

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 97:2. 965

www.stampssa.africa



Letter from Port Lockroy - Antarctica - southernmost post office in the world, seen in the International Space Station in orbit



A six pence rate January 1892 from Macloutsie to England.



A genuine inverted overprint is always set high, sometime touching the perforations at the top of the stamp.



The impact of decimalisation from 14 February 1961.

COVID-19

Moving the mail during a global pandemic



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South Africa

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The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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REGULARS

- 35 Closing dates for future issues
- 37 Letter to the Editorial Board
- 38 Phun with Postmarks
- 66 Society news
- 67 Errors on Stamps

FEATURES

- 36 PFSA Update - Federation News
by C.O.O. André du Plessis
- 36 *The four-part Event in Bloemfontein*
- 22 to the 24 July 2021: the 83rd PFSA Congress, Vrijstaat 2021
National Philatelic Exhibition, Junass & the Savpex 2021 Virtual Exhibition results
by Joof van der Merwe
- 37 2021 Cape Town International Exhibition - set of ten postcards
by Emil Minnaar RDPSA
- 40 To Space and Back: Letter from the World's Southernmost
Post Office to the International Space Station
by Gerhard Freund, Italy. Southtyrol
- 42 Protea Definitive Series: the Key to the Five Types of the 20c Stamp
by Dr Vic Sorour
- 43 Postal Rates Valid From 1st April 2021
- 44 Straying off the topic – again
by Sean Burke
- 46 Revisiting the SWA Type 1 Forged inverted Overprints
by Mike Tonking RDPSA
- 48 The Laingsburg Flood: 25 January 1981
by Johan Joubert
- 52 The Post Office at Macloutsi
by Andrew Briscoe
- 55 Going Nowhere, Slowly
by David Wigston
- 56 The Functioning of the Postal System - Part 2: The impact of
decimalisation in 1961 on the postal rates of the RSA
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
- 59 Obituary - Wim Hardijzer
- 60 The Development of Postal Services in the Schoonberg & Kammanassie Region
by ds.Pauw Steyl RDPSA
- 63 Practical One Frame Class Exhibiting
by Neil Cronjé RDPSA and André du Plessis RDPSA
- 64 Bechuanaland
by Chris Mobsby RDPSA FRPSL, RNCP

ADVERTISERS

- 34 Filat AG
- 50 Bill Barrell Ltd
- 54 John & Mark Taylor
- 64 Spink

Awards:

- Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- Federation Plaque 2004,
- Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.

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To avoid late delivery, please note; Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist*. **ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

• **June** 2021 - Volume. 97 : 3. 966. **10 May 2021** • **August** 2021 - Volume. 97: 4. 967. **9 July 2021**



FEDERATION NEWS

from the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA
André du Plessis 083 399 1755. <https://www.stampssa.africa>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



As we adjust to the Level 1 restrictions of the Covid lockdown and look forward with a greater respect for the events that 2021 promises, the impact of what these last months highlights, is the importance of 'keeping in touch'.

Philately has a way of bringing events to life. Changes that are brought about by political events, wars or disasters - all impact on what interests us and what we collect. In this issue the natural disaster of Laingsburg in 1981 may not offer a typical collecting subject, but if we begin to view natural disasters in a similar way to 'crash covers' the subject becomes more interesting and may attract an opportunity to expand it. Consider the Merriespruit Slimes Dam disaster 27 years ago, when on 22 February 1994 disaster struck the people of a small mining town. There must be philatelic material and communication around these events such as the postcards created to illustrate the Tulbach earthquake or the floods in Natal. Elements that remind us of the lives lost and their impact on communities, who would need a manageable way of communicating their loss. If you can add to and expand on these events, make us aware of your material.

On a more uplifting note - please participate in this years' exciting events and offer feedback for the new communication 'STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA', under the auspices of the PFSA, that is encouraging communication between all collectors.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy and honesty in the editorial columns of this magazine, the publisher and editor cannot be held responsible for inaccurate information supplied and consequently published. Publication of articles is subject to availability of space and cannot be guaranteed in each edition. Copyright for material published in this magazine is strictly reserved. Illustrations are not necessarily actual size because of space constraints.

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

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PLEASE NOTE:

Subscription for a printed copy is for six issues per year and automatically include access to an electronic copy. The 2021 rates are also available on the PFSA official website under 'CONTACT/JOIN': www.stampssa.africa



Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis at andredups@gmail.com Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benornyn, 1504. South Africa or email: janice@gdb.co.za

Advertising Rates available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis, Box 53100, Wierda Park, 1049 or email the Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za

DON'T MISS the four-part event in Bloemfontein - 22 to the 24 July 2021

- The 83 PFSA Congress • Vrijstaat 2021 National Philatelic Exhibition
- Junass and the Savpex 2021 Virtual Exhibition results.

VRIJSTAAT 2021 and CONGRESS NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 22 - 24 JULY 2021

The 2021 National Philatelic Exhibition will be held in Bloemfontein from 22 to 24 July 2021 at the Kopano Nokeng Conference venue.

First entries have been received, and the Chairman of the Jury, Michael Wigmore RDPSA is appointing the jury members, to be announced in due course and will announced in the June 2021 issue of **The SA Philatelist**.

For the first time, three National exhibitions supported by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, will be hosted at the same time - namely the National Exhibition, SAVPEX and JUNASS together with the 83rd PFSA Congress.

We feel it necessary to have the support of Dealers and we are currently negotiating with SAPDA members to be present.

Last, but most important – **Please remember to enter!** We are looking forward receiving your entries. For more information such as exhibition guidelines, entry forms and prospectuses of the three exhibitions, please visit www.stampssa.africa or scan the QR code.



Preliminary Programme of events:

- Thursday 22 July: 13:00 - 19:00: Judging and Arrival of Dealers
- Friday 23 July: 09:00 - 17:00: Judging
- 13:00 - 18:00: Exhibition open to the public
- 19:00: Welcoming delegates and Jury/Dealer Dinner
- Saturday 24 July: 09:00 - 18:00: Exhibition open to the public
- 09:00: 83rd National Philatelic Congress
- 14:00 - 17:00: Jury critique at the exhibition frames
- 19:00: Palmares



The organising committee is set to give you a wonderful stamp show and an experience to remember. We look forward to seeing you at **Vrijstaat 2021**.

Contact person: **Joof van der Merwe**, jnc1@vodamail.co.za cell +27 82 824 6350
The preferred way of communication is via e-mail.



Virtual One Frame Exhibition

Once the SAVPEX Virtual is judged, results will be made public and be available on the PFSA website: www.stampssa.africa



Correspondence to THE SA PHILATELIST should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest may be published and stand the chance of being rewarded with a writing gift.

IS THIS A FLAW?

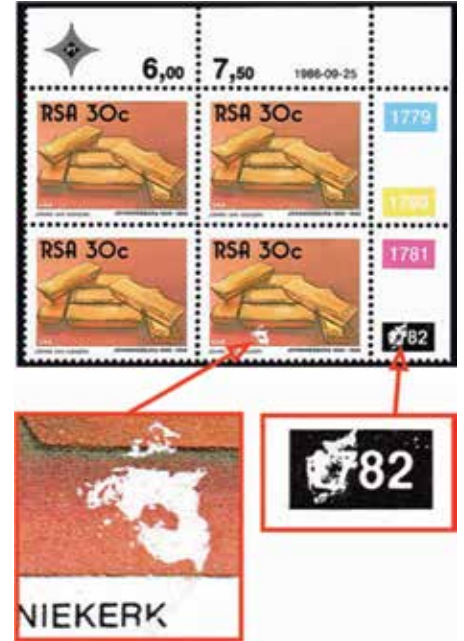
The control block show at right was issued in 1986 for the centenary of Johannesburg and is one of a set of four stamps. At first the white mark in the bottom right-hand stamp appears as if it was a splatter of Tippex.

If this were the case it should have a tactile feel like that of an embossed stamp. It doesn't. The enlargement also shows no shadow. It is not limited to the black colour as suggested by the plate number. This leads to the assumption that there must have been a piece of fluff on the paper as it passed through the printer.

The question that arises is this a flaw or a variety?

Can anyone shed some light on this matter?

David Wigston <speedbird.imperial@gmail.com>



Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition 9th - 13th November 2021

Dear Readers,

In order to raise funds for the planned 2021 Cape Town International Exhibition, a set of ten postcards depicting original artworks by Mrs. Julia Birkhead (wife of the late Harry Birkhead RDPSA) have been produced for sale to collectors.

These official Postal Stationery cards issued by the Post Office, the fourth in the series, will be sold in a packet of 10 designs, depicting indigenous birds.

Orders may be placed with Emil Minnaar. Tel. 063 803 3536 or by email: Emil@Minnaar.org

The cards will also be on sale at Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition in November. The selling price will be US \$17 plus Postage and Packaging of US \$8. (Local is R230 plus pp R20).

Payment may be made by EFT to the account of:

Philatelic Federation of SA

Standard Bank

Swift Code: SB ZAZAJJ

Branch Code: 012 442

Account Number: 023 304 669

or to PAYPAL account: Emil@Minnaar.org

Please support our endeavour.

Kind regards, Emil Minnaar



Olive Woodpeckers

Males have a red cap, and both sexes show a red rump that is conspicuous in flight. Some populations show a red patch at the center of the belly and others a completely white belly. Found in forest and dense woodlands. Restricted to middle and high elevations, though found down to sea level in South Africa. They forage in the upper canopies of trees, probing and pecking branches for insects and taking them up with their barbed tongue. Both sexes excavate the nest, which is an oval shaped hole in the trunk of a tree.



Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



The Post Office Savings Bank

Out of the blue I received an email from Vincent Kalkhoven requesting assistance with the identification of Fig.1.

SAVINGS BANK DEPT is inscribed at the top and at the base GPO CAPE TOWN. The date appears to be 1897. Putzel had not recorded any Savings Bank date stamps pre-1900 for Cape Town, nor had Frescura or Goldblatt. This was intriguing and with the assistance of Gerhard Kamffer, RDPSA, we managed to unravel the history of the Savings Bank, which is the subject of this column.

Fig.1: A Cape Town Savings Bank Dept date stamp of 1897, on a Cape of Good Hope 5/- stamp.



On the SA Post Office website it states that in 1884, the first Savings Bank was founded in Cape Town and by the end of that year 125 Post Office Savings Bank offices had been opened. In the Transvaal Almanac of 1897 statistics are presented on the deposits and pay-outs of the ZAR Savings Bank, from 1893. Fig.2 shows a cover which was dispatched to the Controller of the Savings Bank at the GPO Pretoria. Interestingly, the Savings Bank was established to foster a culture of saving (what's new?). The Orange Free State had issued Law No. 9 of 1897 to govern a Savings Bank. In 1901 the Postal Department of the Orange River Colony adopted the Regulations contained in the Law. Although no evidence was found regarding the situation in Natal, it is evident that there were Savings Banks in the provinces prior to 1900. In a GPO publication 'The Post Office 1910 – 1935' it was confirmed that prior to Union, each of the capital towns of the provinces was the head office of each provincial Post Office Savings Bank, with the exception of Johannesburg. At the formation of the Union Post Office Administration changes were gradually made until 1923 when the head office was in Pretoria and a subsidiary office in Cape Town for the southern region. It is not yet clear when the head office moved to Bloemfontein. The system also operated in South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland Protectorates.



Fig.2: Early correspondence to the Savings Bank Head Office in Pretoria (ex-Kamffer collection. reduced to 75%).

Most readers are familiar with the Post Office Savings Bank books. Figure 3 shows an early example of a saving book issued in Lijdenburg. It was serviced by the ZAR Administration in 1897, and after the war in 1906 it was audited at 'S.B. DEPT' at GPO Transvaal (Pretoria) and serviced in Lydenburg in 1907. This shows that the different administrations honoured the deposits and balances.



Fig.3: Pre- and post-War use of a savings book (ex-Kamffer collection).

Johannesburg used five different S.B. date stamps. Besides the one shown in Fig.4, the earliest recorded was 1935, and the latest 1978. Pietermaritzburg used two S.B. (1977) or S/BANK (1990) date stamps. Most of the Post Office Savings Bank date stamps are found in the savings books, which were sent to Pretoria or Cape Town, and later to Bloemfontein annually for auditing. In Bloemfontein a total of 18 numbered date stamps were used, although all the numbers have not yet been seen. The earliest recorded date is 1952, and the latest 1990, although a Savings Bank cachet of 1991 has been recorded.

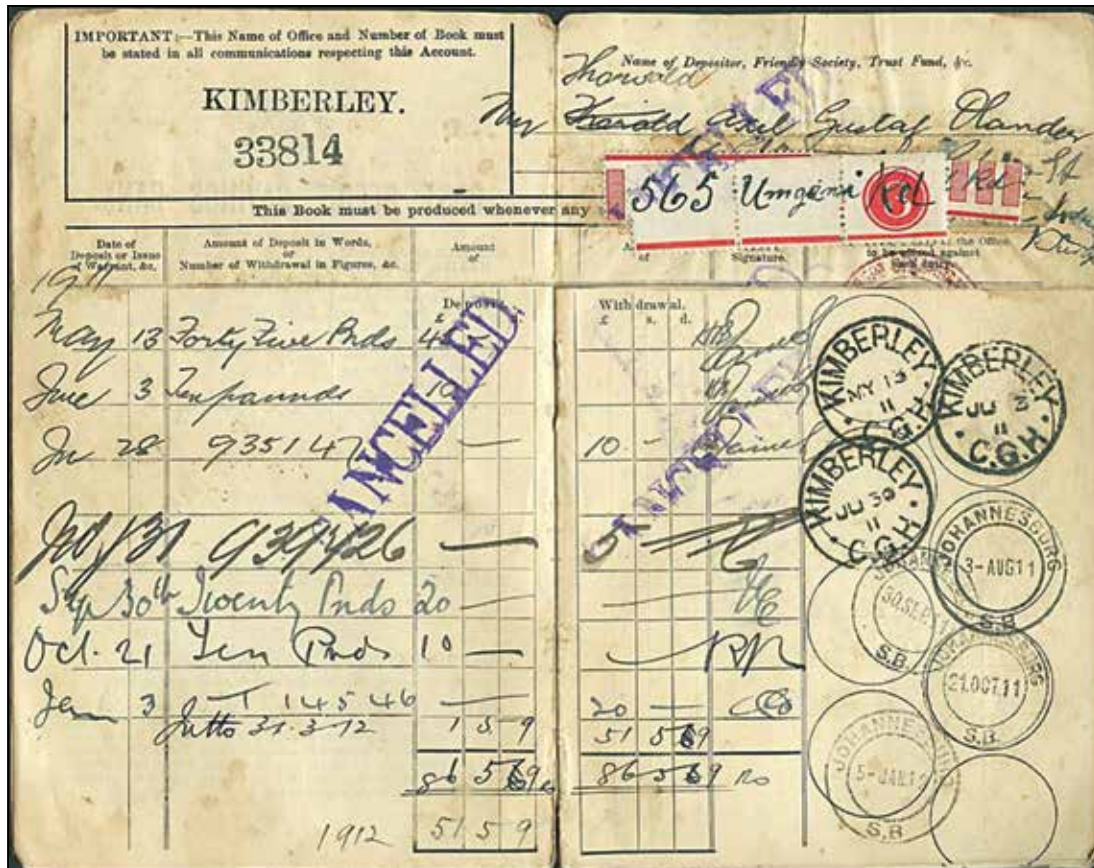


Fig.4: Interprovincial use of a savings book with savings bank counter date stamps of Kimberley and Johannesburg (A. du Plessis).

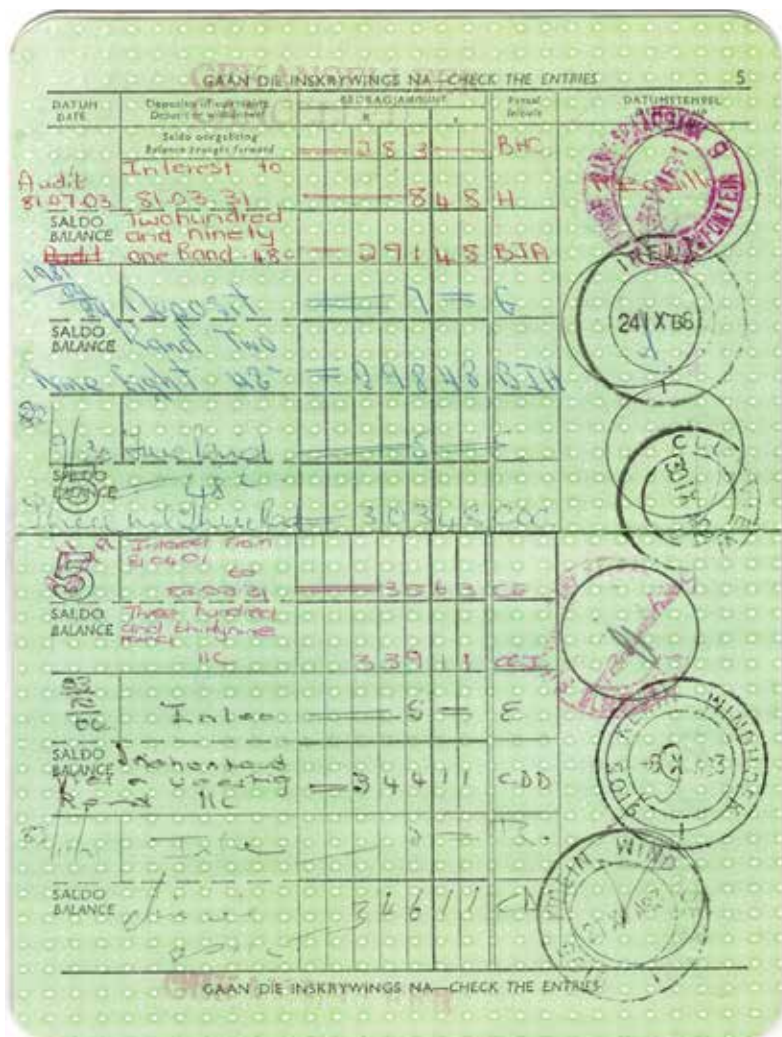


Fig.5: Transactions in South Africa and South West Africa audited in Bloemfontein in 1980s (S. Marsh).

When South West Africa was administered by South Africa prior to independence, the savings bank functioned as part of the South African Post Office. Fig.5 shows the audit in Bloemfontein, and transactions in Irene, Cullinan and Klein Windhoek. After independence (1990) a Namibian Savings bank was established. Fig.6a and 6b show the date stamps used prior to (5 examples) and after the year 2000 (9 examples).



Fig.6 (a&b): Examples of Namibian Savings Bank date stamp after independence

Min versamelaars beseft dat die Posspaarbank reeds sedert 1884 bestaan. Aangesien die stempels selde op posseëls gebruik is, was daar geen motivering om die boekies te bewaar nie. Veral vroeë voorbeelde word selde gesien. Die rapportering van sulke materiaal sal bydra om die fynere detail van ons posgeskiedenis te boekstaaf.



TO SPACE AND BACK

by Gerhard Freund, Southtyrol - Italy

Letter from the World's Southernmost Post Office to the International Space Station (ISS)

Next to the postmark of Port Lockroy (Fig.1 & 2) you can see the postmark of the ISS on the left side (MOCKBA=Moscow and MKC=ISS) with date 09.04.20.

The letters were sent from Port Lockroy on the 14.01.20 and arrived in Moscow at the beginning of March during the Corona pandemic. There the letters were handed over to the cosmonauts.

In total there were four covers, which started from the cosmodrome of Baikonur in Kazakhstan with the spacecraft Soyuz MS-16 and docked at the ISS on 9 April 2020.

The crew consisted of the Russian cosmonauts Ivanishin Anatoli Alekseyevich, Vagner Ivan Viktorovich and an American astronaut Cassidy Christopher John.

After undocking, the ISS on 21.10.2020, the letters had travelled 135,541,000 kilometres on board the ISS.

*** Skuas (*Stercorariidae*) Birds**
The skuas are a group of predatory seabirds with seven species forming the *genus Stercorarius*, the only genus in the family *Stercorariidae*. The three smaller skuas are called jaegers in American English (Fig.4).

The southernmost civil post office on earth is located in Port Lockroy on Goudier Island in a natural harbour on the Antarctic Peninsula (Fig.7). To be precise, the building is located at 64 ° 49 'S and 63 ° 30' W.



Fig.1: Registered cover from the Antarctic, the reverse is shown in Fig.2.

Port Lockroy (Fig.6) was initially a whaling base and later, a weather and radio station which was closed in 1962. Over the following decades the buildings were left to wind, ice and snow. In 1996 and over the next few years, the buildings were listed, catalogued and renovated.

Today it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Antarctica and includes a museum, gift shop and post office (Fig.5). The station is managed by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Numerous cruise ships stop in Port Lockroy. In addition to the Port Lockroy Post Officer, there are also three scientists at the station who are researching the behaviour of Gentoo Penguins and the effects of visiting tourists.

As a precautionary measure, tourists are only allowed to enter a certain part of the island and must use the designated paths. It seems that visiting tourists have had a positive effect on the penguins, as the Skuas* (see bottom of blue side-bar, Fig.4) stay away due to the presence of people. The station is manned during the Antarctic summer from November to the end of February. Only British Antarctic Territory (BAT) stamps are used in the post office. A dedicated postmark is also used.

In December 2019, I had the idea to send a special kind of envelope/letter on the trip. The start and finish of the journey had one thing in common: they are outposts of humanity where a normal life is not possible due to the inhuman environment.

I wanted to send a letter from Port



Fig.2: Reverse of cover in Fig. 1.



Fig.3: Four covers arrive at Goudier Island harbour on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Lockroy to the ISS (International Space Station). It took a lot of organising for my project to be successful. I had made contact with an employee of the UKAHT (The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust) in Great Britain years ago, who had been of great help to me in the past. Now, through direct contact with employees in Port Lockroy, and with the procurement of envelopes and postcards, I also needed a contact person in Russia for the forwarding to the ISS.

Igor Rodin, a well-known collector and examiner of space philately, who had direct contact with cosmonauts, helped me with this. So we began our joint project. The team in Port Lockroy wrote the letter, provided the envelope with stamps of the BAT (Fig.5), registration label, cachet of the station with the date and postmark Port Lockroy 14 January 2020. In total there were four letters that started the extraordinary journey via the Falkland Islands (Fig.3).

At the beginning of March, the letters arrived in Russia during the corona pandemic and were handed over to the cosmonauts. The 62nd ISS expedition started on 9 April 2020 from the Cosmodrome in Baikonur (Kazakhstan) with the Soyuz 2.1a launcher and a Soyuz MS-16 spacecraft that took the letters with it to the ISS. The envelopes and also the letters were postmarked on the ISS with the postmark and the two on-board cachets. The ISS is at an altitude of 400 kilometres and orbits the earth at 28,900 km/h.

The un-docking from the ISS took place on 21 October 2020 and the crew returned to Earth safely.



Fig.4: The skuas are a group of predatory seabirds.



Fig.5: Royal Mail postbox.



Laura MacNeil (photographer)

Fig.6: a view of the Port Lockroy station.



Photographer Rachel Morris - Port Lockroy.

Fig.7: Goudier Island in a natural harbour on the Antarctic Peninsula.

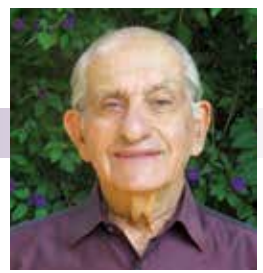


Fig.8: One of three photos of my covers in the ISS cupola with earth in the background.

My letters travelled 135,541,000 kilometres on board the ISS. It is the first time that a letter was sent from Antarctica to the ISS. Polar and space philately are united on the envelope.

Follow this link where you can see different photos of space covers and also photos of the covers in the ISS cupola (Fig.8): http://astrophilatelist.com/news/space_mail/1-0-3.

PS: Readers may like to know that my main collecting interest is postal history of Southtyrol, occupied by Italian troops after WWI and later by German troops during WWII. Until the end of WWI, Southtyrol was a part of Austria.



PROTEA DEFINITIVE SERIES: THE KEY TO THE FIVE TYPES OF THE 20c STAMP

by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Protea Definitive Series were issued on 27 May 1977. The series consisted of seventeen stamps. Nine values (1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 15c and 20c) were printed by rotogravure. Eight values (6c, 7c, 9c, 25c, 30c, 50c, R1 and R2) were printed by lithography. Two values (3c and 20c) were subsequently also printed by lithography.

A Very Basic Explanation of Groups, Issues and Printings

When the postal authorities produce a new stamp issue, an artist is commissioned to design the stamp(s). Dick Findlay was the artist chosen to design the Protea Definitive Series. After the design has been approved, printing cylinders are made to produce the stamps.

Group 1. Issue 1. Print 1.

The number of sheets printed is determined by the expected demand for the stamp.

If after the passage of time, more stamps are needed, the same set of cylinders is used. This stamp would be:

Group 1. Issue 1. Print 2.

This is the second printing (Print 2) of Issue 1. The next time the cylinders are used results in Print 3. The term Print is related to the issue.

If for some reason the same set of cylinders cannot be used (one or more of the cylinders is damaged) a new cylinder is made. This results in a new Issue.

This stamp would be:

Group 1. Issue 2. Print 1.

Note that the Print reverts to 1.

This is the first printing of Issue 2

When the design of the stamp is altered, a new Group results. This stamp would be:

Group 2. Issue 3. Print 1

Note that the Issue does not revert to one but increases by one. This is the third Issue of the 20c stamp.

The Five Types of the 20c stamp (Table 1)

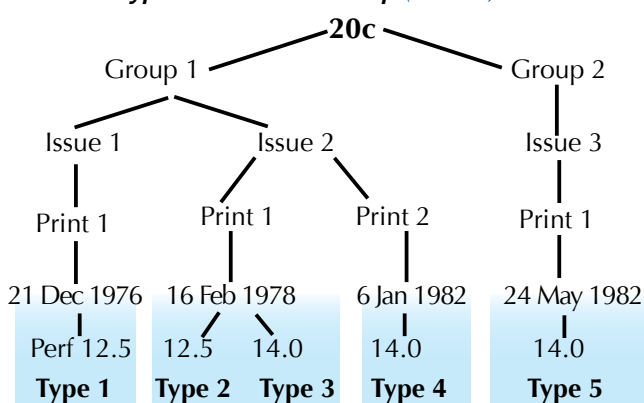


Table 1. Summary of the five types of the 20c Protea Stamp

There are two Groups of the twenty-cent stamp. The first printed by rotogravure, the second printed by lithography. There are two Issues in Group 1. The first was printed on 21 December 1976, perforated 12.5, Issue 1. (Type 1).

Although the same five cylinder numbers (722, 735 - 738) were used for Issue 2, new plates had been prepared as

can be identified by the marginal bars (Fig.4). There are two printings in 'Issue 2', printed on 16 February 1978 and 6 January 1982, respectively. The first printing is perforated 12.5 (Type 2) or 14.0 (Type 3). The second printing is perforated 14.0 (Type 4). Issue 3 (Group 2) was printed on 24 May 1982 and is perforated 14.0. (Type 5)

THE KEY

Step 1:

Q: Does the stamp belong to Group 1 or Group 2?

A: Look just above the inscription on the bottom margin (Fig.1).



Group 1



Group 2

Fig.1. The different design. Small gaps and large gaps.

In Group 1 the leaves are nearly flush with the bottom frame line, in Group 2 there are large gaps between the two. This is best seen just above the 'ea' of 'Protea' and above '1977'.

If the stamp belongs to Group 1 go to Step 2.

If the stamp belongs to Group 2 then it is Issue 3 or Type 5

There are other features that identify the Groups:

• The Arrows, Fig.2.

The arrows are similar in design, size and colour in the two Groups, but in Group 1 they are 7 mm from the stamp and 3mm in Group 2.

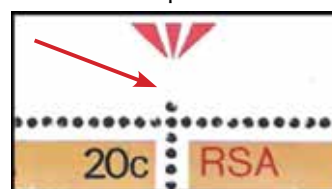
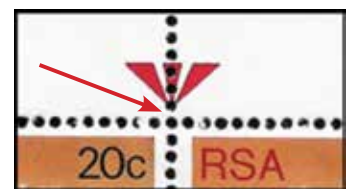


Fig.2. Group 1. 7mm



Group 2. 3mm.

• Marginal Bars or Values and Numerals, Fig.3, on the margins Marginal bars and coloured lines are present on the margins of Group 1.

Values and numerals are present on the margins of Group 2.

• The Perforation

Group 1 stamps are perforated 12.5 or 14.0. Group 2 stamps are perforated 14.0. Thus, stamps perforated 12.5 belong to Group 1. The reverse does not hold true. Stamps perforated 14.0 can belong to either Group 1 or 2.



Fig.3: Marginal bars in Group 1. Values or numerals in Group 2.

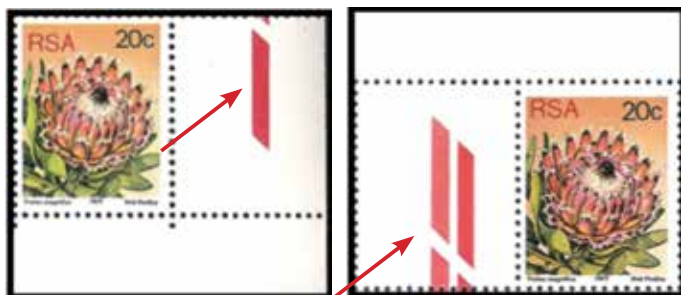
• **The Margins**

All four margins are perforated through in Group 2. In Group 1, the margin may be imperforate, have a single perforation or be perforated through. Thus, any margin that is not perforated through belongs to Group 1. The reverse does not hold true. A perforated margin may belong to either Group 1 or 2.

Step 2: The stamp belongs to Group 1

Q: Does the stamp belong to Issue 1 or Issue 2?

A: Look at the marginal bars on the LM (left margin) of Pane A or the RM (right margin) of Pane B.



Issue 1. Single Marginal Bar

Issue 2. Two Marginal Bars

Fig. 4. The Marginal Bars

If there is a single marginal bar, this is Issue 1. Type 1
If there are two marginal bars, this is Issue 2. Go to Step 3.

Step 3: The stamp belongs to Issue 2

Q: What is the perforation?

A: If the perforation is 12.5, the stamp belongs to Issue 2, Print 1. Type 2.

If the perforation is 14.0, the stamp belongs to Issue 2, Print 1, or Print 2.
Go to step 4.

Step 4: The stamp belongs to Issue 2, Perforation 14.0

Q: Is the top/bottom margin perforated?

A: The top and bottom margins are not perforated.
This is Issue 2, Print 1. Type 3.

The top/bottom margin is perforated.

This is Issue 2, Print 2. Type 4.

POSTAL RATES - VALID FROM 1 APRIL 2021

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Domestic Letter	New Rate R c	Old Rate R c	Increase %
Small DL	5.34	4.90	8.98
Medium B5	10.75	9.85	9.14
Large B4	13.15	12.05	9.13

Domestic Postcards: Same rates as letters.

Registered letters, with insurance option.

Compensation up to R100.00 at no additional fee. Insurance for higher amounts is available for an additional fee based on a sliding scale. The maximum insured value is R2,000.00 for which the fee is now R214.10 (previously R196.40, an increase of 9.01 %).

Small DL	(5.34 + 32.11)	37.45	34.35	9.02
Medium B5	(10.75 + 32.10)	42.85	39.30	9.03
Large B4	(13.15 + 31.95)	45.10	41.35	9.07

International

Registration fee 50.75 46.55 9.02
There is no insurance option for international letter post.

Aerograms	8.00	7.35	8.84
Postcards – Airmail	10.85	9.95	9.05
Postcards – Surface	6.60	6.05	9.09

Airmail letters – Southern Africa

Small DL	9.75	8.95	8.94
Medium B5	35.45	32.50	9.08
Large B4	55.05	50.50	9.01
Small packets (per 100 g)	31.20	28.60	9.09

Airmail letters – Rest of the world

Small DL	12.65	11.60	9.05
Medium B5	42.85	39.30	9.03
Large B4	72.55	66.55	9.02
Small packets (per 100 g)	54.90	50.35	9.04

New rates taken from *Government Gazette*, No. 44117 (28 January 2021).



South African National Exhibitions in 2021

Please diarise 22-24 July 2021.

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, the NATIONAL, JUNASS and SAVPEX 2021 exhibitions will take place in Bloemfontein.



For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe <jnc1@vodamail.co.za> or visit the Federation website <https://www.stampssa.africa>

More specific and up-to-date news will be shared with the Philatelic Societies in due course.



Straying off the topic – again by Sean Burke, Rhodesian Study Circle



In the last edition of *The South African Philatelist*, I dipped a small toe into the world of postmarks, and, in particular, the so-called ‘Skeleton’ postmarks of Southern Rhodesia. My focus, albeit limited, was to look at these postmarks on the 1910-1913 ‘Double Head’ Issue. However, I chanced upon a much later use of this type of postmark when I acquired from eBay, a copy of the magazine of the Initial Training Wing (ITW) situated near Bulawayo in WWII.

This ‘in-house’ sixteen-page magazine was aptly called *Fledgling* (Fig.1). The copy I acquired had been taped together and mailed to the UK. Published fortnightly by the ITW, Hillside Camp, Bulawayo, it was printed by the Rhodesian Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd. This particular issue, dated 2 July 1943, had been sent via mail by 1684998, A. Haselgrove to his parents, Mr and Mrs Haselgrove at 366 Kingsway, Manchester. A 1d Southern Rhodesia definitive was affixed and cancelled with the ITW Bulawayo canceller (Fig.2).

I did a little research. The Initial Training Wing - Bulawayo, was established to train cadet pilots in all the ground subjects required before their flying training. (Fig.3). This was part of the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) set up to prepare pilots for war service. The Rhodesia Air Training Group (RATG) grew to be, after Canada, the largest such programme in WWII within the EATS. The ITW was based at RAF Hillside camp, Bulawayo. This was an assortment of temporary and existing buildings on the Bulawayo Agricultural Show grounds.

In his book, *Two Air Forces*, Jock Cassels explains that the main subjects were: Navigation, Theory of Flight, Meteorology, Aircraft Engines, Aircraft Recognition, Airmanship and other Service related subjects. But there were opportunities for other pursuits: [It was] *arranged for us to spend our two weeks’ leave on a farm well out in the bush where the farmer showed us how to hunt local buck, (something like a Springbok), and what isolated life was like in the Rhodesian bush. I should mention that it was at ITW that I had my first taste of alcohol when my more worldly colleagues persuaded me to have a bottle of beer in the camp canteen.* After passing the course at the ITW, Cassels was posted to the Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) in Salisbury where he started on Tiger Moths.

Glossary:

- ANS - Air Navigation School
- ARU - Aircraft Repair Unit
- BGTS - Bombing and Gunnery Training School
- CFS - Central Flying School
- EFTS - Elementary Flying Training School
- FIS - Flying Instructors School
- SFTS - Service Flying Training School
- SRAF - Southern Rhodesia Air Force

Table of the units that formed the Rhodesia Air Training Group during WWII

Unit Name/No.	Base	Major types of aircraft	Role	Notes
No. 25	Belvedere, Salisbury	Tiger Moth, Cornell & Harvard	EFTS	
No. 20	Cranborne, Salisbury	Harvard 1, 2, 2a, 3 and Oxford	SFTS	
No. 27	Induna, Bulawayo	Tiger Moth & Cornell	EFTS	
No. 23	Heany, Bulawayo	Oxford	SFTS	
No. 21	Kumalo, Bulawayo	Oxford	SFTS	
No. 26	Guinea Fowl, Gwelo	Tiger Moth & Cornell	EFTS	
No. 22	Thornhill, Gwelo	Harvard 1, 2, 2a, 3	SFTS	
No. 24 Bombing, Gunnery and Navigation	Moffat, Gwelo	Battle, Oxford and Anson	BGTS	
No. 24 Combined Air Observation School	Moffat, Gwelo	Battle, Oxford and Anson	BGTS	Split into 24 BGTS & 29 EANS
No. 29 Elementary Navigation School[4]	Moffat, Gwelo	Battle, Oxford and Anson	ANS	
No. 28	Mount Hampden	Tiger Moth, Cornell & Harvard	EFTS	
No. 31	Cranborne	Harvard (for Comms)	ARU	
No. 32	Heany	Harvard (for Comms)	ARU	
Rhodesian Central Flying School	Norton	All types used in Group	CFS	Renamed 33 FIS
No. 33	Norton	All types used in Group	FIS	Renamed CFS (SR)
Central Flying School (Southern Rhodesia)	Norton	All types used in Group	CFS	
Communications Flight	Belvedere	Tiger Moths, Cornells & Harvards	Comms Flt	SRAF unit



Fig.1: The cover of the magazine 'Fledgling'.

Now a return to my copy of *Fledgling*, and, more importantly for this exercise and this publication, the postmark. It is 'skeleton' cancel ITW BULAWAYO / S. RHODESIA. To spice things up, the day, month and year – JY 2 / 43 - are inverted! See Fig.2.

A comment in the *Rhodesian Study Journal* in 1991: reflects that of all the camp Post Offices, ITW has the most prolific range of skeletons with misspellings and varieties. With some guidance from fellow RSC member, Mike Hughes, it has been possible to track some unusual errors/omissions and downright poor spelling. Mike's research shows various spellings of Bulawayo:

- JU 5 42 BULAAWYO
- OC 8 42 BULAWAOY
- JA 14 44 BOULAWAYO
- (S)P 6 44 BULAWA O
Missing 'Y' and missing 'S' in 'SP'
- JY 20 44 BUALWAY
Missing 'O' and the whole date is inverted

And there are combinations - where we have the spelling of Bulawayo correct and the date incorrect and vice versa; then we have cancels when ITW is shown before and after BULAWAYO, and on it continues.



Fig.2: ITW Bulawayo cancel.



Fig.3: RAF cadets arriving at the Initial Training Wing, Bulawayo, (Ex Air Ministry Second World War Official Collection)

So a whim purchase of *Fledgling*, late at night, yielded the chance to learn a bit more. And that is part of our daily bread.

VISIT CAPE TOWN!

Visit the 2,000 frame International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX), Cape Town in November 2021. See Gerhard Kamffer's International award-winning exhibit 'The Road to Democracy' featuring letters written by former SA President Nelson Mandela from Robben Island. For more information please visit: capetown2021.org



Revisiting The SWA Type 1 Forged Inverted Overprints

by Mike Tonking RDPSA, SA Study Group UK

Union King's Head stamps bearing the type 1 overprint setting I applied by the Government Printing Works were issued in South West Africa on 1 January 1923. Three duties, namely the 1d., 2d., and 1/3, were found with the overprint inverted during 1923. There was much discussion at the time, chronicled in *The South African Philatelist (SAP)* as to the origin of the inverted overprints and it is worth quoting from an article by H. Mallet-Veale, a keen collector, which appeared in *The SAP* of July 1925:

- 1d. (SG 2a)
One complete pane: received by a Paris firm of repute ... directly from Windhoek.
- 2d. (SG 3a)
Three complete sheets: one sold over the counter at Usakos; a second over the counter at Windhoek; and a third received by a London dealer of repute from Windhoek in a parcel of stamps ordered!
- 1/3 (SG 8a)
Issuing office unknown, but undoubtedly emanated from SWA.

It is considered that there was probably a complete sheet consisting of four panes (120 pairs) of the 1d. value with the inverted overprint. Naturally there was keen collector demand for the inverted overprints and it must be supposed, because of the scarcity, it was not long before they attracted the attention of the forger. As early as 1923 there were rumours of forgeries and *The SAP* of October 1931 made reference to the forged inverted overprint on the 1d. value and alerted collectors to the means of identification of the forgery (Fig.1).

Quantities of genuine Inverted Overprints

Value	SG Number	Printing Requisition	Sheets	Pairs	Remarks
1d.	SG 2a	396	1	120	Thought to be one sheet
2d.	SG 3a	396	3	360	
1/3	SG 8a	491	2	240	Natie Becker aware of two sheets

As far as can be ascertained the numbers quoted above are correct. It is recorded that there may have been an inverted overprint applied to the 1/2d. value, but if indeed true, it probably emanated from printer's waste and was not sold over a Post Office counter.

The overprinting of the Type 1 setting was a miserable effort for it contained no end of discrete overprint flaws by which the majority of the 240 individual stamps may be positioned in the four-pane sheet. This of course would have presented a very real problem to the forger who would not necessarily have been aware of these flaws. In any event, even had he known of the flaws he would have had greatest difficulty in replicating them.

At the same time the forger had to ensure that the typographed lettering, spacing, as well as the dimensions of the overprints were exactly the same as for the genuine inverted overprints.

Furthermore, it was important to ensure that the position of the forged overprint in relation to the stamp frame was correct. Apart from these technicalities it was essential to make sure that the forgery was applied to a stamp of the correct colour shade.

It is fortunate that the forger chose to ignore these points and managed to produce, on the 1d., 2d., and 1/3 values, perfectly centred inverted overprints with incorrect dimensions on stamps of the wrong shade of colour. We will never know how many forgeries of these and other values were manufactured and how many collectors had been fooled into believing that they possessed a genuine rarity. It is not known with certainty where the forgeries were made although there is reference to the U.K. in *The SAP* of January 1928. The notorious *Callard Trial* of August 1928 may point to the production of forgeries inside or out of The Government Printing Works. Sufficient to say it would have been convenient to use the readily available typeset.

Since it was accepted that the genuine inverted overprints existed on the 1d., 2d., and 1/3 values, the forger may have concentrated on these values.

However, forgeries of the 1/2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- values also exist (Fig.2). Doubtless the market for these values would not have been as brisk as for the 1d., 2d., and 1/3 values.

Forgery Identification

a. Measurement of the overprint

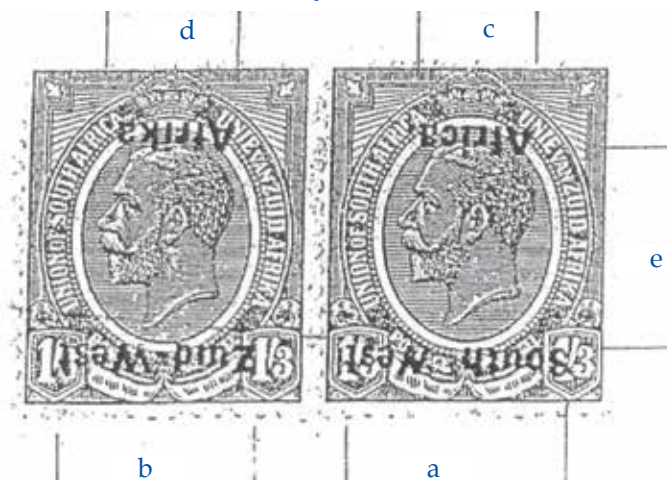


Fig.1.

The measurements have been made using a graduated 9x magnifying toolmakers glass measuring to 0.1 mm.

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	South West	Zuid-West	Africa	Afrika	Distance between overprints*
Genuine	14.5mm	12.8mm	8.5mm	8.5mm	14.0mm
Forgery	15.1mm	13.5mm	8.5mm	8.8mm	13.5mm

* Measured from the top of the last 'a' in Africa / Afrika to the bottom of the right arm of the 'W' in West.

Despite the small variations, careful measurement of the overprints will immediately alert the collector to the forgery.



Fig.2

b. Overprint position relative to the King's Head in the upright position

1d. Value (Fig.3)

The genuine inverted overprint is always found to be set high, touching or almost touching the perforations at the top of the stamp. The forgery presents a perfectly centred inverted overprint fit to grace any album page.

2d. Value (Fig.4)

In this case the genuine inverted overprint is misplaced to the left as compared with the perfectly centred forgery.

1/3 Value (Fig.5)

As in the case of the 1d. value the genuine inverted overprint is set high and almost touching the perforations at the top of the frame line. The exact position of 'Africa' depends upon the stamp position in the sheet. The spacing becomes progressively larger towards the bottom of the sheet.

c. Colour

Since the shades of colour are subjective in the eye of the beholder it is always best to compare against a stamp with a genuine inverted overprint.

Value	Genuine	Forgery
1d. (SG 2a)	Pale rose	Scarlet
2d. (SG 3a)	Grey lilac	Dull mauve
1/3 (SG 8a)	Violet	Pale violet

d. Overprint Characteristics

As already noted, the genuine inverted overprint will, more often than not, exhibit discrete flaws which together with the other means of identification described above will enable the collector to make a positive identification. It should be noted that the position of these flaws will be reversed when compared with the normal sheet with the normal upright overprint.

Illustrations of the Genuine and Forged Inverted Overprints

Figure 2 illustrates a complete set of the values to 1/3 all with forged inverted overprints. It would appear that the same overprint type was applied to each value. The 1/2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- values are seldom seen with the forged inverted overprint.

Figures 3,4 and 5 illustrate the 1d., 2d. and 1/3 values with genuine and forged inverted overprints. The well centred forged overprints are an immediate give away.



Fig.3: Genuine Overprint. Overprint set to top of stamp.



Forged Overprint.

Fig. 4: Genuine Overprint. Overprint misplaced to the left.



Forged Overprint.



Fig. 5. Genuine Overprint. Overprint set to top of stamp.

Forged Overprint.

References for this article appear on p67.

The Laingsburg Flood: 25 January 1981

by Johan Joubert, Pretoria Philatelic Society - email<johanjoubert66@gmail.com>



The aim of this article is to describe the impact of a tragic day in the history and the aftermath on the community of Laingsburg - relevant philatelic material seems non-existent but perhaps this article may help to identify such items.

The town of Laingsburg, is located in the Western Cape province in South Africa. It is known as the second capital of the Karoo, situated on the main railway line and the National Road, 274km from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

Following the arrival of the early Dutch, German and Huguenot pioneer settlers in 1727-1728, the area was settled by 18 Trekboer (farmer) families who trekked up from Stilbaai and Swellendam to establish sheep and orange farms in the area.

Railway origins

In the 1870s, the government of Prime Minister John Molteno oversaw a massive expansion of the Cape Colony's railway system. The route ran past a farm named *Vischkuil-aan-de-Buffelsrivier* (fishing pond on the Buffalo River) which a man called Stephanus Greeff then bought for the purpose of development.

Name changes

The line was completed in 1878 and a small siding named 'Buffelsrivier' was built at the farm. With railway access, a town soon began developing. It was renamed 'Nassau' to avoid confusion with Buffalo River in East London, and finally changed to the name Laingsburg, after John Laing who was Commissioner of Crown Lands at the time and eventually acquired municipal status in 1906.

River and swept away everything it encountered in its way. Animals, humans and their possessions were swept along and later dumped under metres of silt. Hydrologists estimate that a flood in Laingsburg of this magnitude has a recurrence interval of once, on average, every 100 years.



Fig.2: Registered Cover posted at Laingsburg, dated 8.4.1987.

Before the flood, rain had initially started with a light drizzle - welcomed by farmers in the area, since it doesn't often rain here. The soil of the area doesn't absorb much water, with the consequence that rain water drains directly into the rivers. Water built up in both the Baviaans and Buffels Rivers at their confluence in the little town. The rivers quickly grew from normally small streams to a roaring wall of water almost six metres high. Within hours the whole town was under water and residents had to fight for their lives. Trapped by the fast running and swiftly rising water, the only course of action



Fig.1: The Laingsburg Post Office - fortunately no Postal material was damaged during the flood of 1981.

The Post Office

It was renamed on 1.7.1888 from 'Buffels River Station' to Laingsburg. In the *Post Office Guide* dated January 1892, it indicates that Laingsburg was a Money Order Office under the division of Worcester. It was declared as a Post Office in 1894 and continued as such since then (Figs.1 & 2).

The Laingsburg Flood 25 January 1981

On this day in Laingsburg's centennial year, the larger part of the town was swept away within minutes by one of the strongest floods ever experienced in the Great Karoo. After a cloud burst in the north-eastern hinterland, south of the Komsberg, a massive wall of water rushed down the Buffels



Figs.3 & 4: Two postcards issued by Laingsburg Tourism. These postcards show the intensity and devastation that the flood created within a couple of hours.



was for people to seek refuge on the rooftops of their houses until these too were swept away by the flood; 425mm of rain fell in two days on 24 and 25 January 1981. The average annual rainfall is 175mm (Figs.3&4).

Only on 29 January 1981 could police release a complete list of 125 persons reported missing, all presumed drowned.

Fig.5: A memorial plaque identifies the flood victims and the 184 houses that were destroyed - only 21 houses in the village survived the flood. Swallowed by the silt of the Floriskraal dam, 56 of the 125 victims were never found.



Fig.6: After the flood the town was restored and today the only sign of the 'Day of the Buffalo', is the Laingsburg Flood Museum which is dedicated to capturing the essence of the town and its people, and conveying the mammoth effect of this disaster.

Memorabilia, artefacts and information continue to be gathered for an accurate, exhibition that speaks to the hearts and minds of those who visit (Fig.5).

The iron rubble found after the flood was used to make the burglar bars for the museum, and those form an artistic tour of their own (Fig.6). 'The memories will remain with those who witnessed and experienced this disaster' (Figs.7 - 11).

Fig.7: Mrs. (J. A.) Johanna Alida Le Roux, a retired teacher and stamp collector, owner of many philatelic relics discovered in the aftermath when the rescue workers cleaned the town. She was not in town when the flood happened.



Fig.8: Although these items may not be suitable for a philatelic exhibition, they can be regarded as similar to 'disaster-covers'.

References:

1. Putzel, R.F. 1987. *The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies*. Vol.2 (F-M). Cape Town: Hale & Putzel.
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laingsburg,_Western_Cape. Date downloaded 6.1.2021.
3. Steenkamp, Klasie, *Die Dorp in die Dam*. 2016, Printers Q4 Digital, Somerset-West
4. Laingsburg Museum & Tourist Info. Centre.



Fig.9: This souvenir cover was recovered, still with a Christmas card inside. The stamp was washed off the cover, cancelled with date stamp 23 December 1938.

Fig.10: The house in Swartberg Street where many Philatelic items were recovered - it was built in 1896 and was rebuilt after the flood.



Fig.11: (at left) The house has a plaque in black which indicates the flood line of that day.

Fig.12 & 13: Postmaster (P.F.R) Pieter Koen (51), and probably his last signature in his capacity of Postmaster of the Laingsburg Post Office, dated 24 January 1981.



Mr. Pieter Koen was the Postmaster at the time of the flood (Fig.12 & 13). He is one of the unsung heroes of that day. Having received the alarming news from his daughter Jeanette, of the water that was on its way, he made his way to his amateur radio (ZS1UN), as this was his hobby, and sent out the first 'Mayday' call for help, and also warned people by telephone about the flood. After a number of heroic deeds, he too must have died in the flood as his body has never been found.

The 'Flood Covers' tell the story of a tragedy when many people died in a natural disaster.

I am indebted to the people who consented to be interviewed:

- Mrs. Francis van Wyk from Laingsburg, a survivor of the flood.
- Lisinda, daughter of the late Mr. Pieter Koen.

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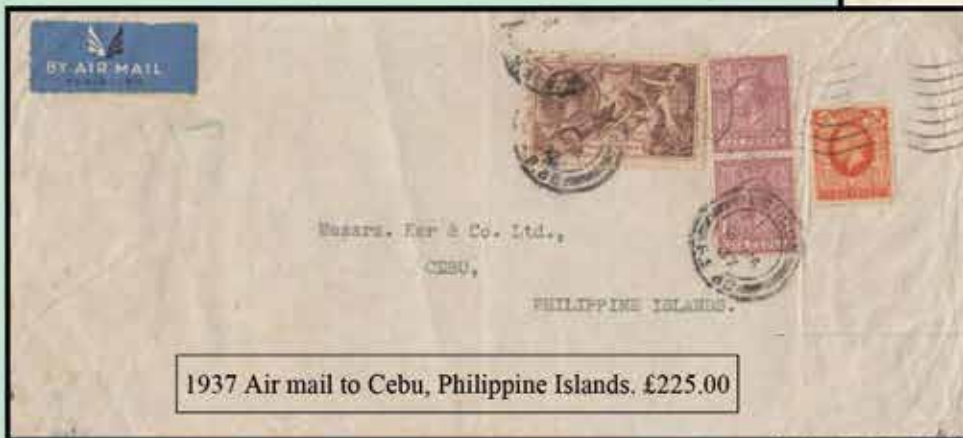
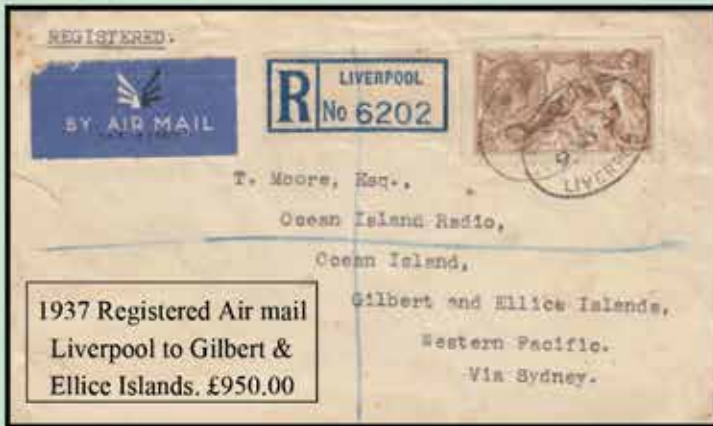
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The Post Office at Macloutsie, Bechuanaland

by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

In June 1891 Macloutsie, located in the far north east of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, became the Protectorate's first fully fledged Post Office. Little more than a year earlier, in April 1890, the Bechuanaland Border Police had established a camp on the Matlaputla River, near its junction with the Motloutse River. The site had a flat based summit suitable for construction of a fort, and there was a spring of clear water nearby. More water was available by digging in the sandy bed of the Matlaputla. The place was given the Scottish name of Macloutsie. The ruins of the fort, situated near the town of Bobonong, remain to this day.

The significance of Macloutsie arose because Cecil Rhodes and his newly chartered British South Africa Company were preparing for the imminent invasion of Mashonaland. A 'Pioneer Column' and a supporting police force was assembled at Macloutsie in May and June 1890. The column comprised some 200 pioneers, 350 mounted police and 400 ancillaries. The settlement at Macloutsie became the communication centre for the pioneers, and created an immediate need for a postal service.

The first official postal facility in Macloutsie was a sub-agency established in June 1890. The office was staffed by members of the Bechuanaland Border Police, and served by a weekly cart from Palachwe.

In February 1891 Major Grey, commander of the police fort at Macloutsie, petitioned the Postmaster-General in Vryburg that 'a properly qualified postal official be stationed at Macloutsie and special accommodation be provided for postal work, as Macloutsie is now the office of exchange between this department and the British South Africa Company system, and is also the terminus of the new mail cart service The work is at present dealt with by a non-commissioned officer of the Border Police. The postal material however passing to and from Mashonaland has increased so considerably during the past few months it now requires a named officer [of the postal department] to deal with it

The Appointment of J. E. Symons

In April 1891, a professional postal official was deployed, and in June 1891, the postal sub-agency was upgraded to the status of a post office. J.E. Symons, an experienced and dedicated officer, had previously served at the Mafeking Post Office in British Bechuanaland. He also provided his colleagues in England with a detailed account of his work at the Macloutsie Post Office. In a letter published in a Post Office journal, Symons described his initial impressions of Macloutsie.

He reported the office to be 'a busy office on mail days, as the whole of the mail going into British South African Company's territory is dealt with here; and the manner in which letters, papers, parcels, mail bags, &c., were strewn over the floor was thoroughly distracting. This has, however, been altered, and Macloutsie now boasts a very decent post office, with pigeon-holes, sorting table, and necessary office gear. It is a longish, roomy hut; and for the place and the times it is sufficient. A money order branch will, I think, be opened here before this reaches you.....'

The office is a large hut, 30 feet by 14, and is rather well built; the walls being of strong poles smeared over with clay and cow-dung; the roof is of dried grass. The windows are small wooden frames covered with canvas, as glass is scarce up here owing to the great distance it has to be transported by ox-wagon over a rough road..... The telegraph instrument is on a small, roughly-made table in the one corner, alongside of which is the safe, and next to that my office table, under which is arranged the Daniell's battery, so that I have to be careful with my feet. On the other side is the sorting table, about 10 feet in length and two feet wide; and 20 feet from the front door are arranged the pigeon-holes running nearly across the room, leaving just space enough for a small doorway leading into my chamber beyond. For the public there is a space inside about six feet square, the barrier consisting of boxes piled to a convenient height, and a small light table which I can move on one side to allow a passage to and from the public entrance; a very primitive letter box, four shelves, and two chairs complete the furniture and adornments of the office, barring some



Fig.1: A cover of January 1892 from Macolutsie to England at the six pence rate

lengths of limbo from one rafter to another, arranged as a ceiling to keep the dust and straw from the roof from falling on the tables.'

Symons also described the routine at the Post Office: 'The mail from Vryburg, including English and Colonial mails, arrives once a week, and up to the end of July brought me a large amount of work, as all the Mashonaland mails were made up in this office; running from 8 to 13 bags, and containing some 3,000 to 4,000 items, including letters 2d per ½ ounce, papers 1d per 4ozs.; parcels and book-packets 3d. per lb. The letter bills carried the total debits, and all the items had to be checked to avoid errors I used to empty all the mail bags on the floor, placing the papers, parcels, and book-parcels in distinct heaps, and the letters on the table The mail for Tati and Gubuluwayo (Lobengula's Kraal, Matabeleland) leaves here on Mondays at 3p.m. It is carried by native runners, who do not boast of much raiment; one carries the bag for Tati, and another the Buluwayo bag. They arrange the mail bag on the one end of a stick, and on the other end they fasten their blanket, sandals, 'tin billy' for cooking a piece of meat (sometimes), and some mealie-meal tied in a piece of cloth; the stick is put on the shoulder, they bid me 'Dumela' (good day), and the mail leaves. Tati is about 120 miles from here, and they do the journey in from 3 to 4 days. Other runners are engaged from Tati to Buluwayo, which is about 120 miles further.'

Fig.2: A pen and ink satirical hand drawn cover from Macloutsie to England in December 1892. Six pence was the correct rate to Great Britain for letters at the single rate: presumably this was a double rate letter, hence the '1/-' hand stamp being double the deficit.



In March 1892, a Board of Enquiry was appointed by the Postmaster-General to investigate the causes of inefficiency in the management of the Postal and Telegraph Administration in Bechuanaland. The Board's report was delivered in the following month and focused upon financial inefficiencies. In particular, it found that 'much confusion appears to have originated with the opening of the Post Office at Macloutsie, the officer at which station was not provided with the necessary office accommodation and account forms and did not receive any proper instructions as to the discharge of his duties. It further appears that much confusion occurred in the treatment of remittances made to the Postmaster General by the Postmaster at Macloutsie on account of his collections, each remittance being partly in cash, sometimes consisting of cheques not always negotiable and partly in receipts for letters sent beyond Macloutsie, the post on which is payable by the British South Africa Company and paid by the Company to the Postmaster General on the receipts being sent to their Cape Town office.'



Fig.3: A sketch of the Macloutsie Post Office.

But for the moment, Macloutsie remained the most significant postal establishment in the country. All sub-postmasters in the Protectorate were salaried, and each was issued with a credit stock of postage stamps that reflected the anticipated turnover of the sub-office. In 1893, the most highly paid was sub-postmaster Lance Corporal Pearson at

Macloutsie, who received £50 per annum, with a credit stock of stamps to the value of £75. Other sub-postmasters received an annual salary of £10, and a credit of stamps ranging in value from £10 at Gaborone Village to £50 at Palapye.

In early 1893, the Cape Colony took over responsibility for the Bechuanaland mail services and in August 1894, as part of a contract renewal with the Wirsing Brothers, the end-terminal for the main mail was changed from Macloutsie to Bulawayo. Macloutsie then ceased to be a staging post on the Matabeleland mail route, although it continued to receive a small mail from Palapye.



Fig.4: A cover from Macloutsie to England in September 1899 at the fourpence rate. By this date, Macloutsie had been downgraded from a Post Office to a Postal Agency.

The telegraph line had reached Macloutsie in May 1891, and a line from Macloutsie to Bulawayo was completed in 1893. Macloutsie thereafter remained a fairly important telegraph office despite the decline of its postal significance.

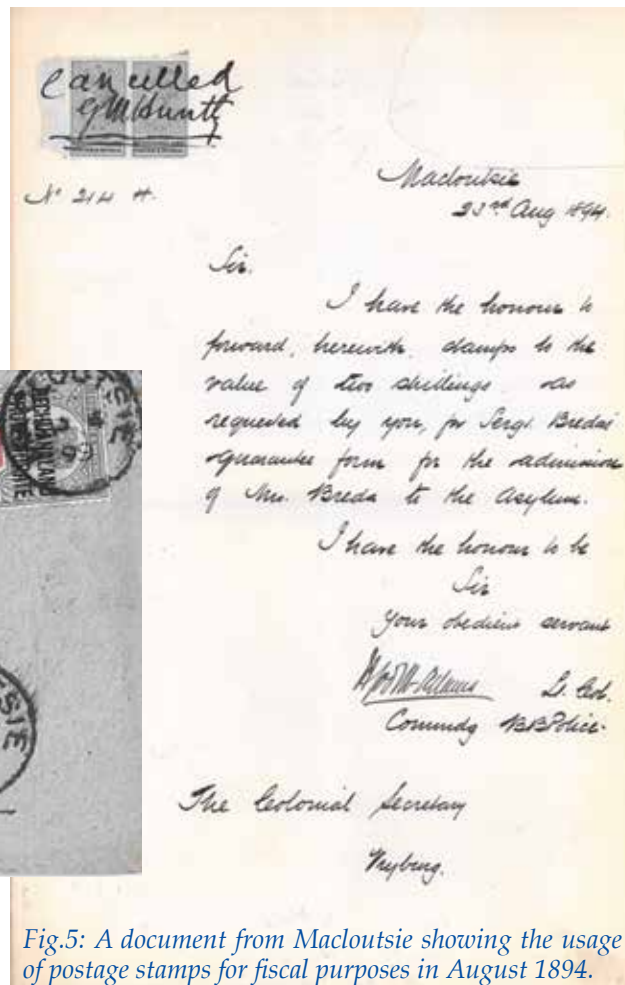


Fig.5: A document from Macloutsie showing the usage of postage stamps for fiscal purposes in August 1894.

Reference:

- Symons, J.E; *The Macloutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, 1892*, edited by Peter Thy, Krone Publications, 2002, Davis, California.

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GOING NOWHERE, SLOWLY

You've got mail. Somewhere. Probably.*

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society



One area where the Covid-19 pandemic has had a serious knock-on effect on a global scale during the past year is the movement of mail. Post offices worldwide have found themselves in a Catch-22 situation.

As most countries introduced lockdown restrictions to curtail the movement of people and spread of the virus, home shopping and on-line purchases showed a dramatic increase. These purchases are largely shipped via the post office. Yet, post offices were also subject to restrictions. This meant a significantly reduced work force had to deal with an increased volume of mail. The result: a major backup and delay in processing mail (Figs.3&4).



Fig.1: A pre-paid South African registered airmail cover from Port Elizabeth to Germany, returned to sender with a 'NO FLIGHTS AVAILABLE' sticker applied. Interesting to note that no blue cross, to signify registration, has been added to the envelope. Can the sender reclaim the cost of R58.15 from the Post Office?

At the same time, many countries closed their borders. This meant ships were tied up in harbours and airlines were sending 90% of their fleets to desert storage. Capacity was slashed to a fraction of pre-Covid-19 days while costs have increased by 27%. The bottom line then; getting letters and parcels delivered has become significantly difficult (Fig.1).

Many countries have even suspended their mail service altogether. The cover illustrated in Fig.2 is such an example. This item, destined for South Africa never left Italy. It is an unnerving view of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the world economy. And currently there's still no end in sight.

If readers have covers with Covid-19 related cachets or stickers, we would welcome a copy of the item. Please scan at 300dpi and save as a JPG file. Send the file as an e-mail attachment to the Production Editor at janice@gdb.co.za.

* Headline from US National Public Radio, 22 January 2021



Fig.2: An item posted in Italy, July 2020, returned to sender, February 2021, as undeliverable.



Fig.3: The delivery of local mail was disrupted as much as international mail as Post Offices also had to adhere to restrictions with a reduced work force and social distancing. Note the absence of workers in this picture.



Fig.4: December 2020 saw Royal Mail flooded with millions of parcels which could not be processed or delivered.

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1961

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society



Part 2: The impact of decimalisation in 1961 on the postal rates of the RSA

The year 1961 was one of the most interesting years in modern South African philately. On 14 February 1961 the Union of South Africa changed to the decimal currency meaning a new set of postal rates and stamps and on 31 May 1961 South Africa became a Republic with the same implications. This year it has been 60 years since decimalisation on 14.2. 2021.

Introduction

Although the Republic of South Africa was formed on 31 May 1961, it is useful to start a study of the postal rates of the RSA on 14 February 1961 because South Africa converted to the decimal system of currency on that date. From a philatelic point of view these events provide collectors with an exciting opportunity to build up a worthwhile collection.

A characteristic of the postal rates of the RSA is the fact that the rates stayed the same from 14 February 1961 to 1 April 1971. The reason for the changes in 1971 was the fact that the Post Office changed over to the metric system on 1 April 1971 and with the entry into force of a new Universal Postal Union Convention on 1 July 1972.

From 1971 onwards the rates were normally changed on 1 April of every year, which was the beginning of the financial year. The exceptions to the rule were the following dates, resulting sometimes in more than one change of postal rates in one calendar year:

1 January 1981, 1 July 1984, 1 January 1986 (when only foreign postage rates were changed), 1 July 1987, 30 September 1991, 2 May 1992, 1 July 1995, 1 July 1996, 7 April 1997, and 14 April 1998.

The aim of this article is to illustrate selected items to explain the impact of the events of 14 February 1961 and 31 May 1961 on the postal system of South Africa. This impact was applicable to the postage stamps, postage due stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, savings bank stamps etc. printed, surcharged and overprinted by the Government Printer during the period 1960-1961 and the postal rates introduced on 14 February 1961.

The year 1961 can be divided up in the following three periods from a philatelic point of view:

	Union of South Africa	Union of South Africa	Republic of South Africa
	Period 1 January 1961 up to 13 February 1961	Period from 14 February to 30 May 1961	Period after 31 May 1961
Currency	Sterling	Decimal	Decimal

The interesting story behind decimalisation and the impact it had on the stamp designs and values as well as postal rates in the RSA was first highlighted by Hugh Amore RDPSA from Cape Town in an article published in *The South African Philatelist* in December 1989 with the title: 'The 3½c stamp of the 1961 interim definitive'. It was actually

this article that motivated me to start with a collection of the postal rates of the RSA.

The designs for the interim issue were drawn from the animal set (1954 - 1961) and the Union Jubilee Commemoratives of 1960 (Fig.1). The interim issue contained a 3½c value (Fig.2) and as Amore stated that the story behind this is part of South Africa's interesting postal history where there was no 3½c value in the Republican definitive issue some three months later.



Fig.1: Cover posted from Johannesburg on 21 March 1961 to Argentina illustrating the 22½c airmail rate to South America: franking includes two 10c Jubilee interim issue stamps.

The conversion of postal rates and charges from sterling to a decimal currency was a considerable undertaking. Some rates had an exact equivalent: the inland letter rate of 3d for the first ounce became 2½c (Figs.3 - 6) and the 1/- rates became 10c, but 1c represented a 20% increase in rates. The new decimal rates were gazetted on 11 November 1960 to take effect on 14 February 1961.

Amore also stated that: "The white voters of the Union of South Africa had voted in favour of a Republic, and as this was to come about on 31 May 1961 the Post Office decided to delay a new definitive issue until then and issue interim definitives for decimal day, 14 February 1961."

The conversion of the rates from sterling to decimal currency

The issue of decimalisation was also debated in parliament on 13 May 1960 when the Member of Parliament for Kensington, Mr P.A. Moore, wanted to know from the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Dr. Albert Hertzog, what the decimal rates would be after the conversion. He said that the Minister of Finance, Dr. T.E. Dönges, had already mentioned that with the 1d stamps converted to 1c

there was no possibility of undue benefit to the public. He appealed to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications to have a serious look at the 2d, 4d, 7d and 9d rates in order to meet the public half-way, and to set as an objective a policy that rounding up would be matched by rounding down. He specifically requested that the 4d inland airletter rate should be converted down to 3c.

Amoore also indicated that there was a public outcry as most, if not all rates, were to have been rounded up to the nearest half cent. One such rate reduced at this time was the inland airmail letter rate. This had been 4d for the first ounce and 2d for each additional half ounce. The decimal equivalents of 3.333c and 1.667c had been rounded to 3½c and 1½c respectively in the gazetted rates of 11 November 1960. Because the airmail letter rate was in common use, the interim definitive issue therefore included a 3½c stamp.

The conversion from the sterling postage rates formed the basis for the development of the postal rates introduced on the 31 May 1961. As indicated in the table below a selection of the various rates will be illustrated. (Figs.9, 10 & 11).

The inland airmail, postcard and surface letter rates: 1954 to 1961

	1 July 1954	1 April 1959	14 Feb 1961	31 May 1961
Air Mail rate	3d for the first oz and 2d per oz	4d for the first oz and 2d per oz	3c for the first oz and 1½c for each additional oz	3c for the first oz and 1½c for each additional oz
1st step surface letter rate	2d	3d	2½c	2½c
Airmail postcard rate	2d	2½d	2c	2c

The development of the surface letter rate from Sterling to the Decimal Currency of 2½c in 1961

The 2d first step surface letter rate introduced on the 1 July 1954.



Fig.2: The proposed Inland Air Mail letter rate was 3½c and the revised rate 3c. It was too late to issue a 3c stamp. Cover franked with the 3½c stamp cancelled on the day of decimalisation on 14 February 1961 in Isipingo.

The compromise reached between the Postmaster General (PMG) and the Decimalisation Board on 8 February 1961 reduced this rate to 3c for the first ounce and 1½c per additional ounce. It was, at that stage, less than a week before Decimal Day, 14 February 1961, and too late to issue a 3c stamp and inland air mail users had to make up the 3c by using other stamps (Fig. 9).

The conversion from sterling to decimal coinage on 14 February 1961 necessitated the production of a new series of stamps with values expressed in the new currency. There were 13 values in the new series, merely re-denominated designs which had been utilised for previous issues. For nine values, designs of the 1954 animal series were used, the alterations being: ½c for ½d, 1c for 1d, 1½c for 1½d, 2c for 2d, 5c for 6d, 12½c for 1/3, 20c for 2/-, 50c for 5/- and R1 for 10/- (Figs.7 & 8)

For the remaining four values, 1960 commemorative issue designs were used: 2½c for 3d (Union Day issue of 31 May) and three values of the Union Golden Jubilee issue of 2 May, 3½c for 4d, 7½c for 6d and 10c for 1/-. This series had a life of only 3½ months. It was superseded by the first Republic definitive series which appeared on 31 May 1961.

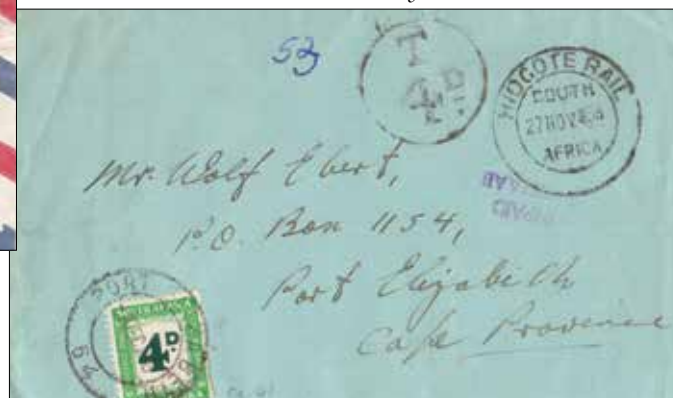


Fig.3: Unfranked cover posted from Hidcote Rail on 27 November 1958 to Port Elizabeth via surface mail and taxed 4d. The surface letter rate at that stage was 2d and therefore the cover was taxed double the deficiency. Postage due stamp applied in Port Elizabeth on 2 December 1958, however the cachet applied indicates that the tax was 'Unpaid'.

The 3d first step surface letter rate introduced on the 1 April 1959.



Fig.4: Cover posted from Cape Town on 21 June 1960 via surface mail franked with only a 1d stamp instead of 3d and taxed 4d. The cover was taxed because of the shortfall of 2d. Note the 'Refused' in manuscript on the cover indicating that the addressee refused to accept the item and pay the tax of 4d.

The 2½c inland surface letter rate introduced on 14 February 1961.



Fig.5: Cover posted from Westdene in Bloemfontein on the day that the inland surface letter rate of 2½c was introduced..

The 2½c inland surface letter rate applied after the 31 May 1961.



Fig.6: Cover posted from Johannesburg 11 July 1961 illustrating the 2½c rate introduced on 14 February 1961. Cachet applied to indicate that 'NO SUCH ROAD OR STREET' exists in Orange Park in Port Elizabeth and therefore the recipient is unknown to the Post Office.

The 1s6d stamp design used for the 20c interim definitive issue



Fig.7: Cover posted from Cape Town on the 21 November 1955 to Germany with the 1/6 stamp affixed to pay the ½ oz rate to Europe. There was no 15c value in the interim definitive set.



Fig.8: Cover posted from Keurboomsrivier on 14 February 1961 to Lagos in Nigeria with a 20c stamp illustrating the double letter rate of 10c per ½ oz to African countries. Used on the first day of decimalisation.



Fig.9: Cover posted from Cape Town on 22 February 1961 with the 3c Inland Air Mail rate also illustrating the use of the 2c decimal stamp converted from the 2d sterling value.

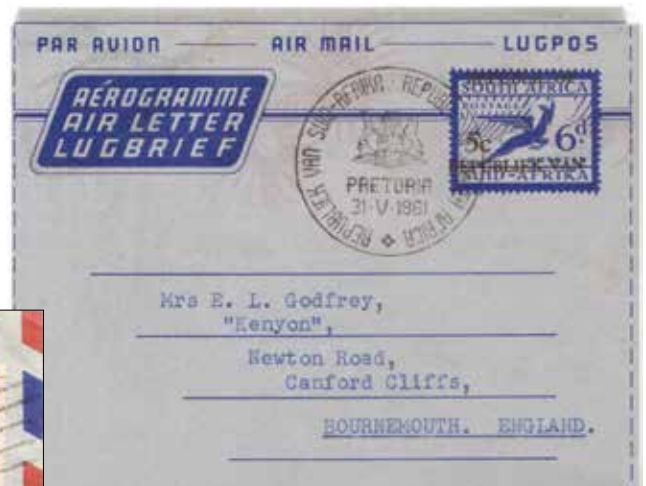


Fig.10: Aerogramme illustrating the impact of decimalisation on 14 February 1961 and on the formation of the Republic on 31 May 1961. The imprinted stamp is overprinted with '5c' on '6d', and with 'Republic of' and 'Republiek van'. Cancelled with Commemorative datestamp prepared for the 31 May 1961.

Meter Franking Machines

Collectors interested in this period of the postal history in South Africa should take note that decimalisation also had an impact on the rates of the meter franking machines. Meter Frank Postage Stamps were 'stamps' printed by means of a franking machine directly on to envelopes or



Fig.11: Cover posted from the Rissik Street post office on 30 May 1961, the day before South Africa became a Republic, to Trinidad and franked with stamps to the value of 22½c which was the air mail rate set for South America on the 14 February 1961.

labels to be posted. They were used by firms or individuals licensed by the Postmaster-General. Between 14 February 1961 and the 30 May 1961, the last day of Union, meter franking machines previously in use with values in pence continued in operation until they could be converted to decimal currency. Relatively few machines were converted during this period. Mercury 'X' machines were never converted. Specimen marks of some of the machines that were converted are illustrated (Fig.12).

Conclusion

The year 1961 can indeed be regarded as one of the most fascinating periods in South Africa to collect from a philatelic point of view. The change on 14 February 1961 in the Union of South Africa to the decimal currency laid the foundation for the postal rates applicable in the RSA up to 1971. Besides all the different printings, overprints, surcharges and hand stamps applied, to try and get commercially used examples of each of the different items during the different periods is also an exciting challenge.

• **With Thanks:** The author would like to thank Hugh Amoore RDPSA from Cape Town for his assistance with this article. [🌐](#)



Fig.12: Sample proof with a Cape Town die dated 18 January 1961 that was done in anticipation of decimalisation on 14 February 1961.

Sources:

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OBITUARY

WIM HARDIJZER

8 December 1933 - 18 November 2020

Wim Hardijzer, an Honorary member of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, passed away on Wednesday evening 18 November 2020. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Frauke, children, family, and friends.

He joined the Pretoria Philatelic Society in 1979 and was a stalwart at meetings, serving in many posts, including President and Exchange Superintendent.

He also ran some of the children's groups associated with the PPS and had a regular monthly table at the Menlyn Shopping Centre where he promoted philately and the Pretoria Philatelic Society.



In addition to his contributions to PPS, Wim was an active member of the AFP and AFV.

He was a prolific contributor of books to the exchange section and even in the leaner years did not reduce his contributions which continued well into 2020, despite exhibiting growing signs of dementia.

Wim was elected an Honorary Member of PPS before leaving to live in Langebaan in the Cape. Wim and Frauke had moved to a retirement complex in George with frail care facilities. Unfortunately, his condition rapidly deteriorated after the move and he did not get to enjoy his new surroundings. Wim loved stamps and was a gentleman whom we mourn and sadly miss. [🌐](#)

The Development of Postal Services in the Schoonberg and Kammanassie Region

by ds. Pauw Steyl RDPSA, George Philatelic Society



By 1835/1836 the loan farm Schoonberg, today known as Louvain in the Upper Long Kloof, was owned by Peregrine Bertie Richardson. He arrived in the Long Kloof from Mossel Bay where he owned a whaling station. In course of time this small and remote community at Schoonberg developed a need for postal services. Richardson had about seventy personnel on his farm. Luckily Schoonberg was not far from the main postal route between Cape Town, via George, to the Eastern Cape.

she was no longer the Postmaster and Richardson lived on his other farm, Matjies Drift in the Kammanassie Area about four miles from Schoonberg. From there he again handled the postal affairs.

The official post office at Schoonberg became redundant. Mr J. W. Groenewald of Ezeljagt made a strong statement that the community felt deeply grieved about the state of the handling of the postal affairs in the area. *"The appointed postmaster for Schoonberg lived on the farm Matjies Drift about 45 minutes from Schoonberg. No one was sure where to post their letters. Sometimes Richardson did his postmaster duties at Schoonberg and other times at his other farm, Matjies River, in the Kammanassie area."*

According to Putzel the Almanac of 1807/1808 lists Ezeljacht as a post office. There was no closing down date.



Fig.1

At the end of 1856 the Schoonberg Postal Agency was established with P.B. Richardson as the first postal agent. He did not receive any remuneration and this was a big problem for him. He took up his case with Postmaster General Le Seuer in Cape Town. Richardson's representations were successful and he was appointed as Deputy-Postmaster with a salary of £6 per year.

The mutual discontent about the handling of the postal affairs in this area contains very interesting comments.

Richardson *inter alia* told the PMG that the Postal Agency served the whole area and that he had to fetch the mailbag six times a week at his own cost on the main road. The distance was more than a mile and that the post cart driver hung the bag on a pole next to the road.

Postmaster James Searle of Blanco also explained to the PMG the problem of hanging a mailbag on a pole along the main postal route: *"As the bag is only hung on a nail it is very liable to be blown away. I have also observed that some of the leather straps had been eaten by cattle. The bag ought to be hung a little higher so as to be out of their reach."*

When he became elected as member of the George Divisional Council, Richardson resigned as postmaster on 11 October 1862. He was succeeded by his daughter Caroline. By 1875



Fig.2: Wrapper, endorsed OHM Service and P.B. Richardson Schoonberg to indicate the official status of the letter.

I am of the opinion that this information is not correct. By 1806 there were two postal routes via the Attaquaskloof Pass, over the Outeniqua Mountains north of Mossel Bay, to Uitenhage and Graaff Reinet. The Uitenhage route went through the Long Kloof and one of the stopping places on the way was at Ezeljagt. It was a post station for changing horses on the main postal route to the Eastern Cape. A Telephone Office (Tto) was opened in 1921 and closed on 14 March 1949.

On 2 February 1874 six inhabitants of the neighbourhood asked the PMG to move the postal agency to the farm Ezeljagt.

They told the PMG that a James Richardson lived about 20 yards from the main postal route and he would be the ideal person to be appointed as Postal Agent. However, nobody at Ezeljagt was interested in handling the postal affairs and the *status quo* was maintained. As a matter of interest Ezeljagt is the farm of the late Joh Groenewald's ancestors. His father was born at Ezeljagt and later moved to George.

Research shows that the Schoonberg Post Office made use of two mailbags, labelled: Schoonberg/George and Schoonberg/Wolvekraal. These mailbags were hung on a pole along the main postal route more than a mile from the post office. From there they were picked up by the post driver on his way to George or Wolvekraal.

Although Richardson still did official postal correspondence as 'postal agent of Schoonberg', by December 1877 the government regarded the Schoonberg Postal Agency closed with the resignation of Caroline Richardson. Richardson died on his farm Matjies Drift on 1 May 1882. I think postal history should honour Peregrine Bertie Richardson for his pioneer work regarding postal services in the Upper Long Kloof Area as well as for the seeds that he planted in the Kammanassie Area.

The Post Office/Postal Agency at Schoonberg continued to exist. It's not sure who Richardson's successor was, probably his son P. B. Richardson. The office closed on 1 June 1886.

This wrapper, (Fig.2), ended up in the Wolvekraal mailbag instead of in the Cape Town one. At Wolvekraal it received the rare Wolvekraal DTO transit handstamp (DE 29 1857) and arrived in Cape Town on DE 31 1857.

FARMS IN THE KAMMANASSIE REGION OBTAIN POST OFFICE FACILITIES:

The highest peak of the Kammanassie Mountain Range is called Mannetjiesberg, 1955m (6545ft) above sea level.

The Kammanassie River flows from east to west south of the Kammanassie Mountains in the Little Karoo. It rises between the Kouga and the Outeniqua Mountains about 16km east of Uniondale and joins the Olifants River about 2km east of Oudtshoorn. It is the most important source of water for the Olifants River basin.

According to tender details a field cornet post existed in 1884 and 1885 between Schoonberg and the Kammanassie area: "*Post Office Schoonberg to Matjies Drift (residence of Field-cornet G. A. le Roux) 1 hour each way once a week on horseback.*"

The tender details for the 1886 field cornet post were: "*Between junction of Matjies Drift with Lange Kloof road and residence of F/c Matjies Drift (Kamnassie), once a week and once a fortnight on horseback 1 hour each way, on foot two hours.*"

From 1889 to 1898 a weekly field cornet post on horseback existed between Molen River (Long Kloof) and Vogelstruisfontein (Kammanassie). On account of the Anglo Boer War in 1898 the service was terminated until the end of the war in 1902. According to my records the field cornet post resumed in 1902 and was terminated in 1910. The contractor was a Mr J. Richardson. A Divisional Post on horseback was introduced on 16 October 1910, twice weekly, between Molen River (Long Kloof) and Spielmanskraal (Kammanassie). The contractor was D. Keyter.

Through the years there were quite a few farm postal agencies in the Kammanassie region.

Kamnassie: (1893-1901) On 1 March 1893 a Postal Agency was established known as Kammanassie/Kamnassie. The name means 'river that always has water'. From 1 May 1895 it was known as Kamnassie Postal Agency (Fig.3). A postal item from Mossel Bay (20 November 1897) was addressed: Mr C. J. Meyer, Buffelsdrift via Uniondale.



Fig.3.



Fig.4: 20 November 1897 - Letter from General Merchants Matare, Bruns & Co. in Mossel Bay to Kamnassie Postal Agency via Uniondale.



The cover (Fig.4) shows the Uniondale receiving date stamp (21 November 1897) as well as the receiving Kamnassie CDS (26 November 1897). The Kamnassie strike could be regarded as very rare. The one recorded here is to the best of my knowledge the only date stamp yet recorded for this agency.

It is very difficult to locate the situation of the first Kamnassie Postal Agency, 1893-1901 (Head Office Uniondale). In my search for the possible location, I spoke to the Rev. Petrus Carstens of Uniondale. He told me that in the farming area between Uniondale and Buffelsdrift, the road goes through a deep valley known as the Kamnassie Valley. We both believe that the Kamnassie Postal Agency was run from a remote farm shop along the road through this valley.

The fact that the letter was received at the Kamnassie Postal Agency five days after it was received at the Uniondale Post Office suggests that there was probably only one mail bag per week along this route.

The Kamnassie Agency, which closed on 1 May 1901, is not related to the Kammanassie Agency which opened 1 April 1920. Situated much nearer to Outdtshoorn, this office was renamed Kammanassie Dam on 15 October 1945.

Spielmanskraal: A postal agency opened on this farm on 1 November 1910. It was promoted to a Post and Telegraph Agency on 17 September 1923 and renamed **Speelmanskraal** in the early 1930s. The datestamp, Fig.5, has a cross flanked by two bars at the bottom. The day appears before the month and there is no time code. The Speelmanskraal Post and Telegraph Agency was opened on 8 February 1932, but closed temporarily 18 June to 2 July 1934. Post and Telegraph Agency 1937; Postal Agency 20 April 1970. Office closed on 5 September 1972.



Fig.5: 26mm circle.

Buffelsdrift: a farm about 50 km from Uniondale in the Kammanassie region of the Little Karoo, received its mail from 1 February to 31 December 1908 by field cornet mail from Molens River. The Postal Agency there opened 1 March 1911, closed temporarily 1 April to 1 September 1912 and was elevated to a Post and Telegraph Agency on 9 March 1931 (Fig.6). It closed on 29 April 1980 (Fig.7).



Fig.6.



Fig.7: 18 November 1941 – OHMS cover used by the lady principal at Buffelsdrift Primary School to the Secretary, School Board, George with oval Official Free cachet. As it was during WWII, paper was scarce. This envelope was re-used by the Department to Mr A. Botha at Outeniqua on 5 March 1943.

Rustoord: A Postal Agency opened on 26 October 1925 on the farm Vogelstruisfontein. On 9 February 1931 it became a Post and Telegraph Agency and was renamed **Rusoord** in 1953. The Postal Agency closed on 26 April 1954 although the Telegraph and Telephone office continued. The office reopened as a Post and Telegraph Agency in 1956 and closed on 21 July 1958. No postmark has been seen.

Daskop: A Postal Agency opened on the farm Daskop on 22 August 1927. On 9 February 1931 it became a Post and Telegraph Agency which closed on 2 October 1972 (Fig.8 & 9).

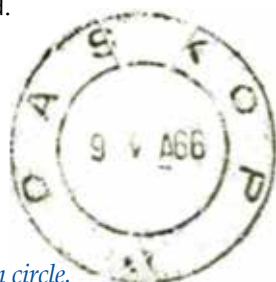


Fig.8: 31 mm circle. Cross at base. Full date with time code letter.



Fig.9: 10 February 1972 – Letter sent from Daskop to Bredell. (Arrival backstamp 16.02.72)

This information gives us an interesting view on how postal affairs were handled by the people in the Kammanassie.

- With the establishment of the Postal Agency at Daskop in 1927 there were three Postal Agencies in the Kammanassie : Buffelsdrift, Rustoord and Daskop.
- Buffelsdrift and Rustoord together had postal agencies for 31 years. Buffelsdrift and Daskop together had postal agencies for 45 years.
- Daskop and Rustoord together had postal agencies for 29 years.

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Library George Museum:

George Herald (1883-1891): 1883.11.28; 1884.10.22; 1885.10.14; 1886.10.27; 1887.10.12; 1888.11.21; 1889.11.13; 1890.10.15; 1891.10.14

Photo material:

Pauw Steyl Postal History collection and photos.



Practical One Frame Class Exhibiting

by Dr. Neil Cronjé RDPSA - Chairman M.C. and André du Plessis, RDPSA - PFSA C.O.O.

The One Frame Class is the only exhibit class based on size rather than subject. It is composed of exhibits that tell a complete story in one frame. All subsections of the normal classes are suitable subjects for inclusion within the One Frame Class except Picture Postcard exhibits. However, they may be entered into the Picture Post Card class as a One Frame exhibit.

Process:

TITLE

- Selection of a suitable name to describe the exhibit.
A catchy name will be more highly rated than a generic subject.
- Do not add this to the top of every page but rather only name the first page.
- Say what you show and show what you say.

WRITE UP

- The exhibit elements for the One Frame Class are identical to those of the General Classes.
- Write up should be concise, crisp and convey only the essential information. Do not write a book.
- It must tell a story with a beginning, a middle, as well as an end.
 - A One Framer should not be a selection of pages from a larger exhibit but should tell a complete story in One Frame (16 A4 pages).
 - One should not be able to expand the topic to a multi-frame exhibit.
- The write-up of some pages does take longer than others.
 - Give yourself enough time and plan your process accordingly.

SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF MATERIAL

- This includes the documenting of philatelic knowledge that will earn points.
- Rule of thumb is '*Only the best is good enough*'; know your subject and material.
- Avoid being sentimental. Do not show an item if it is not relevant, even if this item is rare and expensive.
- Items and covers should be distributed throughout the exhibit i.e. the materials should be distributed evenly throughout the exhibit.
- Do not over crowd certain types of items and covers.

AVOID

- Open and white spaces on the various pages.
- 'Padding' - the duplication of various items in order to fill the page.
- The repeating of words in the 'write-up'.

HIGHLIGHTING OF RARE ITEMS.

- Find an attractive colour that suits you and try to avoid the use of red or dark colours, rather use subtle pastel colours.



What information should feature on the title page.

- A plan of the contents is essential.
 - An index must be concise and complete.
- Purpose and scope of the exhibit (what is expected).
 - This must be explained, i.e. from 1910 - 1913 etc.
 - Should not be open-ended.
 - Do not extend the exhibit beyond your end point.
- If a topic is mentioned on the first page, it should be shown in the exhibit. If not, points will be deducted.
- Applicable information for understanding the exhibit.
 - If the information exceeds the first page, it may be carried over to the next page.
- A short introduction per subject is preferred, but do not write too much. The shorter, the better.
- Short Bibliography on page one or the last page must be included.

JUDGING GUIDELINES.

- One Frame Class exhibits are evaluated using the same guidelines as in the normal classes.

TREATMENT

Space consideration is particularly critical in one-frame exhibits. An appropriately limited subject well fitted to the space available is imperative. The inherent constraints on space in one-frame exhibits will narrow subjects but it must be comprehensively treated.

Given the extremely limited space available, it is important that every item exhibited is related, and advances the exhibit's development (story line).

IMPORTANCE

Philatelic importance is considering the inherent restrictions of the one frame of the chosen topic and defined scope.

A superbly treated subject of moderate importance will be more successful than an incredibly important topic that is too much for one frame and therefore suffering inadequate treatment due to simple space limitations.

All other criteria should be taken from the appropriate section for the exhibit subject. (see Exhibition Prospectus for details).



BECHUANALAND

by Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL, RNCP, George Philatelic Society



While rifling through some of the older files that I had saved on my computer, I came across a set of articles that I had written in and around 2014 for the *Stamp Corner*, a feature of the *Wild News*, the local newspaper at that time here in Wilderness. Amongst them was one headed 'British Bechuanaland' (Fig.1) which included interesting quotations from Cecil Rhodes and Sir Charles Warren and that I thought might well be worth submitting to *The SA Philatelist*.

By good fortune, I found that I was able to illustrate the article with the reproduction of a page from my collection of *Issuing Authorities of the World*, a collection of which I retained a scanned copy when I sold the original albums at auction in London a couple of years ago. (This was page number 277 of a total of 344). Where appropriate, I have highlighted the different phases in the development of Botswana while, in addition on my album page, there may be seen representative stamps the Tati Concessions (Fig.4) of 1895 and for the Internal Self-Government of 1965 (Fig.6)

Bechuanaland a country that attained its independence as the Republic of Botswana in 1966, was referred to by Cecil John Rhodes in 1883 as 'The Suez Canal of this country, the key of its road to the interior'.

Rhodes, who was in fact for a brief period the Deputy Commissioner for Bechuanaland, recognised the strategic importance of the country being bounded as it was on the west by German South West Africa and on the east by President Kruger's Transvaal Republic while to the south the Cape Colony was eager to extend its borders. The presence of two self-styled independent provinces in the Northern Cape, Goshen and Stellaland (Fig.3) of which, incidentally, the latter went so far as to produce its own postage stamps, served to complicate relationships. Although British Sovereignty over the territory had been proclaimed in the name of Queen Victoria in 1884, a military expedition under General Sir Charles Warren was despatched in the following year "to remove the filibusters, to pacificate the country, to reinstate the natives in their land, to take such measures as are necessary to prevent further depredations and, finally, to hold the country until its further destiny is known". Thus it was that in September, 1885, the vast expanse to the north of the Malopo River became the Protectorate of Bechuanaland while the area to the south, including Stellaland, was constituted as the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland. This state of affairs

persisted until November 1895 when the Colony was annexed by the then independent Cape of Good Hope Regular postage stamps of the Cape of Good Hope in values from a halfpenny (½d) to one shilling (1/-) and with a suitable overprint were put on sale in the Colony in December 1885 and in January 1888 they were supplemented by the current ½d vermilion Queen Victoria definitive stamp of Great Britain, again with the overprint reading 'British Bechuanaland'. Also at that time stamps were issued in values from 1d up to £5 in a design that had been produced originally for British fiscal stamps but with the added inscription of 'British Bechuanaland Postage & Revenue'. Pre-stamped post cards had been introduced in Great Britain in 1870 and a quantity of the Penny Red card of 1892 were also overprinted for the Colony.

The imprinted 1d stamp on the card shown here was exceptional in that it incorporated a full-length portrait of the Queen rather than her head in profile as it had appeared on the iconic *Penny Black* of 1840 and all other British stamps of the 19th Century.

The imprint of the stamp was surcharged with the wording 'Three HalfPence', i.e. 1½d, to suit the local rate for post cards that had been introduced in 1891. Although after 1895 no more stamps were printed in the name of British Bechuanaland, those that were already in

circulation remained valid until 1897 as witness the card illustrated. In this case the ½d vermilion was added to cover delivery beyond the country's borders. It was posted from the border village of Ramoutsa on 14 February 1897 and was addressed to Hermannsburg near Greytown in Natal. The village of Hermannsburg had been established in 1854 as a German Lutheran Mission Station. It was also the site of a boy's school that could number amongst its alumni no less a personage than General Louis Botha, the son of a German Voortrekker, who was destined to become, in 1907, the first Prime Minister both of the Transvaal and, three years later, of the Union of South Africa.

In 1882, Stellaland, with its capital of Vryburg, was declared a republic by the Boers living on the 416 farms which constituted the area. It was named after a comet (Latin: *stella* = star) that was visible at the time (Fig.3). Stamps were issued in 1884 but withdrawn in the following year after the territory



Fig.1: British Bechuanaland was proclaimed a Crown Colony in 1885 and annexed to the Cape in 1895. From 1890 until 1897, stamps of the colony were valid in the Protectorate. The 1892 GB penny postcard with the full-length portrait of Queen Victoria was overprinted and surcharged 1½d and was supplemented with an overprinted GB ½d vermilion for delivery from Ramoutsa to the German Mission at Hermannsburg near Greytown in Natal.



Fig.3.

Feedback through the back door of a SAVPEX experience from an exhibitor's point of view

by Darcy Hickson, Manitoba Canada

(The article appears on the PFSA website - please take the time to read the entire link as - space restrictions here, offer only a snippet of this experience.)

This feedback (shortened) from an exhibitor to last years SAVPEX - the annual virtual one-frame competition organised by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

"After looking at the Prospectus and Entry Form, I submitted an entry for my one-frame exhibit: *International Stamp Cancelling Machines at Brandon, Manitoba 1907-1919*.

The entry fee was US \$30 which is higher than most fees paid to show a one-frame exhibit in Canada, but the fee is a bargain due to the elimination of shipping costs (and risk) to freight the physical exhibit to and from the show.

The entry fee granted access to an international jury pool of accredited judges, receipt of a judges score sheet with written comments and a medal of participation. (Fig.1). Successful entrants would have their exhibits uploaded to the Philatelic Federation S.A. website for public display and accessed with this link: <https://sapa.africa/exhibits/#savpex>

Preparing the exhibit for submission required numbering the pages on the lower right side and scanning them at 300 dpi in jpg or pdf formats.

The saved files were carefully named using SAVPEX instructions: Surname space, Initial space, first 3 letters of your exhibit title and 2 digit page number. Using this numbering system my Title Page was HICKSON D INT01.pdf. As you can see, every precaution was taken to ensure that pages were placed in the proper sequence in the frame once submitted to SAVPEX organisers.

My 16 exhibit pages and 2 page synopsis created a 35mb digital file to upload. Too big to email, the file was passed along to the organisers using 'OneDrive' file sharing. While I was fearing blowback for poor scans or missing information, instead I got same day service with my 'optimised and consolidated' exhibit attached to an email, ready for proofing.

Fig.1: SAVPEX participant medal



Wow! I was advised that SAVPEX was very responsive and eager to work with contributors to ensure success for all. No kidding!

Worth noting that the deliberate optimising, consolidating and compressing of the exhibit by SAVPEX 2020 reduced the file size to a mere 5mb (for checking). As the exhibits were forwarded in either JPG or PDF format, Emil used the program 'PDElement 6' to generate one or the other into both formats. Those wishing to work improvements into their craft will lament the lack of a formal judges critique session or a frame side visit with a first responder judge.

That is a fair criticism of any virtual stamp show, but SAVPEX judges provided a thorough and balanced written critique, generous with praise but also gently suggesting areas that need shoring up.

In fact, SAVPEX 2020 set a pretty high bar for prompt and courteous contact with exhibitors not in attendance, a concept that could be embraced and adopted at some of our 'live' events".

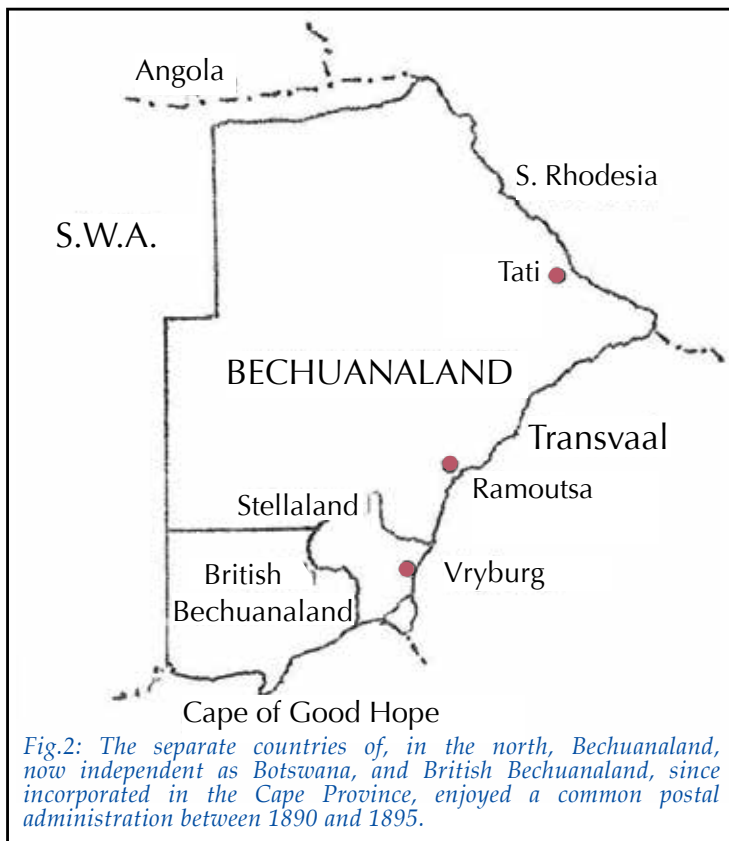


Fig.2: The separate countries of, in the north, Bechuanaland, now independent as Botswana, and British Bechuanaland, since incorporated in the Cape Province, enjoyed a common postal administration between 1890 and 1895.

had been placed, initially but briefly under the protection of the Transvaal, and then annexed to British Bechuanaland by Sir Charles Warren.



Fig.4.

The Tati Concessions was a gold mining company which was granted the right to mine by Lobengula, King of the Matabele, in 1887. The town of Tati was 18 miles from both railway and mail services. Stamps were printed by De La Rue & Co. and issued, primarily for fiscal purposes, in 1895.

The lower values of the set, of which the one shilling, shown and are known to have been used to frank post from the mine to the distant railhead, while the top value, the £5, may well have been used for the transmission of gold as 'specie' (Fig.4).



Fig.5.

As British influence extended north of the Malopo, stamps were created for the Bechuanaland Protectorate by adding the word 'Protectorate' to G.B. issues already overprinted for British Bechuanaland (Fig.5). The inverted 1890 overprint is a known variety.

Internal Self-Government was granted in 1965. A set depicting the Gaborones Dam marked the occasion. The Queen's head remained on the stamps (Fig.6) until the Republican status was achieved 19 months later. With independence in 1966, the Tswana name of Botswana was resurrected (Fig.7).



Fig.6.

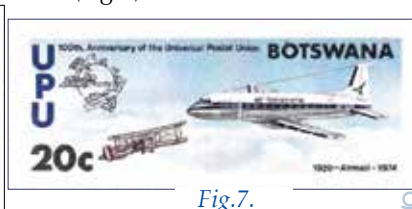


Fig.7.

VISIT the <https://www.stampssa.africa/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups>

It is important to note that not all Societies have returned to having their regular meetings during this time of lockdown, they do, however, welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website www.stampssa.africa

**Philatelic Meetings of
The Witwatersrand Philatelic Society**

The modified Coronavirus regulations have allowed the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society meetings to be reinstated, subject to the wearing of masks, sanitising, social distancing and other precautions.

Meetings always on a Wednesday at 18h00
(please confirm time prior to meeting, at this stage, it is unknown whether the time as outlined will continue going forward)



**WITWATERSRAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
P O Box 528, Florida Hills, 1716

contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA for further information 082 722 7604.

- 14 Apr 2021** Workshop Evening on use of Powerpoint presentation
- 12 May 2021** First Competitive Evening
- 9 June 2021** Favourite Cover/s
- 14 July 2021** Grand Challenge Match
- 11 August 2021** Invitation to another Society

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

This study group is now meeting again please send all communication to haschaff@iafrica.com

Next Meeting: Wed. 28 April 2021 start at 18h00 and ending at 19h30

If you would come for supper, meet in the members' restaurant at 17h00, where the chairman for the evening will welcome all. These meetings provide a superb learning experience. Bring along a few philatelic items and be surprised at how much additional information can be gained from comments received from other attendees.

**SANDTON
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests. For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 673 2229 ccarey@icon.co.za

**PRETORIA
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks.

President and Secretary: Alex Visser. alex.visser@up.ac.za

Box 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

**AFRIKAANSE
FILATELIEVERENIGING
VAN PRETORIA**

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn maandeliks. Voorsitter is Herman van Niekerk en Sekretaris is Nico Rust. Kontak: Herman by hinvesta@gmail.com

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF
JOHANNESBURG**



President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357

All PSoJ meetings have been cancelled until such time as we consider it safe for us to resume. This will not happen while our venue is not safe and available, the curfew is in place and the risks of infection remain. Members will be kept informed.

**DIE POSBOOM
FILATELIE VERENIGING**



Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie 082 952 6700. Tel / Faks 044 698 1074. epos: gajcon@gmail.com

**BELLVILLE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

President: Werner Barnard; [email: president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za](mailto:president@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za)
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 0825670353 (a.h.); [email: secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za](mailto:secretary@bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za)
Website: <http://bellvillephilatelicsociety.co.za>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

**THE ROYAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN**



Email: royalphilct@gmail.com
President: Ida Potgieter [email: samizdat@telkomsa.net](mailto:samizdat@telkomsa.net)
cell: 074 333 4646
Secretary: Victor Millard 0828028882 or [email: millardvg@gmail.com](mailto:millardvg@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.rpsct.org>

PAARLSE FILATELISTE
Sedert 1951

kontak gerus vir: Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410 gawiehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford: 082 876 7608 n/u_craffies@telkomsa.net



**GEORGE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

President: Nick Zerbst 0836255804, Secretary: Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337. [email: robrita@mweb.co.za](mailto:robrita@mweb.co.za)

**FISH HOEK
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula. President: Dave Young [email: davesueyoung@gmail.com](mailto:davesueyoung@gmail.com)
Secretary: Volker Janssen.

Website: www.fhps.infoFHPS



**PORT ELIZABETH
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



President: Francois Friend, 082 554 8900, francois@softchem.co.za; or Vice president, David Brown 041 360 4025; or Secretary/Treasurer Rodney Maclachlan 072 619 5409.

Meetings for 2021 held in the daytime - 10h30/11h00 to 13h00 at same venue: dates: 12.4; 3.5; 7.6; 5.7; 2.8; 6.9; 4.10; 4.11; No meeting for December reserved for President's Christmas party.

**STELLENBOSCH
FILATELISTEVERENIGING**



Kontak: stellenboschstamp@gmail.com

FOUNDED 30 APRIL 1909

**EAST LONDON
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

President: David Preston 082 7742090. [email: prestee@telkomsa.net](mailto:prestee@telkomsa.net)
Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca 082 334 7603.



CASPIP

CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE
ISRAEL PHILATELY

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef [<akatzef@mweb.co.za>](mailto:akatzef@mweb.co.za) +27 (21) 4615134 President of CASPIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe [email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com](mailto:phil.soc.zim@gmail.com)

**EDENVALE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for *Edenvale Philatelic Society*. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

**EAST RAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



David Wigston - Acting President [email: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com](mailto:speedbird.imperial@gmail.com)
Secretary: Paul Hammerton hampaul@ananzi.co.za

**WEST RAND
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374. Chairman or Secretary Ian Walker. Tel: 011 472 1161 [email: ianwalker@vodamail.co.za](mailto:ianwalker@vodamail.co.za)

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein. President: Dr Neil Cronjé and Vice president: Garry Osthoff [email: osthoffG@ufs.ac.za](mailto:osthoffG@ufs.ac.za)

**HIGHWAY
PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN**

The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join and get involved in this social hobby of Kings. German Restaurant open for lunch. President: Leigh Hen-Boisen, leigh.hb@gmail.com
Secretary: Bronwen Edwards, edwards@worldonline.co.za
Membership: Bev Chittenden, bev@natalaircon.co.za or Barry Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Rd, Bluff, Durban every 2nd Saturday of the month
President: Fonda Sonitus
 074 347 1388



Vice President: Zbigniew Kawecki
 082 968 6888 or email the Secretary at philatelicocietykzn@gmail.com

for details about meetings, auctions, sales packets and membership. Everyone is welcome and committee members are always on hand to give advice about evaluations and philately.

THEMATICS SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Vibrant and active group - loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. **Group Leader:** Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

- Secretary:** Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 033 239 2136
 36 Amberfield, Private Bag X010, Howick 3290
 E-mail: <burncree21@telkomsa.net>
<aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>
- President:** Dave Wyllie.
- Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
 Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

Revisiting The SWA Type 1 Forged Inverted Overprints

References:

For the article by Mike Tonking RDPSA, p46.

- Becker, N. RDPSA. 1990. *The Overprinted Stamps of South West Africa to 1930.*
- Eichele, M. 1979. *The De La Rue Georgians overprinted for use in South West Africa.*
- Lobdell, HE. *The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa.*
- Mallet-Veal, H. 1928. *South West Africa, A Check List.*

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Usual Meet in the Captain's Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Chairperson: Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com
Secretary: Eugene du Plooy eugeneduplooy@gmail.com
Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00).

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com
 Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrief.
 Jan de Jong: 079 190 1066.

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. For more information on meetings, visit <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings> or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. email bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9NA. UK.

The South African representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Programmes for meetings include displays, talks by visiting speakers and 'Show & Tell' exhibits. An Exchange circuit and auctions from time to time. Visitors always welcome! **Contact:** Marilyn Crawford at 021689 5050 email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com



SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

This society has been amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society.

POSTAGE DUE MAIL STUDY GROUP

For more details, look at their website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/>
Contact: Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR

Bellville Valley DRC Hall. Usually first Saturday every month (09:00 - 12:30)
Contact: Ken Joseph. 072 597 1287 email: ken@philatelicfriends.com

Smalls' Corner

WANTED Boxed set SA stamp replicas silver/goldplated, George (011) 782-6985. gccstamps@telkomsa.net

WANTED: Vintage postcards of old Pietermaritzburg. Please contact Mike dumbuzaoc@gmail.com advising availability (preferably a scan) and asking price. Mike O'Connor. Pietermaritzburg.

WANTED: A 44 year old teacher and Mongolian Philatelic Union member who has collected for over 30 years is looking for good philatelic friends from South Africa. Can offer for exchange Mongolian mint stamps 1960-1991 against mint stamps from your country. Condition of exchanged :1. Please, write in English or Russian. If you do not speak these languages, please use # in the 'Scott' or 'Michel' catalogues. Jigjid Gantsogt. P.O.Box-314. UlaanBaatar-38. Mongolia.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION Cape Town 2021. 9-13 November



Website: www.capetown2021.org

Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town



Episode 63 Errors on Stamps... 'DEGRADED FIELD MARSHAL'

To honour the French Field Marshal de Lattre de Tassigny, France issued a commemorative stamp on 8. May 1952. This was also the 7th anniversary of the German capitulation which he signed in 1945.

In 1948 he became Commander of the West-European Army and from 1950 - 1952 he was Supreme Commander of the French troops in Indochina.

The error on the stamp shows him with only 5 stars on his uniform shoulder, while a Marshal should have seven stars. The accidental demotion probably happened because an old photograph was used.

SPINK

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RHODESIA DOUBLE HEAD ISSUE THE COTTONWOOD COLLECTION

ROBERT M. GIBBS TRUSTEE

SPINK are delighted to announce the sale of The Cottonwood Collection; a magnificent holding of the Rhodesia Double Head Issue, to be sold on June 3rd 2021.



Waterlow 10d. imperforate
printer's sample



Error; Scarlet and reddish mauve
showing sheet number



Perf 15 RSC "F" Red-brown and
(deep) greenish slate, the so-called
"Venetian", Hook printing



Lake-brown and green



Bright carmine imperforate
between

Formed over decades by a master of the subject; Robert M. Gibbs, this important offering contains unique and exceptionally important items that will certainly crown even the finest of collections.

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David Parsons | dparsons@spink.com

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