

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS :

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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UNION NOTES

Hon. Associate Editor: Dr. T. B. BERRY,
Box 31, Bryanston, Transvaal.

Comment upon Post Office Stocks

It appears to be the usual practice for Post Offices to receive their monthly stock of stamps about the 15th of each month. Mr. C. Clement, of Port Elizabeth, taking advantage of a break in his labours during the recent school holiday period, "called upon" several post offices in his area about the 18th July, and we have pleasure in passing on his observations:

(a) Recent issues of the 1d. Wildebeest printing from Cylinder No. 12 do not bear the "smudge" on the top margin of the sheet — evidently a supply from the bottom of the pile.

Incidentally several names have been applied to the form this smudge presents — these varying from Mr. A. Lichtenstein's "Drakensberg (mountain) Range" to the "Rocky Coast of Africa" with the doctor blade smudges representing the waves breaking on the coast!

(b) The most recent issue of the 2d. Zebra stamp, single bar, is of a very pale shade, while the 3rd, **thin** red sheet numbers, is of a definitely darker blue shade.

(c) The 1/- Kudu has at long last re-appeared with **thin** red sheet numbers, while the 2/6 Inyala stamp has also re-appeared with 5 figure black sheet numbers, and this might be a new printing as the shade is different. The green no longer has a yellow tint to it — it is now a pale cool green.

The Control of Colour

The stamps of the Union are notorious for the very many shades of the particular colour in which they make their appearance. Some shades of the printing are catalogued, others are not, and those which are, are frequently based on no standard colour-chart but rather on the colour-interpreting ability of a particular individual or individuals, irrespective of their degree of colour blindness. These shades are again translated by collectors as specimens are obtained, and their appearance reported to add to the ever-growing "snowball" of shades.

This is a condition over which all Union collectors are perplexed and with which condition we are fully in sympathy, for on occa-

sions, when we have been harassed with a request to inform an enquirer the various shades in which the 1d. Black Wildebeest stamp has appeared, we have realised the significance of the enquiry and the persisting unsatisfactory condition which caused it. In consequence, we would appeal to authors to base their colour descriptions upon some standard and recognised colour chart, and the Government Printer please to be more consistent in the preparation of his colours.

The latter request may not be as easy a matter to conform to as it appears, and in order to give some idea of the perplexities which exist in this respect, we reproduce an article entitled "The Control of Colour," which was published in the "Philatelic Magazine", Vol. 65, No. 10, May 1957, the author being Mr. A. I. Mackenzie, of Bloemfontein, whose frequent articles on the various aspects of "Printing" appearing in the O.F.S. Philatelic Magazine and the S.A. Philatelist, have been enjoyed by so many readers.

"Colour control in the printing industry is a matter that is becoming of increasing importance as the years go by. This is not difficult to understand when it is realised that the reading public is becoming increasingly colour conscious.

A large proportion of all printing done today is done in colour. This applies to packed food stuffs particularly. Actually, it was because grocers complained of colour variations on packets of the same brand that research was started on this question to find out (a) what causes is, and (b) how to overcome it.

Now this question is of interest to stamp collectors as well. All stamp collectors are only too familiar with shades. They crop up with every printing and if they could be overcome, well, some would regret it but I am sure the majority of stamp collectors would welcome it. For one thing, stamp collecting would be come far cheaper.

What causes colours to vary? The answer is: several factors. For instance, a job printed on day shift will have one colour, whereas the same job, printed on night shift will have another. So the question of lighting is problem number one.

Then the age of the operator has to be taken into account. A blue-green to a man of 20 may be a completely different colour to a man of 50, or even a short-sighted man, and a long sighted person would have a different view on

the matter. So the human element, particularly eyesight plays an important role.

The conditions of the machine is another important point. For instance, the same job printed on two machines, one brand new and the other an old machine, could easily give two different results.

Other points of a more technical nature are, the rate of ink flow, from the fountain of the machine, on to the rollers and then from there on to the paper. The make ready of the machine; the speed at which the machine is running; vibration; humidity; temperature and the conditioning of the paper. It all adds up to inconsistency of colour. How can these problems be overcome?

The main trouble is human eyesight. So scientists have stepped in and tackled the problem. So far they have not come up with the final answer, but by harnessing the aid of electronic science, it seems as if the road ahead has been sign posted.

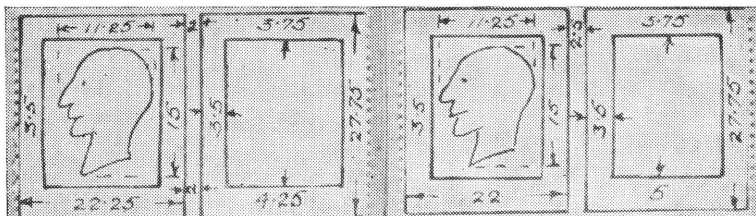
By using electronic apparatus, the results have shown vast improvement. Colour variation has been arrested to a large degree, but it has yet not been overcome. Electronic equipment is, however, both expensive and complicated. If the cost of stamp printing exceeds the economic limit, then obviously a halt will have to be called.

Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that within the next decade a vast improvement will become apparent, and electronic equipment will be largely responsible for this most desirable state of affairs."

The story behind our stamps, as represented in a Union Collection

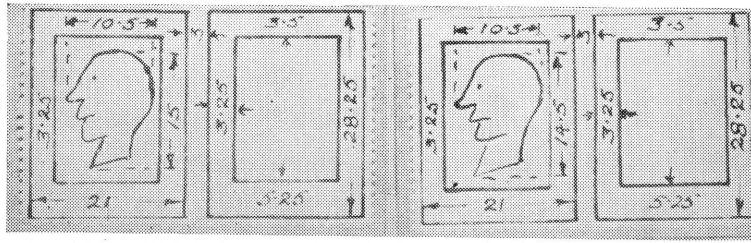
In the June issue of the S.A. Philatelist, the reader was permitted, by means of an adapted article from "Die Vaderland" to peep behind the scenes at the Government Printing Works and view certain aspects of the various processes which go towards the successful preparation of the stamps of the Union. These processes are accepted by the Government Printer as normally pertaining to the daily routine of a concern whose principal purpose it is to meet the Union's annual requirement of some 800 million "bits of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash", to quote the words Rowland Hill used a century ago, but to the enquiring mind of the philatelic student, the "bits of coloured paper" mean more than the purpose of prepaying postage. Among other aspects, he is interested in the making of the stamp, the origin of its design, the method of printing, and the errors pertaining to the stamp. And so, in the pursuit of his hobby, he endeavours to gather such items as he is able to procure which will tell in his own words the story behind the stamps in his collection.

For the purpose in mind, stamps belonging to a comparatively recent period in the philatelic history of the Union have been selected, and by means of reproductions, an endeavour has been made to illustrate, in some small way, the care and consideration which the design of a stamp may receive before being finally adopted.



Reproduction No. 1 illustrates a series of four official photoproofs, representative of the 1937 King George VI Coronation Issue, and attached below each photoproof is a sketch, made by the owner, illustrating in millimeters the dimensional changes which the design underwent before finality was reached. The accepted design

shows a reduction in size of the image of the King's Head, a reduced frame border a narrower but longer stamp, and an increase in the width of the gutter margin between the stamps which factors ultimately resulted in a "neater" looking stamp.



Reproduction No. 2 illustrates two photo-proofs accompanied by photos of their relative stamps of the 1938 Voortrekker Issue. It will be observed that in the accepted designs, the

frames of the two stamps have been interchanged, thereby accentuating the interest of the theme embodied in the stamp, and rendering the design generally less "heavy".

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Reproduction No. 3 illustrates photoproofs, accompanied by the relative stamps of the 1939 Huguenot Commemorative Issue. Two designs had been submitted for the penny stamp. The smaller design was altered in respect of its value tablets, the sun's rays, and the encircling floral arrangement, and was delegated to the

1d. Series, while the larger design had its numerical value and purpose amended, and was promoted to the 1½d. postage series. These alterations resulted in a better balanced design of the 1d. stamp, and permitted an economy in paper by delegating the smaller stamp to the greater requirement.

Multipositive Flaws 1d. Plates XXV to XXVII

Mr. G. N. Gilbert, of Westminster, records the following Multipositive Flaws of the last three printings of the 1d. "ship" printings from cylinders 6925/36, 54/53, and 54/48.

Row

- 2—3, A slanting red line through the left hand leaves, starting from the horizon and running down to the margin of the stamp.
- 5—5, A tiny white spot at the bottom of the down stroke of 'R' in AFRICA.
- 7—7, Red line in bottom gutter beneath 'EN' of REVENUE.
- 8—5, Red dot on outside left margin, just above the middle of stamp.

- 10—3, Minute red dot in top margin over hyphen.
- 11—1, Red dot in "O" of SOUTH.
- 11—8, Tiny red dot in first 'S' of POSSEEL.
- 12—10, White spot under 'PO' of POSTAGE.
- 13—9, Tiny red dot in top of "I" of 1d.
- 15—3, Break in the white line over 'H' of SOUTH.
- 17—12, Break in the white line under 'K' of INKOMSTE.
- 18—10, Headplate multipositive — a thickening of one line of shading in the sky just under and to the left of the lower yardarm.
- 19—2, Red dot in gutter margin under 'EE' of POSSEEL.

Multipositive Flaws 1d. Cylinders 12 and 97.

Further to the multipositive flaws of the 1d. Animal Series printed from Cylinders 12 and 97, recorded in our July Notes, Mr. J. H. Bruwer, of Krugersdorp, submits the following:

- Row
 1-3, "Extended hair" on nose of animal.
 1-10, Tiny dot between "I" and "C" of AFRICA.
 3-3, Tiny dot behind tip of right horn.
 3-4, Oblique line from lower arc of "S" of SOUTH to tip of right horn. Distinct on Cyl. 97 and faint on Cyl. 12 printings.
 4-7, Small blob midway between value tablet and REVENUE.
 7-11, Small dot below "U" of SUID.
 10-12, Small dot between 'H' and 'A' of SOUTH AFRICA.
 11-8, Dot on end of hair on nose, opposite INKOMSTE.
 14-8, Dot beneath "I" of SUID.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Union 44A. ½d. plate 12 (3 printings) each 2/-d.
 44Ha. ½d. plate 21, rough centres 2/6d.
 45. 1d. plate 14 2/6d.
 45B. 1d. plate 19 10/-d.

All mints, blocks pro rata.

C. E. SHERWOOD,

105, Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, G.B.

THE FIRST UN-HYPHENATE ½d. ROTOGRAVURE STAMPS.

by G. N. GILBERT

In the April number of the South African Philatelist, a short article by Mr. A. J. Brown is published, in which he queries the correctness of the new tabulation of these printings as shown in the Handbook Supplement.

The writer, after studying all the material in his possession, and referring back to his own articles in the July issue of 1934 in the South African Philatelist, is of the opinion that Mr. Brown is correct and that the Handbook Supplement is wrong.

The writer proposes to lay out the various printings according to material in his possession, and to tabulate the varieties that he is himself able to confirm.

Other varieties given in the Handbook and Supplement which it is not possible definitely to confirm are not included.

Plate I.

Interior Cylinder 1. Exterior Cylinder 1.

This first printing of the Rotogravure ½d. did not, at first, show the signs of shading wear which developed later, viz the lack of shading near the eye of the buck on 1-12, and the shading between the horns on 9-5, but it did quite definitely show the white patch on 4-11.

There are quite a few individual plate characteristics which only appear in this first frameplate cylinder, and do not show up in the next printing, and subsequent printings.

These are — Green marks in top left corner on 1-4.

Tiny green dot in gutter between stamps 10/11 row 1 near middle.

Broken line of shading in bottom left corner, about four green lines of shading up.

Green spot in top right corner 10-12.

There are many others, but these are mentioned just to prove Plate I and the fact that the white patch on 4-11 does appear on sheets with these flaws.

Plate II.

Interior Cylinder 1. Exterior Cylinder II.

In this printing the flaws mentioned above do not appear with the exception of the white patch on 4-11, and signs of wear in the headplate shading is now apparent on 1-12, which is now a white spot near the eye, and on 9-5, between the horns — a white patch with a tiny black dot in the middle.

At this stage these are all un-retouched.

Individual frameplate flaws pertaining to Exterior Cylinder II and which appear in Plates II, IIa, b and c.

Green dot in bottom right corner, 1-8.

Small green dot in gutter between stamps 11/12, row 1.

Green line in the left outside margin opposite Row 3.

Green dash through R in Africa, 3-2.

Green line out from Revenue to margin, 3-12.

White patch on 4-11.



Dollar flaw, 10-9.

Green line slanting up in bottom left corner, 18-8, etc., etc.

Then comes

Plate IIa.

From same cylinders as Plate II.

In this printing, which of course shows all the characteristics of Exterior Cylinder II listed under Plate II, the white spots and patches have been retouched.

On 1-12, a few fine scratchy marks can be seen under a glass near the eye.

On 4-11 the large white patch is shaded out with a series of handmade lines, and

On 9-5, the shading between the horns is similarly dealt with and with very obvious handmade lines.



The printings which follow, viz Plate IIb and IIc, and which have been labelled the "cleaned plate" and "splintered horn" printings, all show these spots retouched.

Plate III.

Interior Cylinder II, Exterior Cylinder III.

The retouched white patches do not appear in this printing and with the exception of a few characteristic plate flaws and of course a few multipositive flaws, the printing is clean and free from many blemishes.

The most outstanding plate flaw is the large green L shaped mark below the top bar on 11-3.

The outstanding multipositive flaws are:—

- 1—12, "Snail" on bucks breast, (Headplate).
- 5—8, Green arrow shaped flaw in top left corner.
- 15—8, Green blob in bottom bar.
- 16—8, Dash on tip of horn (gelatine flaw. Headplate).

One or two alterations and additions will be necessary to the lists of flaws etc.

Under Plate I vc Line across buck's nose.

Multipositive flaw must be removed, as this is a plate and not a multipositive.

- Add.** vj. White patch on bucks neck, 4-11.
- vk. Blob on bottom bar. Multipositive 15-8.

Under Plate II. vg. remove "multipositive flaw" as above.

Add. Vo. Blob in bottom bar. Multipositive. 15-8.

Under Plates II a, b and c.

Alteration and addition as above.

Under Plate III.

Remove Vj entirely.

Add. In place of Vj — blob in bottom bar, Multipositive 15—8.

VI. Dash on tip of horn (gelatine flaw Headplate multipositive flaw).

Vm. Joined paper.

The item Vg, black smudge right of buck's head cannot be constant as it does not show up in positional blocks in the writer's possession.

For the 41st Medical Congress in Durban, from 16 to 21 September 1957, there will not be a special stamp to commemorate the Congress. But a special commemorative Envelope in 2 colours, with a design of a "Stirlitzia" and a Doctor's emblem, also an attractive artistic

sticker will be available. The cost of the Envelope plus sticker will be 6d. each, postage extra. There will be a Sub-Post Office in the Congress Hall and a special Cancellor will be used. (See our August issue for particulars). A Medical Hobbies Fair will also be held in conjunction with the Congress and an attractive catalogue will be on sale at 1/- a copy. Anybody who wishes to have envelopes serviced may send their Orders to Mrs. B. Bevis, 114 Wood Road, Montclair, Durban, or Dr. Maurice Cohen, 82 Medical Centre, Field Street, Durban, together with the necessary remittance.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY (LONDON GROUP)

Please note that on and after Monday, 17th June, 1957, my address will be:—

138, CHASTILIAN ROAD, DARTFORD, KENT.

W. A. PAGE,
Hon. Secretary.

BASUTOLAND BISECTS

Mr. Hofman has shown us a couple of bisects, one diagonally, the other horizontally, of the 1d. K.G. V Jubilee issue.

Each half has "½d." in M/S (black ink).

The postmarks are Mohaleshoek and Morija, both of the same date 31 Dec. '35.

We do not think they are likely to attain catalogue rank, as, so far as we know, they were never authorized or, for that matter, necessary by reason of any failure in the supply of ½d. stamps at the time.

BASUTOLAND AND SWAZILAND INTERPROVINCIALS

In the July issue Mr. E. E. Oldaker asks about these stamps. One of his queries (S.G. 274 Transvaal used in Swaziland) is already answered in the reference which he gives — the Union Handbook Vol. 1, p. 303. This particular stamp is given there along with various others as used in Swaziland. We can only say, as is also already stated, that all Basutoland and Swaziland Interprovincials are scarce to rare.

Unfortunately no list of Basutoland Interprovincials has yet been compiled. Can Mr. Gilbert help us with that?

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Mr. Allan Crawford has just shown us a cover from Tristan with a Q.E. Coronation 3d. stamp which has a postmark dated No. 26/28. He had not noticed it earlier.

NEW REPUBLIC POSTAL STATIONERY

Mr. B. S. Challen, of The Wilderness, C.P., submits a New Republic item of great interest, as being only the 3rd specimen recorded. This is an envelope with a stamp impressed directly on it.

According to the account in Pirie's "Stamps and Postal Histories of Swaziland and of the New Republic" five sizes of envelopes so stamped are catalogued in Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia; Mr. Challen's specimen measures 145 x 93 mm. on white paper, and in this respect is identical with the only two used specimens so far recorded.

The stamp, a 2d. in violet, has the date 4 JAN 87, like all known used or unused specimens; it is cancelled with a Type 2 red postmark dated 6 JAN 87. Addressed to Pretoria, the cover also bears a 2d. Z.A.R. stamp cancelled by a Utrecht place-date stamp of JA 7.

Mr. Challen also sends for inspection 2 Natal Edwardian stamps with two vertical lines of perforation additional to the normal all round perforation. One is a ½d. stamps with the lines of perforation 9 mm. apart, the other a 1d. with the extra perforations 12 mm. apart. Has any one any comments?

NOTES ON A COVER WITH CACHET OF O.V.S. POSTMEESTER-GENERAAL.

By DR. K. FREUND

The cover is a so-called "Retreat" cover falling in the period when the Boer forces retreated out of the O.F.S. and the occupied sections of Natal.

During this time, the normal outlets for mail from the O.F.S. were stopped except in the easterly direction. Lourenco Marques became the main postal outlet.

This cover was sent off on **Feb. 21**, 00, from **Colesberg** — was then **censored in Bloemfontein on Feb. 25** — there is a Bloemfontein postmark **partly covered up** by the back flap (!) which had been steamed off by the Censor and then stuck back again — in addition the **O.V.S. Postmeester-Generaal** at this stage applied also his **Cachet** which in this case must be considered a **Censor mark** — the cover went then by rail to Lourenco Marques (the usual route, although the cover does not show a L.M. mark), catching a ship to **Durban** (Durban postmark of 9th March on the back of the cover) — from there it went along the coastal route to its **Cape Town** destination.

This type of cover is quite scarce and only a few have been reported with the Cachet of the O.V.S. Postmeester-Generaal. I have actually seen only four so far.

There are **two** types of Cachets of the O.V.S. Postmeester-Generaal in existence: One in a double border **circle** of 38 mm, the second one in a single line **oblong**, 36 x 26 mm. This specimen is of course the second type.

The following Cachets of the O.V.S. P.M. Generaal have come to light so far, as far as I know:

(1) **Mr. J. D. Rossouw**, of Paarl, has an example of each type I and II in his collection.

(2) **Mr. A. C. Fenn** in his recent booklet on "O.F.S. Postal Markings" illustrates both types, calling them however "fiscal markings" without realizing that in cases similar to this they must be considered to be **Censor marks**.

(3) **S. G. Rich** in his book "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War" (p. 64) briefly mentions a mark like the one on this cover, but he expresses the rather vague opinion that it "authenticates the additional Bloemfontein postmark".

(4) **Cmdr. E. G. Brown** also describes in the "South African Philatelist", 1956, p. 129, a Cachet like this, stating that he has "no idea what purpose it was meant to serve."

I may point out that practically all the aforementioned Cachet-impressions are in **blue**, while this is in **black**, which in my opinion makes it a still scarcer and more desirable item.

Paarl Philatelic Exhibition SPECIAL COVER

COVERS will be served free of charge.
PRICE 6d. each plus postage.

Communicate with

THE SECRETARY,
P.O. Box 60,
PAARL, C.P.

A GIFT FOR POSTERITY IN DURBAN

Mr. C. A. Frost has sent us a cutting from a Durban paper in connection with a gift made to posterity in Durban. It states:—

Mr. Harold Dugard Bowker, a retired solicitor and former registrar of the Supreme Court, Johannesburg, has presented the staff of Durban Old House Museum with a small, sealed package which may not be opened for 100 years.

Mr. Bowker said the parcel contained about 200 stamps, most of them blocks of current South African, Rhodesian, Nyasaland, Australian and Canadian issues.

"None of them cost me very much — the most expensive is an unused 10s. South African stamp. I calculate that in 100 years' time they will be worth much more", he said. The gift is a small token of my gratitude to Durban for the pleasant years I have spent here."

Mr. Bowker is a grandson of William Bowker, a famous 1820 settler, and a cousin of Mr. T. B. Bowker, M.P. for Albany.

We hope the Editor of the "South African Philatelist" of 2057 will remember this important happening and that he will receive an invitation to be present at the opening ceremony.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TRIANGULARS.

RECTANGULARS. POSTMARKS.

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

References from new customers, please.

F. W. COLLINS,

STOBOROUGH CROFT, WINCHESTER,
ENGLAND.

FRANCE

Two stamps which appeared some little time ago, but which we were not aware of earlier, were:— (a) A 30 fr on 20 June honouring the Public Works of France; its crowded contents feature buildings, tall cranes, railways, etc. (b) A 12 fr on 6 July representing the port of Brest.



EMIL TAMSEN

Another old timer of our stamp world, a real stalwart of philately in this country until a few years back, who earned for himself a reputation that spread far beyond our borders, Emil Tamsen died in Pretoria at the age of 96 on July 30th. Born in Schleswig-Holstein it is recorded that he was a stamp collector before coming to Pretoria in April, 1880.

Those who remember this quiet spoken man with the flowing beard who lived for so long in Nylstroom are, alas, few in number to-day.

It is some thirty years ago since my wife and I first met him, but we had corresponded for some time before this.

He was then living alone with his wife on a farm a few miles to the west of Nylstroom. I was making a supreme effort to fill the huge number of blanks in my world collection. Tamsen was not in affluent circumstances, his farming operations I am afraid were not bringing in much revenue, and in any case his heart certainly was not in farming.

He had been collecting, studying and dealing in stamps, particularly all South African issues, for so many years then and to meet his pressing needs he had offered me his complete world collections, mint and used, housed in 9 large Schaubek and Senff albums. We came to terms and I was well started on my objective and also had much material for the specialised collections that followed.

Tamsen was not content to have one example of each issue there were pairs, small blocks and large blocks. Some of these are still on hand.

He was certainly a student of philately and on the Rolls of Distinguished Philatelists both here and in Great Britain, but a few of the rarities in those collections were not beyond suspicion. However my deal was an extremely fair one to me and I sincerely hope that the transaction was equally so to Tamsen and that we were mutually helpful.

Tamsen was the outstanding expert on New Republic and Pietersburg issues. There is little

doubt that he was mainly responsible for bringing to light the many varieties and errors in these ephemeral emissions and through him they received full catalogue status. There is no question that both New Republic and Pietersburg are authentic and accepted Government issues but stamp collectors, in the mass, have not rushed to acquire the limited supply on the market. They certainly lack attractiveness in appearance but many of them are really rare. Surprisingly enough more attention appears to be given to these issues now than during the time Tamsen was striving to popularise them.

In my archives I have quite a number of letters, covers, cuttings etc. referring to Tamsen, evidence that he had correspondents in very many parts of the world, of course in Great Britain and U.S.A., but also Austria, Germany, Egypt, Reunion, Seychelles, Madagascar, etc., etc.

His must have been by far the biggest mixed post-bag in Nylstroom.

He loved to tell the story of his six-months honeymoon trip by ox-waggon into the practically unexplored regions north of Nylstroom. He recalled shooting crocodiles in the Limpopo River while his bride was bathing. They went on into what is now Southern Rhodesia, causing much astonishment to the natives and were ultimately turned back by Lobengula.

Some three years ago Dr. Harvey Pirie, my wife and I motored out to Nylstroom to visit Mr. and Mrs. Tamsen. He was as sprightly as ever but his eyesight was failing badly and, in consequence, he was compelled, much to his sorrow, to give up his life's hobby. This was fated to be the last time any of us saw the genial Emil.

Besides being for so long the doyen of South African postage stamps he was for seventy years a keen and active Freemason and founder of the first masonic lodge in Nylstroom.

To Mrs. Tamsen, her six children, her many grand-children and great-grand-children all South African philatelists associate themselves with us in extending to them our deep and sincere sympathy.

ERNEST HUNT.

In addition to what E. Hunt has written about Tamsen it must not be forgotten that we owe a great deal of our knowledge to him about the old Z.A.R. stamps.

Curle & Basden put it "His name, where Transvaal stamps are concerned, deserves mention next to Yardley's." Actually the work of these two investigators was largely complementary, the one to the other. Yardley's work was mainly a detailed study of the individual stamps, while Tamsen, given the opportunity of examining Government Archives, and seeing official documents mostly long since destroyed, was able to reconstruct the Transvaal's early postal history, about which we would otherwise have been woefully ignorant.

He was a pioneer in his business and a pioneer in South African philately. With his passing the greatest South African philatelist has gone and there can never be another like him, as conditions have so completely changed since his active days.

Can you imagine anything like a repetition of this story which Tamsen used to tell? One day in Pretoria the P.M.G. Jeppe went into the office of Viljoen, Treasurer-General and also the stamp printer (probably the worst on record according to Curle & Basden). Printing was going on before an open window; in came a whirlwind and blew into the street a number of printed sheets which had been lying about the room to dry. Both Jeppe and Viljoen rushed out and were able to rescue the sheets; they had to scrape the dirt off them with their pocket knives, but the sheets were not wasted — they went into circulation.

Tamsen was the first Vice-President of both the Pretoria and the Johannesburg Philatelic Societies; this was away back in the 1890's and it is pleasant to know that his eminence as a philatelist was recognised thus early in his career both locally and in many countries overseas. None of his family had any interest in stamps, but his extensive philatelic library, particularly strong in early periodicals, was purchased some years ago by the Johannesburg Public Library.

Frater grandissimus, Ave atque Vale.

J. H. HARVEY PIRIE.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

We have to thank Messrs Francis J. Field Ltd., of Sutton Coldfield for a handsome commemorative envelope of the Jubilee Jamboree, which was held almost next door to them. The cover bears the three special stamps (2½d., 4d. and 1/3d.) issued for the occasion, cancelled with the special postmark 1-12 Aug., also the local postmark of 1 Aug.

We have not so far seen the experimental P.O. official covers, referred to in last month's issue under the heading "British P.O. goes into the stamp Trade."

TYPES OF SETTING AND PRINTINGS OF THE MAFAKING SIEGE STAMPS

By DR. K. FREUND

All the Mafeking siege stamps listed as SG 1 to 10 were overprinted with a fixed forme-setting of 6 types right through. Each type in the row exhibits certain minute characteristics. I have confirmed this by direct information from several siege authorities, including the late siege postmaster, and I have in my own collection large blocks of nearly every denomination, shewing the setting in complete rows of six stamps.

The first four stamps in the row are "with comma" and the last two have no comma after Mafeking.

The individual details about the six types were published by J. R. F. Turner in 1900 and have since been repeated in "S.A. Provisional War Stamps" by B. W. H. Poole (1906) and in S. G. Rich's book on Anglo-Boer War Philately.

These publications have been studied by forgers who have even gone so far as to try to imitate some of the types of setting by purposely cutting the stated minute characteristics into the letter types they managed to obtain. However, these fakes of the damaged lettering can be recognized by the expert eye, as they

are too clean-cut with clear edges and roundings, whereas the genuine characteristics have certain identifiable shapes of jaggedness.

Fortunately, I have discovered several further characteristics on each of the six types of setting, and the presence of these is an effective indication of genuineness. I have thought it wiser not to publish particulars of these, lest these too be imitated!

SG 11 was overprinted on panes five stamps wide, and type 6 of the setting will not be found on this issue as it was removed from the forme before overprinting took place.

It should be appreciated that there were not two, but three or four printings of every denomination of the surcharge with "fancy" lettering. The early state, with lettering virtually undamaged, occurs on SG 1 and 3 only. First printings of other denominations exhibit damaged lettering. The various printings exhibit variations in the distance between the two lines of overprint, gradual progressive damage to the lettering, and these combined with the characteristics of the actual surcharge enable all the printings to be identified. I may mention in particular the two defective "d", namely, with damaged curve and with damaged foot. These turn up in every row of six, but in varying positions. The reason is that the new denominations were reset every time there was a new printing, and new printings were necessitated several times. As a result the defective "d" were not always in the same places. Knowledge of the various arrangements and their sequence is an invaluable safeguard against even the best executed forgery.

In closing, I may mention that the type 2 comma sometimes prints very faintly, giving the appearance of a faint full stop. This should not be confused with any of the real full stops from positions 5 and 6.

NORWAY

On 1st July celebrated her taking part in the I.G.Y. by issuing three polar stamps, a 25 ore picturing Jan Mayen Island, a 35 ore with map of Spitzbergen, and a 65 ore featuring Queen Maud Land in a map of Antarctic.

Rumours that they would not handle first day covers were not quite correct. The Philatelic Agency did not handle first day covers, such services being left to an unofficial agency, but supplied stamps and handled stamped covers sent them.

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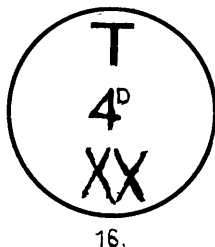
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UNION POSTAGE DUE MARKS

By J. H. HARVEY PIRIE
& K. E. W. LYDALL

(Continued from page 121, August 1957 issue)

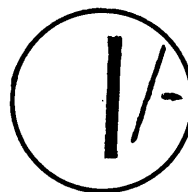


16.

Type 16.

A 28 mm. circle with T/4d./XX arranged vertically inside it. Johannesburg, 1951 and 1952 (N).

A mark which can probably be considered as of this type is a similar sized circle with T/1d./X in vertical arrangement. On a cover from S. Rhodesia to Johannesburg 1956.



17.

GROUP VI. A miscellaneous gathering, Types 17 to 25.

Type 17.

Figures of value in pence or shillings, inside a circle (NOTE The 1/- in the illustration should be more to the left, so that the whole is centred.

J. 1936 collection has ½d., 2½d., and 7d. in 27-28 mm. circles, the figures all being about 15 mm. high; and 8d., 10d. and 1/- in 24 mm. circles, with the figures 14 mm. high.

Other specimens are:— 2d. in a 24-25 mm. circle, Johannesburg 1902; 3d. in a 25 mm. circle, 1900, on a P.O.W. cover from Ceylon to Johannesburg — the letter appears to have been landed at Cape Town and the mark was probably applied there, though it may have been at Johannesburg; 8d. Pretoria 1905 — this is in a 24 mm. circle and the 8 and the 'd' are both of slightly fancy type; it has already been referred to under Type 2.

10d. in a 26 mm. circle, the figure being 16 mm. high, Ladysmith 1900. This mark is on a cover posted to England during the siege. In M/S, presumably by the writer of the letter, is "Stamps unobtainable. Original postage to be charged only. Vide Natal Field Force Orders." In spite of this the Taxe mark was applied; in London, however, it was blacked out by an "F.B." mark (presumably Foreign Branch, London), and a "London/Paid/X" was applied, and no Tax charged to the recipient.

7d. (of similar size and character to the J 1936 one) on cover from England to Pretoria 1933.

All marks of this type seen on cover have accompanying T-marks either in M/S or in one or other of the described marks without an attached value.

Type 18.

A circle of 22-23 mm. with T and 3½ alongside of each other (J. 1936). Query. Does it stand for 3½ pence? The only example seen of this type.

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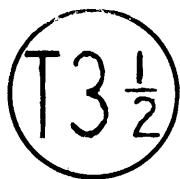
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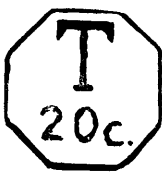
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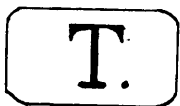
18.



19.

Type 19.

A regular octagon 21 mm. diameter with an 8.5 mm. high T above 20c., with figures 4-5 mm. high. This is on a cover from East London to Sweden in 1916; there is also a bare T as mentioned under Type 5 (b).



20.

Type 20.

A rectangle 22-23 mm. x 13 mm. with corners bevelled. It encloses a T 8½ mm. high. Several specimens ranging in dates from 1915 to 1948 (N and P). These are all on covers either to or from S.W.A. and it is presumed this is really an S.W.A. mark, quite possibly going back originally to G.S.W.A. days.

(To be continued)

CANADA

For the Congress of the U.P.U. which opened at Ottawa on Aug. 14th two special stamps were to be issued, one a small-sized 5c and the other a large-sized 15c stamp. Both of them illustrate, among other things, the "Post Horn" a device recognised the world over as indicative of the interchange of mail.

AUSTRALIA

The 7d. stamp honouring the "Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia" was issued on 21st August. This service now operates over about two-thirds of the continent from twelve bases.

The design of the stamp is an ingenious one. It pictures a winged caduceus, combining the symbols of medicine and speed; the shadow of this is projected upon an outline map of Australia to form the outline of an aeroplane. The stamp will not be a short-term commemorative but will continue in use indefinitely as part of the regular postage series; its use being probably mainly for the basic internal airmail rate.

A 2/- stamp is to be issued soon in connection with the inauguration of "round the world" air services. These are to follow on Quantas Empire Airways have been granted facilities to fly across the U.S.A.

U.S.A.

Independence Day saw the issue of a 4c commemorative featuring the "Stars and Stripes" in full glory of Colour. Word has come of two more commemoratives to appear soon. One is to mark the 350th anniversary of the building of the first American ship to be used for international trade. The other honours the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de La Fayette.

AUCTION SALES

The 1956-57 Auction Season in London and New York is over and the 1957-58 season just about to start. The season just closed has, as usual, been a highly satisfactory one for the auctioneers.

Messrs H. R. Harmer report a turnover of £339,650 in London, the third year in succession in which over three hundred thousand pounds have been realised; their New York house for the second successive season netted over 1½ million dollars, helped very materially, of course, by the five "Caspary" sales. In both places a number of big sales are announced for the coming season.

We have not yet seen Robson Lowe's summary of results for the past season, but judging from their programme announced for the remaining months of this year things are booming there too. They have already on hand material for sixteen days and it will be necessary to have two-day sales in some cases to provide accommodation for those who want to sell before Christmas. The sales announced have a great variety of material.

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TWO HAND-STRUCK SPECIMENS — WHERE WERE THEY USED?

By J. E. FRANKLAND



Specialists in the stamps of Rhodesia will be familiar with the type of hand-struck Specimen which appears on several denominations current around the turn of the century: in fact, for a "Specimen", it is comparatively common, and even blocks of four, which are very rare in most Specimens, can be found without difficulty. Evidently quite a lot of Rhodesian Specimens were made at this time, over and above what may have been produced for circulation to U.P.U. members through Berne. So many different types of Rhodesian Specimen exist that collectors have apparently hitherto regarded this type as just one more Specimen peculiar to Rhodesian issues.

If so, it is now time for further thought, in the light of a collection of Specimen stamps, mainly of the Edwardian era, which I acquired some little time ago. For in this collection the earliest items are annotated as having been sent out from the G.P.O. London (**not** Berne) and these earliest items are all either the orthodox Specimen stamps (mainly De La Rue printed overprints) or have this identical hand-struck Specimen, previously thought to be known only on Rhodesian issues. The stamps bearing this hand-struck Specimen are, with few exceptions, issues which were not overprinted or perforated by the issuing authority before despatch to Berne, and come from no less than ten other places.

My own conclusion, provisionally, is that this hand-struck Specimen was applied at the G.P.O. London to invalidate such stamps as were included in the consignment which had not already been marked. This implies that large quantities of the Rhodesian issues of the time (though not before or since) were made into Specimens also at the G.P.O. London, presumably as a favour at the time of their entry into the U.P.U. in 1900.

Mr. Marcus Samuel, the well known authority on Specimens, has suggested as an alternative hypothesis that the handstamp may have been used in Rhodesia not only to make their own Specimen stamps, but also to invalidate any exemplars received from other territories without marking. I am reluctant to follow this supposition for two reasons: the collection in question clearly starts in 1903, whereas the official B.S.A. Company collection would naturally start in 1900 with admission to the U.P.U., and other stamps in the collection, which were distributed from Berne without any marking, have all been carefully handstamped Specimen **with a different handstamp** (indeed in a few cases through excess of zeal it has been applied to stamps

already marked Specimen by the originators!). There is no doubt about the circumstances of use of this second handstamp as it is unknown outside this particular collection. Moreover, it was in use right from the start, and appears, for example, on Leeward Islands SG 17, 18 and 19, which were distributed unmarked through Berne.

That no other examples are on record is not an argument either way, as Specimen stamps are very rarely marketed from British sources, and for all we know many other examples may be hidden in closely guarded official collections. Can anyone throw light on the problem?

ISRAEL

In honour of "TABIL", the International Stamp Exhibition being held in Tel-Aviv from 17 to 23 September, there are being issued four triangular stamps of denominations of 100, 200, 300 and 400 pruta. The special Exhibition Stamp Sheet contains one of each of these four values arranged into a square with a descriptive tab adjacent to each stamp.

Our German correspondent, Mr. Joachim Dill, of Bad Neustadt, sends us an example of a special canceller used in Berlin on 6 July to celebrate the tenth birthday of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship.

On 30 July the first of a new series of definitives was issued in the Western Zone. This is a 40 pfg stamp shewing Charlottenburg Castle. It was originally planned to have a new 30 pfg stamp also on that day, but this has been postponed.

Meanwhile yet another commemorative has appeared (do they really need definitives at all?), a 25 pfg stamp for the Congress of the East German Culture Council in Berlin. This stamp shews a portrait of Uta von Naumburg, one of the founders of Naumburg Cathedral.

The Western Zone Minister of Posts has forecast the formation soon of a European Postal Union in which inland postage rates will be made uniform and the stamp in this denomination of any member country will be valid for postage throughout the Union, possibly leading to a uniform issue of stamps. The inland rate is to apply to all mail for any destination in the Union. This will be an interesting development from the uniform **design** of the Europa stamp which is now familiar.

REVIEW

Fun with Stamps by Dianne Doubtfire & Kay Horowicz — Hutchinsons, 9/6.

This new book is an introduction to stamp collecting for young people, and much of its content has appeared in similar books already published. This book, however, has one quality which is by contrast conspicuously absent in so many of the others, and that is the remarkable **freshness** of its approach. The text is further embellished by some excellent drawings by Artur Horowicz. Although the book is in English, it was printed in the Netherlands and has been very carefully prepared: in fact the only misprint we observed is in the appendix designed to help the novice to place unfamiliar stamps in their correct countries.

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FRANCE

June saw the usual flow, on the 15th, of six stamps, each with a surcharge for the benefit of the French Red Cross. The series featured various celebrated French personages:— Joinville (1224-1317), crusader and biographer of Saint roi Louis; Palissy (1510-1590), artisan and scientist; Quentin de la Tour (1704-1788), portrait painter; Lamennais (1782-1854), a Breton mystic and polemical writer; George Sand (1804-1876), pseudonyme of Aurore Dupin, the only grande romanière of the 19th century; Jules Guesde (1845-1922), Socialist doctrinaire and man of action.

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PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1st July. Members were privileged to be entertained by the President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Mr. J. D. Rossouw of Paarl. While in Pretoria on other business he took the opportunity of paying us an official visit for which we are especially grateful. Before exhibiting what he had brought along for display, Mr. Rossouw gave a detailed account of the arrangements for Congress in Paarl in October and for the Philatelic Exhibition which is being held simultaneously. Those who will be fortunate enough to be in Paarl at the time are assured of a most entertaining and interesting few days as the guests of the Paarl Philatelic Society.

Thereupon Mr. Rossouw said a few words on the pages he brought along and as usual he had some interesting philatelic sidelights to recount.

The Postal History of the Anglo-Boer War is a subject on which Mr. Rossouw is one of the recognized authorities and we were able to see a large number of his more interesting and unusual items, particularly his strong selection of invasion covers. What we saw is only a small portion of his collection but it was sufficient to excite the keenest interest of all who were present, besides the envy of some of us who would be more than willing to own certain selected covers for our particular fancies. Truly a grand show, and our thanks again, Mr. President!

15th July. A discussion on the subject. "Is it reasonable to compare mint issues with used stamps in organized competitions, such as the Allan Cup Competition?" commenced the evening. Mr. Newlands, Dr. Reisener and Mr. Wright put forward their respective points of view after which lively discussion took place from the floor. At the conclusion it was generally agreed that the above was not true in the specific case of the Allan Cup Competition, in terms of its rules, but that in general competition it is reasonable to compare mint with used stamps as the latter have no especial handicap to overcome in open competition.

The exhibit for the evening was provided by Mr. Joseph of Johannesburg who brought along a small selection from his collection of Switzerland which he preceded with a very informative paper on the stamps of that country. His exhibit ranged from pre-stamp covers to the moderns and was particularly strong in essays, proofs and colour trials. Altogether, it was an excellent showing and our thanks are due to Mr. Joseph for having made the journey from Johannesburg for our benefit at not quite the warmest time of the year.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of one of our Honorary Life Members, Mr. Peter Henderson. Although one of our oldest members both in service and anno domini, he was one of the stalwarts upon whom we could always rely for active support in regular attendance, even until very recently. Our sympathies go to his family.

J. M. W.

THE O.F.S. AND BASUTOLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

June Meeting:

In spite of the cold weather, a good number of members attended, and their effort was not without reward, for three most interesting exhibits were displayed.

The first consisted of Mr. Meyburgh's "Miniature Sheets", issued over the last twenty years to celebrate famous events or personages. They were all there — East Germany to Guatemala, and Hungary to Honduras — even to the wedding of King Farouk to Queen Narriman in 1951; and the Little Entente in 1937 of Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The whole exhibit was beautifully written up in Mr. Meyburgh's inimitable copper-plate hand.

The second exhibit was indeed something of a privilege to behold, seeing as it included some pre-stamp covers such as had not even been seen by many renown O.F.S. collectors. These covers were tabled by Dr. Freund who had obtained them ex the Jurgens collection. One cover (thought to be the only one in existence) was postmarked "Winburg Betaald" and also

bears a red oval postmark of Swellendam dated August 1858. Another cover was postmarked Vredefort, 20 May and Bloemfontein 26 May 1864, and addressed to the Master of the Supreme Court, Cape Town. Three other covers bore what are probably the first types of numerical post-marks ever used, as well as oval Cape Colony postmarks of 1874-1876.

The final exhibit belonged to Mr. Castignani, of Pretoria, one of the stalwarts of the Pretoria Society, and members were most fortunate in seeing this part of a wonderful collection. Presented, were photo-proofs as well as used and mint stamps from the 1929 Union Air-mails to the Silver Wedding issue. Most interesting indeed were the photo-proofs or rejected designs of the van Riebeeck issue, and of the 3d., 4½d., and 1/3 values of 1953. Members were left stone-cold as to how Mr. Castignani came by all this material, but their hearts warmed at the sight thereof.

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB

June 24th. This was the popular All Members' Evening and the following were shown to a good meeting:— "Birds" by Mrs. H. M. Scott; "Odds and Ends" by Mr. F. L. Archer; "West Berlin" by Mr. R. Putzell; "Australian Commemoratives" by Mr. B. Green; "Miniature Sheets" by Mr. G. Petroulis.

July 22nd. Another exhibit was shown to a very well attended meeting, this being that of Mrs. B. Bevis of Durban "History of U.S.A. on Stamps". As would be expected it was fully representative and written up clearly. The big event was the presence at the meeting of Mr. G. Dreyer, the Netherlands designer of stamps. He gave a talk on his work, which was ably translated by Mr. Dyker of K.L.M. who accompanied him. Mr. Dreyer autographed sheets for members and gave out stamps which he had designed, among which was the Van Riebeeck stamp and the Whaling ship on the recent ships set. It is not often that a Society can meet in person the designers of stamps and those who missed this, really omitted a chance in a thousand. Capt. Stern, the President, who had just arrived back from a visit to S.W.A., Rhodesia, Belgian Congo, Ruanda Urindi, and Uganda, showed complete sets of these countries, including those of French Equatorial Africa (also visited), as also the set of New Hebrides for issue September 3rd. and other philatelic items of recent date acquired, all of which were of interest.

Kindly note that the box number is P.O. Box 3654, Cape Town.

M. F. S.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

June 13th. An excellent show of Covers was put on by Mr. C. M. Pillans, which was particularly appreciated. Mr. Pillans has a unique collection of covers, many of which are never seen by the ordinary philatelist.

June 27th. Mr. E. Blum, who is really a specialist, gave a very complete talk on "Cape Triangulars and Postal History" and showed an extensive and outstanding collection which traced the history of the white civilisation of the Cape of Good Hope. This collection was that of the late Dr. Lionel B. Goldschmidt, assisted by the late Mr. Jurgens.

M. F. S.

July Review.

It is a pity that I cannot do justice here to the exhibit of 11th July when Mr. W. G. Combrink presented a subject entitled "500 Years of Venetian Post". Let me assure those members who could not be there to see it, that it was their loss. Stipulating "500 Years" was indeed no over statement — there was actually a letter dated 1362 sent from Turkey to Venezia.

Mr. Combrink, a classic collector in the true sense of the word, gave an extremely interesting exposition of the geography and history of Lombardy/Venezia. As to a little geography — which present-day visitor to Venice, could even dream that the birth of that Mecca of art lovers, was in debris washed down from the Alps through the ages. As is usual when he displays, Mr. Combrink left members very satisfied with what they had seen and heard at the meeting.

On the 25th July, we had a further opportunity of seeing more material from Mr. H. J. de Wet's comprehensive and extensive collection of "Themes of Historical Events on Covers". This member has devoted many, many hours to this fine topic of his. The vast exhibit displayed a man's great love for both the historical value and artistic beauty of what he has so carefully prepared.

All the milestones in South African history have been featured by Mr. de Wet, in the preparation of beautiful and fine commemorative covers.

In addition to other facts of general interest, Mr. de Wet told the intriguing story on his last-minute efforts — under great pressure of valuable time, which sometimes entailed working right through the night — in the preparation of some of these covers.

As a grand finale, Mr. de Wet showed his work on special covers in respect of the First Gough Island Exploratory Expedition, the Marion Island Expedition and the recent visit of H.R.H. Prince Phillip.

Letters of thanks from a number of V.I.P.'s, including H.M. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, as well as members of other Royal Houses, who had been presented with covers specially prepared by hand by Mr. de Wet, added to the interest.

J. H.

PRETORIA RAILWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

July 1957. At the commencement of the meeting all members stood as a mark of respect to the memory of Peter Henderson, an old and well loved member of the Society whose cheerful countenance at our meetings and spirited bidding at our stamp auctions will be sorely missed — requiescat in pacem.

An outstanding exhibit was provided by Mr. Willie Newlands and our Society was privileged to see a preview of his collection of stamps used by the South African Railways or its predecessors. Mr. Slater-Kinghorn commenting on the display stated that it showed a very great knowledge of the subject which must have involved considerable investigation and research, and was of particular interest to a Railway Society.

Dr. Reisener commented on the wide range of nostally used stamps from the Cape, Transvaal, Natal and O.F.S. which included many overprints and stencils and he thanked Mr. New-

lands on behalf of the Society for the most interesting talk which he had given before displaying his collection and for the outstanding quality of his exhibit, sentiments which were fully endorsed by Mr. Eric Walker.

P. M. J. McG.

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Owing to unforeseen circumstances one meeting only was held during **June**, this taking place on the **18th**. In opening proceedings, the President, Mr. A. F. W. Pavitt, asked those present to rise in memory of the late Mr. T. M. Winsley, who had recently passed away after a severe illness of several months duration.

Besides the official business and our normal auction the evening yielded a very pleasant surprise in the form of very fine and interesting display by Mr. W. J. Deacon. The field covered included a very excellent range of Unions (mostly mint), British African Territories, Great Britain Control Letters and Figures, U.S.A. etc. Mr. C. Clement warmly thanked the exhibition on behalf of the Society.

2nd July, 1957. Despite a very cold night there was a good attendance of visitors and members. Dr. Harris was in the chair. Members displayed their "three favourite sheets". The range was wide, from classics to moderns, British Empire and foreign. Surprisingly there were not many thematic. Each exhibitor had to explain his choice. This revealed the numerous motivations that prompt stamp collecting and this was a particular interesting aspect of the evening. Our veteran, Mr. Forbes, concluded this part of the meeting with congratulations to the exhibitors on the good standard of their displays.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

February. The Germiston Society paid the E.R.P.S. their annual visit, three of their members exhibiting. Mr. Bompas tabled Library Terms, illustrated on stamps. Mr. Burniston tabled Australia K.G. VI and last, Mr. Hagger exhibited his famous Union 3d. and 1d. Pictorial issue. To this Society we extend once again our sincere thanks.

March. Here again it was our members evening and well enjoyed by all who were present. A few sheets were tabled by three members, namely, Mr. Rigg — Great Britain from 1840 to 1948 inclusive, Mr. MacArthur — Glory of the Sea, and Mr. Bogner Jun. — Austria mint.

April. This was an enjoyable meeting, for there were a few interesting points put forward with regards to our Calendar for 1957, and to change our meetings slightly. Congratulations to Mr. Sam Legator, who was appointed Israeli Commissioner for South Africa.

May. Exhibits for the Sam Legator Trophy. First Mr. Rigg's Austrian Collection, a very fine display. Second was Nyasaland covers, "Stamps of Nyasaland" used in Southern Rhodesia, by Mr. Bogner, Jnr.

J. B.

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The **July** meeting was important because arrangements were made for the Triangular Meeting of the Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and East London Societies to be held in East London on Saturday, 20th July. It was also arranged to hold a full Executive meeting so

that the special committees could be organised in time for the 1959 Hobbies and Congress in East London.

The President, Mr. Jack Joseph, announced the fact that he is leaving East London for Johannesburg next month. Mr. J. P. Shingler expressed genuine regret on behalf of all the members that Mr. Joseph would be leaving East London and that his services as President would be lost to the Society. He said that Mr. Joseph had always been a very keen worker in the Society, having managed the circulation of the Magazines and being one of the first Exchange Superintendents of the Packet Section.

In replying Mr. Joseph said he would continue as a member of the Society and no doubt would be visiting East London from time to time and would always be happy to renew his friendships in the Fighting Port.

The President reported that there had been quite a good response by members for stamps at the Hobbies Exhibition and there had been sufficient helpers to erect and dismantle the Exhibits.

The following were the prize winners:—

- (1) Mr. Geo. Feros — Inter Provincials and Special Union items.
- (2) Mr. C. P. Durkin — Rhodesian Double Heads.
- (3) Mr. J. P. Shingler — Thematic Display of Charity Stamps.

Dr. F. Drusinsky treated members to a further display of his very uncommon Boer War Covers. Most of these items had not been seen by members and so were of added interest to those who are following the developments of the Doctor's large and varied collection of Boer War Issues.

J. P. S.

Eight members of the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society and Mr. Pettit of the Grahamstown Philatelic Society attended the Triangular meeting at the Museum Lecture Hall at East London on **Saturday evening July 20th**, when members enjoyed some really fine displays.

Mr. George Forbes brought up a display by Mr. Gustav Bülbring who was unable to be present. This display was a very special one of German Colonies and very unusual items were shown, one in particular being unissued printing in 1916 of German East African stamps.

Mr. Forbes showed early Swiss stamps from 1845.

Mr. Smukler displayed his thematic collection of Musicians and Musical Instruments. He also showed the fascinating stamps of Israel.

Mr. Slabbert was right up-to-date with a very representative display of the Netherlands — Commemoratives and Charity stamps.

Mr. Pearson showed Australian Commemoratives in imprint blocks from 1927, and also some of the African Colonies of the present reign.

For East London Dr. Drusinsky made a further showing of some uncommon Boer War items, while the U.S.A. Presidential stamps were shown by Mr. Hellman, who presided at the meeting.

The visitors were all thanked for their kind co-operation in making the long journey to show their excellent stamps, and a pleasant evening ended at 10.15 p.m.

J. P. S.