

The South African Philatelist

(Established 1923)

Proprietors and Publishers:

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

P.O. Box 375, Johannesburg.

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

Business Manager: Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.

Editorial Board: Dr. T. B. BERRY (Chairman),
Dr. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER, Mr. S. J. VERMAAK.

Annual Subscription:

R2.00, Republic of South Africa; £1.1.0, Sterling Areas; \$3.00 (U.S.A.), Elsewhere.
Post Free.

Vol. 44 No. 3

MARCH, 1968

Whole No. 515

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES

By DR. H. J. RAUBENHEIMER,

Hon. Associate Editor.

NEW ISSUES



1c 241 240 A.B.C.D.

A new issue of the 1c Definitive, Kafferboomblom, was delivered to the Publicity Bureau on 11 January, 1968. With the exception of the new cylinder numbers on the sheets and the varieties it is identical to the short-lived preceding issue from cylinders 219, 218.

Printed on new cylinders, Nos. 241 Rosine, interior, and 240, olive grey, exterior, prepared from the previous multipositives, the sheets, as yet, are on Harrison coated paper with the RSA watermark upright and mostly indistinct.

There are numerous varieties, multipositive

as well as cylinder, the more prominent of them being:-

Pane A

Multipositive — common to the 219 218 and 241 240 printings.
Row/No.

- 6/ 1 White dot to the right of top of right flower.
- 6/ 9 Grey smudge on right frame line, 1/3rd down.
- 7/ 9 Grey dot above P of REPUBLIC.

Cylinder

- 9/ 3 Red dot below H A of SOUTH AFRICA.
- 10/ 8 Broken left leg of second A of AFRIKA.

Pane B

Multipositive

- 6/ 9 Grey mark at top left of R of REPUBLIC.

Cylinder

- 3/ 9 "Ring flaw" with grey centre at right of top of right flower.
- 5/10 Large grey mark between tops of flowers.
- 7/ 7 Large grey "half moon" above EP of REPUBLIC.
- 8/ 4 Large grey dot right of BL of KAFFERBOOMBLOM.
- 8/10 Large "ring flaw" with inner grey rings above 1c.

Pane C

Multipositive

- 4/ 4 Broken C of AFRICA.

Cylinder

- 4/ 4 Grey dot right of left flower stem.
- 6/ 9 Tiny red dot at left of right flower stem.
- 9/ 6 Tiny red dot at right of right flower stem.
- 9/ 7 Grey mark at left of top left flower.

Pane D

Cylinder

- 2/ 3 Grey wavy hairline down left side of stamp.
- 2/10 Red dot between base of flower stems.
- 4/ 6 Dark spot in the middle of the stamp.

- 7/ 3 Large pale area below the base of the flower stems.

There are also characteristic marks on some of the arrows which may serve as distinguishing features:

- A Pan. Top arrow: Broken left prong.
- B Pane. Bottom arrow: Tiny break in base of left prong.
- C Pane. Bottom arrow: Faint red line between left and centre prongs (also found on 219 218 printing.)

The horizontal comb join, on all sheets examined is between the top margin and row 1.



2c 236 237 A.B.

A new issue of the 2c Definitive stamp "Pouring of Gold" was delivered to the Publicity Bureau on the 8th January, 1968. It has a new, redrawn, design with bolder inscriptions.

The format of the sheets and stamps and the position and colours of the cylinder numbers and pane letters, marginal bars, arrows and the colour registers are unchanged.

Other features which have changed are:

Paper: Harrison, clearly marked RSA

watermark, upright mark.

Cylinders: Two, new, numbers 236 orange, interior, from new multipositives from the preceding master negatives, and 237 blue, exterior, from new multipositives and master negatives. Stepped up for the two pane multipositives. Printed on the Goebel 840 machine.

Sheet Numbers: As before, but only opposite rows 8 and 9 and again 19 and 20.

Arrows: There is a blue shadow effect around the left arrow of pane B.

Marginal Bars: Shorter than the preceding ones. They do not extend into the side margins.

Colour Register: The vertical lines are longer and the horizontal lines shorter than before.

Perforations: The top margin is imperforate and the bottom one is perforated through (the reverse of the previous issue).

Perf. Register punched out holes: Opposite rows 7 and 8 on the left margin of pane B and the right margin of pane A. Only the ones on page A have the concentric rings — blue (the previous ones were orange).

VARIETIES

Pane B

- 3/ 1 Blue mark on stand below right mould.
- 10/ 2 Blue line in column of gold being poured.
- 16/ 5 Small blue ring on side of left mould.
- 17/ 4 White dot above B of REPUBLIC.
- 19/ 1 White dots at top left corner of left mould.

Pane A

- 2/ 5 Blue dot in right flame above crucible.
- 8/ 2 Broken R of AFRICA.
- 8/ 5 White stroke on the top frame line at the right.
- 20/ 1 Blue dot in the gold in the right crucible.

NOTE.—There are two blue dots on the bottom margin of pane A below the marginal bar below stamp 20/4.

RECENT PRINTINGS

The following are to be included in the Recent Printings appearing in our February Number, page 25, and the illustrations for the 3c Republic stamp and the New Postage Dues, page 28.

Postage Stamps

1c — Job No. 11281.70 contd. On the order

for 2,000,000 sheets a total of 1,233,302 sheets has been delivered to date, of which 338,300 were from cylinders 210 Interior, 209 Exterior, when they broke and had to be discarded. New cylinders were prepared, Nos. 219 Interior and 218 Exterior, and there was a first delivery of 34,500 sheets on the Swiss paper (RSA watermarked, tête-bêche) on 24.8.67 and 28,500 sheets on Harrison paper (RSA upright) on 29.8.67. The existing multipositives were used and transferred by means of centre lines on the positives.

2½c — Job No. 69808.17 contd. On the order for 1,500,000 sheets a total delivery of 1,554,200 sheets was made up to the final date 11.4.67. Same cylinders 12 Interior, 11 Exterior.

— Job No. 9731.35. On a new order for 1,000,000 sheets a first delivery of 500 sheets was made on 14.4.67; the total delivery of 986,000 sheets was made by the final date 12.9.67. New cylinders 17 Interior, 23 Exterior.

— Job No. 19391.00. On a new order for 1,000,000 sheets, 7,500 sheets were first delivered on 21.9.67, the total delivery to date being 52,200 sheets. Same cylinders 17 Interior, 23 Exterior.



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March 28th & 29th

Airmails of the World

This is an outstanding sale featuring a Gold Medal Award winning collection formed by Dr. Ernst Raab of West Berlin, a prominent Surgeon-physician. The collection has obtained Gold Medals at 'Bephila' Berlin 1957, 'Luposta' Vienna 1961, 'Curiosa' at the Hague 1961; Gold Medal and Grand Prix 'Luposta' Berlin 1962, Gold Medal 'Wipa' 1965 and Gold Medal of the Court of Honour at Budapest 1967.

Dr. Raab is now President of the International Aero-Philately Club, Berlin and Vice-President of F.I.S.A. and chose aerophilately as a hobby because prior to the last War he was a keen glider pilot. He specialised in the period of the pioneer flights and went to tremendous pains to obtain the finest examples still in existence of these rare items.

Some important items included in the sale are as follows: Australia: Ross Smith miniature sheet and cover. Germany: 1912 Regensburg set of three in unique blocks of four—extensive range of flight cards. Colombia: Multi-coloured series complete including covers. Italy: Pioneer flight cards. Newfoundland: 'Hawker' cover. Italian Levant: 1922 Bucharest to Paris flight, 15 p., only five known. Finland: 1930 Zeppelin '1830' error, mint and on cover. French Guiana: TAG stamps. One of the finest collections formed, includes a unique block of four.

A de-luxe catalogue with many illustrations as well as colour plates is available at R1. (Airmail)

April 3rd, 4th & 5th

Whole World General Sale

Strong in Cape of Good Hope. An outstanding collection of Cape Triangulars with emphasis on de-luxe copies and rare covers. Especially strong in 1853, 1855-58 and 1863-64 issues. Also Specialised Collection of NIUE with many rare covers.

Illustrated Catalogue 50c. (Airmail)

April 18th

The 'Sidney Harris' Malaysia

Includes Malaysian States, North Borneo, Brunei, Sarawak and Labuan. One of the finest specialised collections to appear on the market for years. Also India used in Malaya, strong in the 1854 issues with many covers. Very complete typing of overprints and surcharges.

De-luxe catalogue with colour 75c. (Airmail)

April 19th

Specialised Scandinavian

A very fine range of early rarities of Finland, Norway and Denmark. Of particular interest is a collection of Royal Swedish correspondence written by Queen Louise between 1857 and 1869. Queen Louise was from the House of Orange; she married Crown Prince Charles XV in 1856 and became Queen of Sweden and Norway in 1860. The letters are enclosed in 'lady-sized' envelopes franked with mostly perfect copies of 6 and 24 sk.b. They are addressed to the Queen's former Governess who was also one of her closest friends. The well preserved envelopes are sealed with the seals of the Royal Swedish Household.

De-luxe catalogue R1. (Airmail)



POSTAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The January Number of the Post Office Bulletin draws attention to the following:

Air-mail Envelopes.—In order to facilitate the identification of air-mail items in sorting offices and to speed up their treatment, the public is advised to use special envelopes with multi-coloured borders. An air-mail label must in any case be affixed.

Tie-on/Adhesive Label for Parcels.—Users of the parcel post service are respectfully reminded that the existing ordinary and agricultural parcel labels will be replaced by a tie-on/adhesive label with effect from 1 April, 1968, and the use of the latter label will be made compulsory. A smaller gummed label on which the usual declaration in respect of the contents of an agricultural parcel and the signature of the sender appear, will have to be used in conjunction with the tie-on/adhesive label.

STOP PRESS

The SHOW TRAIN left from Milner Park, Johannesburg, on 27 February, 1968, on its tour of the Republic.
A special datestamp will be used by the Postal Agency attached to the Train.
Further particulars will be given later.

RECENT AIR MAIL DEVELOPMENTS SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS ASSISTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

By I. H. C. GODFREY

LESOTHO—SOUTH AFRICA

Towards the end of 1967 the Governments of the South African Republic and Lesotho (formerly Basutoland) entered into an air services agreement to operate scheduled international services between the two countries on a twice weekly basis in each direction.

Monday, October 2nd, 1967. Commercial Air Services (Pty.) Ltd. (Comair) inaugurated the first service from Johannesburg to Maseru and return on behalf of the nascent **Lesotho Airways**. A few ordinary covers, post-marked Maseru "2 X 67" and backstamped at Johannesburg on the 4th October, were authenticated as having been flown by receiving the rubber stamp impression of "Comair". A number of unofficial illustrated souvenir covers, and also a few current 5c Lesotho Aerogrammes privately overprinted, were also carried on this flight.

Friday, October 6th, 1967. South African Airways.

The reciprocal scheduled weekly service run

by the South African Government carried a few official S.A.A. covers from Lesotho on the first return service. These were postmarked at Maseru "6.XI.67" in error but were correctly backstamped at Johannesburg in October.

NOTE.—Due to the frequency of mail services by surface and the distance involved, the South African Postal authorities have not availed themselves of the air facilities of the above services and NO MAIL FROM THE REPUBLIC TO LESOTHO HAS BEEN FLOWN.

AIR MAIL SERVICES — NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Interstate Air Services (Pty.) Ltd.

Monday, December 4th, 1967.

An air mail service contract was awarded by the Government to I.A.S. for the conveyance of mail on their regular scheduled flights between Johannesburg and Kimberley, operated by "Beech" aircraft, the route being as follows:

Jan Smuts Airport—Klerksdorp—Vryburg Postmasburg.

Kuruman—Sishen—Lime Acres—Kimberley.

Mail was however only accepted to and from Jan Smuts, Vryburg, Kuruman and Postmasburg.

Covers inspected carried on the first service are postmarked Johannesburg 4.XII.67 and were backstamped either the same day, or the day after, at destination.

THE 1968 EASTER STAMP FUND

"Cripple Care" today embraces every aspect of rehabilitation. The Easter Stamp Fund for Cripples provides the money which the National Council for the Care of Cripples in South Africa uses to advance all facets of cripple care work.

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O.R.C. NUMERAL POSTMARKS

In the 'South African Philatelist' of March, 1962, Dr. Harvey Pirie discussed at some length the series of numeral postmarks similar to the Cape Type of 1864, with 9 bars surrounding a boxed number (with figures 5 mm. tall) to form a vertical oval. His comment at that time was that this was one series of numeral postmarks which very badly needed clearing up as regards the places of usage of the various numbers . . . In concluding his omission Dr. Harvey Pirie repeated a cry that he first made in 1940 . . . "Oh, for covers with place-date cancellations as well as numeral postmarks," with the rider . . . "But I have already waited twenty years in vain!"

Regretfully, in that Dr. Harvey Pirie is no longer with us to learn that his cry was heard and answered. I am able to report the place of usage with certainty of one of these numeral postmarks. It is No. 30 (a number not yet amongst the 46 recorded numbers) and is unquestioningly from the Postal Agency of KASSEL, which falls under the Head Office of DEWETSDORP. From the evidence provided by the two postcards that I have appears the reason why these marks have for so long remained unidentified as to place of usage. These numeral cancellers were NOT accompanied by any place-name cancellation. The only evidence of the place of posting is in the sender's address which is stated clearly on the message portion of the postcards. This implies that even if these numerals are found on covers, unless these covers have an indication of the sender's address, it will not be possible to establish the place of posting.

It is interesting to record that both postcards (dated May, 1907 and July, 1909) have transit marks of DEWETSDORP, in each instance dated the day following that on which the card was written. And in order to confirm beyond a doubt that the numeral canceller was NOT applied at DEWETSDORP the transit marks are in a different ink to the numeral cancellations.

In the article already referred to a list of numerals recorded was submitted, to which I am able now to add the following:

*6 (or 9), 10, 30, 34, 50, 61, 73, 78, 92 and 119.

This brings the grand total of recorded numbers to 56.

Although the distinguishing feature of this series of numeral postmarks is the 5 mm. height of the numerals I have two numbers, 6 (or 9) and 7, which I believe belong in this

series but do not conform exactly to this pattern. In the case of these two numbers (both on Edwardian stamps of the Orange River Colony) the size of the box in which the numerals appear is 12 mm. x 8½ mm. against 12 mm. x 8 mm. in all the others. The numbers are 7 mm. high against 5 mm. already mentioned. My suggestion is that the single-digit numerals are in the larger size, and it would be interesting to know the sizes of numbers 3 and 7, reported by Messrs. Buckley and Patten in the original discussion.

* It is on the basis of this hypothesis that I have included No. 6 (or 9) in the list of additional numerals now reported.

The above-mentioned two postcards with the numeral '30' are submitted for the confirmation of my diagnosis.

J. M. Weinstein.

(The postcards have been inspected and we are pleased to confirm Mr. Weinstein's diagnosis.—Editor.)

CAPE-TYPE BARRED NUMERALS

The following barred numeral cancellations may be added to those already recorded, all are on loose stamps:

855 — being from Fort Johnston, B.C.A., at least in 1894; 466 — recorded as 'Union', now also 'Cape'; 601 — Cape; 774 — Cape; 907 — Cape; 1120 — Cape (on Edward VII 1d.); 1137 — Cape (on Edward VII 1d.) and 1402 — Cape (on Edward VII 1d.).

J. M. Weinstein.

THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Annual Competition for the President's Cup was won by Mr. R. G. Folkard, with a very fine display of the 1855-64 Perforated 1d. Reds. This included Imprimaturs, and examples of many of the plates, all in superb condition.

The runner-up was Mr. H. Morriss with an entry of his incomparable postmarks.

The Competition, restricted to members of less than five years standing, was won by Mr. H. Dagnell with a very comprehensive display illustrating the marks of the Parcel Post, well laid out and written up. The runner-up was Mr. A. Caseby showing a selection of Scottish Local marks.

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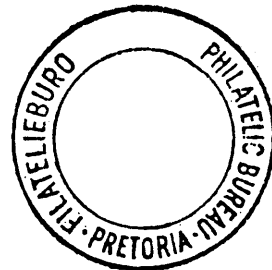
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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

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

Deposit accounts may be opened.



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

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Deposito-rekenings kan geopen word.

FORGERIES OF THE 1925 AIR MAIL STAMPS

Sir,

Some years ago I purchased in London a set of these forgeries and was told that they had been made in France — probably during the Second World War or shortly after. Sets of these forged stamps are not uncommon and are probably held in most collections of South African Air Mail stamps.

Recently a friend in England sent me another set which he stated had come to him from France, and a comparison of these with those already in my possession at once revealed certain differences which led me to examine both lots more carefully, after which I came to the conclusion that there were in existence two sets of forgeries and not only one. I set out below a table showing the differences between the stamps:

First Set

Perforation 13½.

Size of stamp 22 mm. x 28 mm.

Colour: 1d. carmine, 3d. bright blue, 6d. mauve, 9d. bright green.

Second Set

Perforation 11½.

Size of stamp 23 mm. x 28.5 mm.

Colour: 1d. much lighter shade, 3d. much darker and more like the ultramarine of the genuine, 6d. the same, 9d. dull green.

In the second set, the two lines of shading under the words AIR POST are thicker than the remaining lines of shading as is the case in the genuine stamps, whereas the first set does not have this characteristic. The general appearance of the two sets is decidedly different with the exception of the 6d. value and under the ultra-violet lamp, the second set shows much more fluorescence in the paper; the colour of the ink also differs under the lamp. Both sets have similar smooth gum.

It would be most interesting to know if others have become aware of these differences and if anything is known of the history of the forgeries, or sufficient of it to satisfy ourselves that there were either two forgers or that the same person had two "goes at the cherry"! If any of your readers has any information on the subject, would he be good enough to pass it on.

Yours faithfully,

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

THE STAMP FORGERY CASE

Lewis Meyerson (37), a Johannesburg optician, was recently sentenced to 30 years and six months' imprisonment at the Rand Criminal Sessions by Mr. Justice Hill.

He will serve only 13 years.

Meyerson appeared on a charge of forgery, one of uttering, two of bribery and one of being in possession of forged revenue stamps worth R12,950. He also appeared on a charge of conspiring to help his brother, Morris, escape from the Supreme Court cells on November 13.

On the forgery and uttering charges, Meyerson was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. On the next three charges, the two of bribery and the possession of forged stamps, he was sentenced to a total of 7½ years, which will run concurrently with the sentence for the first two charges.

In addition to this Meyerson will serve three years' imprisonment for the charge of conspiring to help Morris escape from the Supreme Court cells.

In passing judgment, Mr. Justice Hill said losses incurred by the State as a result of Meyerson's activities had not, and cannot, be ascertained.

Meyerson had no previous convictions.

Meyerson's appearance arises from a forgery of revenue stamps with a face value of approximately R7,000,000.

The Johannesburg "Star".

DEVALUATION AND THE STAMP TRADE

After recovering from the initial shock of devaluation, most dealers will be asking how the changes will affect them.

In the first place stamps purchased from most overseas countries will cost more, and prices will therefore have to go up. This will apply particularly to the stamps of the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, France and the other Common Market countries. On the other hand, the issues of New Zealand, Israel, Spain, Denmark and many of the Commonwealth territories will probably not be affected.

British stamps, particularly the modern commemoratives, may be cheaper to foreign purchasers, but, as Mr. Reuben Deetcher points out in a letter to the Editor, British dealers should not be tempted to make these issues available too cheaply to overseas buyers, because, once sold, it will be impossible to replace them. There is no virtue in making

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*Acknowledgement to The Philatelic Trader
and Stationer.*

STANLEY GIBBONS' CURRENT CIRCULAR ON DEVALUATION READS:

Due to devaluation, prices for all stamps are bound to rise, but Stanley Gibbons will try to maintain their basic price structure as published in the 1968 editions of their catalogues, as long as existing stocks last. Naturally, a general upgrading must take place in the international market, which will inevitably be reflected in catalogue prices (particularly of fine Classic items). Prices of current and new issues will have to be increased immediately for those countries whose currency was not devalued with the pound.

"WHY NOT THE NETHERLANDS"

By A. LESLIE LEON, F.R.P.S.L.

It seems surprising that at National Philatelic Exhibitions in South Africa during the last ten years there have not been more than four exhibits of the stamps of the Netherlands, and in no case was there a comprehensive survey of the country or its postal history. Apart from the facts that this country of ours has such an historical tie with Holland and that language difficulties for us are practically non-existent, there is no denying that the stamps of the Netherlands are in themselves beautiful and interesting and the typography has reached a very high state of perfection. There is so much to offer the ordinary collector, the serious student, the postal historian and the postmark fanatic that one imagines that there must be many a collection of the Netherlands tucked away and not put on show

at our annual exhibitions.

The first issues are not cheap in good condition, but from 1867 onwards most of the stamps are within the reach of most collectors. With the ascent to the throne of Queen Wilhelmina and the advent of the "girl queen" series of stamps, we have a large range of adhesives in beautiful and delicate colours. The centenary issue of 1913 is to my mind, as well produced a set as one could wish to see set out on an album page.

A curious feature of Netherlands philately is the difficulty the printers seem to have experienced in the perforation department — some issues come in as many as four different perforations, whilst the 1923 Jubilee of Queen Wilhelmina is listed with eleven such differences. In the same year, owing to a strike, two stamps were issued in an imperforate condition.

Commemorative and Welfare sets have been issued since 1906 but always in moderate numbers and they are no burden to collectors. The most interesting series of this nature is undoubtedly the "Summer Stamps" which have come from the Post Office each year since 1935 with a break during the German occupation. These were designed for cultural purposes and they have achieved a very high standard of typographical art. They are described and illustrated in a booklet "Summer stamps of the Netherlands, a brilliant mosaic" by Christiaan de Moor, which can be obtained in English. I got my copy by sending R1.05 to the Netherlands Postal and Telecommunications Services at the Hague, and it is well worth the money.

For the collector of postmarks, there are the interesting numbered cancellations between dots which ceased about 1894 to be followed by the small c.d.s. and its larger counterpart. As already mentioned, you can wallow in perforation differences to your heart's delight, but one must make special mention of the interrupted perfs, which came into existence to cater for automatic machines; the interruptions in the perfs may occur on two sides of the stamp, on four sides, or only at the corners, and these provide quite a fascinating study in themselves.

Naturally, this country does not lag behind when it comes to first-day covers, special cancellations and all the dodges which are supposed to delight the philatelist, but one cannot complain that the Netherlands has overstepped the mark in these matters.

An excellent catalogue is issued annually by the N.V.P.H. — the Netherlands Association of Stamp Dealers, which contains more

information than one usually gleans from catalogues and South Africans should have little difficulty in understanding it. So, why not the Netherlands?

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Northern Rhodesia:		
1935 Silver Jubilee	.72	.75
1953 Rhodes Birth	1.12	
1938 George VI to 2/6d.	3.45	
" Scarce 1½d. and 2d.	2.40	
" Scarce 4½d. and 9d.		.45
Southern Rhodesia:		
1935 Silver Jubilee	.85	
1937 Coronation	.55	.65
1940 B.S.A. Co.	.75	.90

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INFLASIE EN DIE WAARDE VAN SEËLS

Inflasie, devaluasie van die Britse pond, stygende kostes van handelsware, hoër lone, ensovoorts is almal dinge wat die seëlhandel tot 'n mate tref. Daar is versamelaars wat wil weet, gaan die waarde van seëls nog styg en is geldbelegging in seëls op hierdie tydstip wenslik?

Dat seëls duurder gaan word is seker, handelaars moet hul werknemers meer betaal, papier en skryfbenodighede word duurder en posgeld is verhoog. Die postarief van Groot-Brittanje na die buiteland het baie gestyg, vernaamlik die lugpostarief. 'n Voorbeeld hiervan is die weekblad, "Stamp Collecting", wat eers R8 per jaar per lugpos gekos het, die prys is nou na R22 verhoog. Seëlversamelaars wat hul kapitaal in seëls belê het, wonder nou wat van die toekoms.

As 'n mens terugkyk na die pryse van seëls oor die afgelope twintig of dertig jaar, dan is dit duidelik dat daar 'n gelydelike styging in die waarde van goeie seëls plaasgevind het. Seëls van Groot-Brittanje en Wes-Europese lande het gedurende die laaste paar jaar skielik gestyg, 'n teken dat die aanvraag groter word. Deur al die jare was daar geen onrusbare teken van daling in pryse nie, maar wel 'n stilstand in handel wanneer depressie of selfs inflasie intree. Goeie seëls van bogenoemde lande verloor nie waarde nie, selfs in tye van inflasie is goeie seëls 'n goeie belegging, 'n vorm van besparing.

Wat vir die seëls van meeste lande geld, is ook vir die seëls van Suid-Afrika van toepassing. Daar was 'n tyd toe die aanvraag na ons seëls swak was, maar die waarde van die seëls het nie gedaal nie, die seëlhandel het ook

hier sy getye. Op die huidige tydstip is daar in dele van ons land en ook oorsee 'n redelike aanvraag na ons seëls en pryse is goed. Alhoewel die mark, na verneem word in Johannesburg, nie so goed is nie is daar tog 'n goeie aanvraag na Suid-Afrikaanse seëls in Kaapstad.

Versamelaars begin nou wakker skrik om te vind dat sommige van die prente-reëls seëls waardevol word en dat van die hoogste waardes nie maklik teen billike pryse bekombaar is nie.

Ten spyte van onseker wêreldtoestande het seëls tog 'n goeie beleggingswaarde. Die aankoop van goeie seëls moet egter met wysheid en oorleg met ervare versamelaars gedoen word.

Die Halfpennie Springbokkop

Die Suid-Afrikaanse halfpennie Springbokkop-seël van 1926 is nog nie dood nie. Dit is verblydend om te sien dat hy in die Januarie-uitgawe van „Stamp Collecting” weer aandag geniet. In 'n artikel deur A. Sterckx, word hy na al die jare van sy bestaan, nog as 'n onderwerp vir gespesialiseerde studie aanbeveel. Vir byna dertig jaar het hierdie seël diens gedoen, in 1954 is sy loopbaan beëindig en is hy deur die halfpennie vlakvark vervang. Omdat sy loopbaan so lank en aanvraag na hom so groot was, het hy tot so 'n mate vermeerder dat groot hoeveelhede van die seël vandag nog beskikbaar is. 'n Aantal jare gelede het daar 'n handboek oor die Springbok halfpennie-seël deur dr. Gordon Ward in Londen verskyn; hy gaan in die fynste besonderhede oor die verskillende drukke en afwykings. Ongelukkig is die boek vandag byna onverkrygbaar, maar die seël leef nog voort en bied selfs vir versamelaars oorsee 'n ruime veld van studie aan.

Ten spyte van die feit dat die seël sowat ses-en-veertig drukke ondergaan het, het hy weinig van ontwerp en patroon verander. Die veelvoudige Springbokkop watermerk het deurgaans dieselfde gebly. Hierdie belangrike seël wat die eerste van die prente-reeks was, is op papier aan die einde van 1925 in die drukpers van Waterlow & Sons in Londen gebore en op 1 Januarie 1926 aan die publiek van Suid-Afrika uitgelewer. Sy voorkoms was tipografies van aard in swart en groen.

Vanaf 1927 is hy saam met die ander seëls van sy stel deur die Staatsdrukker in Pretoria gedruk. Verskeie nuwe plate was van tyd tot tyd nodig om hom aan die lewe te hou; hy het ook ligter van kleur geword en van tanding 'n weinig verander, vernaamlik toe hy in boekies verskyn het; sy watermerk was ook soms omgekeerd.

Tot dusver was hy deur 'n plaat gedruk, maar in 1930 het die rolfotografureproses in gebruik gekom. Behalwe vir sy algemene voorkoms het die seël net een verandering ondergaan, nl. dat die letter R in die woorde AFRIKA en AFRICA, 'n stomp been gekry het teenoor die krul wat in die vorige uitgiftes te sien was.

In 1936 het die seël by geleentheid van die Filatelistiese tentoonstelling JIPEX, Johannesburg, in miniatuurblad-vorm verskyn, die letters JIPEX met die datum 1936 was oor die seël gedruk.

Die seël het ook in rolformaat voorgekom. Vanaf 1937 het hy verskillende skakerings van groen vertoon; groen is 'n moeilike kleur om te herhaal, gevolglik was die agtereenvolgende drukke nie altyd dieselfde kleur nie. Die skakerings het gewissel van groen na donker-groen, lig- en diep blougroen, grysgroen, geelgroen, ensovoorts.

Die agtergrond van die seël het wel veranderings ondergaan, die strepe wat die agtergrond uitmaak en wat eers baie dun was, het dikker geword. Die growwe voorkoms van die seël het ook deur middel van die rasterproses (screen process) verfyn, sodat hy meer egalig van kleur vertoon het. Toe hy nou ouer word in 1947 het hy 'n bietjie kleiner formaat aangeneem.

Baie versamelaars stel nie belang in al die klein afwykings nie, om nie eers die dotjies en kolletjies te noem nie. Vir die spesialis egter is al die fyn merkies van die aller grootste belang, hulle dien as hulpmiddels tot klassifisering van die seëls; hulle dui aan tot watter

groep, druk of tydperk van uitgifte hulle behoort.

Die halfpennie Springbok-seël van 1926 net soos die 1d. Van Riebeeckskip-seël van dieselfde jaar, sal versamelaars nog baie jare besig hou al het hy veertig jaar gelede sy amptelike loopbaan beëindig.

STAMP DEALS, POSBUS 2272, JOHANNESBURG is in voeling met leweransiers die wêreld deur en kan miskien net daarin slaag om die seël wat maar nié wil opdaag nie, vir u te kry.

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SEËLS — MET DIE KLEM OP NEDERLAND,
SUID-AFRIKA EN REPUBLIEKSE
SILINDERBLOKKE.

SUIDWES-AFRIKA

Op 2 Januarie 1968 is twee seëls (3c en 15c) uitgereik ter ere van Adv. Charles Roberts Swart, die eerste Staatspresident van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika. Soos ons al gewoon is bereik amptelike kennisgewings ons veels te laat om vir ons lesers van nut te wees. Ons sal egter ons plig versuim as ons nie daarop wys dat hierdie seëls later miskien gaan „lol”. Die rede is dat daar drie eentalige seëls is — Afrikaans, Engels en Duits. Hulle sal dus in repies van drie versamel moet word; 'n

stuk van nege as 'n silinderblokkie nodig is. Waar daar slegs 250,000 stelle uitgegee is, beteken dit slegs 83,000 versamelstukke en sowat 27,000 silinderblokkies, maar bloedmin. Alreeds is silinderblokkies onverkrybaar, natuurlik omdat besitters aan hulle vashou.

RHODESIË

Amptelik is aangekondig dat die dubbele-waarde 3d/2½c vinnig uitgeput raak en dat die voorraad aangevul staan te word met 'n nuwe 3d deur Mardon sowel as met 'n klein voorraad van die oorspronklike 3d deur Harrison, Londen. Die nuwe 3d word nou enige tyd verwag. (Die redes vir die afskaffing van die dubbele-waarde is in ons laaste „Iets vir Almal” verstrekk).

WHY PHILATELY CREATED EXPERTISING COMMITTEES

(Continued from page 45, February 1968)

Two distinct groups evolved, one for the protection of the trade, and the other for collectors. The British Philatelic Association seems to have established services under both headings.

Since 1894, expert committees have been set up in many countries in Europe and in the United States, including the Expert Committee of The Philatelic Foundation, which was established in October, 1945. The services these committees undertake express opinions on stamps and philatelic material submitted for examination. "The relative importance of expert committees in philately can be judged by the extensive number of stamps which have been sent in for examination."

The Opinions Expressed

An attempt has been made to put a connotation on the functions of expert committees which embrace aspects not concerned with the services offered. During a debate, "Should Expert Committees Be Held Liable For The Opinions Expressed", at a meeting of the Collectors Club in New York, Oct. 4, 1961, one member made the point that giving an opinion is nothing more than the rendering of a service. This is what an expert committee undertakes to do.

That statement was challenged by another speaker who maintained that "a certificate from an expert committee should be a guaranteed expression of worth." A "guarantee" is a pledge that certain contracts or obligations will

be fulfilled. An expert committee has fulfilled its duty in rendering an opinion based upon the knowledge and ability of its members and consultants.

Still another speaker suggested the opinions expressed on expert committee certificates could help stabilize stamp values. The price of a stamp, as with any other commodity, is determined by supply and demand. If a stamp is offered for sale, with or without an expert certificate, and no one is interested in it, an expert certificate cannot produce a buyer, or create competition; thus, the value of a stamp cannot be established or stabilized. "Expert committees are not concerned with the worth or value of the material they examine."

Fees do not pay for Service Costs

A further suggestion made during the October debate was that the fee involved often influenced the opinion given by expert committees. Can any person honestly imagine a reputable body of philatelic authorities, who do this work freely, taking into account the size of the fee to be charged as a factor to be considered in the opinion pronounced? Certainly not. Actually, the fee charged could not possibly cover the cost of the service given. The members of expert committees and consultants work voluntarily. As it is, the fees contribute to the overhead expenses involved in operating an expert committee, and to the cost of the necessary stationery, photography, insurance, mailing, office staff, scientific instruments, and rent of the premises required to house the reference collections used.

It is doubtful if the members of any expert committee, engrossed with the examination of a particular "patient", even know what fee will be charged. The pressure of work and concentration involved in the careful study and examination of stamps, leaves little room for the mind to be cluttered with extraneous matters such as fees charged, which is the job of the accounting department.

The Service

During the past 73 years, dedicated groups of philatelists have formed expert committees with the object of detecting forgeries of one type or another, with which the less experienced collector may not be familiar. The service undertaken by these committees is to express an opinion on the stamps submitted.

At no time has it been established by an expert committee that the certificates issued

serve other than to record the opinion pronounced. The impression that a certificate enhances the value of the stamp for which it is issued is a conception that has arisen in philatelic circles, but it is not one that any reputable expert committee has incorporated in the descriptions of its services.

"Batting Averages"

As in any human endeavour there will be a modicum of error, but mistakes are a very small percentage of the volume of material examined. If an error can be substantiated, an expert committee welcomes the return of the "patient" in question, together with any new evidence available, which may possibly contribute to an opinion being amended. To simply state "the opinion is wrong" contributes nothing. In order to be constructive such a statement must be supported by evidence.

More and more non-constructive criticism seems to be levelled at expert committees by some stamp dealers. This deserves comment. One who makes his living from the purchase and sale of stamps should be knowledgeable. Otherwise, it would be difficult for him to ply his trade. Why, then, should the professional philatelist seek the opinion of expert committees? Sometimes he must do so because certain of his clients insist on obtaining an expert certificate before purchasing a stamp. If the dealer, who so readily levels criticism at the opinions expressed, is as competent a philatelist as he is expected to be, then perhaps many of his customers would not insist upon an independent opinion before buying.

Stamp dealers and collectors are prone to human failings as are members of expert committees. Occasions may well arise when the most knowledgeable of philatelists would prefer an independent authority to examine a stamp. At the same time, if a hidden defect is discovered during the examination of a stamp, the members of the expert committee should not be charged with "having spoiled a sale", which happens occasionally.

A Certificate creates Confidence

Philatelists may elect to put whatever meaning they wish on the services offered by an expert committee. They should not try to bring pressure on a dedicated committee of volunteers to assume obligations that they have not undertaken. "Expert committees are only expected to render an opinion to the best of their ability on stamps that are submitted for examination." Certainly no one is compelled to seek

an expert committee's opinion.

Philately has come a long way since 1894. The fact remains that expert committees were — and are — established with the prime object of affording a service to detect counterfeit, forged, and faked material for those whose philatelic knowledge and experience has not reached the stage where they are able to discern for themselves.

If, since 1894, the results of services offered by expert committees have created a measure of confidence in buying and selling, then the general philatelic public has shown its whole-hearted acceptance of expert committees and what they offer.

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**FROM A PARLOUR IN CLAPHAM
TO FLEET STREET HEADQUARTERS**

By SUSAN SHARP

It was in 1899 that a group of eight people met in a small parlour at the back of a sweet shop in Clapham, and listened to a young man of 17, who sat sharing the horsehair sofa.

Little was that young man to know that sixty eight years later the society he formed would have thousands of members, and be

one of the leading societies of its kind.

Frederick Melville had applied for membership to a philatelic society, and had been turned down because of his age. It was this that inspired him to start his own society, and it was this that stimulated his interest in the young collector and the beginner.

On his death, his members said of him: "I think his real contribution was his genuine interest in the young collector" and "to philatelists of nearly two generations the name of Fred Melville has been one of paramount significance. That name has stood for the best and brightest side of philately." He was hailed as the "greatest propagandist of philately."

What more could he have desired as a memorial than the National Philatelic Society? A body of enthusiasts, stamp lovers, experts and amateurs, young and old. A live society, and an energetic society.

The National Philatelic Society is now the largest society in the United Kingdom, and is the only one with its headquarters in the heart of London.

In Fleet Street is one of the finest philatelic libraries, and all members have access to the many books and periodicals.

Literature dates back to long before the society was formed, and a prize item in this collection is the first Italian catalogue.

It is quite easy to spend hours browsing along the bookshelves, or one can sit and study, or borrow some of the numerous volumes.

Regular auctions, which precede the monthly meetings have grown so popular that there are usually 70 or 80 lots, and as the number of lots is limited because of time, there is frequently a waiting list.

Meetings themselves are also popular, with the displays, talks and bourses.

One of the leading exchange packet circuits in the country is run by the society, to which members contribute. Many of the new members (and about 25 join every month) ask to be included on these circuits, and there are two—one for general collectors, and one mainly for young collectors — so that everyone is catered for.

The society also has an Expert Committee who examine stamps for genuineness or identification. The Stamp Lover, the society's journal, which is free to members, is published bi-monthly.

Acknowledgement "Stamp Weekly".

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NEWS ON RHODESIAN STAMPS

Dual Currency on Mardon Printings of Current Definitives

When the original Harrison printing of the 3d. stamp ran out, the Post Office authorities decided to reprint this stamp with the dual value 3d. : 2½c on it, as they felt this was an excellent opportunity to begin accustoming the general public to the decimal system which is due to be introduced in Rhodesia in 1970, and this was to be followed by the same dual currency printing on further values as they were required. This was explained in our Information Leaflets Nos. 1 and 6 of 1967.

However, the recently established Decimal Conversion Currency Board which is examining the whole question of the projected change-over to decimal currency and is studying the methods used in other countries (e.g. S. Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Zambia) has intimated to the Post Office authorities that the inclusion of the value in cents is somewhat premature, and should not have been done without prior consultation with the Currency Board. The Board has not yet reached a decision on the actual decimal coins to be issued and particularly, whether there will in fact be any ½ cent value in the new monetary system.

In these circumstances, the Post Office authorities have no option but to revise their policy and to postpone issuing definitives bearing the dual values until the Currency Board have clarified the position, except where there is an exact equivalent without using ½ cents.

1966 S. RHODESIA INDEPENDENCE OVERPRINT FORGERIES

As is known, certain values of these stamps have been produced with forged overprints, but it has been generally assumed that these were mainly forged overprint errors such as inverted overprints etc.

However, it is certain that the Churchill stamp has been forged to appear as a normal overprinted stamp. There are two types of Churchill overprint forgeries known to date:

1. A very crude attempt, the letters and numbers being of a different type from that of the original. In the copies we have seen, the pressure has been so great that a reversed embossed effect on the back has been produced. Amongst other obvious differences, the length of the word 'Independence' is 3 mm. longer than the genuine overprint, and the strike after 5 in 5/- is much thicker. The

figure 5/-, too, produces the most marked embossed effect.

2. The overprinting of the so-called 'Binda' forgeries, however, is identical in type and size to that of the genuine overprints, but it can be definitely detected by expert examination.

We know for certain that there are dealers and collectors who have bought these stamps in good faith as being the genuine article, and consequently purchasers should be very careful when buying the Churchill overprint.

Most of these forgeries seem to have found their way out of Rhodesia; in our opinion, only in Rhodesia is there as yet sufficient specialised knowledge for the detection of the forgeries from the genuine overprints. We know, too, that some of these forgeries have been offered in some instances at much lower prices than the normal market price, and collectors and dealers should exercise great care when buying 'Bargains' in these stamps.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE 6d. AND 1/3d. PAPER TRIALS

We have had a number of requests for the identification of the types of 6d. Brown gum, i.e. the White Chromo and the Supreme Chromo, which are not readily distinguishable at sight, as are the other stamps in the Paper Trials.

The 6d. Cream gum (White Esparto) Commonwealth Catalogue No. 31a, and the 6d. White clear gum, Cat. No. 31, are readily distinguishable from one another and from the Brown gum (3lb.) as they are clearly different papers; and the three 1/3 stamps Cat. Nos. 32, 32a and 32b cannot be mistaken for each other for the same reason. Therefore, the only papers which are difficult to distinguish at sight are the White Chromo and the Supreme Chromo used in the printing of the 6d. Brown gum (3lb.).

Examination of these two 6d. stamps under a Quartz lamp shows no significant change in the White Chromo, whereas in the Supreme Chromo the light green of the background and the white margin become a fluorescent lavender shade. When the stamps are examined under the lamp with the gummed side upwards, the Supreme Chromo again shows the fluorescent lavender shade whilst the White Chromo remains virtually unchanged.

It should be noted, however, that the 6d. Cream gum (White Esparto paper) shows the same reaction as the Supreme Chromo when examined under a Quartz lamp, but in any

case it is readily distinguishable from the Chromos by the cream shade of the gum.

We have found that examination of these stamps under a Quartz lamp gives an absolutely positive identification of the White and Supreme Chromo papers. Some changes in the red of the Flame Lily are also noticeable, but these can be disregarded and the fluorescent lavender shade produced in the Supreme Chromo under the Quartz lamp accepted as a definite identification.

"Information Leaflet by The Salisbury Stamp Co. (Pvt.) Ltd."

INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Paper read by Mr. M. S. Weitzmann at a meeting of the S.A. Stamp Study Circle.

The Presentation of a Stamp Collection has much in common with an attractive woman. If you were to see her at home, doing the housework in a gown and slippers, with her hair in curlers and a "doek" on her head, you would hardly give her a second glance, but when she is all dressed up to go to a party then she can become an exciting proposition.

The same principle applies to the presentation of a stamp collection. While it may be in order for the philatelist to maintain his material on scraps of paper, with pencil notations in explanation, I do not believe that this is good enough when exhibiting at Philatelic meetings or exhibitions.

I am accordingly presenting my collection of Commemorative Stamps in a manner intended to generate interest in "lay-out" apart from exhibiting interesting material.

Introduction to Commemorative Stamps

It may be of interest to those present today to know that the First Commemorative Adhesive was a "local" of Frankfort-On-Main celebrating the 25th anniversary, in 1887, of the formation of a sporting club (A Stamp Collector's Encyclopedia, Sutton).

The First British Commemorative Issue was the Centenary Set of New South Wales in 1888.

The First American Commemorative Stamp was issued by the Argentine in 1892 and this was followed shortly afterwards by the U.S.A. Columbian Issue in 1893, both of which commemorated the 400th anniversary of the

discovery of America by Columbus. The Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek issued a Commemorative Stamp in the Transvaal as early as 1895.

As you are aware the First Commemorative Stamp issued by the Republic of South Africa appeared on the 1st December, 1961, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Air Mail Services of our country, which had its beginning on 27th December, 1911.

Why are Collectors fascinated by Commemorative Issues?

Possibly because:

(1) Not everybody has the time or patience to seriously collect the Definitive Issues which can involve a Philatelist in endless study if he specialises. Just as the majority of the public are not regular punters on the horses, yet when it comes to an occasional flutter on the Durban July then popular interest is stimulated. So it appears to be with the collectors of Commemorative Stamps who get a decided thrill in anticipating the appearances and designs of the new issues. There is always the excitement of meeting fellow collectors at the local Post Office, all scrambling through the available sheets in order to satisfy their requirements, to obtain a first-day cover, and then to discuss the current issue with other philatelists still in the vicinity of the Post Office.

(2) Those with a feeling for history will naturally be attracted to Commemorative Issues which strongly portray the national character, traditions, heroes, achievements and aspirations of the nation.

(3) Collectors are frequently attracted by the great variety of colours, designs and subjects which appear on commemorative stamps. However beautiful the Definitive Issues may be, their monotonous regularity tends to breed indifference.

The collectors of Commemorative Issues appear to fall mainly into the following categories:

- (a) The collectors of Commemorative Stamps.
- (b) The collectors of First-Day Covers.
- (c) The collectors of Date Stamps and Special Cancellations.
- (d) The collectors of specific Commemorative Items of thematic interest, such as Special Aerial Flight Covers.
- (e) The collectors who are motivated by speculative considerations.

In order to satisfy as many tastes as possible, material covering all of these fields will be exhibited today.

As my talk is entitled "Interesting Aspects of the Commemorative Issues of the Republic

of South Africa", I will now draw the attention of this meeting to the following items of interest:

First Aerial Post Commemorative Issue

Amongst the various peculiarities of this Issue two points stand out strongly:

(1) A prominent blue dot may be evident on either the left or right margins opposite row 4, or it may be bi-sected, depending upon the manner in which the individual sheets were guillotined from the web.

(2) It is also interesting to note that there were two printings, made on thin arms water-marked paper and thick arms watermarked paper.

Both issues appeared at the Post Office at the same time, namely 1st December, 1961.

The Volkspede Commemorative Issue

A 2½c Commemorative Postage Stamp was issued on the 1st March, 1962, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of Volkspede in South Africa. These stamps differed from the First Aerial Post Issue in that they were produced in double-die format, comprising two panes, B and A, with B on the left.

Four-figure red sheet numbers were inscribed twice on the bottom margin of pane B only, pane A being devoid of these numerals.

A few interesting creased papers were discovered.

A special date stamp dated 1st March, 1962, was used at Bloemfontein for servicing first-day covers.

The British Settlers Monument Commemorative Stamps

Two postage stamps of 2½c and 12½c denominations were issued on the 20th August, 1962, to commemorate the unveiling of the "Precinct Stone" of the British Settlers Monument at Grahamstown.

For the first time a printer's "guide line" in the form of two superimposed crosses in the two contributing colours appeared on the sheets of both denominations.

On the 2½c denomination, a small partially printed area, exhibiting the screen effect, appears at the bottom of the sheets right margin, adjoining stamp 5 of row 20. This was probably the result of insufficient masking out of the margin with acid resist, and consequently etching of the cylinder took place here, producing a patch of undesired colour in what should have been a colourless margin.

A special cancellation was used for the first-day covers.

It portrayed the ship "Chapman" and was used in Grahamstown only on the 3rd September, 1962.

The Kirstenbosch Commemorative Stamps

For the first time Republican Commemorative Stamps were printed on white unwatermarked paper. Previous Issues were all on Arms Watermarked Paper.

For the first time, on South African stamps, "Process Colours" were used to obtain a variety of colour tints.

For the first time Republican Commemorative Stamps were printed in quadruple format with panes marked A, B, C and D.

For the first time six differently coloured electronic guide marks were used during the printing process.

Sections of these marks appeared on some of the panes where the guillotine failed to remove them entirely.

The Red Cross Commemorative Issue

Concerning the 2½c stamp, for the first time, a Republican Commemorative Stamp was found to have the watermark in the reversed position.

This occurred in both the 42-82-89 A and B and 42-99-89 A and B printings. The number of sheets so found was limited.

At first it was concluded that this was due to the paper being gummed on the wrong side.

Subsequently a reversed "R" in the R.S.A. watermarked paper appeared in the 2½c Rugby, the 2½c Calvin and the 2½c Nurses stamps.

It was then suggested that a misformed "R" was the result of a defective Dandy Roller used in the watermarking stage.

The remainder of this printing, was printed on R.S.A. watermarked paper with the R.S.A. facing right.

Early in the first printing, cylinder 82 developed a flaw and was replaced by cylinder 99.

Cylinder 82 was subsequently "cleaned off" and again reconstructed for use in the printing of the 12½c Red Cross value.

A red "blob", depending upon the guillotining process, occurs on the edge of either the left or right hand, or both margins of pane B only, opposite row 2.

This issue yielded some notable "fold over"

papers with perfs.

With regard to the 12½c stamp, this appeared on cylinders 7-82 in both panes A and B.

The R.S.A. watermark only appeared in the upright position.

Cylinder 82, as previously stated, again made its appearance in re-constructed form after having broken down during the 2½c Red Cross Stamps first printing.

The well known interrupted printing, which produced an absent Red Cross, certainly drew attention to this Issue.

The Transkei Stamp

For the first time since the beginning of the Republic a new sheet format appeared which comprised 20 rows x 4 = 80 stamps. It is understood that this arrangement was an experiment and was done mainly for audit purposes as a sheet now worked out to a round R2 in value, not R2-50c as previously.

There seems to be two printings, as some of the sheets appeared on white gummed paper and the others on brown gummed paper.

This Issue gained extra prominence by the discovery of a very fine interrupted printing, in which the green was omitted due to a stoppage of the printing machine (22 copies known to exist). Some prominent doctor blade smudges also occurred.

Two special cancellers of similar design were simultaneously used in conjunction with the Transkei stamps.

One was used at Umtata for local cancellations and the other was used in Pretoria mainly for overseas orders.

The different cancellers can be recognized because:

- (1) There is a longer dash between Umtata and Transkei on the Pretoria impression.
- (2) The centre bar of the "E" of Transkei is closer to the top bar in the UMTATA impression.
- (3) The 3 of 63 also differs between the cancellers.

Rugby Commemorative Stamps — 2½c and 12½c Denominations

There is very little to comment upon concerning this Issue.

However, it is interesting to note that differences appeared between the official photographs and the printed stamps which suggests that the designs were slightly modified.

In the case of the 2½c stamp the figure of the value appeared to be longer and thinner.

PHILATELISTS' RENDEZVOUS

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

meets on the second and fourth Thursdays
of every month in
**The Club Room of the Friends of Italy of
South Africa, First Floor, Radio City Bldg.
Tulbach Square, Foreshore, Cape Town.**
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS CORDIALLY WELCOMED.
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The EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the second Friday of each month
in the Museum Hall, Lukin Road, East
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Issues a monthly magazine and circulates
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THE PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

meets on the first and third Tuesday each
month in the
**B.C.E.S.L. Hall, St. Andrews Street,
at 8.00 p.m.**
Visitors cordially welcome.
P.O. BOX 3 — PORT ELIZABETH.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

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

THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

meets twice a month: Second Tuesday and
fourth Monday at
Room 97, Public Library, Johannesburg
at 8 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.
**Hon. Secretary,
P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg.**

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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covers, etc. of special South African flights
and other interesting items — more than
covered by the small annual subscription.
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THE PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Meets on the 1st Monday of every month
at 8.15 p.m.
**Burlington House Boardroom (2nd Floor),
c/r. Bissik & Marshall Streets,
Johannesburg.**
ALL WELCOME.
Secretary P.O. Box 11502, Johannesburg.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

meets at 2.15 p.m. on the second Saturday of
every month in the
**Staff Tea Lounge, Basement, Corner House,
Corner Sauer and Commissioner Streets,
Johannesburg (Commissioner St. Entrance).**
ALL INTERESTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN
PHILATELY ARE WELCOME.
P.O. Box 378, Krugersdorp
**Secretary's Telephone: Business 660-7511;
Home 660-3461.**

THE EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 538, Benoni. (Hon. Secretary).
Meetings every 2nd Monday in the month
at the
**BENONI TENNIS CLUB HOUSE,
Benoni, at 7.45 p.m.**
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

With regard to the 12½c value, the shading of the player differs between the official photograph and the printed stamp.

Two Commemorative Date Stamps were in use on the 8th May, 1964, one was utilised in Johannesburg and the other in Cape Town.

To be continued.

FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH NOTES

By J. WOODGATE

Barbados: Two new issues are expected shortly. One for World Meteorological Day will come in March, and the other for the Golden Jubilee of the Girl Guides is due in April.

Canada: On March 13th, a 5c stamp for the 200th Anniversary of the 1st Meteorological Readings.

Guyana: The definitives which had a provisional issue date of February 23rd, are now to be issued on March 4th.

Jamaica: The set for International Human Rights originally scheduled for January 2nd,

is now to be issued on March 1st.

Lesotho: A 3c definitive is to be issued later this year as part of the current set. This will be the first 3c stamp to be issued by Lesotho.

Norfolk: On March 18th the next 3 definitives in the "Ships" series are to be issued. They are: 15c, the Mission brigantine "Southern Cross"; 20c, the Seventh Day Adventist schooner "Pitcairn"; 25c, an Island whale-boat.

Pitcairn: 3 stamps are to be issued in April for International Human Rights. The values are 1c, 2c and 25c. Pitcairn currency is linked to New Zealand, so after devaluation the face value of this set is 22.4 South African cents.

Acknowledgement Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin.

THE VEREENIGING EXHIBITION POSTMARKS

The date given in the second paragraph on page 1 of our January, 1968, number should read 21st October and not the 2nd October. It is regretted that our scrutiny did not detect the printer's error.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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SOCIETY NEWS

GERMISTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Due to the Secretary's recent absence overseas, the following reports are submitted now:

October: The meeting was devoted to a Swap and Sell session. Consequently not much to report in detail; however the reluctance of members to wend their homeward way early, it can be inferred that something of interest must have taken place.

November: The meeting was the annual visit of the Philatelic Society of the Western Rand. In addition to the three displays by that Society's members, Mr. J. Burrell gave a most interesting talk on "Swiss coated papers" and demonstrated with the "black light" which he had brought along the differentiation between this and the other fluorescent paper in current use for South African stamps.

December: In place of our usual meeting, the evening was the Society's Christmas Social, which took the form of a braai-vleis followed by a film show. A large attendance of members, their families and friends. All in all a most successful social, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Mr. B. Clark who acted as projectionist that evening.

January: The President, Mr. R. G. L. Mephius, was in the chair with nineteen members present.

As in previous years, it was the turn of Executive members to display at the first ordinary meeting of the new year and four members brought along ten pages or more of interesting items. Mr. N. S. Hesselbarth with a selection of First-Day covers of South African and Swaziland issues. Mr. A. C. Rix various issues of Malta. Mr. I. S. Burniston a varied selection of stamps from islands in the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Lastly, but not least, Mr. A. Thompson with a miscellaneous display of a Thematic nature. Thanks to the Exhibitors was given by Mr. H. J. Suklje. It was most pleasing to see that Mr. T. L. Ross was fit enough to be able to attend this meeting. Owing to having been in poor health for a number of years, Mr. T. L. Ross had not attended any meetings although he had retained his position as Hon. Auditor to the Society.

AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Januarie: Die aand is gebruik vir die opstelling van die jaar se programme en daar is probeer om soveel as moontlik telkens saam met 'n veteraan 'n junior te laat uitstal wat nog nie eerder iets van sy versameling vertoon het nie. Daar word gehoop dat dit 'n aanmoedigende invloed sal hê. Mnr. Becker het sy pragtige versameling binne- en buitelandse lugbriewe van die Republiek uitgestal. Dit is 'n kompleete versameling, met alle afwykings, kleurverskille, drukfoute, waardeverskille. Die versameling is voorbeeldig opgestel, 'n voorbeeld van filatelie in die ware sin van die woord. Die ander uit-

staller was die sekretaris met 'n aantal luogkoeverte van Curacao en Suriname, met die omliggende gebied, vervoer deur die K.L.M.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: At the meeting an innovation was introduced in which questions put by members were answered. The first concerned how to remove rust on stamps and Mr. T. J. Strachan gave a detailed explanation and demonstration on how this should be done. Mr. G. Bülbring then discussed what one should strive for as far as the condition of stamps is concerned.

The display was by Mr. W. Harmer who showed us the stamps of King George VI, covering the period 1937 to 1952. Most of the sets were complete including the high values. Included in the display were a number of the sets issued round about 1950, which, due to the sudden death of the King, had a very short life and are, consequently, not easy to get hold of.

December 2nd: A special meeting of the Society was held on the afternoon for Juniors. After the President had welcomed those present, the Juniors under 14 years of age handed in their albums for judging for the George Forbes Memorial Prize which was awarded to master L. Dorfling.

The George Forbes Memorial Cup was competed for by Juniors of 14 years and over. Master T. Strachan was the only competitor and he gave us an excellent exhibit of the stamps of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland.

The next item on the programme were three invited displays. The first was by Mr. A. S. Aldis who showed us a small part of his collection of the postmarks of South Africa. Before doing so, he pointed out that this was a subject which could be collected by Juniors without involving them in much expense, but at the same time was very educational. In his own case he was endeavouring to get a postmark from every post office in South Africa.

The next display was by Mr. L. Lazarow who put down a comprehensive collection of the stamps of Hungary. This was followed by a thematic display by Mr. R. Boardman entitled Space Exploration. This was well written up and was preceded by a most interesting introductory talk.

An interesting meeting closed with the distribution of packets of stamps.

December 5th: The meeting being "President's Night", Mr. G. Monaghan entertained a keenly enthusiastic gathering of members to a display of approximately 120 sheets from his British Commonwealth collection of King George VI and Elizabeth II issues which was thoroughly enjoyed and the Exhibitor suitably thanked.

The meeting terminated with an auction, when the usual crop of fun and bargains were to be had for the asking.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

December: As is customary, this meeting is the "Presidents'," when Mr. Jeidel entertained

members to two interesting exhibits accompanied by a talk.

The first with the rather abstruse title of "Human failures and achievements reflected in Postal Services", this exhibit was an enigma until Mr. Jeidel delivered his extremely interesting enlightening talk on the subject.

Dividing the exhibit into two sections, and dealing firstly with the "failures", Mr. Jeidel proceeded to describe the history of "money". Starting with the Persians as far back as 700 B.C., he explained the money standards, coinage, and inflation that has fluctuated through the ages. Settling finally in post-war Germany in 1924, the time of inflation, he enlarged at length, on the fantastic collection of inflation covers on show on the boards. Referring to the present times, Mr. Jeidel said that he felt that the same type of inflation was slowly overtaking us, though we are generally unaware of it.

In the second half of the evening, the human achievements were depicted, these being the balloon flights of Liechtenstein. They appeared under various headings, viz. Mail originated in Liechtenstein, Zeppelin flights, Mail flights and special flights with Liechtenstein connections. Special occasion and first-mail flights, and finally balloon and glider flights.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF RHODESIA

December: The Chairman, Mr. J. Lazarus, pleased all tastes by exhibiting an excellent display of the stamps of the West Indies, Europa Omnibus Issues and the French Community in Africa, all in impeccable condition. He was suitably thanked by Mr. J. Creewel.

The meeting was augmented by a real brain teaser Quiz on the stamps of Rhodesia — Which SR stamp depicts Rhodes making peace? Which Royal Heads appeared on the 1947 ½d and 1d stamps? It certainly showed how little, not how much we know of our own stamps! The winner, of all people, Jack Creewel, our Danish expert;

a novelty competition — "masked" postmarks. Cut-outs showing only portions of SR Postmarks — ULA — was it marULA or bULAWayo? Thirty plus, and this time the winner was no surprise! Mr. A. Fitzstephen, whose outstanding collection of SR Postmarks is known to just about everybody, and a display of the New Mardon Printings of the 1/- — 10c stamp, Plates 1A, 1B and 1C; the 2d stamp, Plates 1A and 1B, and the 9d stamp, Plates 1A, 1B and 1C.

January: Members had been asked to bring to this informal meeting five or six sheets of their stamps for display. Not all complied with this request but a most interesting and varied display resulted. We were pleased to see that some who had never exhibited before brought along a few sheets and we hope that this gentle way of breaking the ice will encourage them to come back again with more.

The Mardon 3d/2½c issue is expected to be exhausted early this year. It is understood that the issue of the dual currency stamp was a little premature as it is not yet decided whether the half cent will feature in our decimal coinage. We are, therefore, reverting to a single curren-

cy 3d. stamp. Replenishment stocks will be trickled out to post offices as the need arises and these will be issued from 70,000 sheets of Harrison 3d and 130,000 sheets of Mardon 3d (sterling currency only). Stocks of these are expected to be available at the philatelic bureau in Salisbury on or about the 19th February.

THE O.F.S. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

November: New Issues were tabled by Mr. and Mrs. Marincowitz, and Messrs Weil and Roux.

The first exhibit of the evening was presented by Mr. A. H. Scott. His collection of "Basutoland" covered Post Cards from Edward VII to Elizabeth and included examples of Union used in Basutoland. A special cancellation worth noting was that of the Imperial Press Conference of 13/3/1935. Amongst the more recent items was an example of the short '2' on the 25c overprint; missing perfs., and weak entries on the 5c, 10c and 25c. The exhibit ended with an excellent selection of Air Letter Cards and Postal Stationery.

Mr. Roux's collection of **United Nations** was the next to be tabled, and this covered all issues from No. 1 to date, with only a few of the most recent items missing. All stamps were used or on cover. Miniature sheets were complete except for the first issue, and there was a representative collection of maximum cards and postal stationery.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January: This was our annual general meeting, and the election of office-bearers resulted in the following appointments for 1968:

President: Mr. L. Hellmann. Vice-President: Mr. J. Shingler. Secretary: Mr. Terrence Radue. Treasurer: Mr. H. E. Williams and Messrs King, Bradley, Sparkman, Knott, Dr. Drusinsky and Dr. Fick.

The cups won during 1967 were presented to the following: President's Cup: Mr. L. Hellmann. Thematic Cup: Mr. L. Hellmann. Wehle Cup: Mr. Terrence Radue. Thornton Cup: Mr. R. Ehrlich.

ELPEX 68 will now occupy our full attention and final plans for the staging of it are underway.

CAPE SOCIETY OF PALESTINE ISRAEL PHILATELY

November: Dr. Max Peisach welcomed new members and also welcomed back Mr. Paul Keller, who had been overseas.

He reminded members that the Blum Cup would be held at the January Meeting and the theme was Israel from 1948 to date.

He also mentioned the award winners at VRYPEX Exhibition, and that two members had served on the Jury.

The Chairman then welcomed Mr. Combrink and the other members of the Thematic Society who were paying a visit to the Society.

Mrs. Coe then exhibited a short history of horses while Miss Hoffman exhibited her fishes theme.

Thereafter Mr. Combrink showed slides and a tape recording titled "Printing of Stamps in South Africa."

Mr. Paul Keller proposed a vote of thanks to the visitors.

December: The Chairman in opening the meeting stated that he was very gratified at the attendance in spite of the fact that no meeting was normally held in December.

Mr. Donno gave a report on his experiences while accompanying the South African Navy on their Goodwill Mission to Argentine.

Dr. Gottschalk exhibited a map of Palestine dated 1786.

Dr. Max Peisach then gave a talk illustrated with slides which he titled "Stamps of Palestine made easy". By the process of elimination he divided up the stamps that had been issued during the period from 1918 to 1948 in a simple manner to assist members to identify the various printings.

Thereafter the Society were privileged to see the exhibit of Mrs. Ada Colman of the Johannesburg Society entitled "The Bible on Stamps".

Various members commented on the exhibition.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

December: A record attendance and as is the custom on Ladies' Night the chair is taken by a lady member; this year Mrs. Wedderburn-Maxwell officiated. There were four exhibits: Miss Anna Smith showed her 16 Bar Cancellation of the O.F.S., which she mounted especially for the occasion; Mrs. Koralek, who has now become a tradition on Ladies' night, to exhibit her most recent Kriskindle cover, together with those of previous years, but, this year, we were treated to a collection of miniature sheets of Czechoslovakia as well. Dr. Luyckx gave a display of horses on stamps, which she said was started originally to try and interest her husband in philately; his interest being horses. Finally, Mrs. Shaw showed a complete mint collection of Estonia. Members provided enough food to withstand a siege, but alas we had to vacate the rooms by 10 p.m. and the cakes not eaten were auctioned for Society funds.

The first meeting of the year was most enjoyable, but, with many still on holiday, attendance was on the low side. The exhibits were both different and refreshing. Mr. Boss exhibited his almost complete collection of Indo China, giving a short history of the country up to 1949, and the three independent states of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Mrs. Bergman's artistic collection of National Costumes made a pleasant balance to the evening and her exquisite drawings were, in many cases, infinitely preferable to the actual stamps. The auction results were poor.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January: A well attended meeting was entertained by Mr. R. Huthwaite on the highlights of his recent holiday spent in Japan and his experiences on one of the Japanese "Bullet Trains". He also showed a Japanese three dimensional postcard and the latest 3-D set of stamps recently issued by Bhutan.

To round off an enjoyable evening, the Hon. Secretary displayed the latest acquisitions in his Stamp Centenary collection which included some very scarce cancellations from Central Europe and Central America commemorating the centenary of the Penny Black as well as the colourful and picturesque stamp centenary issues of the Arab oil states.

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

January: The Second Annual General Meeting was held in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Association Ltd., London. H. R. Holmes Esq. FRPSL (Past President), RDP., was installed as the first President of the Study Circle. L. Molloy-Vickers Esq. was re-elected as Chairman and the Committee remained unchanged.

In his Presidential Address, Mr. Holmes referred to the fascination of Transvaal philately and how much research remains to be done in spite of the sterling work undertaken by R. B. Yardley and other pioneers.

It was agreed in principle that the Centenary of the issue of the first Transvaal stamp would be marked in 1969 by an Exhibition in London which will be staged by the Study Circle.

After the business was concluded, Mr. Holmes displayed his collections of Pietersburg and Stellaland and afterwards produced a few other items of considerable interest.

The display will be fully written up in THE TRANSVAAL PHILATELIST which is issued to Members.

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January: A good attendance under the Chairmanship of Com. C. E. D. Enoch who deputised for Mr. Weinstein, viewed two excellent exhibits, the first by Mr. Castignani of mint stamps of Australia and her Dependencies and the second by Com. Enoch of the first type of the issues of Siam and all the surcharges made on this type. Both exhibits were extensively displayed and the exhibitors suitably thanked.

After the displays a short discussion took place in connection with the reluctance of members to exhibit at Society meetings.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF THE WESTERN RAND

Desires to announce the change of address to: 16 Uranium Road, Carletonville.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa will be held on April 20th, 1968.