

STAMPS

SOUTH AFRICA

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3 - MAY 2023
A bi-monthly Newsletter

KEEPING IN TOUCH

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PFSA



The Post horn

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In this month of

MAY 2023

Please note that all underlined phrases in blue contain a link that can be opened by clicking on it.

PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (PFSA)

JOIN US

From the beginner in this wonderful world of stamps through to the seasoned collector, you are most welcome to join us and share in all PFSA member benefits.

Do you know that there are two ways that you can become a member of the PFSA?

The first is to join a Philatelic Society near you and pay the Society affiliation fees that normally include the PFSA affiliation fee.

The second is to join as a direct subscriber by paying the R125.00 annual affiliation fee into their bank account. (PayPal facilities are also available).

You will find a list of Philatelic Societies, as well as PFSA benefits, on the PFSA website under "FIND A CLUB" - www.stampssa.africa/ as well as on page 17 of this Newsletter.

For any assistance, please contact André du Plessis at pfsastamps@gmail.com

THE SA PHILATELIST

Back copies of "The SA Philatelist" from 1923 to 1973 have now been uploaded on the PFSA website.

Spend time reading articles from these previous printed issues that dates to the start of the journal.

Click [here](#)



STAMP EXHIBITIONS

Under the auspices of the PFSA
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW - 'SA Philatelist 100'

11 to 14 October 2023, Johannesburg



Venue: Kyalami Country Club, Midrand.

Entries closed: 25 August 2023

Delivery of Exhibits to the Organising Committee: 10 October 2023

Emil Minnaar RDPSA has been appointed as chairman of the jury and Joof van der Merwe as Jury Secretary.

Prospectus 2023 – click [here](#)

Entry form – click [here](#)

Contact: André du Plessis – pfkastamps@gmail.com

We would like to invite you to participate and looking forward to receiving your entry.

SAVPEX 2023

15 June 2023

South Africa's Eight Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX), a one-frame exhibition, proudly hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

31 May 2023 - Receipt of Entry Form, Description and Payment.

15 June 2023 - Receipt of Uploaded Exhibit.

July 2023 - Announcement of Results, exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

IREX (Prospectus) 2023 – click [here](#)

Entry form – click [here](#)

Contact: Joof van der Merwe – josuav528@gmail.com



Please support the exhibition by entering a one frame exhibit



“The World’s Best Stamps” Competition

Administered by the Management Committee
of the

Philatelic Federation of South Africa

30 April 2023



The organizers of SAVPEX 2023 are organizing “The World’s Best Stamp” Competition for stamps issued in 2022.

The competition is open to Post Offices or Postal Administrations of Member Countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and other recognised stamp issuing authorities responsible for the Issuance of Postal Stamps.

Entries close on 30 April 2023 and results will be made known during August 2023.

Participants will compete in the following categories:

- The World’s Best Stamp (*Category 1*)
- Most Innovative Stamp Format (*Category 2*)
- Best Stamp Design (*Category 3*)
- Best Souvenir Sheet (*Category 4*)
- Best Hand Engraved Stamp (*Category 5*)
- Best Offset Stamp (*Category 6*)
- Best Mixed Printing Stamp (*Category 7*)
- Best Stamp in Other Printing Techniques e.g., plastics and other synthetic materials (*Category 8*)

Entries close on 30 April 2023 and results will be made known during August 2023.

Entry form, click [here](#)

Guidelines, click [here](#)

ZOOM MEETINGS – May 2023

Pretoria Philatelic Society Virtual Monthly meeting: Thursday 11th – 19:00

To join, click [here](#)

Pretoria Philatelic Society Happy Hour: Thursday 25th – 19:00

To join, click [here](#)

For June meetings, please consult the PFSA website at: stampssa.africa

SOCIETY NEWS

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY



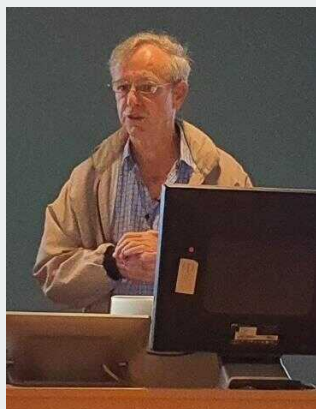
In 2019, the Special Collections Unit of the Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria (UP), was approached by the Pretoria Philately Society (PPS) regarding the donation of their valuable library. This collection of books focusses on South African Philately, and includes books on philately and related subjects around the world.

The Special Collections Unit jumped at the chance to include this collection as one of their Africana collections. This unit has played a stewardship role in the acquisition and preservation of the Department of Library Services' rare and valuable information resources since 1932, when it was first decided to build an Africana collection. The PPS's library falls very squarely within this field.

After numerous delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, the parties were finally able to celebrate this donation on 31 March 2023.

Members of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, as well as staff and students of the University, attended this event. Immediate past president, Prof Alex Visser who played a pivotal role with the negotiations with the UP, gave a talk on *The Pretoria Philatelic Society and Philately*. Talita Fourie, curator of the South African Post Office Museum and Archives, spoke briefly about *The utilisation of the South African Post Office Museum Collection by organised Philately*.

It is important to mention that the Special Collections Unit undertook to scan all previously published copies of *The SA Philatelist*. It was foreseen that the scans would be available by May 2020, but this was harshly influenced by the COVID-19 restrictions. However, back copies from 1923 to 1973 are now available on the PFSA website - Click [here](#)



Prof. Alex Visser



PPS president Adél Bulpitt receiving a certificate of acknowledgement from the Deputy Director of Library Services



Display cabinet with Philately items in the UP library section

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

During the 111th annual general meeting of the Society on 6 March 2023, four members were nominated for honorary life membership of the society. All the members present at the meeting agreed with the nominations and Honorary Life Membership was conferred on Francois Friend, Dave Brown, Richard Johnson RDPSA and Graham Butcher for their long and valuable services to the society.

During the meeting new office bearers for the next term were elected under guidance of the President Francois Friend and Secretary/Treasurer, Rodney Maclachlan.



OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Die OVS Filateliese Vereniging se algemene vergadering is gehou op Saterdag 25 Maart om 10:00 by Kopano Nokeng. Veiling is gehou waar interessante en skaars items van hande verwissel het. Nuwe aanwinste is vertoon asook die volgende "Spot the difference" is vertoon:

Neil Cronje - Dieselfde seels van Zanzibar - waarde in shilling en in rupee



Joof vd Merwe - Halfpennie Springbok seels: Onverklaarbare kleurverskil - Een ry donkerder groen as die ander ry.

Stoffel Kok (links) het sy uitstalling van Tseggo-Slowakye 1957 tot 1965 uitgestal en interessante inligting is aan die vergadering meegedeel.



L to R: Voet du Plessis, Neil Cronje, Johan Moolman, Stoffel Kok, Jan Lubbe, Mev. Moolman, Margret Ferreira, Dries Ferreira, Sam Lubbe, Strooi Sorour

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG



The society recommenced with face-to-face meetings in the Side Hall of the Blairgowrie Recreation Centre after a 3-year COVID gap and renovations to the hall. Meeting times have been changed to afternoon meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 16h00 to 18h00 rather than the usual evening meetings.

The first afternoon meeting was the AGM on 15 February and was well attended.

Stable membership was maintained over the past 3 years, but a decline in numbers can be expected as the average age of members are 74 with the oldest member approaching 99 this year and the youngest 45. Membership stands at 40 with 27 home

members, 11 non-home members and 2 associate members.

The meeting themes for May and June are *British Commonwealth* and *Mini Exhibits*, 1 to 16 pages, respectively.

Meetings are relaxed and casual with tea, coffee and cake being served.

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY



In MARCH we had a workshop on Watermarks. We learned which way to view them and the pro's and cons of various methods to do this. The consensus though is that Benzine and a dark surface is still the best!

Themes were "GREEN"; "2"; or "EASTER". Lots of green stamps with 2 and other facets. The

Easter Story was shown in stamps of Paintings of the Masters. The piece de Resistance at this meeting however was a super interesting fascinating display of 33 boxes of real gemstones with their corresponding stamps from Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, SA, Tristan da Cunha and Zimbabwe.



SOCIETIES OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA

THE RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE: In 2023, the Rhodesian Study Circle, one of the oldest specialist philatelic societies in the World, will celebrate seventy-five years of existence. With over 400 members drawn from across the globe (UK, Isle of Man, Ireland, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Vietnam, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada, Russia, China, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi), the Circle boasts a long tradition of research with nearly forty publications over the decades along with its Journal, which will produce its 300th edition this year.

In 2022, The Rhodesian Study Circle Journal and the website of the RSC were awarded Gold Medals at the London International Exhibition.

Meetings of the RSC occur (in person or virtual) every month in the year. All members and visitors are most welcome. From humble beginnings, the RSC is now a Philatelic Society for collectors of British South Africa, British Central Africa, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. (Soon, Bechuanaland and Botswana are to be added!)

The RSC website can be found at www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk as well as on Facebook and Instagram.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA (PSGSA) (USA): The Society and the Rhodesian Study Circle (RSC) will be convening at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver on May 26 – 28th. A Southern African symposium is being planned both as in-person and virtual covering subject from Rhodesia, South Africa, rail stamps, stationery, World War, and many other subjects. Contact Colin Fraser at FrasersStamps@cs.com for access to the virtual meeting.

A series of philatelic exhibits are being shown covering the Orange Free State, Transvaal, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Anglo-Boer War, and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

A special issue of our journal, *Forerunners*, will be distributed at the show as well as to members. The first 100 issues of our journal is still available on our website www.psgsa.org. Gordon Smith has been awarded the price for the best article in the journal for his article on the meter marks of Botswana.

Longtime secretary and treasurer David McNamee has retired from his duties and has been replaced by John McFarlane, piperjohn165@gmail.com, to which all correspondence should be addressed.

Forerunners #105 now available – Click [here](#)

All the past versions of *Forerunners* are posted on the official website.

All interested collectors can freely download and print their own copies, if so desired.

FILATELISTEN VERENIGING ZUIDELIJK AFRIKA (THE NETHERLANDS)

Ko Zegerman, shared a link of their quarterly journal - *Bartolomeu Dias* #138 - Click [here](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vote for the most popular music stamp 2022



In 2022, it was again evident that the theme of “music” is very popular with both collectors and postal administrations from all over the world.

From the issues of 126 postal administrations and agencies, 69 stamps were selected to participate. As every year in spring, all collectors are now invited to vote for the most popular music stamp of the past year at the link www.motivgruppe-musik.com

Voting will continue until **31 July 2023** and the designer of the winning music stamp will be awarded the Yehudi Menuhin Trophy 2023.

A philatelic gift will again be raffled among all participants who take part in the voting, and we are looking forward receiving your votes.

SA STAMP FAIRS AND AUCTIONS

CAPE STAMP FAIR: Usually first Saturday, every month. Bellville Valley DRC Hall , c/o Postma & St Andrews Streets, Bellville. 09:00 - 12:30. Organisers: Ken Joseph; ken@philatelicfriends.com Robert Harm; robertharm9@gmail.com	PRETORIA STAMP FAIR: First Saturday, every month. Greek Orthodox Church Hall , corner Roper St and Lynwood Rd, Brooklyn. 09:00 with auction at 11:00. Contact: Paul van Zeyl; randstamps@gmail.com
KYALAMI STAMP FAIR: Second Saturday every month. Kyalami Country Club , 433 Maple Rd, Kyalami AH, Midrand. 09:00 with auction at 11:00. Contact: Kenny Napier; kenny.napier@mweb.co.za Clinton Goslin; atlasauctioneers@lantic.net	QSA, KYALAMI: Third Saturday, every month. Kyalami Country Club , 433 Maple Rd, Kyalami AH, Midrand. 09:00 with auction at 11:00. Contact: Paul van Zeyl; randstamps@gmail.com
EAST RAND STAMP FAIR: Last Saturday, every month. Edenvale Bowling Club , 6th Avenue, Edenvale. 09:00 with Auction at 11:00. Contact: Kenny Napier; kenny.napier@mweb.co.za	KZN: SUNBIRD STAMP AUCTION: Last Sunday of the month 1 ST Hillcrest Scout Hall, 16 Shortlands Avenue, Hillcrest. 09:00 - 13:00. Contact; Kim Breytenbach; sunbird.stampauction@gmail.com

HISTORY & PHILATELY

The **POST HORN**, which developed from a small hunting horn, is historically associated with the service of mail delivery.

The first known use of a post horn dated back to circa 1652 in Europe. Classically it was used to signal the arrival and departure of the post rider (postilions) and later the arrival of the mail coach to villages, towns, and cities. On hearing the post horn, it would prompt the staff of the postal stations to, inter alia, prepare the change of horses.

Due to its importance, it became a prominent and a well-recognised symbol in philately.

It started to appear on postage stamps since the mid-nineteenth century in Europe and is certainly one of the most shared symbols appearing on stamps of many countries.



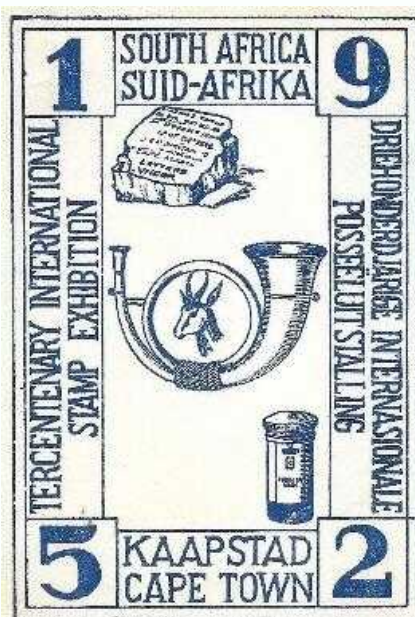
Till this day the crowned post horn still appears on the Definitive stamps of Norway that was issued on Christmas Day 1871 - continuously around for more than 150 years!

In the South African context, a concept act dealing with the arrival (and departure) of the Mail coach was promulgated in the Transvaal Government Gazette 433 dated 8 May 1889.

“As it is desirable to restrict the use of a horn, trumpet, or other such instrument to carriers of mail and to permit such use only to mail carriers, it is hereby established and determined as follows:

It shall not be permitted for drivers of, or other persons riding in or on passenger carriages, or other means of transportation, to use a horn, trumpet, or other such instrument. Only the carriers of mail coaches or other means of transporting mail are excluded from this”.

Certainly, there were the same regulations in other countries in Southern Africa as well.



As an emblem, the post horn never impacted on the design of South Africa’s stamps.

Only two instances where the post horn was used in a design relating to SA Philately could be located.

The first is on the Pretoria Philatelic Society’s coat of arms on right and on a commemorative cover of the 1952 Tercentenary International Stamp Exhibition held in Cape Town on left.

If you know of any other, please let me know.



The image of a post horn still appears on the postal service emblems of many European [countries](#)

Listen to the sound of a post horn [here](#)

WANTED

1987 Word of God, 40c. **From:** Mike Knutsen. **Email:** mike.knutsen@live.co.za

Looking for an exchange partner from the region of Australia or someone to trade stamps from Australia. I am from Switzerland and can offer Swiss and Lichtenstein stamps, new and old as well as from other countries like Germany, Austria or other European countries. Particularly interested in the topics of Royal, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Animals, Olympic games, World Exhibitions and Football World Cup.

From: Dennis Buob. **Email:** dennis.buob@sunrise.ch

BALE - The Stamps of Palestine Mandate 1917 - 1948, Specialized Catalogue with Additions of Covers and Stationery 2012, 10th Edition by Joseph D Stier. **From:** Trefon Katazounis.

Email: trefon@telkomsa.net

Looking for the following stamps in used condition: (1) 1937 Coronation issue South Africa; 1c singles and 1½c native and English. (2) 1937 Coronation issue South-West Africa; 1c native, 1½c native and English; 3c native; 4c native & English; 1s English. (3) 1925-1946 Peace issue Basutoland, singles, all 3 sets in native and English. (4) 1945-1946 Peace issue Bechuanaland, singles, all 3 sets in native and English. (5) 1945-1946 Peace issue Swaziland, singles, all 3 sets in native and English; (6) 1945-1946 Peace issue SWA, singles, all 3 sets in native and English; (7) 1948 Silver Wedding South Africa 3c single in native and SWA 3c in native.

From: Bill Cole. **Email:** bcole0456@gmail.com

Information on the "Binda" forgeries of Rhodesia's Independence overprint of 1966. (1) Who may hold the archives of Robertson & Co Stamp Dealers, he was tied up with the forgery and kept a photographic record of the forgeries he acquired before surrendering them to the Rhodesian Government. (2) It is understood that his son, Alexandre Binda, sold a whole load of his father's material in 1981/82 to an Alistair Fraser who was working for a stamp dealer, no idea who. (3) Any Binda forgery you may have in stock.

From: Geoff Brakspear **Email:** geoff.brakspear@btopenworld.com

Revenue stamps and documents. **From:** Clinton Goslin **Email:** atlasauctioneers@lantic.net

South Africa and Namibia FDCs 2018-2023. **From:** Lance van Sittert. **Email:** lance.vansittert@uct.ac.za

Early Johannesburg. **From:** André du Plessis. **Email:** andredupfs@gmail.co

Cape of Good Hope Revenue stamps. **From:** Danny Khoury **Email:** dannyhour@gmail.com

Information on SOUTH AFRICAN SLOGANS that was printed in the SETEMPE magazines way back. These gave information as to what the slogan was, and where and when it was 'issued'. **From:** Sandy Robertson.

Email: sandystampnews@gmail.com

Information on train timetables for Johannesburg to Lourenço Marques for the early 1930s? This is relevant for airmail which went from or to LM linking with international flights from 1932. **From:** Victor Millard.

Email: millardvg@gmail.com

Advice on Zimbabwean 1st Day Covers. **From:** Lesley Bull. **Email:** lesbull58@gmail.com

Bell, Keiskamma and Wicklow Postmarks. **From:** Denis Loraine-Grews.

Email: denislorainegrews@outlook.com

RSA Union, pre-Union, SWA & Rhodesia revenue stamps. **From:** Willie De Roock.

Email: williedr@webafrica.org.za

SA Agulhas I & II, MV RSA, and any other South Africa associated ship covers. **From:** Dennis W. Gill

Email: denny.gill@gmail.com

Swaziland 1975 MNH Scott # 232-35 Swazi youth set, 1980 Definitive set USED Scott # 347-2c, 352-7c, 357-

50c, 359-2e,360-5e, 1981 USED Scott # 385-90, 395-98, 406-9, 444-47, 453-56461-64.

From: Benson Jarzyna. **Email:** bjarzyna@hotmail.com

Postal history items – used covers, postcards, letter cards from South Afrika to Sekakes in Lesotho

From: Louwrence Erasmus. **Email:** louwrence@erasmus.org.za

Swaziland and Lesotho control blocks. **From:** Anthony Griffon. **Email:** anthony@griffons.com

Gandhi stamps. **From:** Jackson Johnson. **Email:** pepjack@gmail.com

Catalogue of Rhodesian stamps. **From:** Trevor Joubert. **Email:** trevor@randburgfinance.co.za

We look forward to hearing from you – your input will inspire additions to future newsletters.

Address all communication and feedback to André du Plessis at pfsastamps@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICAN DEALERS ASSOCIATION (SAPDA)

GAUTENG	GAUTENG (continue)	SWITZERLAND
Alan Donaldson (+27) 011 788 9585 frankie@frankie-d.co.za Pierre van Ryneveld	Rand Stamps Auctions Paul van Zeyl (+27) 012 329 2464 paulvz@mweb.co.za Queenswood www.rand-stamps.co.za	Filat AG Richard Johnson (+41) 079 444 4109 rj@filat.ch Switzerland www.filat.ch
Atlas Auctioneers Clinton Goslin (+27) 0 83 272 9367 atlasauctioneers@lantic.net Pretoria	RXR Stamps Xavier Laubscher (+27) 081 518 4553 Sundowner Ext 12	Philaclassica AG Martin Eichele (+41) 061 261 7379 info@philaclassica.ch Switzerland www.philaclassica.ch
Cosmo Philatelics, Dennis Cominos dncm@mweb.co.za Silverton	Stephan Welz & Co Andrew Kennedy (+27) 011 880 3125 andrew.kennedy@stephanwelzandco.co.za Houghton Estate, Johannesburg 2198	UNITED KINGDOM Argyll Etkin Limited Adam Cooke (+44) 020 7930 6100 argylletkin@yahoo.co.uk United Kingdom www.argyll-etkin.com
DM Philatelics Domenicao Martino (+27) 083 564 4601 dmpphilatelics@gmail.com Cramerview	Willie Kruger (+27) 082 578 6879 cgh.stamps@gmail.com Lynnwood Ridge	D Morrison Ltd (+44) 016 6682 2055 africonect@aol.com Malmesbury www.forpostalhistory.com
Doreen Royan & Associates (Pty) Ltd Dorren Royan (+27) 011 706 1920 royan@icon.co.za Sloane Park 2152 www.doreenroyan.com	World Stamps Danie van Zyl (+27) 073 150 8679 danman@iafrica.com Rietondale	EASTERN CAPE John & Mark Taylor Mark Taylor (+44) 020 7226 1503 markjtaylor@btinternet.com London N1 2YQ
Kenny Napier Stamps Kenny Napier (+27) 083 444 0249 kenny.napier@mweb.co.za Pierre van Ryneveld	John Bracey john@rsastamps.co.za (+27) 072 104 4640	Ritchie Bodily Gerald Bodily (+44) 020 8255 1219 rbcollect@yahoo.co.uk Richmond, UK
Mr Thematic Chris Bennett (+27) 082 566 3378 chrisb@asapcc.co.za Honeydew	Johnson Philatelics Richard Johnson rj@johnson.co.za (+27) 041 583 3159, Summerstrand www.johnson.co.za	Spink Ian Shapiro ishapiro@spink.com London, UK www.spink.com
Pierre Kriegler (+27) 083 327 2953 pkrstamps@gmail.com Weltevreden Park	Stamp's Friend, Francois Friend francois@stampsfriend.co.za (+27) 082 554 8900, Emerald Hill www.stampsfriend.com	



Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL was invited at the Cape Town International, where he qualified as an international juror, to judge at this event.

He will also be acting as the commissioner - ian@cdi.biz

The Exhibition will be supported by **eight** PFSA affiliated members, displaying **24** frames.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

CHANGELING STAMPS

I've stored my first article for this issue to reply to queries received about a 17th March post on the Edenvale Philatelic Society's Facebook page.



Two South Africa 1959 3d Academy of Science & Art commemorative stamps (SACC 168), found in an auction lot, had the lighter blue background appearing all but missing. These were queried as genuine varieties. Most comments thought faded by sunlight (UV) or chemical bleaching - prompting the question, why was the darker ink not affected that much?

At the time, most stamps featured at least one ink with chemical composition rendering it 'fugitive' i.e., not colour fast. Trying to clean a stamp of its cancellation to re-use it, this ink would alter in appearance or wash away in part or whole to make the fraud attempt obvious. (Even a single stamp is a security instrument having a declared face value to acknowledge receipt of income generated for the authorities. A fugitive ink protects this item's integrity as much as its paper's watermark).



Most likely, many stamps that 'look different' now have generated from unintentional exposure to RSA's harsh sunlight, humidity and / or poor storage whilst others result from collectors experimenting with household bleach or other solvent potions to see what may be accomplished.



This game was all the rage in the 1960's/1970's and, kept as curiosities, altered stamps now turn up when collections change hands and are immediately seen to be 'rare printing errors.' Most, unfortunately, it is simply damaged stamps. Probably 40 or 50 of these changeling stamps are referred to the Expert Committee every year.

Returning to 'what about the dark bits', some printing inks are permanent i.e., they are non-fugitive and, even though they may fade a little, are not easily removed. This serves two purposes: firstly, remaining parts of the printed design identify the original article; secondly, if the design could be cleaned off completely, the fraudster would obtain a correctly perforated and watermarked piece of paper on which could be faked another design e.g., a higher face value (further defrauding authorities of income) or a known stamp rarity (defrauding collectors). Don't scoff that no-one would go to such efforts, they have, and they do.

Examine your 'rarities' carefully and if needing to be checked, the Expert Committee serves to protect our philatelic community.

Michael Wigmore RDPSA.

(Using 'PFSA ExCo' as a subject, e-mail enquiries to the Expert Committee at dcrocker@lando.co.za

PS: aside from Federation's Facebook page that has heaps of information, I would also recommend joining Edenvale PS Facebook page too. It frequently posts excellent questions and informative observations.



Six PFSA affiliated members will exhibit at the Exhibition.

For more information contact the SA Commissioner, Francois Friend.

Contact details:

francois@softchem.co.za

Tel: 082 554 8900

I collect what I like

Diederik Viljoen, Bellville Philatelic Society
diederikviljoen@gmail.com



“What are all those little holes I see on some of my stamps?”

Well, it started in my early teens when my grandmother gave me a few envelopes with stamps, and I was hooked since then.

My first club was Stellenbosch in the late 1970's and I can still remember Prof De Villiers in one of the big halls with 40 plus philatelists present. In 1982 I moved to Sasolburg, and this is where it really took off under the guidance of the late Jules Danneels. I slept many a night in the Provincial library to guard the exhibits displayed at the annual Regional Exhibition, which is still going on to this day.

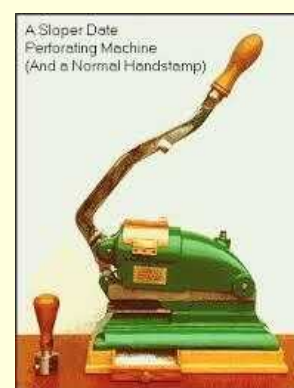


I have many philatelic interests, but one happened by chance when I was hunting for material to add to my QV 1d red collection. I came across a perfin stamp and the “damage” to the stamp intrigued me, and I started to investigate. The more I read about the perforation, the more fascinated I get. A completely new field opened for me when I joined the UK Perfin Society, www.perfinsoc.org.uk. I then started to concentrate on South African perfined stamps that was first introduced in the 1880's. The UK 1d Red on left is perforated G W R for “Great Western Railway”.

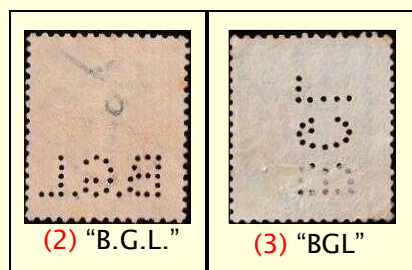
Perfin stamps are stamps with a series of perforated holes in the shape of a design, initials, name, number, or trademark of a company or individual. It is accomplished by using a perforator which has sharp pins positioned so that it denotes these features. Their origins date back to the late-1860's in the UK where they were developed and patented by John Sloper, who also produced the first commercially viable perfin machine (Fig.1).

At the time, stamps were accepted as legal tender in the UK and often used for small transactions. Whilst people were able to trade stamps for money, perfin stamps were recognized as non-negotiable outside the mail room.

The term “Perfin” was officially claimed in 1943 by Hallock Card, an American who used it to describe the “PERForated INitials” on stamps.



(1) Sloper perforating machine



(2) “B.G.L.”

(3) “BGL”

For the perfin collector it is of utmost importance to be 100% sure about the identity of a specific perfin.

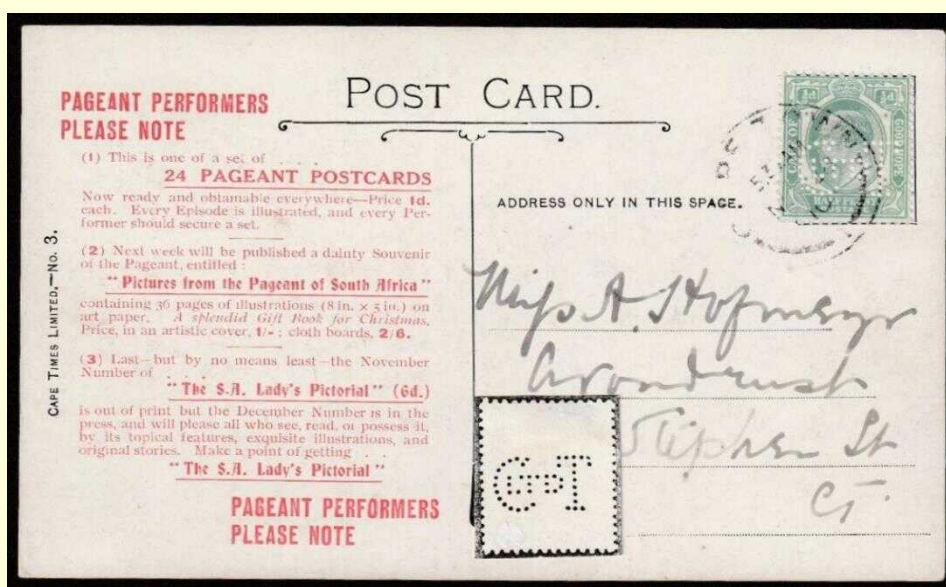
It is often difficult to identify the originating uses of individual perfins because there are usually no identifying features. For instance, two very interesting perfins are from Port Elizabeth and they are very similar “B.G.L.” which stands for B G Lennon & Co Ltd (Fig 2) and “BGL” that is for Bagshaw Gibaud & Co Ltd (Fig. 4).

Identification can best be achieved by having a perfined stamp on an envelope, post card, invoice, delivery note etc. showing the company name on the item.

The Cape Times Ltd. (Fig.4) is the publisher of a prominent newspaper although they were also printers, engravers, and bookbinders.

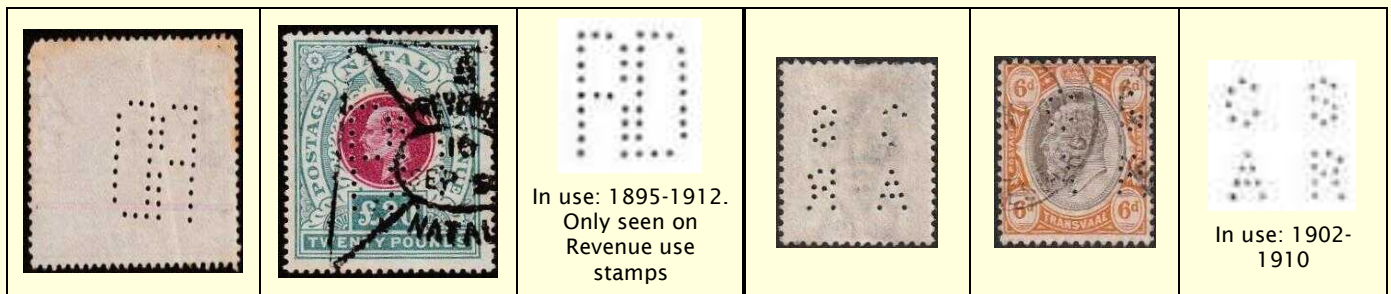
It is also important to have the earliest and latest perfin on stamps used by individual companies to determine the years in use.

Government departments also used these functions, and another application was to cancel cheques as well as stamps on revenue documents. Fig. 5 shows a Natal 1902 revenue stamp with the perfin “RD” which is for the Registry of Deeds Department. It is also cancelled with a square no 5 canceller of the same department.



(4) Cape Times Limited perfin stamp “C LTD T” (Insert) on proving Postcard

The Central South African Railways, another Government usage, is shown in Fig. 6.



(5) Natal Revenue stamp

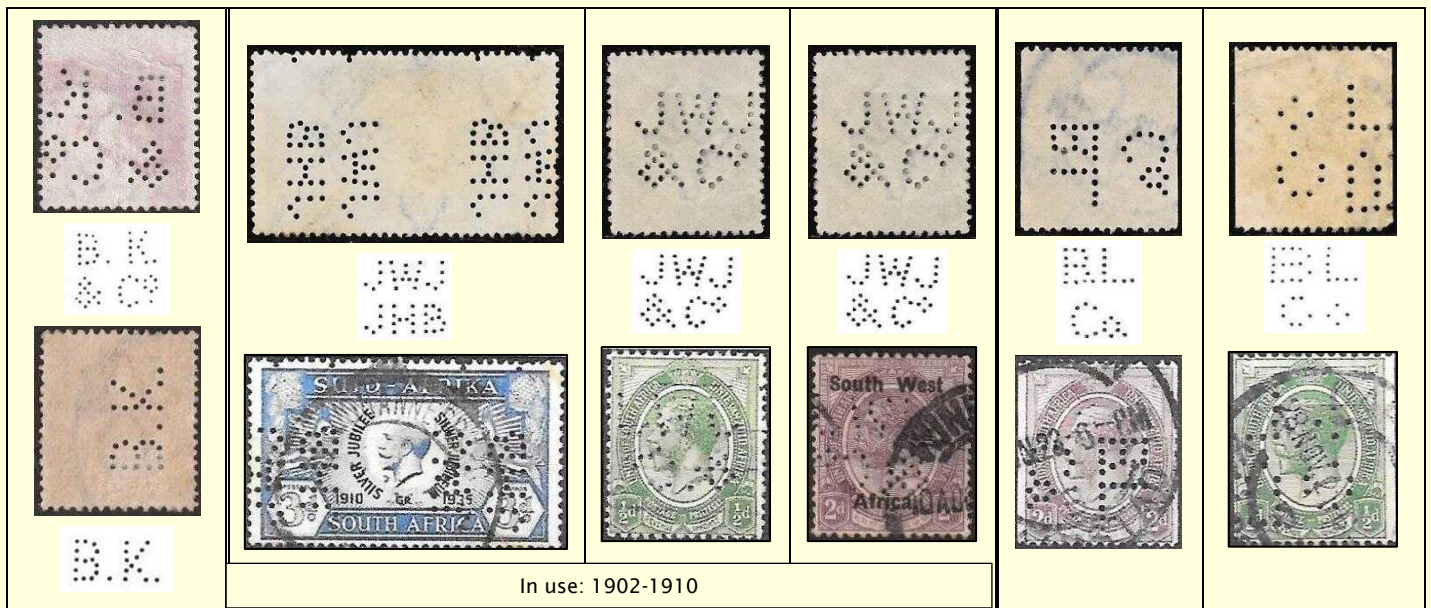
(6) 1905 Transvaal stamp

In use: 1895-1912.
Only seen on
Revenue use
stamps

In use: 1902-
1910

In South Africa we have thus far just under 180 individual perfins. Some companies used more than one style. For example, Baker, King & Co of King Williamstown had various perfin styles (Fig. 7). Another interesting company is that of J W Jagger & Co, which was a general merchant business with offices in CT, PE, EL, Durban and Johannesburg. Two perfins "JWJ/JHB" (Fig. 8) and "JWJ/ & Co" (Fig. 9) are allocated to the company. The "JWJ/ & Co" perfin used in Windhoek, SWA is so far the only recorded copy! (Fig. 10).

The company B Lawrence & Co Ltd from Cape Town used two with the same initials but in different shape.



In use: 1902-1910

(7) Baker, King and Co

(8) J W Jagger & Co,
Johannesburg

(9) J W Jagger & Co

(10) J W Jagger & Co,
Windhoek

(11) B Lawrence & Co,
Cape Town

(12) B Lawrence & Co,
Cape Town

Interesting

Items:

International Harvester Co. Pty Ltd used a unique perforator that shows two code holes over the perfin (Fig 13).

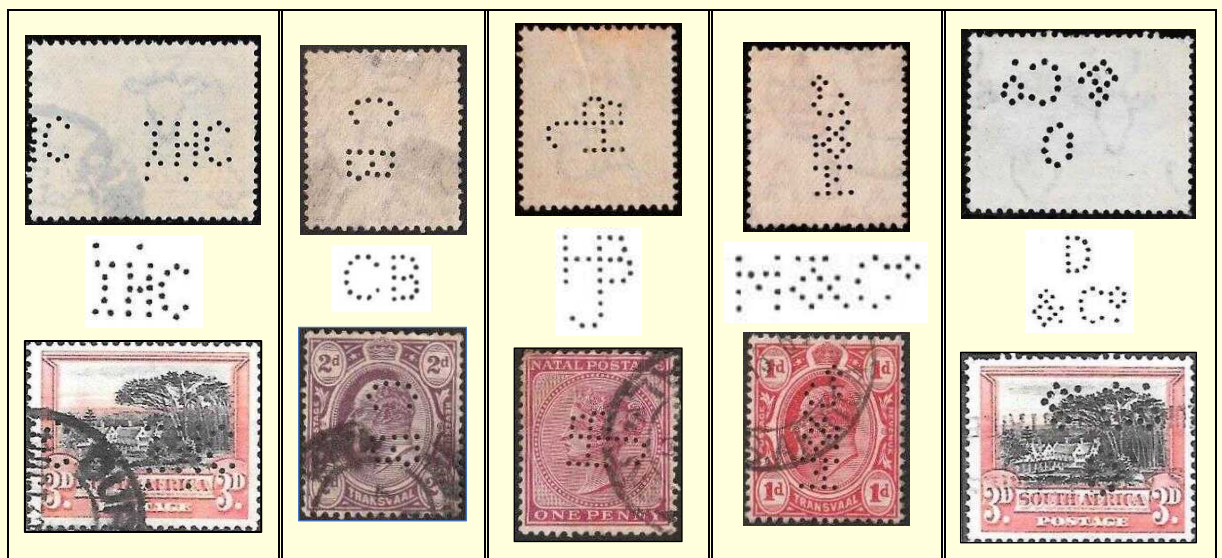
The extreme rare Curzan Brothers ("CB"), Johannesburg is the same as one used in the UK (Fig. 14).

Unusual dies are the monogram

of HJ Brereton from Durban ("HJB" - Fig. 15), Mosenthal & Co, East London ("M & Co" - Fig. 14) and Dunn & Co, Durban ("D & C" - Fig.17).

Traditionally only the back of the stamp is displayed to permit better viewing of the perfin design. To this article, the front is also shown.

Those interested or would like more information are more than welcome to contact me.



(13) International
Harvester Co

(14) Curzan Brothers

(15) HJ Brereton

(16) Mosenthal & Co

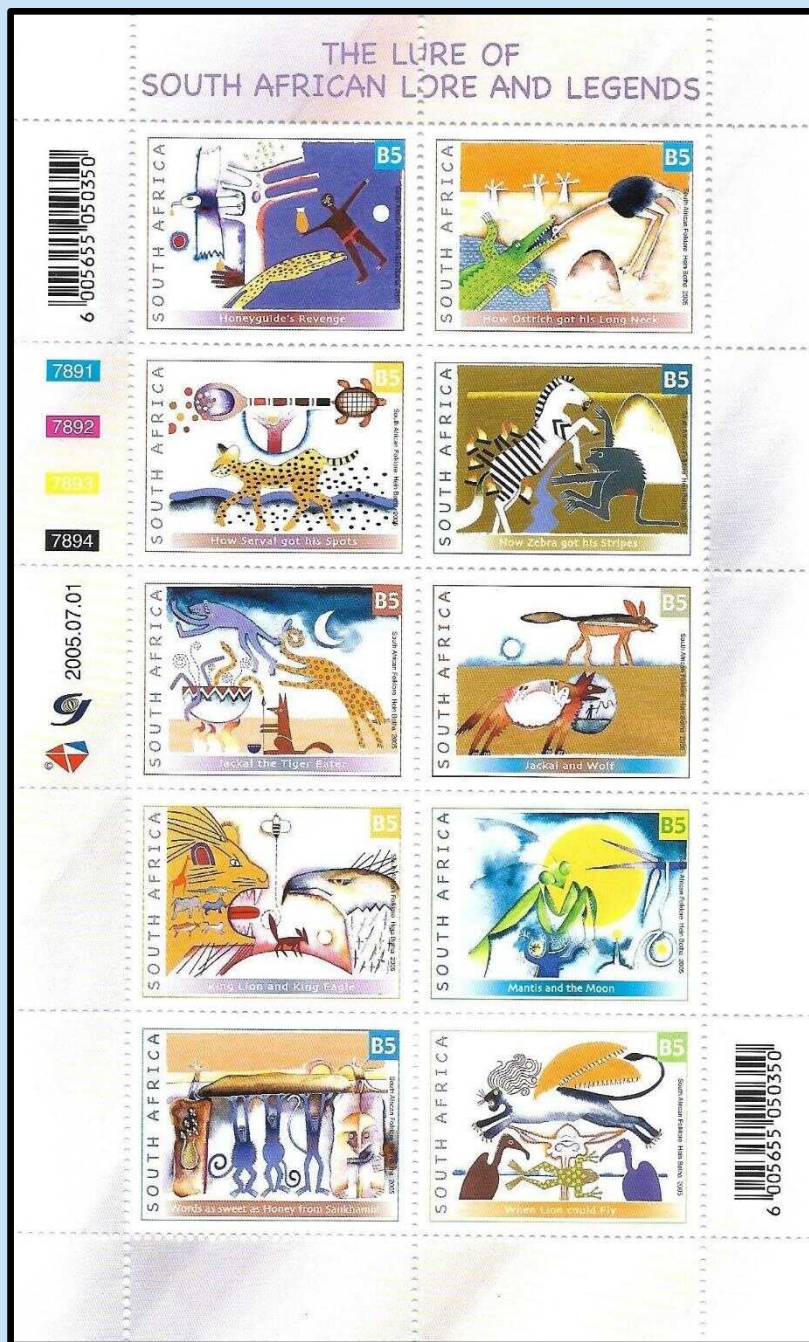
(17) Dunn & Co

Nice to know

RSA PHILATELIC FIRSTS'

Folklore and Legends,
1 July 2005

First B5 stamp.



SOMETHING TO LOOK FOR

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
19 November 1987

40c “The Word of God”



The stamp was part of a four-stamp set to commemorate the Bible Society of South Africa. The stamp contained “The Word of God” in script in Greek, the language of the New Testament, and Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament.

The Orthodox Jewish community protested that the stamp was a serious transgression of Judaic law, which states that God’s name may appear only in the Torah and prayer books.

At the time the stamp, as part of the set, was already supplied to Post Offices in South Africa before the date of issue.

As the Postal Authorities had not intended any offense, the stamp was recalled. Despite this, over 1 500 stamps as well as control blocks and First Day Covers were sold by some Post Offices over the counter.

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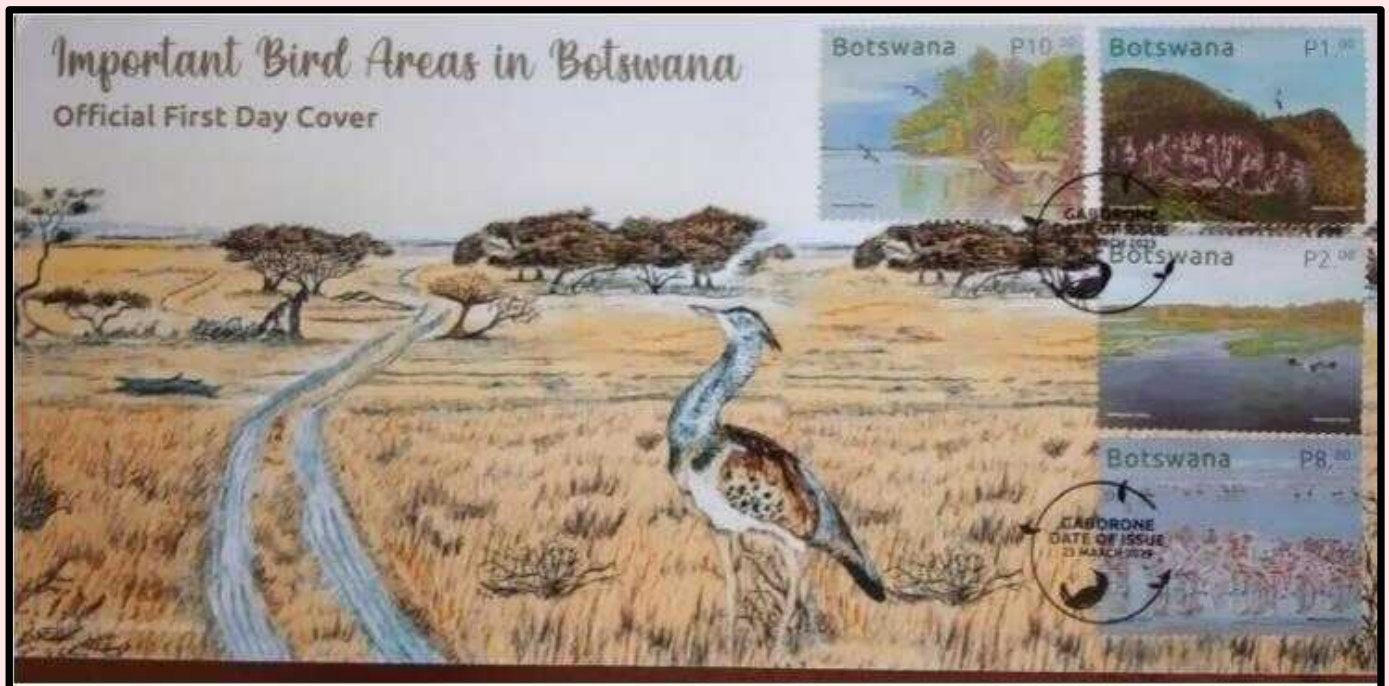
Keeping in Touch

Botswana – New Issues

Important Bird Areas in Botswana – 23 March 2023



Stamp size 30mm x 40mm



BotswanaPost Stamp Issuing Policy:

Botswana maintains a conservative issuing policy. A Definitive set is released every 5 years, illustrating a theme of international interest. commemorative sets are issued 4 or 5 times per year, illustrating themes that reveal the environment, cultural and historical heritage of Botswana.

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Namibia - New Issues

Crakes of Namibia - 4 April 2023



Numbers issued: 10 000 of each denomination and 500 FDC's.



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