

# The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

volume 100:1. 982

www.stampssa.africa



Unusual destination for a 1911 First Airmail Postcard (page 10)



Add a new facet to your South African Collection : Cinderella, patriotic and without a value (page 22)



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# The South African Philatelist

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- Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
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- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
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**ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:**

- Volume. 100 : 2. 983- The **APRIL 2024** issue  
**15 MARCH 2024**



# FEDERATION NEWS

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



## PFSA MEMBERSHIP

At Congress in October 2023 a motion regarding the declining number of philatelist / collectors was tabled. It was also noted that the reduction in membership is in contrast with the increasing numbers of supporters of Stamp Fairs/Auctions. The motion was adopted and mandates the Management Committee (MC) to appoint a subcommittee to investigate reasons for the reduction, and to suggest mechanisms to counter this trend. The mandate will be discussed at the Management Committee meeting on 30 January 2024, the first after Congress.

My reason for touching on this subject is not to pre-empt the decision of the MC but rather to appeal to all of us to make a serious effort to recruit new members.

We know that the Stamp Fairs/Auctions are well attended by non-members, and by interacting with them would be a good starting point. There seems to be an anti-Organised Philately sentiment, but the opposite is also true. For example, the Goldfields PS in Welkom recently welcomed six new members to the Society. Initially they were unaware of each other but got to knowing each other over the past years. As their interest grew, they felt the need to broaden their knowledge base and to interact with other collectors and thus became involved with organised philately.

Membership lists were distributed in December 2023 to Societies to confirm their membership. If any member wants to resign, please try to persuade them to stay. Think of it, only two new members per society will grow the membership by 60 members at the end of the year!

| AFFILIATED MEMBERS – 18 JANUARY 2024 |                  |               |                 |       |               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|
|                                      | PAID SUBSCRIBERS | SAPDA MEMBERS | SOCIETY MEMBERS | TOTAL | OVERALL TOTAL |
| 2015                                 |                  |               |                 |       | 1015          |
| 2016                                 |                  |               |                 |       | 1005          |
| 2017                                 |                  |               |                 |       | 868           |
| 2018                                 |                  |               |                 |       | 828           |
| 2019                                 | 47               | 2             | 534             | 583   | 660           |
| 2020                                 | 52               | 2             | 588             | 642   | 722           |
| 2021                                 | 54               | 7             | 566             | 627   | 727           |
| 2022                                 | 76               | 9             | 531             | 616   | 713           |
| 2023                                 | 84               | 11            | 518             | 613   | 709           |
| 2024 (18 Jan)                        | 91               | 11            | 520             | 622   | 720           |

\* The difference of numbers between 2019 and 2020 was due to a database clean-up

The overall total includes free subscriptions to the heads of the various FIP/FIAP Commissions, libraries, advertisers, and exchange copies. To give perspective of the success of the Direct Subscriber system, there are only ten members who remain from 2019. (Direct subscribers belong to the PFSA Virtual Society and are registered as a members on application and after paying the affiliation fees as determined by Congress).

### Benefits of belonging to SA Organised Philately:

- Access to the 'members-only' area on the PFSA website, [www.stampssa.africa](http://www.stampssa.africa)
- Access to the bi-monthly electronic journal - *The SA Philatelist* and the electronic newsletter 'STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA – Keeping in Touch'
- Exhibit at exhibitions sanctioned by the PFSA (Often with added support benefits)
- Discounted expert verification of postage stamps and postal items
- Assistance with collections/exhibits and their preparation
- Philatelic library
- Assistance for youth groups
- Opportunities for buying and selling philatelic material
- Access to club events, meetings, and activities
- Networking opportunities with like-minded individuals
- Opportunities for personal/philately development

Let us target 2024 as the year of growing our membership... If you have any suggestions, please feel free to pass them on to me.

ZOOM MEETINGS: The 'usual' Pretoria PS zoom meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month, will now be held under the auspices of the PFSA at 19h00, 3rd Thursday of each month.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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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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.

The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, 'Keeping in Touch'. Regular and new readers who will ensure that the social media activities and publications continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. Contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, 083 399 1755. <https://www.stampssa.africa> email> [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)

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### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

- **Affiliation fee:** RSA and World Wide: R135.00 (Electronic only).
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The PFSA affiliation fee *inter-alia* offer six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.
- Enquiries regarding **subscriptions and PFSA membership** can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@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*, email: [janice@gdb.co.za](mailto:janice@gdb.co.za)

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*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 will be considered for publication.*

## Wishing our readers a Happy Valentine's Day



Also known as the Feast of Saint Valentine, and celebrated annually on 14 February. It originated as a Christian Feast Day honouring a martyr named Valentine and through later folk traditions.

It has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Saint Valentine of Rome was imprisoned for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. An 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution. Valentine was added to the calendar of saints by Pope Gelasius I in 496.

The day grew into an occasion for couples to express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped image.

*An interesting collecting theme for young and old romantics!* 

## A need to be corrected

Having read Robin Messengers article 'The Road to Democracy Issue Revisited' in the December issue of *The SA Philatelist* I would like to correct points which I know to be in correct.

As information published in *The SA Philatelist* tends to be accepted as 'factual' this needs to be corrected.

In the *RSA Stamp Study Group Newsletters* 415 (Dec22), 416 (Feb23) & 417 (Mar23), information was gathered about this issue. The stamps were due to be put on sale on 8 November 2022, but were not available in Cape Town on the intended day of issue. I understand they arrived two days later due to 'transport arrangements'. Comments were immediately made on the printing quality, firstly due to the random security fibres all over the stamps, but also other factors as you mentioned.

The stamps were not withdrawn during the exhibition, but due to the fact that only ±3000 sheetlets were delivered, the balance went back to Philatelic Services and withheld from sale until the rest of the order could be delivered.

Following withdrawal remedial action was taken, I believe, in early December but with little Improvement in quality. By then the error in the Control Block numbers had been discovered.

GPW prepared new plates and the reprint was approved on 10/02/2023 with corrected CB numbers.

It would be appreciated if you could correct the sequence of printing events for the record.

Jan de Jong  
(Editor - RSA Stamp Study Group NL)

*R.M. - Editorial Board reply:*

*Thank you for your email. I did miss the March 2023 RSASSG newsletter.*

*There is enough additional information in the March NL for a further article on this subject: 'The Road to Democracy Issue Revisited Again'.*



## COLONIES PAR BORDEAUX

Since publication of my article on 'Mauritius and the French Mails' in the December issue of the *SAP*, Paul Wijnants of Belgium has kindly written to point out that the marks COLONIES PAR BORDEAUX and POST PAID PORT LOUIS are not scarce. I am grateful to Paul for his comments, with which I can agree. Paul's observations raise the question as to what qualifies a mark or an item as 'scarce'. Views on this will be appreciated.

Andrew Briscoe <andrew@briscoe.co.bw> 

# Phun with postmarks

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



## SWA REGISTRATION CACHETS RESURRECTED – THE SEQUEL

It is well-known that the moment information is printed, it is out of date as further information is discovered. This is certainly the case for the alpha codes used for registration at Windhoek. The ink on the article in the October 2023 issue of *The SA Philatelist* had hardly dried, where the alpha codes were discussed before Dr David de Klerk, one of the references in the previous column sent new information as confirmation of existing data. My staunch supporters, Danie van Zyl and Derick Loteryman, had in the meantime continued the search and found new information. Thanks a ton.

This column contains Table 1 which is an updated discussion of alpha codes used for registration in Windhoek, and images of the new information. Previous images are not repeated unless relevant to the discussion. In the compilation by Gaynor there are various codes, namely V; RV; VR; NI; S; SO; C; HC amongst others.

| Code          | Suggested definition           | Date used  |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
|               | Windhoek                       | 19.12.1931 First flight Windhoek to Kimberley  |
| D, K, C, G, H | Registration register          | 12.5.1937 KGVI Coronation  |
| HC            |                                | Undated. Code was printed on FDC of 1954 Definitive but was changed by manuscript NI.  |
| SO            | Stamp Office?                  | 16.6.1938 Voortrekker Monument Fund, 1.7.1938 without Windhoek (Fig.4) to 14.12.1938, 17.7.1939 Huguenot, 1943 War? 3.12.1945 to 18.1.1946 Victory |
| RV            | Royal Visit                    | 14.2.1947  |
| S             | Seventy-fifth Anniversary UPU? | 1.10.1949  |
| V             | Voortrekker Monument           | 1.12.1949  |
| VR            | Van Riebeeck                   | 14.3.1952  |
| C             | Coronation                     | 2.6.1953   |
| NI            | New Issue?                     | 15.11.1954 Definitive issue, preprinted HC, cancelled with manuscript NI.  |
| P             |                                | 14.2.1961 Decimal Definitive issue   |
| H             | Hardap Dam                     | 16.3.1963  |
| C             | Calvin                         | 1.10.1964  |
| W             | Windhoek 75th Anniversary      | 18.10.1965   |
| V             | Vedder                         | 4.7.1966   |
| HV            | Hendrik Verwoerd               | 6.1.1967   |

Table 1. Updated discussion of alpha codes used for registration in Windhoek.



Fig.1: The earliest recorded use of the single line office cachet for registration in 1931.



Figs.2: (a) to (e). Alpha codes on KGVI coronation covers.



Fig.3: Printed code 'HC' changed to NI for 1954 Definitive issue.



Fig.4: Earliest use of the 'SO' cachet used on 16.6.1938.





Fig.5:  
Transaction  
record.

found printed on an FDC of 1954 Definitive but was changed by manuscript NI (Fig.3). This does not bring us any closer to an answer.

(d) A new earliest 'SO' cachet has been recorded on the Voortrekker Monument Fund (VMF) issued in 1936 (Fig. 4). A manuscript 'R' is shown. No 'R' alpha code has been recorded, and it is suspected that this is for registration. Of special interest is that the cover contained a transaction record, shown as Fig.5, for three sets of pairs of the VMF to the value of 5/-. The letter probably contained two sets of mint pairs, and the other set went through the mail. No reference numbers correspond with the numbers on the cover, which suggests that execution of the order was at a different section to the registration dispatch.

(e) A new explanation for code 'S' is Seventy-fifth Anniversary UPU (Fig.6).

(f) The 'NI' is another challenge. The date of use is the first day of issue of the 1954 definitive issue, and 'New Issue' appears logical (Fig.3).

(g) A further six codes, P, H, C, W, V and HV, have been found used with Windhoek Registration Cachets, shown in Figs. 7(a) to (f). Although the 'C' was previously used in 1936, the relation with the stamp issue is logical. Fig.7(a) was also seen with code 'H'.

In conclusion, it appears as if the early use of office cachets or manuscript was non generic. The same markings were used over a period of time. Only from the Royal Visit the alpha codes were related to the issue. From this discussion all the codes have been accounted for. In 1963 the South African Philatelic Services started issuing numbered FDC with the ITU issue, which was No. 1. FDC No. 2 was the Dutch Reformed Church issue. Neither of these issues had SWA counterparts. The Hendrik Verwoerd stamps were issued in both RSA and SWA, and the last SWA alpha code was for this issue. Evidently this was the last alpha code as procedures in the distribution were changed by Philatelic Services.

On a number of covers figures were given after a "/" (Fig.3). It is suggested that these are multiple covers for the same order. Lastly, a code 'K' was recorded on a cover with Walvis Bay registration cachet (Fig.8). We thought we had all the answers, but this item raises a new question. Did every office have a separate registration receipt book with alpha codes as this item suggests?

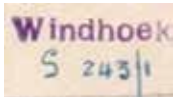
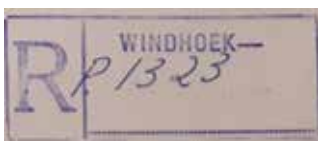
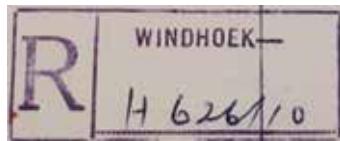


Fig.6: Code 'S' was found on  
Seventy-fifth Anniversary  
UPU FDC dated 1.10.1949.



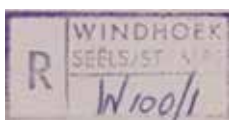
(a)



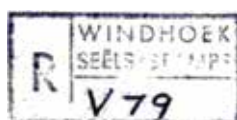
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Fig.7(a) to (f): Windhoek registration cachets  
with manuscript for 1961 Definitive issue,  
1963 Hardap Dam, 1964 Calvin, 1965  
Windhoek 75th Anniversary, 1966 Vedder  
and 1967 Hendrik Verwoerd.

An update of the analysis of the new information and understanding are presented without repeating the previous discussion:

(a) A new earliest date of the Windhoek single line office cachet used for registration is on a cover flown with the first flight from Windhoek to Kimberley (Fig.1) in 1931. No alpha code were used, only the registration number. As an aside it appears as if the cover travelled from Kimberley to Poste Restante, Upington, from where it was dispatched to Cape Town, probably by rail.

(b) 1937 code 'D', not listed by Gaydon, was recorded in the previous column. Since it was not previously recorded it was surmised to be a clerk signature. However, it was found on the KGVI coronation date, and could be a valid code.

Figs.2(a) to (e) show new information, and alpha codes of C, D, G, H, K have been recorded. A Windhoek C was changed to K. Evidently these are not initials but could be registration receipt book registers.

(c) Code 'HC' listed by Gaydon but undated. An 'HC' Code was



Fig.8: Alpha code K used in Walvis Bay

Wie het kon verwag dat 'n navraag oor 'n manuskrip kode tot 'n omvangryke oorsig van Suidwes Afrika se registrasie kodes tot gevolg sou hê. Dit het 'n nuwe breë studieveld tot gevolg gehad. Ten spyte van die antwoorde wat verkry is, is daar nog onopgeloste vrae. Ons moedig lesers aan om verdere inligting bekend te maak. Baie dankie vir die bronne wat reeds getap is.

## Thailand 2023 – WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION

Report by the S.A. Commissioner, Emil Minnaar RDPSA

Commemorating the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thailand Post, the exhibition hosted by the Philatelic Association of Thailand, under the patronage of FIP with the recognition of FIAP, was held in Bangkok from 27 November – 2 December 2023.

A total of 464 exhibits in 2441 frames and 93 Literature exhibits were judged resulting in 42 Large Gold and 85 Gold medals being awarded. Major awards were:

- The World Stamp Championship - Mr Pen Han Tay (Singapore). - *Netherlands East Indies 1655-1870.*
- The Grand Prix International - Han Cheol Kyu (Korea). - *Korea: the Daehan Empire Stamps. 1884-1905.*
- The Grand Prix National – Prakob Chirakiti (Thailand). - *Siam. The Development of Early Post Offices.*
- Best Youth Exhibit – Aljo Guillen Lemus (Argentina). - *Una Historia sobre Cuatro Ruedas – El Automóvil.*



### The South African exhibitors achieved the following awards:

- Andre du Plessis: *Chinese Indentured Workers on the Rand - 1904 to 1910* - 82 points.
- Emil Bührmann: *Cape of Good Hope. The Last Ten Years* - **Gold.**
- Emil Minnaar: *Israel - 1949 Flag Issue* - 81 points.
- Ian Matheson: *Penalty Stamps of South Africa* - **Large Vermeil.**
- Neil Cronje: *Postal Stationery of Southern Nigeria* – 78 points.
- Vernon Mitchell: *Port Elizabeth: A compendium of Postcards* – **Silver.**

## NATIONAL STAMP SHOW

### MARPEX 2024

9 to 13 July 2024

Will be hosted by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society



Venue: Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg.

Entries close: 31 May 2024.

Delivery of Exhibits to Organising Committee: 9 July 2024.

Congress: 12 July 2024.

Contact: John Handman - [john@radium.co.za](mailto:john@radium.co.za)

or André du Plessis - [pfsastamps@gmail.com](mailto:pfsastamps@gmail.com)

The Organising committee is currently in negotiations with Alex Haiman from the USA to exhibit his highly esteemed international exhibition **Clash of Empires** at the Stamp show. This exhibit covers the Anglo Zulu War in KZN during 1879.

Please participate and support the exhibition.

[Prospectus and Entry form](#)

## Bucharest, Romania

17 to 20 April 2024.

Entries have closed.

The SA Commissioner:  
Joof van der Merwe - [josuav528@gmail.com](mailto:josuav528@gmail.com)



## ONE-FRAME VIRTUAL EXHIBITION : SAVPEX 2024

15 June 2024

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

- 30 April 2024. Receipt of Entry Form, Description and Payment.
- 25 May 2024. Receipt of Uploaded Exhibit.
- July 2024. Announcement of Results, exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

**Please participate and support the exhibition.**

Contact: Joof van der Merwe – [josuav528@gmail.com](mailto:josuav528@gmail.com)



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# Boer War covers with New Zealand connections

by Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL and Sean Burke FRPSL



Fig.1.

The first cover (Fig.1) is from Bulawayo to Hong Kong and did not qualify for an officer's ON ACTIVE SERVICE concession, or for the Soldiers' Concessionary Rate of 1d - thus the cover is correctly franked 4d for the World Wide letter rate that came into effect on 1 April, 1900. It has marking from Bulawayo 30 JUL 00, Durban AU 13 00 and Singapore SP 22 00. (The route would have been from Bulawayo to Beira by train and then by sea to Durban, then Colombo, Singapore and finally Hong Kong.)

The second cover (Fig.2), which is endorsed with 'no stamps available, is cancelled at Mafeking SP 11 00, Colombo OC 14 00 and Singapore OC 22 00. (It would have travelled overland by train to Bulawayo then on to Beira, then by sea - Durban, Colombo, Singapore and Hong Kong.)

Lt Col Stewart Newall (Fig.3) of 5th New Zealand Mounted Rifles was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland in 1843. He served in the Constabulary during the Maori Wars of 1870-1880. He married Georgina Roberts in New Zealand in March 1872; they had one son and five daughters. Upon the outbreak of the Boer War he was appointed CO of the 5th NZMR Contingent (NZ Imperial Bushman) and sailed on 31 March, 1900, to Beira reaching there on 27 April, 1900.

They travelled overland to Rhodesia to join Carrington's Rhodesian Field Force where they became part of Lt Col Grey's 2nd Rhodesian Field Force operating in the Western Transvaal. Newall had to leave the 5th NZMR to return home on 30 December 1900, passing command on to Major J. Ponsonby of the Coldstream Guards.

Newall was later awarded Commander of the Bath (CB). He died in August, 1919 at Waikato and is buried in the Kaori Cemetery, Wellington. These two covers are probably to his son.

Fig.4.



Fig.2.

The route taken by the cover would be Tuli to Mafeking to Vryburg, then by train to Cape Town and then by sea to New Zealand.

Acknowledgements and thanks to Dr Robin Droogleever who heads the Anglo Boer War Study Group in Australia and is editor of their Journal, *The Kopje*.

Fig.3.



Finally, a cover (Fig.4 - paying the Soldier's Rate of 1d) from Captain Harvey P. Tuckey of the 5th New Zealand Contingent with Col Wood's Column at Tuli. The 5th New Zealand Contingent was part of the 2nd Brigade - 900 men - of the Rhodesian Field Force. Tuckey was stationed at Tuli as Staff Officer from mid-September to mid-November, 1900, before going to Bulawayo. It has a Tuli OC 20 00 cancel and NZ/RPO arrival 11 DE 00.



The First Airmail in South Africa – a Revisit by David Wigston,  
East Rand Philatelic Society

In the June 2023 issue of *The SA Philatelist* we explored the first airmail that took place in South Africa; which was also the third to take place globally, in 1911. Invariably more information and examples turn up after publication. This was no exception with an interesting item submitted by Ralph Phillips (Fig.1).



Fig.1: Image courtesy of Ralph Phillips.

Sanctioned by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (Sir David Graaf), Evelyn 'Bok' Driver made two flights from Kenilworth to Muizenberg during the Christmas/New Year Holidays as part of the Flying Fortnight (21 December 1911 to 3 January 1912). The idea of this event being the conveyance of mails between Kenilworth and Muizenberg. Details of the two flights can be found on pages 100-103 in the June 2023 issue of *The SA Philatelist*.

What makes this item of special interest is the destination: Robben Island. It also introduces an additional aspect of aerophilately; that of history by post.

The postcard is correctly franked with a half-penny stamp for local delivery, which has been cancelled with the special hand-stamp. A standard Kenilworth cancellation has also been applied. This suggests the card was posted at the Kenilworth post office. Unfortunately the date on this regular Kenilworth cancellation has been obliterated (Fig.2) making it difficult to confirm the date. However the stamp is cancelled with the cachet rather than the regular circular date stamp.

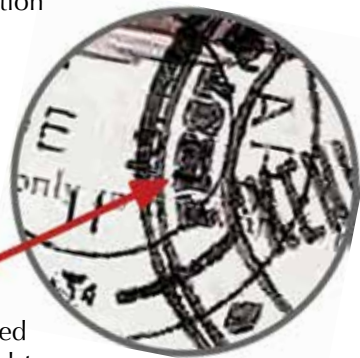


Fig.2: Obliteration of the date in the Kenilworth cancellation.

The Kenilworth date confirms the postcard was carried on the first outbound flight. As the mail on that first outbound flight was only processed the following day there are two dates in the Muizenberg cancels. The special hand-stamp reflects the date of the flight; the regular Muizenberg cancel the date the cards were processed. There is no return address given on the reverse (Fig.3).

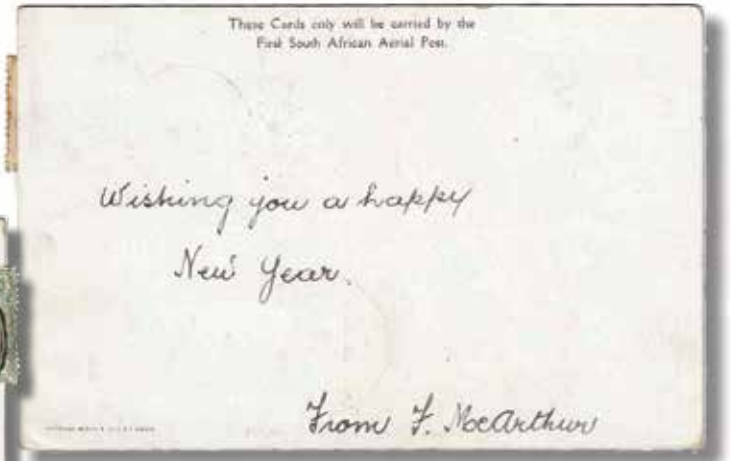


Fig.3: Message side of the post card.

Postcards went to Kenilworth or Muizenberg, depending which was the closest to the point of posting. What is of interest is the Robben Island arrival mark. The item was transported from Muizenberg to Robben Island on the same day, 28 December 1911. This was most likely via road transport to the main Post Office in Cape Town and then by launch to Robben Island (Fig.4). The destination of Robben Island probably makes this postcard unique.



Fig.4: Ferry from Cape Town to Robben Island.

Robben Island (Robben comes from the Dutch for seals) is located in Table Bay, 9.3km north of Green Point (Fig.5). It's low-lying with the highest point a mere 24m above sea level (Fig.6). The island was originally used as a source of provisions by ships en route to the Dutch East Indies, long before the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in 1652. The island had a variety of wild life and plentiful supply of water. Often letters were left under rocks to be collected by passing ships. The notoriety of the island as a penal colony dates back to 1611 when King James I sent convicts to the Cape. In 1636 mutineers were banished to the island by the Dutch East India Company. Political prisoners from Malaysia and Indonesia were also incarcerated there. When the British annexed the Cape in 1806 they continued with this practice. In 1806 the island became a whaling station while still accommodating prisoners. Whaling activities were closed in 1820. This didn't last long – it provided an easy escape route for convicts!



In 1845 the island became a leper colony. Prisoners were moved to the main land to work on the roads. Over time the leper colony included lunatics, law-breakers, the chronically ill and paupers. These unfortunates were housed in squalid and unhealthy conditions. By 1904 the population of the island reached 1460 persons. It was only in 1913, after the dispatch of this postcard, that mentally ill patients were removed. However, lepers remained on the island until 1931 when the accommodations were destroyed by fire. The postcard (Fig.1) was addressed to Dr and Mrs Moon. Dr E. F. W. Moon was the last superintendent of the leper colony who served from 1904 to 1920.



Fig.5: Location of Robben Island.

has a notice board enticing tourists to buy philatelic products as souvenirs. These included Robben Island stamps; presumably the stamp shown in Fig.6. The notice board also suggests that tourists can “date stamp your Post Card with the Robben Island date stamp”. It was reported that the post office was permanently closed in 2021.



Fig.8: Robben Island post office, circa 1871.

Fig.6: Aerial view of Robben Island. Issued 22 September 2000; the island was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.



In 1939 the island was used by the Defence Force to protect Table Bay during World War II. In 1950 it was taken over by the Navy becoming known as S.A.S. Robbeneiland. Control passed to the Prisons Department in 1965 (Fig.7). During the apartheid years many were kept on the island as political prisoners under harsh conditions.



Fig.7: Sombre and austere entrance to the Robben island prison. Evidence of the military occupation of the island can be seen through the entrance.

The last prisoners left Robben Island in 1991 and the prison was formally closed in 1996. This stain on the country's history will never be erased. The prison has been converted into a museum and has become a tourist attraction – even if a sombre one.

A post office was established on the island, operating from 1862 to 1871 (Fig.8). The post office was reopened nine years later in 1880, remaining in service until 11 May 1931. A postal agency was established on the island 18 March 1940, reverting to a full post office 7 March 1949 (Fig.9). Occupying a building dated 1943, the post office



Fig.9: Robben Island post office, circa 1971.

In conclusion, it's interesting to note that a hundred years ago, an entry in the February 1924 issue of *The SA Philatelist* stated (some 13 years after the event) ...*South African philatelists would be well advised to turn their attention to the souvenirs of the few exhibition flights that have already taken place in this country. We refer to the Kenilworth-Muizenberg and Muizenberg-Kenilworth air mails of 1911-1912.*

Indeed, this item can be considered a significant artefact of South African history.

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# UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ILLUSTRATED STAMP VARIETIES

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



## Universal Postal Union, 1949 (UHB 24, Stamp numbers 105, 106 and 107)

A series of three values, ½d., 1½d., and 3d. was issued on 1 October 1949 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

All three values depicted Mercury astride the world, which featured South Africa in the foreground. Photographs of the globe and the statue of Mercury were taken by J L Booysen, on which he based the design. Lettering was done by J. Prentice and all three stamps were in vertical format - 21,5 x 37,5mm\* with perforation gauge 14 x 15.

The sheets consisted of 120 stamps (6 rows x 20) inscribed alternately in English and Afrikaans, with the sideways watermark facing left. There were arrows at the centre of all four margins and the cylinder number and the four-figure sheet number in red, were on the bottom margin, the former under the first stamp of row 6.

Two different cylinders number 60 and 31, derived from the same multipositive, were used for printing the ½d. value. For the other two values numbers being: 1½d. - 1; and 3d. - 25.

### UHB 105, 106 and 107



Blue green  
UHB 105

(SG 128) (SASCC 127)



Brown - red  
UHB 106

(SG 129) (SASCC 128)



Bright blue  
UHB 107

(SG 130) (SASCC 129)

\* These measurements are of the design, the size of the stamps, 'perf to perf' is 24 x 41mm.

### SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB))  
AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH above the variety indicates the language at the top of the stamp on which it appears.

#### UHB 105 - ½d.

First stamp on the sheet was English.

Multipositive (Cylinders no. 60 and 31)

| ENGLISH  | AFRIKAANS   | ENGLISH  |
|--|---|--|
|  |   |  |
| White dot under 'T' of South (ex Row 1/5) UHB 105 - V1 | Lighter coloured blob on right-hand edge level with face (ex Row 4/19) UHB 105 - V2 | Lighter coloured blob at top of 'A' of Africa (ex Row 5/11) UHB 104 - V3 |

#### Cylinder No. 60

| AFRIKAANS   | AFRIKAANS  | AFRIKAANS  |
|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |
| White dot near left edge, level with face (ex Row 4/3) UHB 105 - V4 | Two green spots and break in longitudinal line on Globe at right-hand bottom corner (ex Row 5/20) UHB 105 - V5 | White apostrophe mark and darker green flaw adjoining top of 'L' of POSSEEL (ex Row 6/17) UHB 104 - V6 |

#### Cylinder No. 31

| AFRIKAANS   | ENGLISH   | AFRIKAANS  |
|---|---|--|
|   |   |  |
| White dot above 'P' of WERELDPOSUNIE (ex Row 4/13) UHB 104 - V7 | Green spot on 'C' of AFRICA (ex Row 5/1) UHB 105 - V8 | Two green dots on thigh (ex Row 5/18) UHB 105 - V9 |

#### GENERAL









Green  
SASCC 127a



## UHB 106 - 1½d.




First stamp on the sheet was Afrikaans





|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| ENGLISH<br> | AFRIKAANS<br> | AFRIKAANS<br>        |
| Small break in right limb of 'U' in SOUTH (ex Row 1/14) UHB 106 - V1                         | Dot in '2' of value (ex Row 2/4) UHB 106 - V2  | Line across middle of large '1' of value and white mark above 'D' on Globe (ex Row 2/14) UHB 106 - V3 |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| ENGLISH<br> | ENGLISH<br> | AFRIKAANS<br> |
| Lighter blob at top of 'U' in South (ex Row 3/2) UHB 106 - V4                                | Small mark in left limb of 'U' in SOUTH (ex Row 3/8) UHB 106 - V5                            | Mark, 'Gauntlet', on left wrist (ex Row 4/8) UHB 106 - V6                                      |

## UHB 107 - 3d.

First stamp on the sheet was English

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| ENGLISH<br> | AFRIKAANS<br> | ENGLISH<br> |
| 'G' for 'C' in AFRICA (ex Row 1/1) UHB 107 - V1<br>SG 130a/SASCC 129a                        | Large white mark midway between POSSEEL and thigh (ex Row -sheet position unknown) UHB 107 - V2  | Two white spots above head (ex Row 3/1) UHB 107 - V3   |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| AFRIKAANS<br> | ENGLISH<br> | AFRIKAANS<br> | AFRIKAANS<br> |
| White mark attached to '3' and white spot near raised elbow (ex Row 5/6) UHB 107 - V4          | White dot under second 'A' of AFRICA (ex Row 6/10) UHB 107 - V5                               | White dot below 'I' in 'POSUNIE' (ex Row 6/15) UHB 107 - V6                                      | 'Lake' in Africa (ex Row 2/19) NOT LISTED IN UHB SG 130b/SASCC 129b                              |

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**FOOTNOTE:** Both the SG and SASCC listed UHB 107 - V1 as Serif on 'C' and the non UHB listed variety as 'Lake' in East Africa.

# A CHALLENGE

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.

The illustrated cover has collected a bewildering array of markings. According to my analysis, there are a total of 26 markings, some manuscript and others handstruck. The challenge is first to identify the markings, and then to arrange them in chronological order. The result of my own analysis appears on page 31.

## Just for laughs...

published in *The Daily Maverick* and submitted by Jim Findlay RDPSA. (19.12.2023)



Thanks for sharing Jim - ☺



## TWO SWIMMING-RELATED COVERS FROM THE GAMES OF 1952 AND 1954

by JP van Niekerk, direct PFSA subscriber [jpvanniekerk53@gmail.com](mailto:jpvanniekerk53@gmail.com)

Two postal covers, the one from the Olympic Games of 1952, the other from the British Empire Games of 1954, are related in that they both concern members of the swimming team that represented South Africa at those games.

The first (Fig.1), a first-day cover, depicts four Finnish semi-postal stamps (issued on 16 November 1951) advertising the Games of the 15<sup>th</sup> Olympiad held in Helsinki from 19 July to 3 August 1952. The stamps in question are featured on a variety of different formats, as well as in a booklet; the one under discussion depicts the Olympic Stadium. The cover is date-stamped 19 July 1952 at 'Helsinki / Helsingfors' (the Swedish for Helsinki) and addressed to 'N. L. MEIRING / c/o South African Team / KÄPYLÄ'.



Fig.1: 1952 Olympic Games first-day cover (in the author's collection)

The Games of 1952 are remembered as those of the Czech Emil Zátopec (three gold medals in the 5km and 10km races and the marathon) and his wife, Dana Zátopehová (gold in the javelin). South Africans remember it for the gold medals of Esther Brand (in the high jump) and the sixteen-year old Joan Harrison (in the 100m backstroke), for Willie Toweel's boxing bronze (in the flyweight division), and for Wally Hayward's 10th place in the marathon.

South Africa sent a team of 60 men and four women to the Games. The team stayed in apartments in the Kisakylä Olympic Village, built in the residential district of Käpylä. Altogether the team won 10 medals (two gold, four silver and four bronze).

Nicolaas Lingen ('Lin') Meiring was a member of the swimming team, which consisted of seven members (there was also a water polo team) with Alex Bulley as the manager. Born on 22 October 1933 in Pietermaritzburg, Meiring, as a junior, excelled in swimming, the backstroke being his speciality. He swam for Natal and won several titles at the South African swimming championships prior to being selected for the Olympic team.

Meiring took part in the 100m backstroke at the Games. Thirty-eight swimmers contested the event in six heats in the outdoor Helsinki Swimming Stadium on 30 July and 1 August. Meiring came second in the fourth heat (with a time of 1:08.5), and third in the second heat of the semi-finals (1:07.6). In the final, he was placed eighth (1:08.3), although Bulley, in his report as team manager, suggested that the officials had mistaken Meiring for another swimmer and that in reality he had finished fourth (1:07.6).

One can only speculate as to why Meiring had received the first-day cover. I could find no indication that all participants at the Games received such a cover; maybe he was a stamp collector.

In any event, after the Games Meiring was offered and accepted a scholarship at the University of Oklahoma. There he joined a number of other South African swimmers, including Graham Johnston and Peter Duncan (both also representing South Africa in Helsinki), Gerrie and Ernst de Jong, Julian Dayson and Melyvn van Helsdingen. They, in no small part, contributed to the Oklahoma team becoming a formidable force in collegiate aquatics in America.

The second cover (Fig.2) was posted from the British Empire Games in Vancouver. It is not a first-day cover and displays no games-related stamps (special stamps were issued for the first time for the 1958 Games in Cardiff); it is merely a commemorative cover with a Games vignette, date-stamped on the opening day, 30 July 1954. The Canadian post office did provide a publicity slogan postmark cancellation, but that was not used for the cover in question. It was addressed, somewhat chauvinistically, to 'Mrs Alex Bulley' in Durban and was from her husband Alex, manager of the South African swimming team at the Games. According to the letter to his wife which is still contained in the cover, it was sent to let her "have an 'Opening Day' cover".

The British Empire and Commonwealth Games, the fifth such, were held in Vancouver from 30 July to 7 August 1954; 24 nations competed. It is remembered nowadays for the so-called 'Miracle Mile' in which the Englishman Roger Bannister beat the Australian Frank Landy, both runners dipping below the four-minute barrier.

South Africa sent a large team and finished third in the medals table with 34 medals (16 gold, 11 silver and 17 bronze). Ten swimmers participated, including Lin Meiring, Graham Johnston and Peter Duncan who travelled to Vancouver from the United States where they were studying. The team stayed in the athletes' village on the campus of the University of British Columbia; the swimming events took place at the Empire Pool. Alex Bulley was again the manager of the swimming team.

Meiring, who had placed high in the backstroke events at the earlier American Championships, was entered in the 110yd backstroke and was expected to do well. He placed second in the second heat (1:09.4) and came fourth in the final (1:09.2). According to Bulley's report on the Games, Meiring could easily have finished third had he not relaxed and slowed down over the last few yards (YouTube videos of the 110yd backstroke race indeed shows that to have been the case!).

There is also a third cover of interest. On 5 August, two days before the closing of the Games, Meiring posted a letter from the 'Empire Village' in Vancouver to his parents in Pietermaritzburg. The cancellation displayed is the special Games slogan postmark (reading 'British Empire Games, Vancouver, Canada, Jul 3-Aug 7'). Remarkably this cover later formed part of the philatelic collection of the Canadian collector Andrew J Liptak and is depicted in a blogspot, dated 3 October 2013, on the website of the Canadian Postal History Corner ([www.postalhistorycorner.blogspot.com](http://www.postalhistorycorner.blogspot.com)).

What happened to our two main personalities after these games?





Fig.2: 1954 Empire Games opening-day cover (in the author's collection)

Alexander Airth Rowe ('Alex') Bulley, born on 12 November 1901 and an accountant by training, swam and played water polo for Natal before turning to coaching. He was for many years the official South African Swimming Union Coach, a selector and the manager of South African touring teams for more than three decades. As such he attended three Olympic Games (Helsinki 1952, Melbourne 1956, and Rome 1960) and four Empire Games from 1930 onwards. Most famously he managed the South African swimming team on its European tour in 1965, when the 12-year old Karen Muir broke the world record in Blackpool: the photograph of an ecstatic Bulley with the dazed Muir is one of the iconic images of South African sport (Fig.3). Bulley retired in 1967 and died on 6 December 1985.

Lin Meiring (Fig.4) studied medicine at Oklahoma, qualified as an otorhinolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat specialist) and practiced for many years in Oklahoma City, making a name for himself as a pioneer in laser surgery. He continued swimming (placing high in his age group in backstroke events at masters swimming meets in the 1980s) and with family in South Africa he retained links with the country of his birth. Meiring died on 6 February 2022, at the age of 89.



Fig.3: Alex Bulley and Karen Muir, Blackpool, 10 Aug 1965

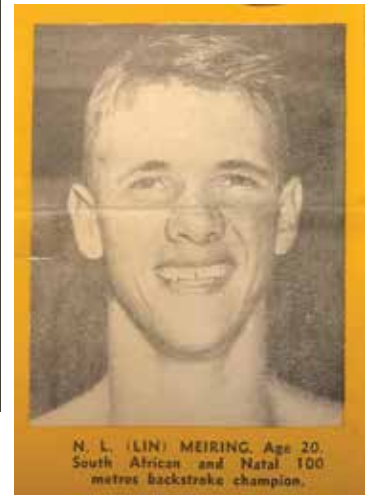


Fig.4: Lin Meiring in 1952 and in retirement (the photos appeared in the 4 July 1952 Outspan Souvenir Album, Olympic Games, 1952, and in his obituary in The Oklahoman).



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## 2024 Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

Meeting Venue: Country Club Johannesburg,  
Napier Road, Auckland Park



### MEETING PROGRAMME

- 14 February 2024 : Open Class Exhibit Evening
- 13 March 2024 : Annual General Meeting
- 10 April 2024 : Digital Workshop Evening
- 8 May 2024 : Favourite Cover/s
- 12 June 2024 : First Competitive Evening
- 10 July 2024 : No Rules One Frame Evening
- 14 August 2024 : Invitation to Pretoria Philatelic Society
- 11 September 2024 : One Frame Evening
- 9 October 2024 : Second Competitive Evening
- 13 November 2024 : Invited Exhibitor
- 11 December 2024 : President's Evening + Cocktail Party

## 2024 Philatelic Society of Johannesburg MEETING PROGRAMME

- Jan 17 : Africa & its islands
  - Feb 21 : AGM & invited exhibits
  - Mar 20 : Open Class, all categories & postal stationery
  - Apr 17 : Anything relating in any way to the letters 'Q &/or R &/or S'
  - May 15 : British Commonwealth
  - Jun 19 : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
  - Jul 17 : Foreign, the art of philately & philately as art
  - Aug 21 : Southern Africa
  - Sep 18 : Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages
  - Oct 16 : My favourite (Maximum of one frame) and thematic exhibits
  - Nov 20 : As You Like It
- President: Clive Carr 083 634 1939 [carr.clive@gmail.com](mailto:carr.clive@gmail.com)  
Meeting: Monthly - third Wednesday at 16:00 (except Dec).



# The Packet Service of Mauritius

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

In the seventeenth century, mail boats were especially designed for the swift carriage of mail between England and Continental Europe. These packet boats - as they became known - had been built for the North Atlantic and Mediterranean ports, with extra speed so that they stood a better chance of avoiding hostile ships. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Falmouth was established as the packet port for the Americas, the Portuguese and Spanish Peninsular, and the Mediterranean. But the monopoly of the East India Company on trading east of Cape Town meant that no packet service existed for the ports of India and the Far East.

At this time, the British Government was seeking ways to raise more revenue to finance the ever increasing cost of the Napoleonic campaigns. Against this background, it was decided to strengthen the Treasury's powers to ensure that all letters passed through the post and paid the appropriate rates. A new Act of Parliament was therefore introduced in Britain which imposed penalties upon any person sending a letter or packet, of which he was not the owner, without having the official mark of the postage having been paid. The master of the ship or vessel having on board any letter not bearing the official mark of the postage having been paid was also liable to heavy penalties, and powers were given to certain officers to search any vessel for such unpaid letters.

The new Act was passed in 1815, and provided, amongst other things, that:

Letters and packets that shall be conveyed ..... between the Cape of Good Hope or the Mauritius, and any part of the Continent of Asia and between the Cape of Good Hope or the Mauritius or the Continent of Asia, and all intermediate places, and between all the intermediate places respectively, the Rates and Duties following: -

- For every Single Letter, One Shilling and Ninepence;
- For every Double Letter, Three Shillings and Sixpence;
- For every Triple Letter, Five Shillings and Threepence;

And for every ounce in weight, Seven Shillings; and so on in proportion for Letters and Packets above the weight of an ounce.



Fig.1: 1850 entire to Nantes in France 'par Ceylon and Marseilles' with an oval red **PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS** datestamp [NO 16 / 1850] – which is the earliest recorded date for this mark - and the rare **FOREIGN LETTER** handstamp. A red Marseilles transit datestamp for 15 / FEVR / 51 is also on the front and a datestamp of Nantes for 16 February 1851 on reverse

## Is this the future of stamp collecting? Part 2.

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

In the previous issue of *The SA Philatelist* (page 177, December 2023) we started a discussion regarding the impact of crypto stamps on our hobby. In this issue we continue the discussion. To summarise, a crypto stamp consists of two parts: a traditional stamp which can be used to convey mail and a digital image stored somewhere on the internet where it can be viewed, sold or traded. In principle the digital and physical stamp can be sold or traded separately. An NFT (non fungible token) stamp has no tangible twin like crypto stamps and has no postal usage, but is authorised as official by a postal administration. NFT means that each stamp is unique and cannot be replaced with another one. The first crypto stamp was issued by Austria (Figs.1 & 2), June 2019. By October 2023 the number of crypto stamps issued by Austria had topped the million mark.

Fig.1: The first crypto stamp shown separated. At left is the postage stamp; the right shows the revealed codes after the covering has been scratched off. These codes are needed to gain access to the crypto version of the stamp.



To get a crypto version of the stamp you need to scan the barcodes on the stamp. Even so, the sheer extent of the access codes (shown in Fig.1) leaves many collectors bewildered and confused. To simplify the process of acquiring crypto and NFT stamps a company known as Stamsdaq (<https://stamsdaq.com>) was formed. The company is affiliated to the Universal Postal union (UPU). This makes the company acceptable to postal authorities for the marketing of digital stamps. The question still remains: what impact will digital stamps have on the hobby? There is the view that traditional collectors will not be buying crypto stamps. Yet it is possible that buyers of crypto stamps will start to look back to traditional collecting.

Is this the key to the future of the hobby? Molly Zuckerberg (<https://blockworks.co/news/nft-stamp-collecting-dud>) writes "The main takeaway ... is not just that the whole process [is] prohibitively confusing, but that the NFT stamp itself [doesn't] seem to spark the same amount of joy as a regular stamp [does] for a true philatelist." She adds that crypto stamps do not have the utility of real stamps. They should be viewed as a profit-making scheme by post offices world wide.

... cont on page 17





Fig.2: 1851 cover addressed to London, rated '2/3d' showing the oval PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS datestamp [FE 10 / 1851], via the packet 'Elizabeth' to Galle on 13th March, then 'Oriental' to Suez, then overland to Alexandria, and then per 'Indus' to Southampton, arriving in London on 16 April, 1851.

The rate for letters between Britain and the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius and the East Indies was to be for every Single Letter, One Shilling and Sixpence; and so on.

The first Packet sent out from England under the new Act was His Majesty's Ship *Iphengia*, which reached the Cape of Good Hope on 29 December 1815, sailing for Mauritius on 9 January 1816.



Fig.4: 1851 entire from Madras "pr Steamer via Galle for transmission to Mauritius", and showing red boxed Madras datestamp for 10 October 1851 and an oval PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS datestamp [NO 17 / 1851] plus the red crescent INDIA PAID handstamp. A scarce example of the Mauritius Packet Letter datestamp used on an incoming letter.



Fig.3: 1853 envelope addressed to London showing the oval PACKET LETTER / MAURITIUS datestamp [AU 06 / 1853] on front along with the uncommon BRITISH POSTAGE / PAID. Marked 'Via the Cape', with arrival London datestamp for 29 September 1853.

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... continues from page 16

Basically, as collectors, are we being scammed? On the other hand there is the view that such paired stamps are leading to a philatelic renaissance. This is backed up by the popularity of past crypto stamp launches. Crypto stamps sold out quickly.

It's worth remembering that crypto stamps are a speculative item. Crypto stamps do not have any practical purpose other than owning a unique piece of data in the form of a visual image. They are viewed as an investment. This comes with the risk that the market could over-inflate and that the investment bubble could burst at any stage. In a recent review the BBC noted that "the crypto world that exploded a couple of years ago has now gone very quiet." They noted that the market fell to its lowest during October 2023 when trading volume dropped by 89% since 2022. With this in mind, are crypto stamps the way to go?

Philatelic Services thinks so. At the International Exhibition, held in Cape Town during 2022, Philatelic Services began investigating the possibility of issuing NFT stamps. An on-line survey was held during September 2023 to gauge collector's opinions. A one-frame display explaining the concept of crypto stamps was put up by Philatelic Services at the 2023 National. Since the SAPO has not issued many stamps in the past few years, that SA Collectors be



Fig.2: First Day Cover showing the access codes covered. Illustrations at the bottom are different crypto stamps, their colours and number of stamps which were available. The scarcer the stamp, the higher its value.

asked what SA stamps they would like to see on crypto stamp. The idea of issuing crypto/NFT stamps raises many questions:

- How cost effective are crypto stamps?
  - Will crypto stamps stimulate interest in younger collectors?
  - How do you exhibit or display crypto stamps?
  - Will crypto stamps generate income for the Post Office?
- What is your opinion of crypto stamps? What do you consider the pros and cons of crypto stamps? Air your views - e-mail [janice@gdb.co.za](mailto:janice@gdb.co.za)  
We look forward to seeing what you think of this development.

# SCOUTING'S AFRICAN ORIGINS : ROBERT BADEN-POWELL AND THE BIRTH OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

*This article is a summary of a single frame, open class exhibit and was also the subject of a presentation given at an AGM of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.*



Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, affectionately known as B-P to millions of Scouts, was responsible for starting the worldwide Scout Movement. In 1899 two key events laid the groundwork for this achievement – firstly as a colonel in the British Army, he was placed in charge of the garrison at the railway town of Mafeking in the Cape Colony, and secondly his book for training British soldiers called *'Aids to Scouting for NCOs and Men'* was published.

Baden Powell had a long association with the African continent, and many of his original ideas for Scouting emanated from his experiences whilst stationed there and in South Africa in particular.

## The Mafeking 'Boy Scouts'

Our story starts during the Siege of Mafeking, during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899 – 1902). As every soldier was needed for the defence of the town, Baden-Powell formed a cadet corps (Figs.1 and 2) of around 40 boys to take over the other tasks that needed doing – carrying messages, lookout duty, helping in the hospitals and so forth.



Fig.1: RSA 15c stamp depicting Baden-Powell and a 20c Bophuthatswana stamp, showing a Mafeking cadet in uniform during the siege. Issued in 1982 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Scout Movement.

## After the War and 'Scouting for Boys'

Following the war Baden-Powell received a hero's welcome in England, for the defence of Mafeking, and found that his book *Aids to Scouting* had sold over 100,000 copies, mostly to boys and was being used by educators and youth leaders to teach observation and woodcraft. He now had time to finish the idea of adapting these concepts into a training program for boys. In the summer of 1907, B-P tested out his ideas during a weeklong training camp for 22 boys, on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset (Fig.3). *'Scouting for Boys'* (Fig.4) was his re-write of the earlier book, published in six fortnightly parts from January to March 1908. A book edition followed, and today more than 150 million copies have been printed.



Fig.2: 1991 c800 Ghana souvenir sheet with B-P's drawing of the leader of the Cadet Corps, Sergeant-Major Warner Goodyear and an image of a local cover mailed with one of the famous 'Mafeking Blue' stamps produced during the siege.



Fig.3: Tristan da Cunha 20p stamp, depicts B-P at Brownsea Island. He holds a kudu horn in his left hand, used to summon the campers each morning.



Fig.4: (at right) Tonga T\$1.50 self-adhesive stamp illustrates the cover of the first instalment of 'Scouting for Boys'.

Without fuss, without ceremony and completely spontaneously, boys began to form Scout Troops all over Britain. Soon it was common sight to see boys wearing broad-brimmed hats with coloured scarves knotted around their necks, engaged in Scouting activities in the villages and towns. By September 1908, B-P had to set up an office to deal with the large number of queries pouring in. Scouting quickly spread throughout the British Empire and to other parts of the world. The first Troops in South Africa were operating in Cape Town and Johannesburg in 1908.



**The Scout Uniform**

The earliest versions of the Scout uniform were inspired and adapted from B-P's experiences in Southern Africa. It was based on the uniforms worn by the South African Constabulary (Fig.5), which he set up in 1900 following the relief of Mafeking. The campaign hat, usually a broadbrimmed felt hat, with a high crown, pinched symmetrically at the four corners and the wearing of a neckerchief knotted around the neck, have their origins in the Second Matabele War in 1896.



*Fig.5: Postcard of a Trooper of the South African Constabulary.*

Uniform was an important part of the Scouting method, for Baden-Powell is quoted as saying "it hides all differences of social standing and covers differences of country and race and creed, and makes all feel that they are members with one another of the one great brotherhood".

The Scout staff or stave (Fig.6), a wooden pole or quarterstaff, was traditionally carried as a walking stick but had several other uses in emergency situations and for pioneering. It originated from B-P's experiences during the Ashanti campaign in the interior of the Gold Coast (1895 – 1896), where military engineers used a staff to estimate height, test the depths of swamps, and hang telegraph wires from the branches of the jungle.

*Fig.6: 1978 stamp issued to mark 10th Anniversary of Rwandan Scouting. Depicts two Scouts in traditional uniform holding staves.*



**Scouting Symbols from Africa**

The Kudu Horn (Fig.7) came from the Matabele Campaign in 1896, in which the Matabele used it for military signalling over long distances.

After this campaign, Baden-Powell took one of these horns home as a trophy, which years later would find another use on Brownsea Island and numerous other Scout camps thereafter.



*Fig.7: Stamp issued by the Republic of Togo in 2014, as part of miniature sheet honouring Scouting. It shows B-P using the original Matabele war horn.*

In 1888, B-P was part of a campaign against the Zulu king, Dinizulu kaCetshwayo. Dinizulu wore a necklace of about 12 feet in length, consisting of 1000s of wooden beads. The necklace was a distinction conferred on royalty and great warriors. B-P acquired the necklace, and years later would use two of these beads on a leather thong to present to adults completing their training as Scout leaders (Fig.8 and 9).



*Fig.8: Postcard of Baden-Powell, circa 1929, wearing the typical 'campaign hat' from the Matabele Campaign and also used as part of the uniform of the South African Constabulary. He is also wearing the 'woodbadge beads' around his neck, from Dinizulu's necklace, acquired during the campaign against the Zulu in 1888.*



*Fig.9: Image of the Woodbadge, issued to all adult leaders after completing their training.*

There are two stories concerning the origin of the left handshake in Scouting (Fig.10).



The first is simply that it is the hand closest to the heart. The other comes from the Ashanti Campaign, mentioned previously.

When B-P entered Kumasi, the capital city of the Ashanti, he was greeted by a warrior chief who held out his left hand. He told B-P that 'the bravest of the brave shake with the left hand' as a sign of trust, as the shield is held in the left hand. Today, Scouts worldwide use the left-handshake in greeting each other.



Fig.10: The 1963 Nigeria 3d stamp was the first triangular Scout stamp issued. It commemorates the 11th World Scout Jamboree held in Greece, and depicts the left-handshake.

#### Retirement

Baden-Powell also chose Africa as the place for his retirement. In 1938 he and his wife moved to the town of Nyeri in Kenya and lived out his remaining years in a cottage 'Paxtu' (Fig.11) in the grounds of the Outspan Hotel. On the 8th January 1941, B-P died at the age of 83. He was buried in the grounds of the Anglican church in Nyeri with a headstone showing the simple Scout trail sign for 'I have gone home' (Fig.12).



Fig.11: Kenya 1982 se-tenant pair of stamps, from a set of eight issued to mark the 75th anniversary of Scouting. It depicts the cottage Paxtu and B-P's wife, Olave Baden-Powell, who was involved in establishing the Girl Guide movement as the sister organisation to Scouting.

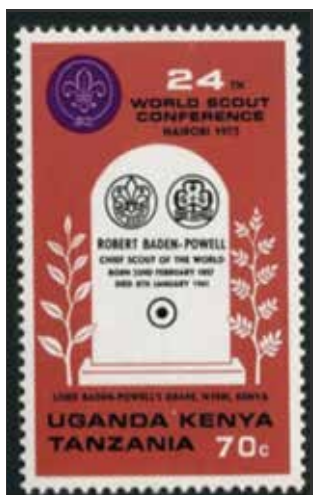


Fig.12: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (KUT) stamp, issued in 1973 for the World Scout Conference held in Nairobi, depicts his gravestone.

## ITEM OF INTEREST

AN INTERESTING LETTER

### Napoleon's Illness and Death

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The illustrated cover includes a letter dated headed "St Helena 10th Oct 1817" which was privately carried to England and posted at Plymouth Dock. It was written by George Dunlop, a British army surgeon serving with the 66th Foot, to his brother in Scotland. George Dunlop had trained as a surgeon in Edinburgh, before working in Chelsea, London. He served as a surgeon in the Crimean War, and went on to form part of the British Army contingent on Saint Helena guarding Napoleon Bonaparte.

The letter includes the following intriguing paragraph: "I have been introduced to Napoleon who addressed several questions to me. He is now become much more social than formerly and frequently rides out. It is the opinion of many here that he will be allowed to go to England in eight or ten years. He appears to be in bad health on account his being troubled with swelled legs, his limits are enlarged that he may have more exercise."

On October 15, 1815, Napoleon had disembarked on St. Helena with those followers who were voluntarily accompanying him into exile. St. Helena had a healthy climate, and Napoleon's food was good, carefully prepared, and plentiful. Napoleon showed the first signs of illness in 1817; he seems to have had an ulcer or a cancer of the stomach. The Irish doctor Barry O'Meara, having asked in vain for a change in the conditions under which Napoleon lived, was dismissed; so also was his successor John Stokoe, who was similarly thought to be well-disposed toward Napoleon. The Corsican doctor who took their place, Francesco Antommarchi, prescribed a treatment that could do nothing to cure his patient. There has been continuing speculation about the cause of his death, but the evidence used by some to support the theory that Napoleon was poisoned is not considered conclusive by many scholars.

In November 1818, the British Government announced that Napoleon would remain a prisoner on Saint Helena for life. When Napoleon learnt the news, he became depressed and more isolated, spending longer periods in his rooms which further undermined his health. From the beginning of 1821, his illness became rapidly worse. From March, Napoleon was confined to bed. In April he dictated his last will:

*I wish my ashes to rest on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of that French people whom I have loved so much....I die before my time, killed by the English oligarchy and its hired assassins."*

He died on 5 May 1821, not yet 52 years old. The funeral was conducted simply in the Rupert Valley, where Napoleon had sometimes walked, beside a stream in which two willows were reflected. The stone covering his tomb bore no name, only the words "Ci-Git" ("Here Lies").

A letter, dated 5 July 1821, shortly after Napoleon's death by Alexander Geldfellow, on board HMS *Rosario* then at Spithead, has been discovered in the Archives of Saffron Walden Museum in the UK, and gives the following account on Napoleon's death and funeral:

"The truly tiresome cruising at St. Helena is entirely over Napoleon Buonaparte having aspired on the fifth of May about ten minutes before six o'clock (sunset). This we were prepared for only a few days before, - for secrecy was there most religiously observed. I may here remark that during the two years I was on the Station not a naval man had the pleasure of speaking to Buonaparte, such was the privacy in which he lived, he even declined seeing the present Commander in Chief of his arrival at the Station. In fact during the above period he was seldom seen outside of his own garden, and I never recollected hearing of his riding out for any distance about half a dozen times - he became so weak and faint they were obliged to send a carriage to convey him



home – this marked instance of weakness was attributed to his sedentary life.



Fig.1: St Helena 10th Oct 1817

About Christmas he told Major Gorricon (the only officer on the staff he would trust), that he felt very unwell, but could not accurately describe his feelings – this statement, there was good reason to support, was a good deal attributable to his sulky humour, and his ardent desire to be removed from the Island. On the seventeenth of March he became seriously indisposed and for four or five days some alarm existed, the Dragoons were galloping in all directions with messages, and it was then whispered in the most secret manner that general Buonaparte was very ill, but in a few days this bustle entirely subsided and no further apprehensions seemed to be entertained,

On the nineteenth April it was again reported that Buonaparte was in considerable danger and the Physicians to the Forces and surgeon of the twentieth regiment were desired to visit him. As this was perfectly optional the former thought it proper to decline, the other complied and was ten days in constant attendance before he was admitted, Buonaparte having given positive orders to his attendant not to admit anyone sent there by the Governor. However, the excruciating pain and entreaties of his own surgeon induced him to yield, but he never would take any medicine that was either prescribed or prepared by good the surgeon of the Twentieth although he took medicine from his own attendant and on one occasion when the former applied a blister to his side in a few minutes he pulled it off and threw it on the floor. He lay in State three days at the particular wish of the French people who behaved to all visitors with much affability and condescension. The body was opened and from having the good fortune to be introduced to the French Surgeon I was favoured with a sight of the Heart and stomach, the latter the entire seat of the Disease, which was cancer, or a schirrous state of that tissue. The disease must have caused great pain and appeared to have been of considerable standing, it was remarked before his death that for more than nine days he had refused all nourishment, which was supposed to proceed from resignation or obstinacy, but the diseased state of the stomach fully accounts for it.

He was upwards of thirty days confined to his bed, and from the commencement of his last attack it is reported by his attendants that he occasionally railed bitterly against the British Government and on other occasions was observed to be more religious than usual. The body was laid out on a bed in a room of middling size hung with black and well lighted up, he was dressed in full Field Marshall's uniform, said to be the same he wore at the Battle of Morengo. His person seemed small and rather diminutive (exact height five feet

seven inches), but the fineness of the countenance much exceeded my expectations, the face appeared large compared with the body, the features pleasing and extremely regular – still retaining a half formed smile and must have been truly imposing when enlightened with a penetrating pair of eyes. His skin was perfectly sallow which seemed to be its natural colour, I felt much gratified in seeing the garden – it was laid out in the most fanciful manner, an astonishing variety being contained in a small space. Two days after the funeral his effects were exhibited, they were few taken altogether, and not quite so gaudy as might be supposed, what I observed most envious was about four or five dozen Porcelain plates and coffee cups and saucers of the same with extremely handsome paintings on them of the different great battles he fought and of the Principal Towns of France, and they were said to be worth twenty-five Guineas each.

He died on Saturday and the funeral took place the following Wednesday at 12 o'clock, a grand procession was formed of the officers, soldiers and marines of the Squadron, which altogether made a very pretty and rather striking appearance.

The troops were drawn up two men deep on the road side, outside of Longwood gates, each man resting the point of his musket on his foot on the left hand on his butt, and the left cheek leaning on his hand in a mournful position, and a Band at each side of each corps playing a dead march.

He was buried in the side of Ruperts valley about half way between James's Town and Longwood under the shade of a large willow tree near a small spring well, the water in which was very good and pleasant. For some years he daily had his water carried to him from his well in two silver tankards which he brought from Moscow.

Some years since when visiting this well in company with Madame Bertrand he said that if the British Government were so rude as to bury him on St. Helena he wished this to be the spot. It is certainly a very retired, pretty spot, surrounded by high hills in the form of an amphitheatre, the public road to Longwood leading along the top of the ridge.

After letting the coffin into the grave three volleys from eleven ... ld pieces were fired, and the *Flag Ship* fired twenty-five minutes guns. The Catholic priest performed the ceremony after the rites of the Romish Church. The grave was ten feet long, ten deep, and five wide, the bottom happened to be solid rock, in which a space was cut to receive the coffin, and the sides and ends of the grave were walled in by one large Portland flag each, and three large flags put immediately over the coffin and fixed down with iron bars and leads besides roman cement to prevent the coffin being easily removed. The top of the grave is elevated about eight inches above the surface of the ground, and covered over with three rough slabs without one letter inscribed. Several good situations are by this event lost to the military men at St. Helena.

The *Camel Store* ship may be expected in about a fortnight with all the French people, and two hundred of the Sixty Sixth Regiment on board. I would have felt pleasure in sending part of this news by the *'Heron'*, but when she sailed all correspondence was strictly forbidden. I have to request that you will forbear to mention my name to any of your friends, for reasons I will afterwards explain."





ADD A NEW FACET TO YOUR SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTION

by Jamie Smith, international



It is a well-known military fact that it takes seven soldiers to keep one fighting man at the front. These seven soldiers comprise cooks, administration, drivers, mechanics, storemen etc. What is not usually taken into consideration is the finances that have to be raised to keep them all there. These finances come from taxes and occasionally donations. The latter being represented philatelically by Cinderella Stamps. If we take the donors into consideration, the number of bodies it takes to keep one fighting man at the front is increased considerably.

What is a Cinderella stamp?

Cinderella stamps are any kind of stamp or label which bears a resemblance to a postage stamp yet does not hold any validity for postal purposes.

Labels which may be recognised as Cinderellas include, charity seals, revenue, business promotion, decoration as Valentine's Day, railway stamps, there are others. The criterion must be, if it looks like a postage stamp but isn't - it must be a Cinderella. These Cinderella stamps may or may not have a value on them, truth is most are just a receipt for a donation given.

Nearly all such stamps ended up in drawers to be eventually thrown away when clearing the said draws out. Occasionally, and I stress the word occasionally, the owner of the stamps placed the Cinderella stamp or stamps onto a cover either to promote, advertise, for patriotic reasons or just to show that he/she had donated to an event or cause. These covers are what we are looking for, they can add that new facet, colour, and information into our collections.

Although some collectors just collect 'willy-nilly' the subject is too vast so most collectors, like 'proper?' stamp collectors or philatelists select a country or a subject to collect. For my sins and which should have been apparent from the beginning of this article, I collect World War II connected material. I even streamline this down to a single country – South Africa.

Like postage stamps these can be collected just a single stamp or 'on cover', the Cinderellas representing by a variety of subjects: -

• **The Home Front**

Usually patriotic and without a value. Subject's covered are designed to create a spirit of unity as with the 'Pull your Weight' Cinderella, (Fig.1), or calling for support of the War. Effort (Fig.2).

Even as a warning against other nationals who did not agree with the countries policies, (Figs.3 & 4).



Fig.1.



Fig.2.



Fig.3.



Fig.4.



Fig.5.



Fig.6.



Fig.7.

- **The Military**  
The three services are represented; Navy (Fig.5), Air Force (Fig.6) and Land forces (Fig.7).



Fig.8.



**For our Allies**

Several Cinderellas fall into this category. The stamps refer to our Russian allies, although Britain, (Figs.8 &.9) is not forgotten.



Fig.9.



Fig.10.

**Gifts & Comforts to the troops**

There were several organisations devoted to collecting funds and sending gifts to the troops. Isie Smuts, the wife of General Smuts the Prime Minister, led one such organisation, the South African Gifts and Comforts Funds. 'Isie' is depicted on this 1d stamp Cinderella (Fig.10).

**The Red Cross, St John's Ambulance and T.B. Christmas Cinderella**

Besides being active in the field, gifts and comforts were sent to troops. By far the most extensive work was done by the Red Cross with P.O.W. and Internees on both sides of the conflict. Switzerland was the headquarters of the Red Cross and being a neutral country, most of the humanitarian work was operated from there. Figs. 11, 12 & 13).



Fig.11.

I have deliberately steered clear of showing the postal history aspect of Cinderellas as this will be the subject of a follow up article (and I don't want to push the prices up while I am still collecting the area).



Fig.12.



Fig.13.

**NEW ISSUES**  
**SPRINGBOK WORLD CHAMPIONS STAMP ISSUE**

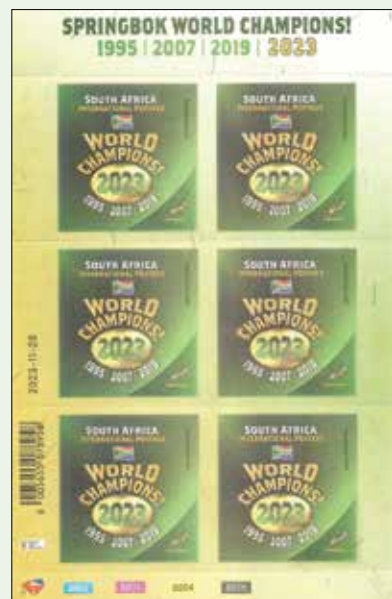
by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society  
**28 November 2023 – SPRINGBOK WORLD CHAMPIONS 1995 / 2007 / 2019 / 2023**

Note: although the date '2023.11.28' appears on the selvedge of the stamp sheetlets and in the canceller on the first day cover, these stamps were only available from Philatelic Services from 18 January 2024.

**Designer:** Thea Clemons.  
**Printer:** Government Printing Works, Pretoria  
**Process:** Offset lithography  
**Stamp size:** 32 x 34mm  
**Sheetlet size:** 96 x 149mm, comprising six stamps in three rows of two  
**Quantity:** not known.  
**Cylinder numbers:** Standard Postage: 8798 (cyan), 8799 (magenta), 8800 (yellow), and 8801 (black); International Letter: 8802 (cyan), 8803 (magenta), 8804 (yellow) and 8805 (black).

**Paper:** 68gsm Secure Label Paper with a Backing, pre-printed at the back with the South African Coat of Arms using phosphor ink.  
**Gum:** Self-adhesive  
**Perforation:** Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 6mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through the sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.  
**Phosphor:** 2.5mm band in L shape on top and left stamp margins. There are also phosphor fibres randomly distributed in the paper as a security feature.

**Printing sheet size:** not seen.  
**First Day Cover:** Nos. 8. 140 of standard size (190 x 101mm).  
**Canceller:** No. 8.135 – 'SPRINGBOK · 2023.11.28'



**Acknowledgement:** The above information was collated from the Philatelic Services e-mail newsletter dated January 2024.



## The “Holy Grail” of philately

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

It only took two minutes and the sale was over. It was the afternoon of 8 November 2023. It was lot 2154 (Fig.1) from sale 1299 at the Siegel Auction Galleries in New York with a reserve of US\$1.5 million (±R 27.8 million). Prior to opening the bidding, Scott Trepel, President of Siegel Auction Galleries, reminded potential bidders of regulations surrounding the sale of the stamp. Trepel said “*Arrangements will have to be made to pick up the stamp because we won't be dropping it in a FedEx envelope*”.

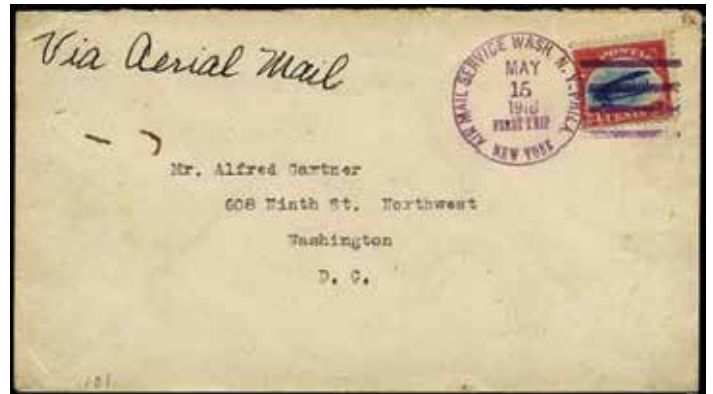
There were 60 registered bidders for the single-lot sale. Of those, eight participated in the sale, but after opening at US\$1.2 million, only four placed bids. A bidding war broke out among three potential buyers. The hammer price for the red, white and blue stamp was US\$1.7 million (±R31.5 million). The final realisation, with Siegel's 18 percent buyer's commission tacked on, came to US\$2.006 million (±R37.171 million).

The winning bidder was Charles Hack (76) who made his fortune in real estate and investments. Hack said he's not exactly sure what he will do with the stamp. He said he will probably keep it in his safe at his home in New York. “*It's the very best item of the most well-known American icon in philately,*” said Hack, “*and it's a bit of American history*”. Mr Hack is the owner of a few other Jennys. He bought one in the early 2000s for about US\$300,000). In 2007, he bought another, better-quality stamp for nearly US\$1 m. It was the 57th stamp printed in the original sheet of 100. Then in 2018 position 49 emerged, unaccounted for since 1918. Hack was there and ready to buy.



*Fig.1: The 1918 'Inverted Jenny' stamp is a very famous and valuable item highly regarded by collectors.*

Known as the ‘Inverted Jenny’, these stamps have a visual appeal and a compelling history as, perhaps, the most well known of philatelic errors. This stamp is most famous for its error, in which the blue Curtiss Jenny biplane was printed upside down within the stamp's red frame. The 24¢ stamp, produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was printed over the weekend and on Monday 13 May 1918. It had to be ready to be issued 14 May 1918 to launch the first air mail service in the US, and the world, on the following day (Fig.2). It was the first stamp issued by any government for a regular scheduled airmail service, and as such it marks the birth of commercial aviation worldwide.



*Fig.2: First flight cover from the first regular air mail service, between New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC.*

The planes were a custom-made Curtiss JN-4, nicknamed ‘Jenny’. (Figs.3 & 4) The air mail service was also plagued with mishaps. On 15 May 1918, the day of the first service, an inexperienced pilot took off from Washington and flew in the wrong direction. Minutes later he crashed in a farmer's field (Fig.5).



*Fig.3: Loading the mail.*



*Fig.4: Cheers from the crowd as the first air mail flight takes off from Belmont Park, Long Island.*



*Fig.5: Wreckage of the Curtiss JN-4 shortly after take off for the first air mail flight, Washington DC.*



The stamp required a two-stage printing, first in carmine rose and then blue in sheets of 100 stamps (Fig 6). As it was a rush job, inevitably there was bound to be some mistakes. In the scramble to produce the stamps, a number of sheets were printed with the vignette upside-down. And this resulted in a world famous stamp which became known as the “holy grail of postage stamps”. While we may be familiar with the “Inverted Jenny” error there are also many other variations – see the side bar for some lesser known Jenny 24¢ varieties.

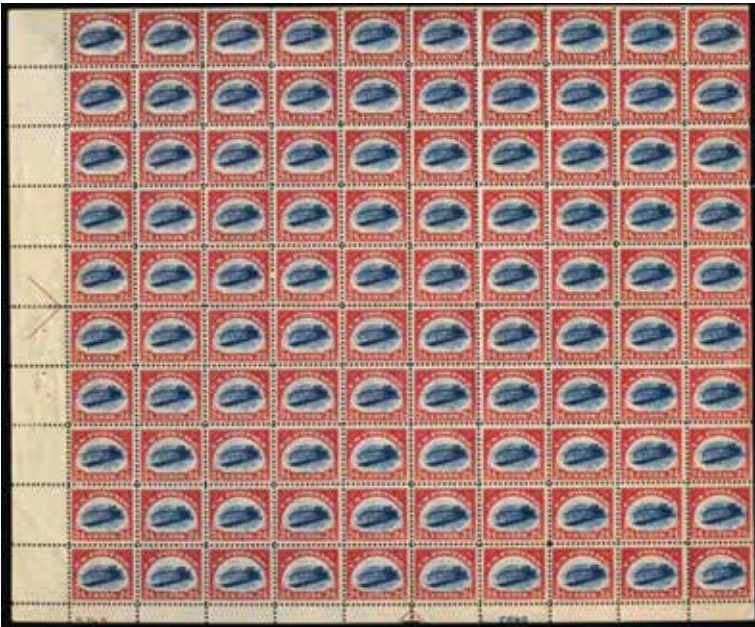


Fig.6: The 1918 airmail stamps were printed in sheets of 100.

On 14 May 1918 William T. Robey (Fig.7), a 29 year old clerk of the WB Hibbs and Company brokerage firm, bought the new airmail stamps for US\$24 from the New York Avenue Branch Post Office in Washington DC (Fig.8). On receipt of the sheet Robey noticed the aircraft was upside-down. He pointed this out to the post office clerk. The postal clerk who sold the sheet later said he did not realise the image was inverted. He commented: “Don't blame me. I don't know what a plane looks like, so I didn't recognize it when I sold it.” He had never seen an airplane before. It wasn't long before Robey had visits from postal inspectors who wanted to retrieve the sheet. Realising what he had, Robey hid the sheet under his mattress. All remaining copies of the inverted vignette sheets were withdrawn and destroyed.

Though he spent just \$24, within the week, on 20 May 1918, he sold the sheet for \$15,000 to another collector, Eugene Klein, a Philadelphia stamp dealer. Klein had already arranged to sell the sheet to Col. Edward H. R. Green for US\$20,000. Colonel Green instructed Klein to divide the ‘Inverted Jenny’ sheet into singles and blocks, and to sell all but a few key position blocks. The sheet of 100 was divided into one section of eight, seven blocks of four, and 64 individual stamps, each hand-numbered on the back. The third owner of the ‘Inverted Jenny’ was Edward Green. Over the years, those 100 ‘Inverted Jennys’ have become the most famous and sought-after treasures in the stamp-collecting world.



Fig.7: William Robey

The stamp on offer in the 8 November 2023 Siegel sale is from position 49 and is considered to be the finest centred example from the sheet. It was originally sold by Eugene Klein to a collector in 1918 and remained in a bank vault for the next one hundred years.



Fig.8: The Post Office where the ‘Inverted Jenny’ sheet was purchased.

It was kept in the dark since it was purchased by the previous owner in 1918 from Siegel Auctions for US\$1.35 million (then ±R17.9million), with an added US\$243,000 (then ±R3,2 million) in commission! The gum is Mint Never Hinged and, since its exposure to light has been limited, the stamp's colours are rich and the paper is bright.

Copies of the ‘Inverted Jenny’ come in different grades of condition. Only six of the 100 inverts are known mint, never-hinged; the best in terms of condition and grade. Many of the original 100 stamps were mistreated by collectors during the years, despite the stamps’ rarity and value. Green himself allowed moisture to affect some of the stamps he retained. Green had a habit of storing stamps in ‘not the best places.’ Other examples are toned from improper storage and climatic conditions. Hinge removal has caused thins and creases in numerous stamps, and a few have been ‘lost’ to philately - or nearly so, as in the case of the copy swept up in a vacuum cleaner.

‘Robert E. Zoellner acquired this ‘Inverted Jenny’ from a Christie’s sale in 1985; a key element of his complete collection of United States stamps. During his ownership, the Jenny came out of a defective mount, fell onto the floor and was sucked up in a vacuum cleaner. Luckily, Mr. Zoellner realised what had happened and the stamp was recovered from the vacuum bag. The stamp was expertly repaired, restoring its appearance.

‘The Inverted Jenny, like the Penny Black, apart from its value, is unique. It has its own Wikipedia page ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverted\\_Jenny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverted_Jenny)) and its own website ([www.invertedjenny.com](http://www.invertedjenny.com))’. Among the website’s many useful features is a reconstruction of the original pane of 100 that shows the various single stamps and multiples. All 100 stamps are accounted for, although many have not been seen for numerous years. For example, position 16 was last seen in 1957 when it was sold for US\$ 2100. There is even a Society of Inverted Jenny Owners. Membership is very exclusive requiring documentation of past or present ownership of a genuine ‘Inverted Jenny’.

### The Grounded Jenny

To qualify as a ‘Grounded Jenny’ the vignette needed to have shifted downwards so that the wheels break through the top of ‘CENTS’ (Fig.9). ‘Grounded Jenny’ stamps come from portions of three sheets. The first discovery was owned and broken up by J. Klemann of Nassau Stamp Company. A second sheet was discovered in 1946 by Thomas A. Matthews and sold by H.R. Harmer, 4 November 1964, where it was purchased by Georges A. Medawar, publisher of the Sanabria Airmail Catalogue.

The third sheet was found by specialist Joseph R. Kirker and revealed in Linn's Stamp News of 21 April 21 1986. This variety is catalogued at US\$2000 to US\$3000 ( $\pm R37,060$  to  $\pm R55,590$ ). A slight downward shift of the vignette is simply referred to as a 'Low Flying Jenny'.

Fig.9: The Grounded Jenny variety

### The Supersonic Jenny

This variety shows a major shift of the vignette to the left all the way to the perforations giving the impression of a very fast plane (Fig.10). This is surely one of the fastest planes we've ever encountered on a stamp!



Fig.10: Supersonic Jenny variety

These so-called fast plane, slow plane, high plane and grounded plane varieties are a result of the vignette shifting, and at their most extreme are also quite rare.



## THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY ISSUE REVISITED AGAIN

by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

### 8 November 2022 – ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

Issued in conjunction with the International Stamp Exhibition held in Cape Town from 8 to 12 November 2022.

**Denomination:** Standard Postage Rate (R 5.65)

**Designer:** Thea Clemons, featuring an open-winged dove, incorporating words from the preamble to the South African Constitution on its wings and body. Similarly these words are printed in microtext in the form of a silhouette of Table Mountain at the base of the stamp.

**Printer:** Government Printing Works, Pretoria

**Process:** Offset lithography

**Stamp size:** 32 x 34mm

**Sheetlet size:** 96 x 149mm, comprising six stamps in three rows of two

**Quantity:** 40,000 sheetlets – an initial printing of 3000 sheetlets was delivered to Cape town. Unsold sheetlets were returned to Philatelic Services.  $\pm 1500$  sheetlets were printed as a 'run-on' without any significant improvement in quality. There was only one new plate done (brown) and the balance of the order printed in February 2023.

**Cylinder numbers:** Original printing: 8793 (cyan), 8794 (magenta), 8795 (yellow), 8796 (black) and 8796 (brown) - Note: The cylinder 8796 (brown) contained some of the information (in scanned format) destined for the black (solid colour) (8796) and appeared as a duplicated shadow behind the black as can be seen from the scans below the stamps. The 'corrected' cylinder had to be redone without the RTD logo, Date, and (C) information, thereby removing the shadow on those items. The brown cylinder number was changed to 8797.

**Paper:** 68gsm Secure Label Paper with a Backing, pre-printed at the back with the South African Coat of Arms using phosphor ink – Note: the backing paper was yellow in the original printing but changed to white in the reprint.

**Gum:** Self-adhesive

**Perforation:** Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 6mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through the sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.

**Phosphor:** 2.5mm band in L shape on top and left stamp margins. There are also phosphor fibres randomly distributed in the paper as a security feature.

**Printing sheet size:** Continuous roll 300mm wide. Proof sheets comprised eight sheetlets in four rows of two.

**First Day Cover:** Nos. 8.139 of standard size (190 x 101mm), incorporating the South African flag made up of words from the preamble of the Constitution and also the exhibition logo.

**Canceller:** No. 8.134 – 'ROAD TO DEMOCRACY – 2022.11.08 –' / 'CAPE TOWN'



**Acknowledgement:** The above information was collated from the newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group compiled by Jan de Jong, Victor Millard and personal observations.



The FRAMA Labels of South Africa and South West Africa/Namibia  
 by Volker Janssen Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and Edited by Victor Millard The Royal  
 Philatelic Society of Cape Town



The first FRAMA labels were introduced on 14 August 1986 at Sunnyside Post Office (P. 001) in Pretoria followed by others country wide. They were available from ATM-like vending machines, where clients could print their own labels in any value from R0,01 to R99,99.



Fig.1: Issue 1: First Day Cover depicting the FRAMA machine. The first day of official usage was 14 August 1986

The labels were printed on Swiss fluorescent paper and Harrison plain phosphorescent paper and from June 1988 also Harrison phosphorescent paper. Because the labels could be easily forged, the PT emblem was added for security reasons.

Labels on the Swiss paper were only used for a short time and are scarce and only found on Official First Day Covers

However, there were FRAMA Forerunners in 1983 when new gummed Post Office slips were used on covers as receipt of payment fees instead of postage stamp labels

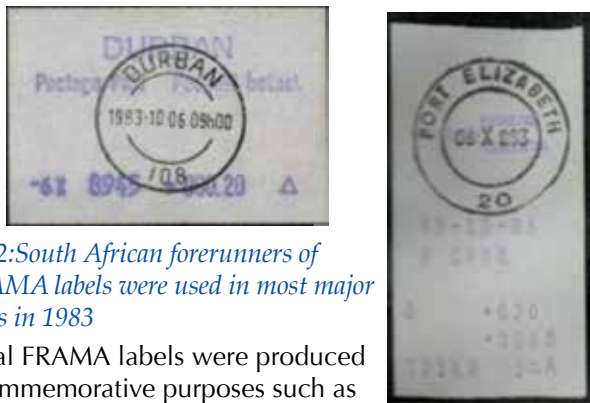


Fig.2: South African forerunners of FRAMA labels were used in most major cities in 1983

Special FRAMA labels were produced for commemorative purposes such as 300th Anniversary of Paarl, and for all annual National Stamp Exhibitions in South Africa between 1986 and 1984. (Fig.5)

The acceptance of the FRAMA label by clients and philatelists was limited and consequently the Post Office withdrew the labels and vending machines on 30 November 1994. The public could use postage and replaced by ordinary postage stamps in booklet form, or individual labels which were printed at the Post Office counters. This is the case to date since the Post Office stopped producing definitive of commemorative stamps in October 2020.

FRAMA labels were re-introduced, once, in 1998 for the National Philatelic Exhibition in Midrand, Johannesburg. This time they were in colour in nine different designs

representing the Provinces of South Africa. (Fig.15) As the vending machines had been scrapped these FRAMAs could only be ordered through Philatelic Services for philatelic purposes and were valid for postal use.

The very last appearance of postal labels was in 2004 when a trial version was produced for South Africa's bid for the Soccer World Cup in 2010. It was available for a short period of three months from four post offices in Johannesburg. It was not available from Philatelic Services and hence has become a scarce item (Fig.17).

A checklist of all FRAMA labels issued in South Africa and South West Africa and Namibia.

| Issue RSA      | Postmark     | Category | Issue Date | Issue Type                                     |        |
|----------------|--------------|----------|------------|--|--------|
| 1              |              | DEF      | 14.08.1986 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Definitive issue               | Fig.1  |
| 2              | S597<br>S598 | COM      | 6.10.1986  | Int. Stamp Exhibition, JOHANNESBURG 100        | Fig.3  |
| 3              |              | DEF      | 23.03.1987 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Definitive Issue               | Fig.4  |
| 4              | S105         | COM      | 16.09.1987 | 300 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PAARL         | Fig.5  |
| 5              |              | DEF      | 1.06.1988  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Definitive issue – I-Small PT  | Fig.6  |
| 6              |              | DEF      | 1.06.1988  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Definitive issue – II-Large PT | Fig.7  |
| 7              | S123         | COM      | 22.11.1988 | Stamp Exhibition Pietermaritzburg 100          | Fig.8  |
| 8              | S135         | COM      | 6.09.1989  | Stamp Exhibition Wanderers 101                 | Fig.9  |
| 9              | S148         | COM      | 1.08.1990  | 150 years of Stamps                            | Fig.10 |
| 10             | S155         | COM      | 9.10.1991  | Stamp Exhibition Cape Town                     | Fig.11 |
| 11             | S160         | COM      | 8.10.1992  | Stamp Exhibition Pretoria                      | Fig.12 |
| 12             | S171         | COM      | 18.10.1993 | Stamp Exhibition Durban (eThekweni)            | Fig.13 |
| 13             | S228         | COM      | 20.10.1994 | Stamp Exhibition Benoni                        | Fig.14 |
| 14             |              | COM      | Various    | Counter labels usage 1994-1998                 | Fig.15 |
| 15             |              | DEF      | 20.10.1998 | New Design: Set of 9 Landscapes                | Fig.16 |
| 16             |              | TEST     | 2004       | Bid for Soccer World Cup 2010 (Test Series)    | Fig.17 |
| <b>SWA</b>     |              |          |            |  |        |
| 1              |              | DEF      | 1988       | Definitive Issue                               |        |
| 2              |              | COM      | 1988       | Stamp Show Otjimbingwe 100"                    |        |
| <b>NAMIBIA</b> |              |          |            |  |        |
| 1              |              | TEST     | 2012       | Test series (35mm x 38mm)                      |        |



Fig.3: Issue 2: International Stamp Exhibition Johannesburg 100 (6 October 1986)



Fig.3: Issue 2: International Stamp Exhibition Johannesburg 100 (6 October 1986)



Fig.7: RSA Issue 6: Third Definitive -Type 2 issued 01.06.1988



Fig.4: RSA Issue 3: 2nd Definitive Frama issued 23 March 1987



Fig.8: RSA Issue 7: Pietermaritzburg 150 National Philatelic Exhibition 22-27 November 1988



Fig.5: RSA Issue 4: 300th Anniversary of Paarl, issued 16.09.1987



Fig.9: RSA Issue 8: Stamp Exhibition Wanderers 101 - 06.09.1989



Fig.6: RSA Issue 5: Third Definitive -Type 1 issued 01.06.1988



Fig.10: RSA Issue 9: 150 years of stamps 01.08.1990





Fig.11: RSA Issue 10: Stamp Exhibition Cape Town 09.10.1991



Fig.15: RSA Issue 14: Later Counter labels usage 1994-1998



Fig.12: RSA Issue 11: Stamp Exhibition Pretoria-08.10.1992

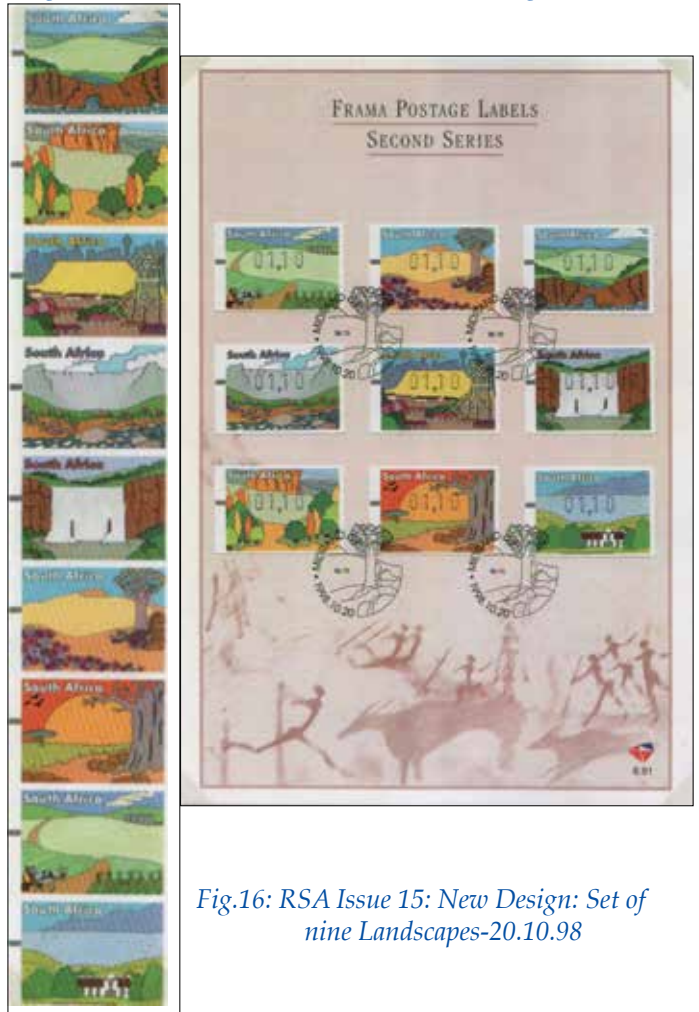


Fig.16: RSA Issue 15: New Design: Set of nine Landscapes-20.10.98



Fig.13: RSA Issue 12: Stamp Exhibition Durban (eThekwinini) -18.10.93



Fig.14: RSA Issue 13: Stamp Exhibition Benoni-20.10.94



Fig.17: RSA Issue 16: Bid for Soccer World-Cup 2010 (Test Series)- 2004

**List of places with the numbers of the FRAMA machines**

|                           |       |  |       |
|---------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| Sunnyside (Pretoria)      | P 001 | Marine Parade                                | P 018 |
| Pretoria                  | P 002 | Pietersburg                                  | P 019 |
| Johannesburg              | P 003 | Randburg                                     | P 020 |
| Kaapstad/Cape Town        | P 004 | Rissikstraat /Street (Johannesburg)          | P 021 |
| DF Malan Lughawe/Airport  | P 005 | Springs                                      | P 022 |
| Port Elizabeth            | P 006 | Stellenbosch                                 | P 023 |
| Oos-London/ East London   | P 007 | Strijdomplein / Square (Pretoria)            | P 024 |
| Pietermaritzburg          | P 008 | Uitenhage                                    | P 025 |
| Durban                    | P 009 | Vereeniging                                  | P 026 |
| Bloemfontein              | P 010 | EastGate (Johannesburg)                      | P 027 |
| Jan Smuts Lughawe/Airport | P 011 | Jan Smuts lughawe / Airport                  | P 028 |
| Bellville                 | P 012 | Jan Smuts lughawe / Airport                  | P 029 |
| Claremont                 | P 013 | Pretoria Hoofposkantoor/ General Post Office | P 030 |
| George                    | P 014 | Rustenburg                                   | P 031 |
| Kempton Park              | P 015 | Pinetown                                     | P 032 |
| Kimberley                 | P 016 | Humewood (Port Elizabeth)                    | P 033 |
| Krugersdorp               | P 017 | Kaapstad/ Cape Town                          | P 034 |

**FRAMAS of South West Africa/ Namibia**

Forerunners of Framas in South West Africa and Namibia were printed between 1981 and 1987.



SWA Fig.1: Special air cover from Swakopmund to Germany' Air cover (over inked) Walvis Bay to Durban; SWA forerunner labels between 1981 and 1987. Windhoek 1981; Swakopmund 1987; .

Early in 1988 the Postal Administration of South West Africa acquired a FRAMA postage label vending machine. This was installed at the Windhoek Post Office (PT.01) (SWA Fig.2) on 30 March 1988 with special labels, supplied by the Government Printers in Pretoria.

From March 1988 new vending machines were used at Aussspanplatz (PT. 02) (SWA Fig.3) and at Swakopmund (PT. 03) (SWA Fig.4) and Keetmanshoop (PT. 04) (SWA Fig.5).



SWA Fig.2: SWA-Issue 1-. Early in 1988 the Postal Administration of South West Africa acquired a FRAMA postage label vending machine. It was installed at Windhoek Post Office on 30 March 1988. The labels were valid until independence of Namibia on 21 March 1990.



SWA Fig.3: SWA-Issue 2- PT.02. Vending Machine PT. 02 at Aussspanplatz/Windhoek from March 1988.



SWA Fig.4: SWA-Issue 3- PT.03. Vending Machine PT. 03 at Swakopmund. First day 10 March 1988 until 27 November 1990.





SWA Fig.5: SWA-Issue 4- PT.04. Vending Machine PT. 04 at Keetmanskoop from 1988.



NAM Fig.1: NAM-Issue 1-Vending Machine installed at Windhoek size 35mm.



NAM Fig.2: NAM-Issue 2-Vending Machine installed at Windhoek size 38mm.

**Bibliography:**

- Janssen, V, 2021. *The Frama Labels of South Africa and South West Africa, Philately, Collections of Stamps Volume 28.* Peninsula Publishers: Simonstown, South Africa.



SWA Fig.6: SWA-Issue 5- Otyjimbingue 100 7-9 JUL 1988. Vending Machine installed at the Otyjimbingue 100 philatelic exhibition in Windhoek from 7-9 July 1988. The special cliché was engraved in Switzerland.

When South West Africa became independent Namibia in 1990, the previous stamps and also the FRAMA labels became invalid and the existing vending machines were removed.

In August 2012 NamPost issued a test series between denominations \$2.90 and \$658.80. There was only one kiosk outside of the General Post Office in Windhoek. They were only valid for 90 days from the printed date of issue.

There existed only two different sizes, 35mm and 38mm.

**NAMIBIA**



## A CHALLENGE

by Andrew Briscoe FRPSL, Witwatersrand PS.

Suggested solution to the challenge that appears on page 13. Comments and contrary views are invited.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| (1) 12 SEP 01 6 PM: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY    | (13) 25 NO 01: BOMBAY DEP                          |
| (2) (31) 13 SP 01: ALFRED DOCKS C.B.H.           | (14) *Not @ Bombay*: ss. bloc kryt                 |
| (3) 24 SP 01: ALFRED DOCKS C.B.H.                | (15) 25 NO 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY                       |
| (4) 27 SEP 01 1-38 PM: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY | (16) *Enquire w ships have go. lost*: ss. pers pen |
| (5) *Lorenzo Marques*: ss. root pen              | (17) 26 NO 01 5.38PM: BOMBAY                       |
| (6) 7 10 01 0-11: LOURENCO MARQUES               | (18) 26 NO 01 10th (SEL): FORT BOMBAY              |
| (7) *Lorenzo Marques*: deurgehaal liggers pen    | (19) 27 NO 01: BOMBAY DEP                          |
| (8) *Bombay or elsewhere*: ss. liggers pen       | (20) 27 NO 01: BOMBAY 15(147) DESPATCH             |
| (9) NO 9 01: ADEN                                | (21) 5 DE 01: BOMBAY DEP                           |
| (10) NO 14 01: ADEN                              | (22) 5 DE 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY                        |
| Been aankomstempel in Bombai (15/17 Nov.?)       | (23) *Ships name unknown D.L.O.*: ss. pers pen     |
| (11) 23 NO 01: D.L.O. BOMBAY                     | (24) INCONNU/UNKNOW                                |
| (12) 25 NO 01: BOMBAY 14 DESPATCH                | (25) Onleesbaar: GPO CAPE TOWN CAPE COLONY         |
|  | (26) MR 18 02: RETURNED LETTER OFFICE CAPE TOWN    |



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