamps and Line engraved" was tabled. In the absence of any paper Mr. A. G. Versino at very short notice spoke on the collection.

Through a very fine range of prestamp material Bishop marks etc. to the Penny Black which the speaker described as the "Most Beautiful and finest stamp ever issued". Penny Blacks there were along with the 2d Blues to the embossed issue. Many fine pieces, cancellations, covers and plate material.

#### **April 25th: KAGANSON CUP (THEMATIC)**

The Competition this year attracted four entries:

Mrs. V. R. Coe — "Birds"; Mrs. H. Jeidel — "Judaica"; Miss. S. B. L. Savidge — "Ships"; J. Wannerton — "Kruger National Park".

By popular vote of members present the award this year went to the collection of "Kruger National Park".

The second half of the evening was given over to Mr. R. F. Putzel's collection of "Lighter than Air" craft, Balloons to Airships. From the 1870 Paris Siege, the 1896 Berlin Trade Exhibition, to the early efforts of the French and later German achievements in this field. A comprehensive exhibit which had virtually everything.

### AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTE- VERENIGING JOHANNESBURG

Op 4 Mei is die jaarvergadering gehou, wat deur 33 lede en 3 besoekers bygewoon is. Die aftredende voorsitter, mnr. Vermaak, het dit tot 'n gebeurtenis gemaak, deur 'n toespraak te lewer wat nie sal nalaat om sy spore te druk op verenigingsake in die toekoms nie.

Uit die verskillende jaarverslae het geblyk dat die finansiële posisie gesond is en dat die totaal aantal lede gestyg het van 187 tot 259 in die afgelope jaar.

Die jaarlikse pryse is toegeken aan:

Mnr. Kramer van Pretoria vir sy langdurige dienste as streekbeampte vir die rondsenddiens; die Schubart-gedenktoekenning. Aan dr. Schiff van Pretoria vir sy uitstekende versameling Japan: die A.F.V. Ere-toekenning. Mnr. Kuipers van Johannesburg vir sy bydraes in die Nuusbrief wat gehandel het oor sy versameling

„Maskrs": die Skrywerssertifikaat. Dieselfde sertifikaat het gegaan na mnr. Vermaak van Florida vir 'n stroom van interessante bydraes. Die VEKA-wisseltrofee is gewen deur mnr. Singels van die "Fish Hoek Phil. Soc.", vir sy mooi versameling Nederland, terwyl beoordeelaarssertifikate uitgereik is aan mnr. Burrell, Sharpe en Yelland, vir die beoordeling van die insendings om die VEKA-wisseltrofee.

Die bestuur is as volg saamgestel: Voorsitter: J. Busser; Eere-sekretaris: E. Thamm; Penningmeester: W. N. de Jongh; Rondsendbeheerbeampte: A. J. Bakker; Redakteur Nuusbrief/Newsletter: J. Busser; Reklamebeampte: S. J. Vermaak; Afslaer: M. V. Mioch; Jeugleier: S. J. Vermaak.

### THE TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

The last meeting was held as usual in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Association at 446 Strand, London, W.C. 2, on 20 April.

The advances made in the study of the Pietersburg issue were reported after which certain of the Republican cancellers and the '23d' accountancy markings were considered. The afternoon terminated with a further look at the 1st Republic forgeries. The next Meeting will be held on 13 July. The annual subscription of 15s includes the quarterly TRANSVAAL PHILATELIST.

By the kind co-operation and courtesy of the South African Embassy in London, the Study Circle will hold an Exhibition (ZAR 100 — London) in 1969 in the Visitors' Bureau adjoining the Embassy, to commemorate the Centenary of the first TVL issues. This will be complementary to a similar Exhibition being staged next year in South Africa (ZAR 100 — Johannesburg).

### GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**May:** Although Wednesday evening the 15th May, 1968, had been listed as a 'Swop & Sale' meeting, very little swapping and selling went on as the two exhibits provided by Mr. B. Eilers and Mr. H. Birkhead were of such high standard that all members concentrated their attention on the stamps displayed. Mr. B. Eilers, with his usual neat writing-up of a collection in German, showed Sweden from the year 1855 to 1967, including Postage-Dues and a very nice selection of stamps on piece, being of the local postage denomination with clear postmarks of most of the towns in Sweden. Mr. B. Eilers was congratulated by Mr. R. G. L. Mephius on his very fine effort. After the tea interval, Mr. H. Birkhead, the Hon. Auctioneer, before tabling his selection of Rhodesia, conducted a very successful auction, and, by this, the funds of the Society would improve considerably. Mr. H. Birkhead's choice of Rhodesia was his collection of issues of the British South Africa Company, many fine items in excellent condition and very seldom seen by the average philatelist. Mr. S. J. Hagger thanked Mr. H. Birkhead for his very fine display. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Suklje, the President of the Society,

who had very recently returned from his overseas trip. During his absence the affairs of the Society were ably looked after by the Vice-President, Mr. T. J. B. Curle.

### PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**May:** The exhibit at this month's meeting was a straight collection of the stamps of Denmark tabled by the Hon. Secretary. Although by no means complete, there being many gaps in the collection, it was a fairly representative collection of the more modern issues and included copies of both the ordinary and the fluorescent stamps issued since the latter were introduced some six years ago. Also shown were newspaper stamps, parcel post and special fee issues and postage due labels.

Other interesting items included a mint set of stamps issued for use by Danish soldiers fighting in the German Army on the Eastern Front, and the different dies of the Caravel and King Frederick sets of definitives.

After the exhibit a very interesting discussion took place on the advisability of including First Day Covers and special postmarks in a collection as was displayed at the meeting. The general feeling was that in many respects the inclusion of covers does tend to enhance the interest in a collection.

During the past month members of this Society visited and displayed collections at three sister societies, the first on April 17th at the Germiston Society, the next on April 24th at the Pretoria Afrikaans Society and the last on May 6th at the Pretoria Society. The visits were most enjoyable and our exhibitors are to be thanked for showing their collections which were very well received at all three meetings.

It is interesting to note that of the 18 Foundation Members of the Society (members who were present at the inaugural meeting in July 1947) 9 of them are still members of the Society and an invitation is to be sent to each one to be with us at our Coming of Age.

### PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A well attended meeting, conducted by the Vice-Chairman, Comdr. C. Enoch, welcomed members of the Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society as guest-exhibitors, and after concluding the normal business the gavel was handed to Mr. E. Walker, the President of the visiting Society.

The following exhibits were displayed: South African Interprovincial Stamps by Mr. Walker; Child Welfare Issues of the Netherlands by Mr. Z. J. van Eijk who could not be present but sent his collection and the Line Engraved stamps of Great Britain by Com. Enoch.

The displays were greatly enjoyed and the exhibitors suitably thanked.

### AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

**Mei:** Hierdie maand was daar geen uitstalings nie. Eintlik was dit damesaand, maar die dames het ander reëlings getref. Hulle het mnr. R. Huthwaite uitgenooi, wat 'n lesing gegee het oor lig, die effek daarvan op voorwerpe, strale en die gevolg daarvan, maatstawwe om lig te meet, die sonstraling, die meting van kleur. Vervolgens het hy kleur verduidelik, 'n uitleg gegee van luminisensie en fluorisensie. Al hierdie feite is vervolgens toegepas op filatelie en mnr. Huthwaite het 'n demonstrasie gegee van hoe met 'n ultraviolet fosforiserende kwartslamp gewerk moet word. Dit was verrassend om te sien hoeveel met hierdie instrument bereik kan word en waarvoor dit gebruik kan word. Mnr. Huthwaite het daarop gewys dat as gevolg van hierdie lamp in wese geen volmaakte vervalsings vervaardig kan word nie: nie net die ontwerp nie, maar ook die ink, papier en gom sou presies dieselfde moet wees. Dit blyk ook duidelik hoe kleiner en groter gebreke, veral by ou klassieke seëls, onmiddellik met hierdie lamp opgespoor kan word. In sy dankwoord aad mnr. Huthwaite het die Voorsitter die opmerking dat eintlik geen filatelist sonder hierdie instrument kan wees nie, bevestig en die hoop uitgespreek dat on Vereniging daartoe kan oorgaan om so 'n lamp vir eie gebruik aan te skaf.

### THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**April:** In spite of counter-attractions (the Agricultural Show, the Gunter Kallman Choir) and buckets of rain, 22 members and visitors attended this meeting, which wasn't too bad an attendance under the circumstances.

New Issues were tabled by Mr. and Mrs. R. Jones, and Messrs. van Ee and H. E. Roux.

The main feature of the evening was the competition for the new Ronnie Jones Floating Trophy for Thematics and the following entries were received:

It's a Dog's World — Mr. and Mrs. A. Marinowitz; Philatelic Terms, Stamp Curiosities — Mr. A. L. Meyburgh; United Nations — Mr. H. E. Roux; The Winds of Change — Mr. J. W. Hodgson; The Postal Services of France, Errors on Stamps — Mr. S. Marus; Zoo's — Mr. C. van Ee; Special Cancellations — Mr. R. Jones.

The judges awarded this splendid new Cup to Mr. Hodgson for his collection which covered the political development of Africa over the past two decades as depicted on stamps.

During the tea interval, Mr. Meyburgh gave a most interesting talk on Perforations. This was particularly well received, and similar talks will be a feature of all future meetings.

### THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The last display of the Season was given by Mr. C. W. Meredith, F.R.P.S.L., who showed Scottish Local Cancellations. This is probably one of the finest collections of this by-way of

philately The cancellations were only used from 1854 — 1860, and as no date is incorporated in the mark it is essential that they are collected on cover or piece. Many of these strikes are very rare, but Mr. Meredith was often able to show more than one example both on cover and stamp.

Where post offices over the years had changed their names he was able to show matched pairs of the old and the new names, e.g. St. Patrick Square — Clark St.

He showed a number of the interesting double named marks, Govan Govan, Renton, Onich Onich etc.

The only known copy of Cranshaw was also on view. This village was left £1000 in 1841 for the poor, which now stands at £4000, nobody has needed the money.

The display was liberally spiced with pictures of the places and maps of the areas, and pages were often linked with well known personalities, e.g. Dr. Livingstone, Robert Burns etc. A very unusual display enjoyed by all.

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### EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will take place on the 20th July 1968. The secretary's postal address is P.O. Box 2388, Pretoria.

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### ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Fourth Annual Convention of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society was held at Warwick, United Kingdom, on 4th May 1968. Members were pleased to welcome the President, Mr. Donald D. Smythe, F.R.P.-S.L. of San Francisco U.S.A., and Mr. K. Vichoff of Delft, Netherlands.

At the conclusion of the business, our Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Rathbone and the Hon. Editor, Mr. N. Snowdon were presented with suitably engraved silver goblets in recognition of ten years of faithful service in their respective offices, and Mr. L. Lomax who was absent through indisposition was awarded a fountain pen to mark the Society's appreciation of his duplicating the Anglo-Boer war Philatelist for a similar period.

Excellent and interesting displays were shown by the President, a magnificent range of Boer and British material from the war; Mr. Peters, a combined display from collections of the North of England members of sheets devoted to the Boer side of the war; Mr. W. R. Hart, Boer invasion cancellations; Mr. Vichoff, prisoner of war material from India and St. Helena and also covers of the Russian ambulances serving the Boers; Captain Holland and Mr. J. Ineson, Mafeking stamps and covers and finally, as the conclusion to a

very successful convention, the President staged a display of collateral material which included a censor seal of which only one other copy is known, in the University of Cape Town library.

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### SWAZILAND STAMPS

A Philatelic Bulletin, dated 9 May, 1968 and issued by the Director, Swaziland Stamp Bureau, P.O. Box 555, Mbabane, Swaziland from whom further information may be obtained, states:

#### Issue of 3-cent overprinted stamp

A 3-cent overprint of a 5-cent stamp was issued on 1st May 1968 to meet postal demand in Swaziland following the revision of postage rates in late 1967. (No stamp of this denomination is included in the current definitive issue.)

The overprinted stamp will be withdrawn from sale after the close of business on 5th September 1968 or earlier if supplies become exhausted in the meantime.

#### Advance information regarding special issue of postage stamps to commemorate the attainment of independence.

A special issue of stamps will be released on the 6th September 1968 to commemorate the attainment of Independence by Swaziland.

Production will be in two forms:-

- (i) a se tenant strip of four stamps of different denominations (in sheets of 5x4 stamps) depicting in a semi allegorical manner the emergence of Swaziland from its former unsophisticated position depending largely on agriculture, to its position today as a developing country with growing industrial potential, and
- (ii) in sheets of fifty stamps by denominations.

The stamps will be of 3c, 4½c, 17½c and 25c denominations.

An official first day cover service will be available with the special issue at an inclusive price of 60 cents (seven shillings Sterling).

The set of four stamps either in strip form or separately by denominations will be available at 50 cents (five shillings and ten pence Sterling).

A sheet of 20 stamps in strip form containing five rows of stamps in sets of four will sell at R2.50 (£1/9/2 Sterling).