

# Philatelist



40C

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APRIL 1977 APRIL

## ROBSON LOWE AUCTIONS in GENEVA (Switzerland)

### 29 APRIL SOUTH AFRICAN AIRMAILS

At the beginning of this fine collection are the first flight from Kenilworth to Muizenberg on 27 December 1911, the return and second flights, several being autographed by the pilot E.F. Driver, and two also bearing the signatures of the two other partners in the African Aviation Syndicate, Capt. Guy Livingston and Cecil Compton-Paterson. One of the unique covers is the envelope printed **AEROGRAM - NO CHARGE FOR DELIVERY** and bearing two Transvaal 1d. used on 31 August 1913 on the Compton-Paterson flight from Kimberley to Bulawayo. The plane crashed and the mail was carried by train but this is the only known surviving cover being addressed to Alex Fraser, then the Mayor of Bulawayo. There are a number of items flown by Major Allister M. Miller, D.S.O., R.F.C. and his R.A.F. Recruiting Tour from November 1917 to July 1918 when over 1 000 South Africans enlisted in the R.F.C. One of the most human documents is a letter written to his 14 month old son by a Cape Town resident, the envelope being endorsed by Miller as being flown by him from Cape Town - Port Elizabeth - Grahamstown - East London - King - Queenstown - Bloemfontein - Kimberley - Potchefstroom - Johannesburg. There is a very complete selection of the 1918 Cape Town and Transvaal cards used on the various Red Cross flights during the last quarter of 1918 and the companion Red Cross 3d. label, a number being used on flown cards. The 1919 Pigeon Post - another rarity, is followed by a fine selection of the first two official air stamp issues, the first with some partly perforated blocks, the second with some proofs and colour trials.

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# Philatelist

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# Lyspryse wys hoe SA styg

deur G J van den Hurk

Om die prysontwikkeling van seëls dop te hou is dit nie nodig nie om 'n spekulant te wees of uit die oogmerk van investering seëls te versamel. 'n Versamelaar moet onder andere daarvoor sorg dat die seëls genoegsaam verseker is vir brand en inbraak en dan is dit maar menslik dat 'n mens bly is as tevens blyk dat die versameling weer in waarde gestyg het.

Ek het die prysontwikkeling oor die laaste vyf jaar vergegelyk van die seëls van Suid-Afrika aan die hand van die Robemark-katalogus van Julie 1971 en Desember 1976 en die "Speciale Catalogus" van Nederland uitgegee deur die N.V.P.H. van Mei 1971 en Mei 1976. Gedurende hierdie vyfjaarperiode het die seëls van Suid-Afrika die meeste in waarde gestyg, naamlik met 'n gemiddelde persentasie van meer as 60% per jaar! Selfs die ongunstige ontwikkeling van die buitelandse wisselkoerse gedurende hierdie vyfjaarperiode wat die Rand ten opsigte van byvoorbeeld die Hollandse gulden met meer as 40% (ong. 8% per jaar) laat daal het, kan hierdie voordeel nie uitwis nie.

Die seëls van Nederland het met effens meer as 45% per jaar gestyg. In albei gevalle het die ongebruikte seëls die meeste in waarde toegeneem maar daar is groot onderlinge verskille. Nietemin kan gekonstateer word dat die jaarlikse inflasiekoerse meerdere male deur die prysstygings oortref is.

Dis opmerklik dat die seëls van Suid-Afrika vir die periode 1910-1925 met meer as 90% per jaar gestyg het. Die Nederlandse seëls uitgegee in die periode 1946-1955 het in Nederland die meeste in waarde gestyg, naamlik met 79% per jaar. Hierdie prysstyging kan 'n mens toeskryf aan die drie hoë waardes van die Koningin Juliana-seëls van 1949 wat ongebruik van f. 255 naar f. 1 900 in waarde gestyg het, as 'n mens tenminste die katalogus kan glo!

Uit die tabelle kan 'n mens aflei dat die relatiewe prysstygings vir die Suid-Afrikaanse ongebruikte seëls na 1925 stelselmatig minder word tot dit vir die periode 1956-1965 gedaal het tot maar net 22% per jaar. 'n Uitsondering is die gebruikte seëls van Suid-Afrika vir die periode 1946-1955 wat nog met 'n persentasie van 42% per jaar gestyg het.

### Suid-Afrika 1972-1977: % styging per jaar

	Ongebruik	Gebruik
1910-1925	92 <sup>o</sup>	93 <sup>o</sup>
1926-1935	52 <sup>o</sup>	59 <sup>o</sup>
1936-1945	32 <sup>o</sup>	23 <sup>o</sup>
1946-1955	23 <sup>o</sup>	42 <sup>o</sup>
1956-1965	22 <sup>o</sup>	25 <sup>o</sup>
1910-1965	65 <sup>o</sup>	61 <sup>o</sup>

### Nederland 1972-1977: % styging per jaar

	Ongebruik	Gebruik
1910-1925	49 <sup>o</sup>	53 <sup>o</sup>
1926-1935	31 <sup>o</sup>	27 <sup>o</sup>
1936-1945	53 <sup>o</sup>	57 <sup>o</sup>
1946-1955	79 <sup>o</sup>	29 <sup>o</sup>
1956-1965	36 <sup>o</sup>	27 <sup>o</sup>
1910-1965	48 <sup>o</sup>	44 <sup>o</sup>

## Secret Service

As much as we have encouraged the issue of special commemorative postmarks, and suitable accompanying covers by the appropriate institutions, on occasions that are worth commemorating, so much does Philatelic Services invite our disapproval for their inexplicable mood of secrecy concerning some of these events.

In the past we had cause more than once to criticise the lack of advance notice that was given to us regarding these special postmarks and covers.

As the mouthpiece of organised philately in this country we expect preferential treatment. Instead of the casual, or secretive, manner with which this question has been handled – placing our readers at a disadvantage, and often to their cost – we should at least be treated as courteously as are overseas philatelic journals.

We know the argument that local collectors should read the announcements timeously in the lay press. Our readers pay their subscriptions to **us**, and from **us** it is that they are entitled to receive this information.

We also know the argument that overseas publicity should be given ahead of local publicity. Conversely, we believe that charity begins at home, and that our readers are entitled to the maximum advance notification possible. They are not the step-children of Philatelic Services, and we resent their being treated as such.

Preparations for these occasions are made months ahead of the actual events so that there is no excuse for this attitude of secrecy. Once and for all we expect that our readers are taken into the Post Office's confidence in the first instance, and not at the last or penultimate moment.

Let us witness the transformation from "Secret Services" to "Philatelic Services" . . . forthwith.

**The Editor/Die Redakteur**

## Zambian milestone

Delegates to the congresses of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa for years now have known Neil Hartley as our fellow-delegate who has come the longest way, right from the north of Zambia, to represent the Copperbelt Philatelic Society at our annual meetings.

We also know Neil as a keen philatelist, always ready to assist collectors interested in Zambian philately. His own collections of Zambia and its philatelic precursors have been on display at our national exhibitions.

He has taken a leading role in the first Zambian national philatelic exhibition, which represents the introduction of a new era for philately in that country. To Neil and his fellow collectors up north we say – congratulations, and all best wishes!

**The Editor/Die Redakteur**

**Stamp ideas** – Philatelic societies, philatelists and readers of The SA Philatelist are invited to submit their suggestions and proposals for new stamp issues for RSA and SWA during 1979 to The Editor, The SA Philatelist, PO Box 4430, Pretoria 0001, before the end of June.

# First Zambia exhibition

A first national philatelic exhibition, ZAMX 76, was held in Zambia at the end of last year.

The exhibition, on 17 and 18 December 1976 at the Lowenthal Theatre, Ndola, was opened by Mr P Ngoma, Director General of Posts and Telecommunications.

There were nine invited exhibits, including a first-time official display of Zambian stamps and covers since 1964, mounted by the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. The 24 competitive exhibits included two in the junior section (under 16 years old).

The two exhibition days included a stamp auction and a prize-giving ceremony. The judges were Mr Neil Hartley, (Chairman), Mr Graham Gardner and Mr Dick Davidson.

According to the ZAMX 76 catalogue, 2 500 numbered copies of an exhibition cover were produced. The covers were franked with the four values of the Tazara Railway commemorative and cancelled with a special datestamp, while an exhibition cachet was also applied to the covers.

The catalogue lists three philatelic societies in Zambia: Copperbelt Philatelic Society (Kitwe), Lusaka Philatelic Society and Ndola Philatelic Society.

## Afwyking gevind in SWA-oordruk

deur Arie Bakker

In die nuwe Joseph-katalogus 1977 is vir die eerste keer 'n toevoeging gemaak vir die Suidwes-Afrika seëls 44a, 45a, 47a en 50a met 16 mm ruimte tussen die lyne van die oordruk Suidwes en Afrika resp. South West en Africa.

Die normale ruimte tussen die lyne van die oordruk behoort 15 - 16 mm te wees. Dis blykbaar 'n nuwe ontdekking en die katalogus noem dat die variasie net voorkom in die derde vertikale ry van albei die Afrikaanse en die Engelse seëls.

Volgens die vel wat in my besit is van die No 47 (die 1/seël) is die opmerking net korrek vir die regter deel van die vel van 60 seëls, maar die linker veldeel vertoon nie die afwyking nie.

Op elke 120 seëls is daar dus nie twintig nie maar net tien seëls wat die variasie vertoon en dit sal die prysverhouding soos die katalogus nou sekerlik beïnvloed. Aangesien dit so is vir No 47a, sal die 44a, 45a en 50a ook net alleen op die regter-veldeel die afwyking vertoon.

Ek kan daar nog aan toevoeg dat as ek denkbeeldige vertikale lyne trek oor die verskillende rye seëls van die linker en van die regter veldeel Afrika – Africa altyd op dieselfde afstand van mekaar staan, maar in die derde vertikale ry van die regter veldeel staan Suidwes – South West èen millimeter digter by Africa – Afrika van die tweede ry seëls. Die drukker het dus sy afstandfout gemaak by die setting van die Suidwes – South West lyn. Die Afrika – Africa oordruk staan ten opsigte van die ander seëls altyd in die regte posisie.

**600 year old letter** – An early Belgian stampless letter, dated 1361, was sold for £310 in the Harmer sale of the B Leslie Barker collection of Belgium auctioned in London during February. The sale, which totalled £135.310, included 138 lots of early stampless letters.

## Wine stamp has panes

by Dr H.J. Raubenheimer RDPSA

The Wine 15c commemorative stamp was described in the January 1977 issue of this journal. Further interesting features have come to light since then. An examination of the approved colour proof at Philatelic Services revealed the following facts:

There were three panes printed by lithography on large sheets which measured about 610 x 294 mm. The panes with the design upright were in the centre of the sheet leaving wide blank spaces on left and right. There was a continuous row of densitometer colour patches along the bottom margin in a series of three colours, red, yellow and brown with a black rectangle above the brown. The sheets were perforated from left to right or right to left – not sure which – leaving the top margin imperforate and the others perforated through.

It was then divided into the three panes, numbered for convenience 1, 2 and 3 from the left.

### Colour patches

The three panes can be differentiated by the colour patches along the bottom margin. The differences are

- (a) Pane 1, left corner: broad black with brown below right corner, broad black with brown below.
- (b) Pane 2 left corner: narrow black with brown below right corner narrow red.
- (c) Pane 3 left corner: about half width red right corner broad red.

The cylinder blocks of six, as usually collected, will thus show which panes they are by referring to the right bottom corner.

Another most interesting feature was noticed. On pane 2 row 1 stamp 2 there is a missing word in the Afrikaans inscription on the left gutter. It is "die" between "oor" and "kwaliteit". It is constant. Other "flaws" which may be constant varieties – since only the large sheet was seen – are as follows:

Pane 1 numerous tiny white dots on the left of the left glass on the stamps of rows 1 and 2.

Pane 2 row 4 no. 2 tiny black dots above "internasionale".

Pane 3 row 1 no. 4 long white diagonal hairline at the right of RSA.

## Machine cancellations

Last month Philatelic Services announced that as a result of the popularity of the special date-stamp cards amongst collectors and in view of requests being made from time to time, Philatelic Services has decided to provide impressions of new slogans appearing on machine cancellations on a similar basis as special date-stamp issues.

This service will be introduced as soon as Philatelic Services is physically able to handle the distribution thereof. Timeous notice regarding the availability of date-stamp cards bearing such cancellations will be circulated by means of a press release together with bromides.



The Wine stamp where the "die" died (right). It is on pane 2, first row, stamp number two. Philatelic Services, who supplied these stamps for photography, are not able to execute orders for this variety any more. Collectors ordering a stamp from a specific position in a sheet should order in blocks of four.

### Exculpatory verses to our old friends, the GPW

*For a Congress in the Cape  
(Where the strong South Easter blows)  
Dedicated to the Grape  
In its green and glowing rows  
A special stamp was printed,  
Red and white the gleaming wine  
In slender glasses hinted  
At the Spirit of the Vine.  
So apt it was, so beautiful,  
That it evoked in memory  
Delights once tasted and that full  
And perfect sensual glory  
That befuddles feeling and soothes  
The worried mind. It calms the heart  
Till every limb, each finger, moves  
In slow time, a thing apart.*

*Away in far Pretoria  
The Printer drowsed and he,  
In a vinous euphoria,  
Hiccaped but once and "die"  
(Twixt the "oor" and "kwaliteit").  
Fell unheeded to the floor.  
So, in philatelic fate,  
Did twenty thousand more!*

**A T de Villiers**

Seëlruil gevra – Mnr B Versluys, Prinses Margrietstraat 2, An-  
del (N-B) 2831, Nederland, versamel RSA en wil graag met 'n  
Suid-Afrikaanse versamelaar korrespondeer en seëls uitruil.



## Third Definitive Series Derde Vaste Reeks

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA



### Coil Stamps · Rolseëls



*The Republic's third definitive series, the Protea set of 17 values and 21 designs (the coil stamps having designs differing from the definitives of the same value) will be issued on 27 May 1977. The commemorative postmark incorporates the name of Kirstenbosch, the world-famous botanical gardens in the Cape Peninsula.*

## *Come to Kirstenbosch, the protea country*

The third definitive (Protea) series of stamps will be officially launched at a ceremony at Kirstenbosch on 27 May 1977.

All philatelists are cordially invited to attend this day-of-issue ceremony which is being held in the Lecture Hall of the

National Botanical Gardens, Kirstenbosch, Cape Town, at 10h00 on Friday 27 May 1977.

A programme of especial interest to philatelists will be distributed to all who attend the launching ceremony. Those who are able to be present should ensure that they arrive prior to the official launch.

# The Transkei Airways issue

by Dr H.J. Raubenheimer RDPSA

Two special commemorative postage stamps were issued on 11 February 1977 when Transkei Airways undertook the official inaugural flight between Umtata and Johannesburg. They were available at all Transkei post offices and Intersapa (the official agents outside Transkei) for approximately three months. A "collector's sheet" was also available at 35c, and on 16 February two commemorative covers were placed on sale.

The denominations were 4c and 15c and, with certain exceptions – the designs, inscriptions, the plate numbers and their position on the sheets and the perforations – their printing data are identical to those of the definitives, described in *The SA Philatelist* of October and November 1976.

The proof specimen sheets were examined at Philatelic Services, those before separation into the four panes, and thus varieties and perforations were determined. The varieties mentioned, still subject to confirmation, will determine the pane and the panes, as before, are numbered from the top 1, 2, 3 and 4. As regards the perforations, the reverse order appears here. The bottom margin of pane 4 is imperforate and not the top margin of pane 1 as before. All the other top and bottom margins are perforated through. The coloured rectangles with the plate numbers are now on the right margins opposite rows 2, 3, 4 and 5. And the black one with the emblem is below these numbers.

## The 4c

*Design:* Depicts a light cream coloured twin prop plane with red and black markings, flying from right to left. The upper part of the sky is stone coloured, darkening downwards to a deep slate. The inscriptions in white are: bottom right "Transkei 4c" and in tiny black letters in the bottom gutter are: left "Transkei Airways" and right "A H Barrett 1977".

*Plate numbers:* four, from the top 128 black, 127 pale cerise, 126 greenish yellow and 125 pale greenish blue.

### Varities

Pane 1 \*

Row 5 no. 4 Red dot at left of nose of plane.

Pane 2

2-4 dark dot at left of tail fin.

Pane 3

4-1 white dot above centre of plane.

Pane 4

4-1 white dot above centre of plane

Note: The abovementioned ones on panes 3 and 4 are identical in shape and position. Cause unknown. Could bear further investigation. A feature distinguishing the two will be the bottom margin's perforation data if it is included.

## The 15c

*Design:* Depicts the plane in flight from left to right over the airport at Umtata. The terminal building is at bottom right. The plane is in light blues and deep greens with black and orange markings, the sky is in depths of new blue and the ground and the building in shades of light greens and cream. Inscriptions in white are: bottom right "Transkei 15c" and, in the bottom gutter in tiny black letters are left "Transkei Airways" and right "A H Barrett 1977".

*Plate numbers:* Four, from the top are 124 black, 123 pale cerise, 122 greenish yellow and 121 pale greenish blue.

### Varities

Pane 1: Row 4 no. 4 large red oval mark over control tower of building

Pane 2 – nil

Pane 3 – nil

Pane 4: 3.5 dark dot on undercarriage of plane.

4.2 tiny pink dot at top frame line, one third from the right

5.2 tiny pink dot at the centre of the top frame line.

## Collector's sheet

It is numbered 1.3a and consists of a white card 250 x 100 mm and foldable in the middle. On the right are the 4c and 15c stamps with the special first day postmark "K D Matanzima Airport 11.2.77 Umtata" in a hexagon frame. On the left is a descriptive text in blue in English and on its reverse three large circles, the one shows the tail fin, the other the national coat of arms and the third "Transkei Airways, Official Inaugural Flight from Umtata to Johannesburg and back" all in blue.

## The flight covers

There were two, one for the flight from Umtata to Johannesburg and the other for the return flight. They were available on 16 February 1977. They were of white paper roughly 177 x 100 mm and showed a large coloured panel on the left with "Ngomoya By Airmail Paravion" above in white, the rear portion of the plane in the centre, the route along the bottom and the number at centre bottom. They contained a white stiffener card with inscription in black. Afrikaans on the left and English on the right. They were backstamped with the special postmark of destination.

(a) Umtata to Johannesburg no. 1.3. The panel and emblem are in a light venetian red; with "Umtata – Johannesburg" in black along the bottom. At top right are the two Airways stamps 4c above and 15c below with two special first day postmarks, one partly on the stamps and the other on their left.

(b) Johannesburg to Umtata No. 1.4. The panel and emblem are in light green with "Johannesburg – Umtata" in black at the bottom. In the top right corner is a RSA Family planning 4c stamp with the Jan Smuts Airport special postmark 11 II 77 with another one on its left.

## POST OFFICE INFORMATION

(Dated 24 February 1977)

### RSA

Denomination: 3c  
Job No.: 4274522  
Quantity: 1 000 000 sheets

### FILM MATERIAL

Master negative – standing Multi positive – standing

### PRINTING PROCESS

Photogravure and intaglio

### CYLINDERS – Standing

688 – Three-colour yellow 715 – Dark red

689 – Three-colour red

690 – Three-colour blue

PRINTING MACHINE – 841 S 16 – Dark red (steel)

PERFORATOR – 841

### PAPER

Contractor – Harrison Watermark – None  
Width – 340 mm Gum – PVA  
Surface – Matt Phosphorescent coated – Yes

### REMARKS

Reprint No. 1 2.2.77

# Illegal labels lack finesse but portray politics

by Boetie Davidson

On 11 November 1965 the Rhodesian Government, led by its Prime Minister, Mr Ian Smith, announced its Unilateral Declaration of Independence (U.D.I.). This event was philatelically commemorated on 8 December 1965 by the release of a locally designed and produced 2/6d stamp. The left-hand side of the stamp shows the Coat of Arms of Rhodesia (printed in multicolour) and to the right of the stamp is a portrait of H M. Queen Elizabeth II. The top of the design announces in bold letters "Independence - 11th Nov 1965"; the only other features in the design are the denomination, the country and the purpose of the stamp (postage).



In 1966 stamps in the design of the Rhodesian Independence Issue appeared first on the British stamp market and thereafter in South Africa. These had obviously been produced as an Anti-Independence Label because they are exactly the same as the original stamp in design, colouring etc., except that the word "Illegal" has been inserted before the word "INDEPENDENCE" and the word "DUE" underneath the word "Postage"!

It has been stated that these first appeared in Scotland, and some philatelists are of the opinion that they are the work of a group of loyalists .... They are printed by the photogravure process on unwatermarked paper. Original sheets appear to have been perforated by a simple type of perforator, subsequent sheets were found to have been perforated with a sewing machine, while some sheets have been found totally imperforate. In some instances the sheets of stamps are gummed, while in other cases they are not. Most of the sheets of these stamps which have appeared on the British market have been printed in sheets of nine stamps, but sheets of 25 stamps per sheet have also appeared. The opinion is that the majority of these have been found on the South African philatelic market.

The background colour of these original stamps as well as the Anti-independence labels is violet, and on the sheets of these labels the intensity of the violet colour varies quite considerably.

The imperforate sheets of stamps (as illustrated) are not scarcer than the perforate sheets, and on both the perforate and imperforate sheets one has seen examples of missing colours (green, yellow and red), as well as marked shifts of some or all of the colours.

The second illustration shows an imperforate sheet of nine stamps with a marked colour shift of the green colour, while the third illustration has a 20 mm shift of the yellow colour.



The finding of colour shifts and/or missing colours is not at all surprising with printing of labels of this type, which are obviously politically motivated.

It is interesting that these labels first appeared in 1966, and now, ten years later, they are still offered for sale by both stamp dealers and auction houses. This therefore means that over the past ten years the demand for these Anti-Independence Labels must be as great as ever, and obviously must form an intrinsic part in all specialised collections of Rhodesian philately. These stamps have another significant aspect, viz. that in this one small fragment of paper is summarised years of political intrigue and discussion, as well as the political status quo.



## MOTH postmark

To commemorate the founding of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats 50 years ago a special cancellation will be used at MOTH headquarters, Warrior's Gate, Durban, on 7 May 1977.

Souvenir covers are available from the Memorable Order of Tin Hats, PO Box 4815, Durban 4000, at 40c each, fully serviced.

Proceeds from the sale of these covers will go towards the erection of cottages for aged ex-servicemen. Membership of the MOTHS is available to all front-line ex-servicemen.

**Robson Lowe director** - Mr David Crocker has been elected director for Southern Africa of Robson Lowe International Ltd, the overseas division of the Robson Lowe organisation.

# Cape-Mauritius mail routes

by Kenneth Baker

The designer of the Ocean Mail Centenary release should be congratulated in presenting an attractive and colourful stamp and one that should be very popular. I have, however one complaint. The design appears to be an artist's impression and not drawn from a copy of a real vessel, unlike the recent Mauritius stamps. The notes given in the issue of the August 1976 SA Philatelist would seem to confirm my view. There must be many drawings and photographs available of mail ships used on the South African mail routes which could have been adopted for the centenary stamp.

Being concerned with the postal history of Mauritius the SA Ocean Mail Services contract is of relevance to my interest, inasmuch that regular services were maintained from South Africa to Mauritius after the signing of the contract in 1876. Also, a few years after this date the Union and Castle steamship companies amalgamated, giving improved services between England and South Africa. However, I am not immediately concerned with this period which I believe is well known and recorded.

It should be of more use to South African postal history enthusiasts if one could give a list of the mail services which operated between South Africa and Mauritius during the years prior to 1876, and mention briefly some of the companies and vessels engaged in the carriage of mail between the two countries in these years.

## French packet

While there appears to be no record of any mail carried between the Cape and Mauritius by the France-Mauritius Packet service of 1886-1788, it is possible that the packet boats engaged in the service called at Cape Town for water, provisioning, etc. Mail would have been landed or taken aboard. Peter Ibbotson in an article in Stamp Collecting, June 24, 1976. "The Paquebot Mail that wasn't" mentions the names of three vessels which had been engaged on the France-Mauritius service, the *Courrier de L'Europe; Paquebot No. 4;* and *Courrier des Deux Iles*. It is possible that these vessels could have been seen at Cape Town during the years 1786 to 1788. However, whether they carried mail from Mauritius to Cape Town or vice versa is another matter.

The first official mail boat service covering Cape Town and Mauritius would appear to have commenced in 1816, the route being from the UK via St Helena, Cape Town, Mauritius, Ceylon to Madras and Calcutta, and return. Col Skrine in his *Postal History of Mauritius* records that one of the ships used on this service was the honorable East India Company's *Hewitt* under the command of a Capt Caméon. From information obtained from the government archives in Cape Town – to whom I am very grateful – it is possible that the names of two other vessels designated as packets on this service were the *Eclipse*, which was known to carry mail to Mauritius in 1816, and the *Harriet*, also in the same year. The last vessel, although bound for Madras and Calcutta with mail from Cape Town, is not indicated as carrying mail to Mauritius but it probably did. In 1817 the *Eclipse* is also known to have made a return voyage to the Cape, carrying mail from Ceylon and Mauritius. It is interesting to note that the name of the *Harriet* appears on a list of the vessels owned by the HEI Co. It is therefore possible that the nucleus of this packet service was made up of vessels belonging to this company.

## To Calcutta

In 1843 the Peninsular and Orient Steam Navigation Co

(P & O) was awarded a contract for a monthly service from Suez to Calcutta, the first three vessels used on the route being the *Hindustan*, *Bentinck* and *Precursor*. It is known that the *Hindustan* carried mail between the UK and Mauritius on its outward journey to join the Suez-Calcutta service sometime in 1843. Mail carried by this ship between the Cape and Mauritius may be found endorsed with the name of the *Hindustan*. Incidentally, the *Hindustan* can be seen on one of the four ship stamps issued by the Mauritius Post Office early in 1976.

Again, from the government archives, we learn that the *Bentinck* arrived at the Cape on 9 October 1843 on her way to join the *Hindustan*, and left shortly afterwards carrying mail for Mauritius, Ceylon, Madras and Calcutta. It was over a year later when the third vessel on the service, the *Precursor*, arrived at Cape Town on 25 October 1844. She left for the same ports also carrying mail. While these three vessels were not a part of a regular packet service from the UK to India via the Cape, no doubt the arrangements made for the carriage of mail were similar to those of other companies engaged in packet services.

In 1850 the British government, anxious to develop the Cape route for mail steamers owing to the political uncertainties in Europe, and to avoid the overland journey for mail, pressed private enterprise to set up a packet service. A contract was awarded to the General Screw Steamship Navigation Co (GSSN Co), the company agreeing to promote a monthly service from England to Calcutta via the Cape, Mauritius and Ceylon. Three vessels belonging to the company, the *Bosphorus*, *Hellespont* and *Propontis*, were known to have entered Cape Town harbour in 1850 to 1851. As the company failed in 1851 Skrine records in his "History" that "It is doubtful if any Mauritius mail was carried under this contract". In any case, no records have been uncovered which show that these vessels in 1850 or 1851 went further east than Cape Town.

The next attempt at a regular service between Cape Town and Mauritius occurred in 1852. The GSSN Co was employed under a new contract to carry mail from England to Calcutta via the Cape, Mauritius and Ceylon. The first packet steamer on this service, *Queen of the South*, left Cape Town late July or early August 1852 for Mauritius, arriving there on 13 August. Among the ships employed for this service were *Bosphorus*, *Hydaspas*, *Harbinger*, *Lady Jocelyn*, *Indiana*, *Mauritius* and *Propontis*. The *Bosphorus* was painted by Thomas Bowler and a copy of this may be seen in Thelma Gutsche's book *The Bishops Lady*, published by Howard Timmins.

## Crimean war

Early in 1854, with the outbreak of the Crimean War, the service started in 1852 came to grief. All steamers, with the exception of the *Propontis*, said to be unreliable, were withdrawn from the packet service and sent to the war area. The *Propontis* made her last journey on the Cape-Mauritius route during May 1854 and arrived in Mauritius with mail on 30 May. She was then employed for a time as a packet boat on the monthly service between Port Louis, Mauritius and Pointe de Galle, Ceylon.

In 1856 the British Admiralty, faced with providing a service to Cape Town, negotiated a contract with the Lindsay Line to provide a monthly service from Dartmouth, England to the Cape, thence to Calcutta via Mauritius. The first vessel on the route was the *England* and this left Cape Town for



FIG 1



FIG 2



FIG 3

Mauritius on 4 October 1856, arriving in Mauritius later that month. Among the vessels used on this service were the *Tynemouth*, *Robert Lowe*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, *AS Lindsay*, *Harbinger* (used previously by the GSSN Co), *Clarendon*, *James Heatle* and *Armenian*.

In 1857 most of the ships on the service called in at Bristol on the homeward run, before docking at Dartmouth. Covers carried by these ships to Bristol are handstamped with the scarce CAPE PACKET BRISTOL strike (Figs 1 & 2). It is also interesting to record that at Mauritius some of the mail carried by the Lindsay steamers received strikes of the boxed PACKET handstamp in red (Fig 3). Previously this handstamp was used at Mauritius in 1848, but in black, and in my opinion the red PACKET strike is equally as scarce as the CAPE BRISTOL PACKET.

The contract passed in 1857 from the Lindsay Line to the Union Steamship Co. but only from the UK to the Cape. While suggestions were made from time to time of extending the service to Mauritius, nothing was done until 1864. In the meantime, and even for some years previously, there were reports of a Liverpool-Cape packet service which at times was extended to Mauritius. However, no information has been seen concerning such a service and any evidence of its existence would be appreciated.

In 1864 the Union Steamship Co at last extended its service from Cape Town to Mauritius, via Algoa Bay and Port Natal. The first steamer used on the monthly service was the *Athens*, leaving Cape Town on 18 November 1864 and arriving in Mauritius prior to 7 December, to enable mail to be transferred to the P & O mail ships, en route to Europe via Aden and Suez, leaving on that date. I have no further definite information as to the names of the other vessels employed on the Cape-Mauritius service, but it is believed the *Dane* and the *Celt* formed part of the fleet. In July 1866 with the withdrawal of the PO service from Mauritius, the Union Steamship Co extended the service further from Mauritius to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon. However, with the introduction of the fast and regular services of the Messageries Maritimes Line from Mauritius to Europe via the Suez Canal, the Cape Town to Galle service via Mauritius was soon withdrawn.

I would be very grateful for the views and comments of readers, and any further information on the Maritime handstamps etc used on mail carried by the various services. A book on the Maritime Postal History of the Indian Ocean written by James Ruffle of the Indian Ocean Study Circle will be published shortly, and I am indebted to him for information on the Lindsay Line.



# Cape Packet Bristol

*An article on the "Cape Packet Bristol" was published in the Colonial Chronicle, journal of the Colonial South Africa Society, in July 1976 (Vol 2 No 1). Written by Mr A L (Mick) Michael, the article is reproduced here with acknowledgement.*

Little is known of a packet service which seems to have had a short life in the year 1857 during the time when the traffic in the Port of Bristol was declining and that of Liverpool expanding.

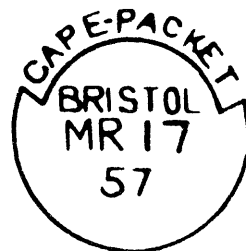
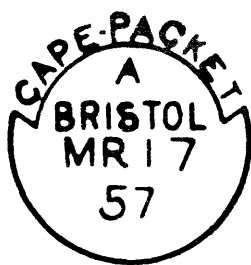
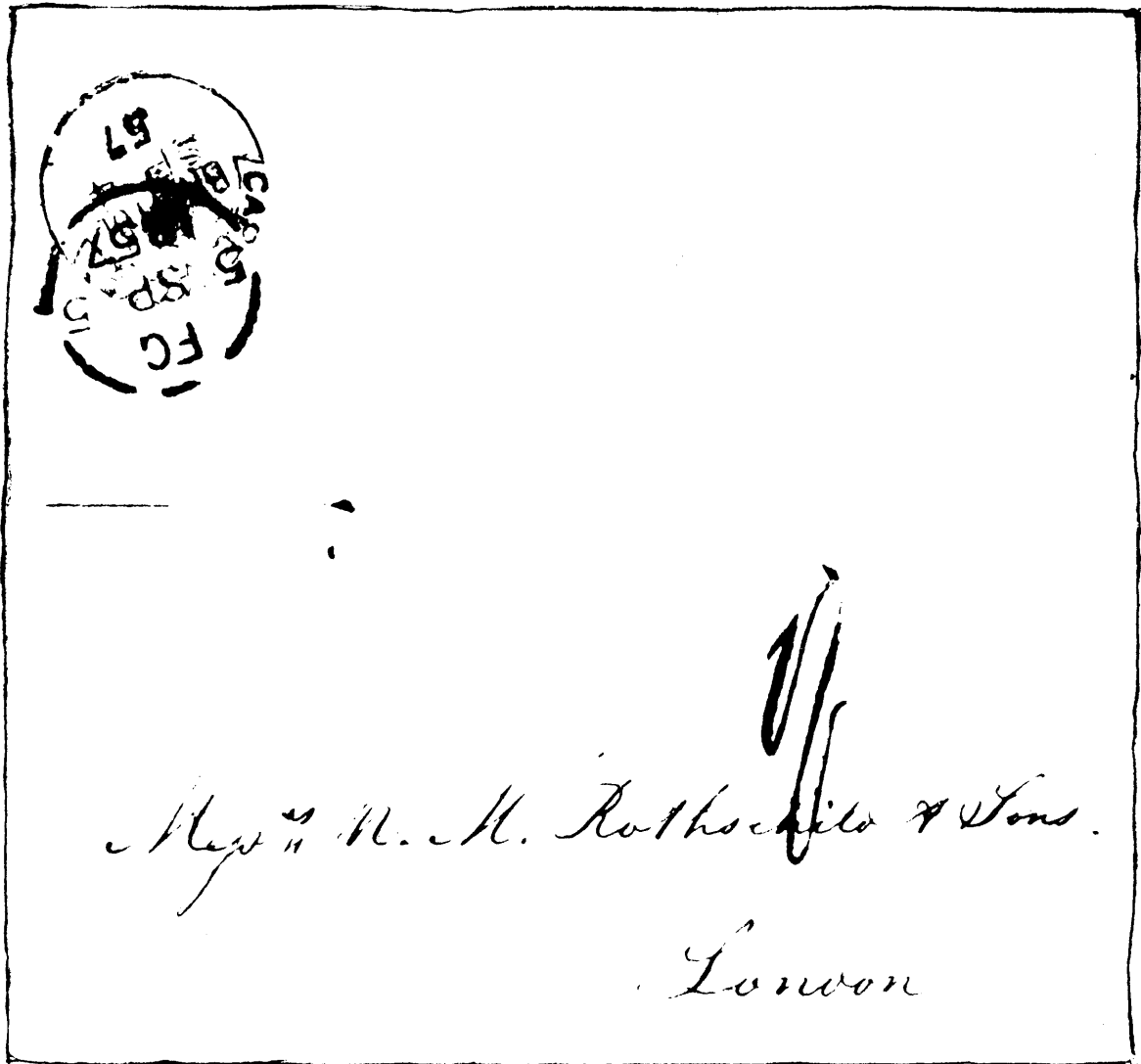
Of all the 19th century maritime handstamps to be found on Bristol mail, perhaps the most interesting is the very rare "Cape Packet. Bristol" circular handstamp relating to the above-mentioned period. This was applied in blue ink to mail landed from the Cape of Good Hope during the seven months from February 1857 to 4th Sept. of the year. Usually accompanying this attractive mark is an equally attractive 1/- charge mark in black ink, which represents the amount collected from the addressee on delivery.

In a major Bristol collection in Great Britain there are three examples of this "Packet" handstamp. One is on a cover addressed to a Royal Naval Officer "care of" a firm in the

Adelphi, London, which bears the handstamp dated March 17, 1857, used alongside a "Cape Town. Cape of Good Hope" circular despatch stamp of January 20, 1857. The 1/- hand struck charge mark was not used. Instead the charge is handwritten.

Another letter is addressed to Brighton and has in manuscript in the bottom left hand corner the wording "By first steamer to England". Like the previous cover, it has the "Cape-Packet" handstamp of March 17, 1857. It was posted at Grahamstown on 27th December, 1856 and left Cape Town 1st January, 1857. It arrived in Brighton 84 days after its original posting. The 1/- hand stamp charge mark appears over the address.

The third "Cape Packet" letter in the collection shows the probable last recorded date of usage - September 4, 1857 on entire addressed to the famous bankers Messrs. N M Rothschild and Sons. This was posted from the quayside into a special bag or box and therefore bears no Cape adhesives or handstamps. A fine impression of the hand struck 1/- appears above the address.



The British Post Office Register shows a first impression of the rare 1857 "Cape-Packet" handstamp dated January 30. A memorandum form dated January 1904 sent to a collector and found by the late Colonel Guy Crouch, records the last day of usage - September 4, 1857 - the numerals and letters "SP 4.1857" having remained on the handstamp from the time of its last day of usage 45 years earlier. On this form and the last cover mentioned, the prefix letter "B" is used above "BRISTOL" instead of 'A' on the two earlier covers.

The hand struck 1/- charge mark seems to be as rare as the packet handstamp. Both handstamp and charge mark are listed by Alan Robertson as P2 in his famous work: "The Mari-

time Postal History of the British Isles". He also records two dies of the handstamp in the General Post Office proof book, the second die registered 15/4/57 with no hyphen. No copy of this has been seen by the writer.

Both the Post Office Register and the 1904 memorandum form (illustrated with this article) show a further circular type Cape Packet handstamp which differs from the 1857 type in that it incorporates the word "PAID" and has a double line circle incorporating "BRISTOL". This handstamp was intended for use on outward mail via the packet from Bristol but no examples are known to the writer and it was probably never used, because it appears without date slugs on the memorandum form.

CAPE MAIL CONTRACTS WITH **ONLY** THE UNION STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED

DATE	CONTRACT DURATION	PASSAGE DURATION	PAYMENTS	SAILING	POSTAL RATE TO ENGLAND PER $\frac{1}{2}$ OZ	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS
12 September 1857	5 Years	42 Days	£33 000	Monthly	6d	ALL postage collected both at the Cape & in the United Kingdom was to accrue to Her Majesty's Postmaster General in London.
6 March 1863	7 Years	38 Days	£19 700 Payment was on a sliding scale from £25 000 down to £15 000	Monthly		As Above.
1 July 1868	8 Year Extension to 1876	38 Days to 35 Days	All Postage on letters from the U.K. and the Cape (1/- per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) paid to Ship Company.	Twice a month from 10 July, 1868.	1/-	
1st January 1873	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Years	30 Days	All Postage, less £1 500 per annum	Fortnightly, & not twice/month		The Shipping Line was paid 10d. out of every 1/- postage paid on the mail
October 1876	7 Years	26 Days	No Subsidy All Postage Money Paid to Ship Company	Weekly	Reduced from 1/- to 6d.	Speed Premium paid to Steamship Company. £100 per day when the journey took less than 26 days and £150 per day when less than 23 days.

## INTERIM NEGOTIATIONS WITH CURRIE BY THE CAPE GOVERNMENT

5 October 1873			Speed Bonus £150/day for voyages completed a basis of 30 days. No premium if voyage 29 +		Ship Letter Rate of 4d.	2d. per letter was paid to Currie's Castle Packets Company instead of the 1d. per letter as was formerly the case. £12 000 p.a. was Currie's maximum
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## OCEAN MAIL CONTRACTS WITH **BOTH** THE UNION & THE CASTLE COMPANIES

DATE	CONTRACT DURATION	PASSAGE DURATION	PAYMENTS	SAILINGS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	POSTAGE TO U.K. PER $\frac{1}{2}$ OZ
1876	7 Years	26 Days	Only all of the postage	Weekly Service		6d.
1883	5 Years	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ Days	£25 000	Weekly		6d.
1888	5 Years	20 Days	£26 000 for Each Company No Speed Bonuses.	Weekly	Reduction in postage effective from 1 Oct. 1888	4d.
1892	7 Years	19 Days		Weekly	Reduction in postage effective from 1 January 1892	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
1899	10 Years	16 Days 20 Hours		Weekly	The only contract in which a clause forbidding Amalgamation of the Shipping Companies was omitted.	1d. with effect from 1 Sept. 1899.

### PAYMENTS TO SHIP MASTERS FOR CARRYING MAIL

- 1834 1d. paid for each private letter brought to the Cape – Inward Mail
- 1859 The Postmaster had to pay 1d. per letter to the Shipmaster.
- 1868 All postage on letters from the UK and from the Cape (i.e. 1/- per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz).
- 1873 The Steamship Company was allowed 10d out of every 1/- postage paid on the mail.
- 1876 The Steamship Companies were given all the money paid for postage on the mails which their respective vessels carried, the postal rate at this point in time having been reduced from 1/- to 6d the half-ounce.
- 1873 The Cape Government also allowed Donald Curried (Castle Packet Company) 2d of the 4d postage paid on each letter carried by his ships, instead of the 1d as was formerly the case, and this arrangement remained operative until 1876.

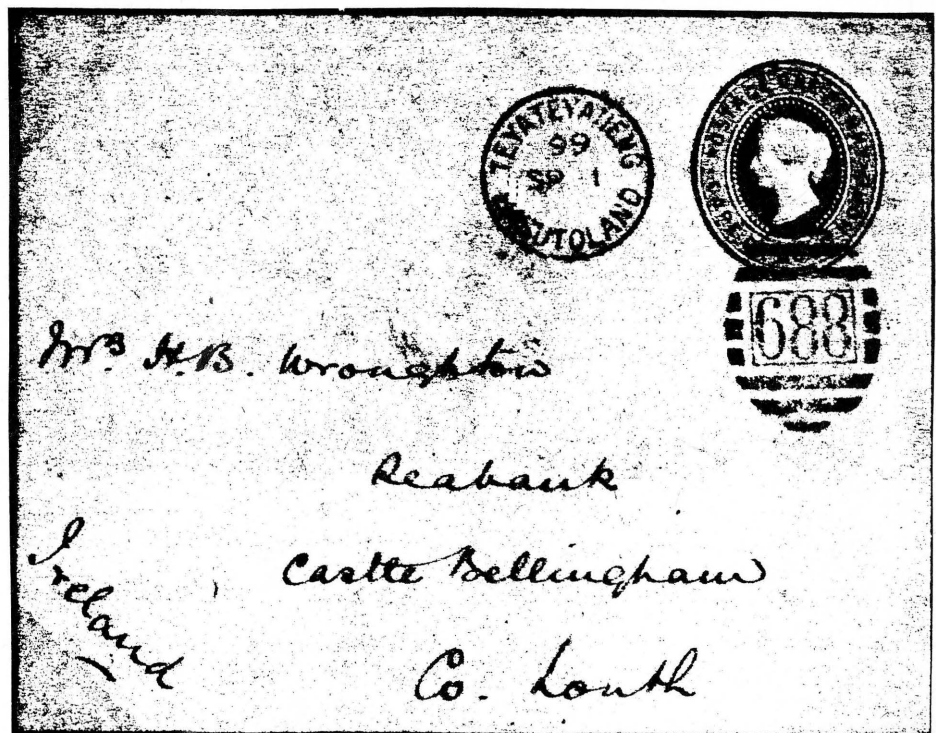
*See "Colonial Chronicle" Newsletter No 3, October 1976, from where most of this information was obtained, and to whom we express our acknowledgement.*

*We are publishing these two tables of Ocean Mail Contracts with the Union Steamship Co Ltd and Donald Currie's Castle Packets Company covering the period from 1857 to 1900, and which should be of value to collectors of the Cape of Good Hope and neighbouring territories.*

## Imperial Penny Post FDC

The articles and tables on these pages describe the development of the Cape's postal links to abroad and the eventual introduction of the Imperial penny postage letter rate on 1 September 1899 (see table above).

We illustrate a first day cover of the "Imperial penny postage" of the Cape of Good Hope: a Cape 1d postal stationery envelope mailed at Teyateyaneng, Basutoland, on 1 September 1899 to Ireland, where it arrived on 27 September. The Cape-administered Teyateyaneng office used numeral canceller 688 in addition to its datestamp.



# The ocean mail services

by Mervyn Emms

*Until recent times South Africa was solely dependent for its overseas mails on ships. The following brief survey traces the development of ocean mails up until present times.*

With the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape in 1652 to start a refreshment station, there began a regular exchange of letters between Holland and the Cape. Although this applied only to official mail nevertheless the public were usually able to prevail on sailors or even ships' captains to carry private letters, usually for a small monetary consideration.

This haphazard position endured right up until 2 March 1792 when the first official post office was established. Letters to the Netherlands were apparently accepted free, the payment presumably being collected from the recipient, whilst those to other countries had to be prepaid. The rate was 6 stuivers (roughly 6 pence) per sheet and 4 stuivers to enter the registration in the postmaster's note book.

After the British occupation in 1806 overseas mail continued to flow but new regulations were brought in whereby masters of ships were forbidden to convey any letter not bearing an official postmark. The newly proclaimed rates were as follows:-

A single letter to or from Europe, India or elsewhere.

1 Skilling (6 pence)

A double letter 2 Skillings

A packet or parcel 1 skilling per ounce.

Military & Naval personnel - free of all charges.

In spite of the prepayment letters arriving in Cape Town were still subject to an additional 4 pence charge on receipt, and of this one penny went to the Master of the ship.

## Ships' Letter Office

In England letters for overseas had been left at London coffee houses, from whence they were put aboard ships, but from 1815 onwards a Ships' Letter Office was established and it became compulsory for shipmasters to carry all mail tendered by the post office subject to the payment of reasonable remuneration. The letter rate now became 14 pence per ounce and newspapers 3 pence per ounce.

In April 1816 the first of a monthly service of "Packet" ships reached Table Bay after a passage of 114 days. This first Packet Ship was the *Eclipse* which arrived on 13 April 1816.

Unfortunately this new service was soon abandoned and the Cape had again to rely on whatever ships might be passing through.

In 1837 a new Act of Parliament regarding ocean mail came into force and at the same time the control of the Packet Service was transferred to the British Admiralty, with whom it remained for the next 23 years.

On the home front it was found that the inland mail was becoming excessively heavy and this, coupled with the prevalence of horse sickness, led to an offer from Mr E Norton, Managing Director of the Steam Navigation Company, to convey mails by the steamer *Hope* to Port Elizabeth.

## Regular service

In 1847 the steamer *Pottinger* arrived from Falmouth after a 34 day journey and it was this event that galvanised the Cape merchants into submitting a petition to the Governor requesting a regular steam vessel service. This agitation was not however to bear fruit until 1850 when the Admiralty commissioners in England gave notice of their intention to establish a monthly steam vessel service between England and Cape Town for Her Majesty's Mails.

On 11 November 1850 the General Screw Steam Shipping Company Ltd contracted to operate this service.

The contract allowed for a monthly screw steamship with a passage not to exceed 35 days and at a cost of £30,750.

On 18 December 1850 the *R.M.S. Bosphorus* left Plymouth with the first mails of this new steamship service. The send-off was attended by considerable pomp and ceremony which included three brass bands and a "Grand Dinner" at the Royal Hotel. After a passage of 40 days, which included stops at Madeira, St Vincent, Sierra Leone and St Helena the *Bosphorus* arrived at Cape Town 5 days over contract time. As the usual time of sailing ships was 60 days this was nevertheless a record.

The *Bosphorus* was followed at monthly intervals by the *Propontis*, *Hellespont*, *Sir Robert Peel* and later the *Harbinger*. It should be remarked that all of these vessels were "auxiliaries", that is they were equipped with steam and sail, the steam being used only when becalmed or when sailing at less than 8 knots.

## To India

In 1852 the General Screw Steam Shipping Company signed a new contract to deliver the mails to India with South Africa en route. The first sailing was made by the *Queen of the South*, a much larger vessel (1,752 tons) which arrived in Cape Town in July 1852. This vessel was succeeded by a line of larger vessels namely the *Lady Jocelyn*, *Indiana*, *Calcutta*, *Mauritius* and *Hydaspes*. Meanwhile, in 1852 the *Sir Robert Peel* took over on contract the coastal service between Cape Town and Port Natal. To her went the honour of being the first steamship to cross the bar at Durban. For two years she continued to provide this service until replaced by the *Natal* and her sister ship, the *Cape of Good Hope*, both of 500 tons.

In June 1854 the Cape and India Line Service was abandoned by the contractors due to a variety of reasons, mainly financial, and at the end of the year the coastal contract was also abandoned. Mails reverted again to haphazard shipping arrangement until 1856 when Lindsay's Shipping line took on the contract for £28,000 per annum. The service commenced on 6 August and in the following September the service came to an end. The house flag of this line bore the initials W.S.L. and the service was so bad that the current public joke was that this stood for "Worst Steamship Line".

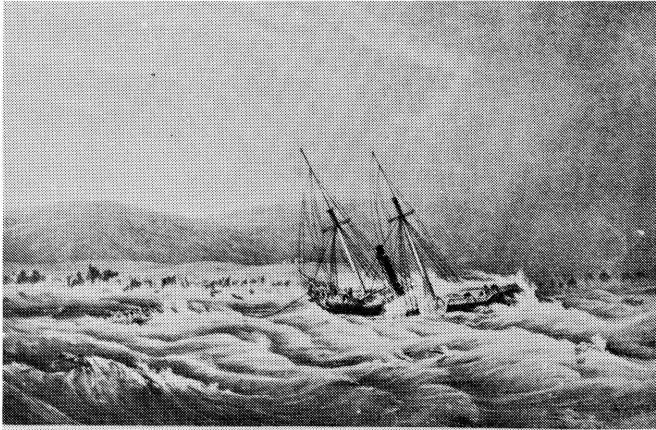
Although the contract was for 38 days few Lindsay vessels managed it in under 50 days. The pioneer ship of this line was the *England*, followed by the *Tynemouth*, *Robert Lowe* and the *Scotland*.

## Union Line

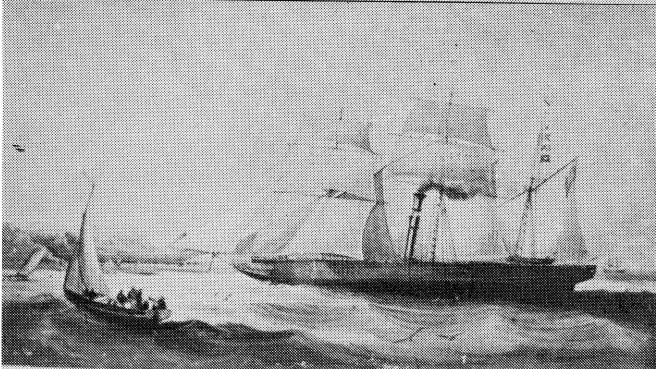
It was at this stage that the Union Steam Ship Company Ltd. successfully tendered for the mail contract at £33,000 per annum. There were to be five steamers making a monthly out and home trip which was not to exceed 42 days.

The first mails on this contract arrived in Cape Town on the *Dane* on 29 October 1857.

The Union Line was to hold a monopoly on the contract for nineteen years during which time a number of their steamships carried the mails, namely the *Celt*, *Norman*, *Phoebe*, *Bosphorus*, *Athens*, and later the *Roman*, *Cambrian*, *Briton* and *Saxon II*. Also during this time a regular coastal service was maintained by the Steamships *Madagascar* and *Waldensian* owned by John T Rennie. After 1862 the Union Line also took over the coastal contract as Mr Rennie's ships had both been wrecked.



SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST COASTING STEAMER, THE HOPE



THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN MAIL STEAMER  
THE GENERAL SCREW COMPANY'S R.M.S. BOSPHORUS

By courtesy of Sir Hugh Livick

In 1864 competition was offered to the Union Line by the Diamond Line who, though not under contract, ran a regular two monthly service. It was inaugurated by the record 32½ days run Falmouth to Port Elizabeth by the vessel *Eastern Province*. The other Diamond Line vessels were the *Kaffraria*, *Uitenhage*, *Albany*, and *United Service* as well as a coaster, the *Natalian*. By 1867 due to various misfortunes and shipwrecks the Diamond Line failed and was wound up.

A similar competitive venture by the Cape of Good Hope Steamship Company, which started in 1867 using two vessels, the *Asia* and the *Good Hope*, lasted only until 1871 when they like the Diamond Line folded up.

In 1871 competition was offered by the Cape and Natal Steam Navigation Company. Although the Union Line still held the mail contract this competition spurred them to purchase the *Syria* which, on her second voyage, reduced the record run to 26 days and 18 hours. By March 1872 this rival company had also wound up.

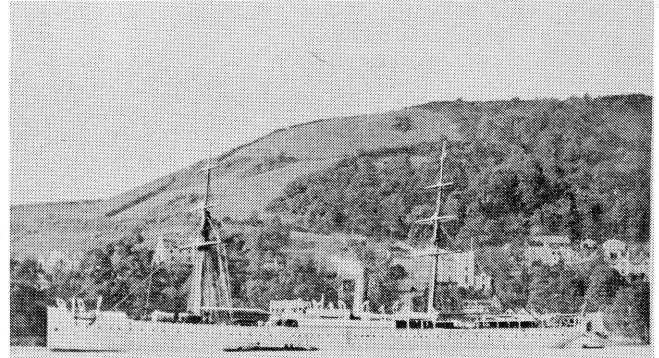
In 1872 Donald Currie commenced a service to the Cape. His vessels were making the trip regularly in less than 38 days which was the contract time of the Union vessels. His chartered steamer *Penguin* broke all records by a passage of 24 days 18 hours. He was able to carry mail at 4 pence per letter against the one shilling per contract steamer, and as his vessels were 8 to 10 days faster this was indeed stiff competition.

The Union Line's original contract of 1857 had been renewed in 1863 and again in 1868 and finally it expired in 1876.

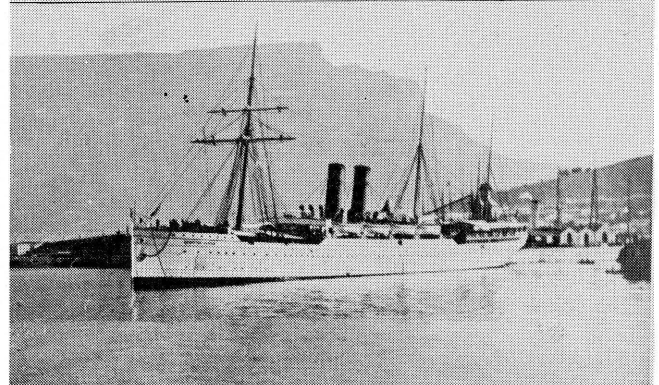
Thus it was that in 1876 the new mail contract was shared by the Union Company and the Donald Currie Line. The schedule was now so arranged that the Cape Colony was provided with a weekly mail service. The contract time under the new contract was reduced to 26 days with premiums being paid for faster passages.

#### The castles

Donald Currie's line of ships were all named after castles and the first of these designed for the Cape route was the



DONALD CURRIE'S R.M.S. DUNROBIN CASTLE, 1876



DONALD CURRIE'S RECORD-BREAKER OF 1893  
THE DUNOTTAR CASTLE

*Dunrobin Castle* in 1876. Other similar ships were the *Balmoral*, *Dublin*, *Warwick* and *Conway Castles*. The Company was generally referred to as the Castle Company being short for Castle Mail Packet Company (Limited).

Both the Union and the Castle Lines were in healthy competition and both added new vessels. The Union's new *German* in 1877 beat the previous record held by the rival *Balmoral Castle* and lowered the passage to 19 days.

In 1883 a new joint contract lowered the contract time to 21½ days including a stop at Madeira. Again in 1888 another joint contract lowered the time to 20 days and abolished the payment of speed premiums.

In March 1893 the Union Line's *Scot* lowered the record to 14 days 18 hours and 57 minutes; a record that was to remain unbeaten for more than 43 years when in August 1936 it was lowered to 13 days 9 hours by the *Stirling Castle*.

Incidentally, it was in this same year, 1893, that the Cape Colony established the Ocean Post Offices on the mail ships, the facilities available being confined to the sale of postage stamps and the handling of letters.

In 1900 a new mail contract to cover the next 10 years reduced the contract time to 16 days 20 hours for the first three years and 16 days 15 hours thereafter. It was at this time that the two shipping companies decided to amalgamate and become the Union Castle Shipping Company.

On 17 February 1900 the *Dunottar Castle* left Southampton on the inaugural passage of the Union Castle Line. In 1912 the Union Castle Company was taken over by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and Elder Dempster and Company, and Sir Owen Phillips succeeded Donald Currie as Chairman. A new ten year mail contract with the Union Castle came into force at this time.

With the anticipated introduction of containerisation this year (1977) an era of mail contracts will end. Out of the total 127 years of the contracts the Union, later to become Union Castle Company, has operated continuously for 120 years.

#### Acknowledgements:

Post Office Museum Records.

*Ships and South Africa - Marischal Murray, 1933.*

# Beginjare van die Ptase Afrikaanse vereniging

deur dr M.E.L. Buys

Die eerste jare van enige organisasie is ryp aan nuwe gebeurtenisse en toon duidelik dat daar swaar geleun word op mense wat dryfkrag en doelgerigheid het en wat vertroue kan geniet.

Daarom kan 'n liggaam soos die Afrikaanse Philatelistiese Vereniging van Pretoria – die APVP – trots wees op sy drie staatmakers uit die beginjare wat nou erelede is, naamlik die here De Swardt en Bernhardi en prof Gonin.

Dit blyk dat daar 'n halfeeu of langer gelede al Afrikaanssprekende seëlversamelaars in Pretoria was, maar die behoefte aan 'n eie vereniging het eers ná 1950 begin kristalliseer namate die versamelaars mekaar beter begin ken het.

So het dit gekom dat 'n aantal belangstellendes die aand van 9 Augustus 1951 informeel by die huis van mnr en mev A D Bosman, Kerkstraat 1027, byeengekom en toe besluit het om die vereniging te stig.

'n Voorsitter is gekies, mnr J A Erasmus, en 'n sekretaris, mnr G J de Swardt, en hulle is gevra om 'n konsep-grondwet op te stel.

Die ander aanwesiges was mev I J van Zyl, mnr en mev J W Schubart, mnr en mev S J Vermaak, mev A D Bosman, mev J A Erasmus, mej M van den Berg, dr L C Coetzee, en mnre F J Eybers, Reynecke, H J P Schutte, C J Greeff, Julius Köhler, J A Scholtz, P H Kok, I J Bernhardi, A H de Villiers en R Coetzee.

Verdere vergaderings is op 4 en 14 September 1951 gehou om die voorgestelde grondwet te bespreek. Vyf persone het intussen bygekom, naamlik mev C Pienaar, mnre T Britz, J F Dick (posmeester van Johannesburg) en A J A Roux, en prof H L Gonin.

## Die stigting

Die formele stigtingsvergadering, waar die aanwesiges die grondwet onderteken het, was op 26 September 1951. Die eerste bestuur was mnr Erasmus as voorsitter, mnr De Swardt as sekretaris/penningmeester, mnr H J P Schutte as rondsendbeampte en mev J J van Zyl en mnr R Coetzee as addisionele lede. Daar is besluit dat vergaderings op die vierde Vrydagaand van die maand by die Tegniese Kollege sou plaasvind.

'n Eerste uitstalling is ook die aand gehou. Mnr Scholtz het Mauritius vertoon, mnr De Swardt Generaal Gouvernement en mnr Roux VSA-koeverte. Onder die gaste was die voorsitter en sekretaris van die Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging van Johannesburg.

Van die 23 lede wat die stigtingsvergadering bygewoon het, het die ledetal in 1954/55 tot 88 aangegroei. Vandag is daar 120 gewone en 80 buitelede. Teenoor die aanvanklike 12/6 bedra die ledegeld vandag R4,50.

Vergaderings is goed bygewoon – daar was 42 mense by die eerste verjaardagvergadering op 26 September 1952, toe die AFV van Johannesburg besoek afgelê het. Die laagste bywoningsyfer was ses, in Augustus 1955. In die jare sestig was dit gemiddeld 20-30 en die afgelope paar jaar 40-50, met soms 60 en meer mense by vergaderings.

Hoe die vereniging gewoener het, blyk aan sy finansies van die eerste drie jaar. Die batige saldo het geklim van £3-15-6 tot £7-15-6 tot £37-18-10!

'n Paar begindatums is:

23 Nov 1951 – eerste rondsendboekies beskikbaar.

24 Mei 1952 – eerste vasvrawedstryd.

27 Jun 1952 – besluit om aansoek vir affiliasie by die Filatelistiese Federasie te doen.

*Dr Buys was in 1976, die kwarteeufeesjaar, die voorsitter van die Afrikaanse Philatelistiese Vereniging van Pretoria. By die feesdinee in September 1976 het hy 'n interessante oorsig oor die wordingsjare van die vereniging gegee, en ons het hom genooi om die gegewens wat hy in ou notules, briewe en ander dokumente opgespoor het, in artikkelvorm op te stel. – Red.*

25 Jul 1952 – rondsenddiens begin, eerste klubwedstryd.

12 Sep 1952 – eerste besoek (AFV), eerste keer koek by die tee (sover ons kan vasstel), eerste Federasieverteenwoordiger gekies.

12 Des 1952 – eerste gesellige byeenkoms.

23 Jan 1953 – eerste besoek aan Pretoria Philatelic Society.

9 Okt 1953 – eerste ruilaand gehou.

25 Aug 1954 – eerste dames-uitstalling.

Die eerste bestelling van materiaal vir lede vanaf die filatelieburo was blykbaar vir die SATISE/SADIPU-seëls van 1952.

## Kompetisies

Uit die staanspoor is daar uitstallingskompetisies gehou, met die eerste deelname aan die Rembrandt-wisselrofee reeds in 1953. Die vereniging het sy eerste bydrae tot die landwye filatelie gelewer toe hy saam met die twee ander plaaslike verenigings die Pretoriase eeufeesuitstalling TEPPEX in 1955 help reël het.

Die rondsenddiens wat ongeveer Julie 1952 aan die gang gekom het, het volgens die verslag vir 1953/54 in sy eerste jaar 'n beskeie omset van £12 gehad. In die volgende jaar het dit geklim tot £200, vir die destydse geldwaardes 'n nie onaansienlike prestasie nie.

Een van die sake waarmee die APVP in die laat vyftiger jare ten nouste mee gemoeid was, was die poging om silindernommers op seëlvelle te behou. Omdat al die lede van die vereniging teen die Poskantoor se afskaffing van silindernommers gekant was, het die vereniging die Filatelistiese Federasie volmondig in sy verhoë tot die owerhede gesteun en ook aktief in hierdie verband opgetree.

Vandag kan die APVP met trots terugkyk op sy prestasies van daardie eerste jare, iets wat ons inspireer om op die gesonde patroon van ons voorgangers voort te gaan.

## Transkei plants

A set of 4 Medicinal Plants on stamps (4c, 10c, 15c and 20c) will be issued on 16 May 1977.

First day covers at 70c each and collectors' sheets at 65c each are available from Intersapa, Private Bag X496, Pretoria 0001.

The stamps and cover were designed by artist Dick Findlay of Pretoria.

**Protea programme** – A half-hour programme on proteas, featuring the new definitive stamps, will be broadcast by SATV on Tuesday evening 24 May 1977.

# Features of Lesotho issues

by T Tsira

*Head of the Philatelic Section, Lesotho*

The following information with regard to the sheet layout and marginal markings of recent and current Lesotho stamp issues is possibly of interest to collectors of these stamps, and is offered both for them and for the philatelic record.

## Sheet Layout

Our stamps are printed in sheets of 50 stamps on two connected panes of 25 stamps. This layout has been adopted to facilitate collection of gutter pairs and corner blocks of four stamps, with any marginal or selvedge inscription included in a sheet. The layout also facilitates easy tearing of corner perforations, with minimal damage to stamps.

## Marginal inscriptions

The following are the markings:-

1. Printers name.
2. Plate numbers 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D.
3. Colour trials in the form of traffic lights.

It must be explained that the plate numbers indicated above are printed and spread out in every denomination e.g. 2 cents value would have 1A and 1B printed at the left bottom selvedges, 1C and 1D would be spread on the rest of the 2 cents sheets.

The printer's name normally occupies the right hand bottom corner of selvedges on both panes of the 25 stamps. This makes it easy for gutter pair collectors to obtain all the plate numbers 1A to 1D plus the printer's name. There is no order as far as the traffic lights are concerned. They are either placed on the left or right hand side of the selvedges in the case of horizontal designs, or at the bottom right hand side of selvedges in the case of vertical formats. The traffic lights on the definitive series are placed at the top right hand corner of the selvedges.

Another noticeable feature of most of our stamps is the King's portrait. It is always printed in black and white on the top right hand corner of every stamp. Lesotho being a monarchy, the King's portrait is justifiably incorporated in its stamps. However with a slightly changed stamp policy these days, it will be noticed that the King's head is depicted on the definitive series, but that most of the special and commemorative issues from this year onwards will not feature the King's head.

Many countries or postal administrations in the last decade have dispensed with manufactured watermarked stamp paper, and phosphorescent coated paper is widely used. This is not yet the case with Lesotho. Though stamp forgeries have rather subsided we still use watermarked paper in our stamps for security reasons. The Lesotho watermark on the stamps is the famous conically-shaped Basotho hat, which is easily detected when a sheet of stamps is held against the sun, or by using the modern detection methods.

There is a variable perforation adopted for every series released i.e. 13 to 15 perforations per 2 cms.

# Swiss aviation pioneers

by Capt Milton F Stern, RDPSA

On 1 January 1977 the Swiss postal authorities issued four stamps honouring Swiss aviation pioneers. The 150c depicts Walter Mittelholzer who made his famous flight on 7 December 1926 from Zurich to Cape Town using the seaplane shown on the stamp. He was accompanied by a mechanic and the author, Rene Gouzy. He reached Cape Town on 20 February 1927 and carried covers. No return flight was made as the plane was shipped back to Europe.

Mittelholzer was born on 2 April 1894 at St Gall and was a photographer by trade. In 1915 he joined the army's flying corps as an observer and got his pilot's license two years later. After the war, together with his former instructor, Comte, he founded the first Swiss airline, which in 1920, merged with other companies into Ad Astra Aero. Mittelholzer ran its aerial photography division until, in 1931, he was appointed managing director and chief pilot of Swissair, which had been formed by the merger of Ad Astra and Balair.

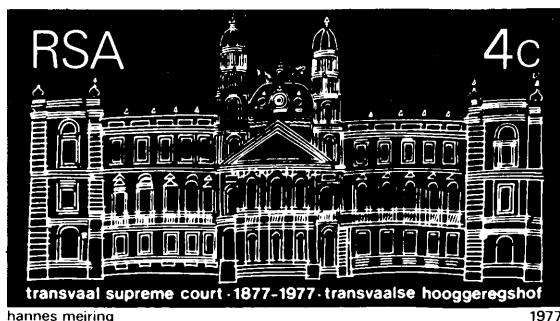
He became widely known for his pioneer flights across Spitzbergen (1923), to Persia (1924/25), to Africa (1926/27; first north-south crossing by the Swiss; Kilimanjoro 1929; 1934 Abyssinia); some of which are described in his travel books. He died in a mountaineering accident in Austria on 9 May 1937.

The other three pioneers were as follows. Oscar Bider, 1891 - 1919, born at Langenbruck, who left for Argentina in 1911 to live there as a farmer but, as he was interested in aviation he returned to Europe and acquired his pilot's licence at Pau flying school, France, where he bought a Bleriot machine in which, on 24 January 1913 he was the first to cross the Pyrenees from Pau to Madrid. He made Berne his headquarters and on 13 July 1913 succeeded in crossing the Central Alps from Berne to Milan. In World War I he was chief pilot and flying instructor of the newly formed army flying corps. In 1919 he resigned and was killed in an aircraft crash at Dürndorf on 7 July 1919.

Eduard Spelterini (1852-1931), on the 80c stamp, studied music and aimed to become an opera singer. A chance trip in a balloon in 1880 made him an aeronaut when he made his first ascent and became a "balloon artist". He is shown with a balloon while Bider is shown with a Bleriot machine, which incidentally was used by Driver in the first airflights at Cape Town in 1911/12.

Armand Dufaux (1863-1941) is on the 100c stamp. He was born in Paris and made early experiments including a preliminary design for a helicopter in 1905. He and his brother Henri established an aeroplane and propeller works near Geneva. In 1910 they produced their first really airworthy craft, the Dufaux biplane. At the outbreak of World War I the factory was sold, with Henri returning to painting while Armand opened a workshop in Paris where he made aircraft components and designed fighter planes. This until 1919, when he turned to other fields and died in Geneva, 17 July, 1941.

*Capt Stern reports that covers were flown from Cape Town to Zurich during the Swissair Mittelholzer commemorative flight's return leg on 24 February 1977. Collectors may obtain these covers at R1 each from him at PO Box 3654, Cape Town 8000.*



*The 4c commemorative for the centenary of the Transvaal Supreme Court, to be issued on 18 May 1977. The stamp shows the Palace of Justice on Church Square in Pretoria, originally built as the headquarters of the Supreme Court of the Transvaal Republic and still in use as the High Courts.*

# Can anyone tell about this?

by A G M Batten, FRPSL

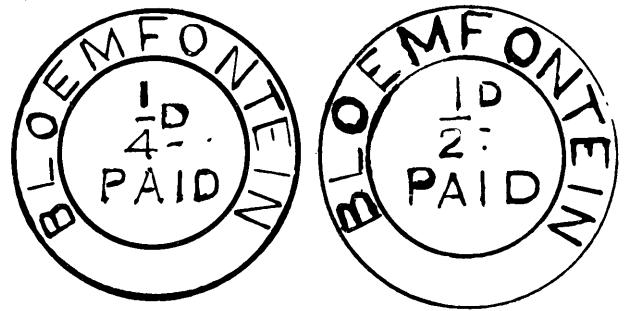
How time flies. In September 1966 – almost 12 years ago – I wrote to the Editor of *The SAP* and sent him a drawing of an unusual Bloemfontein cancellation (?) which I had found on a One Penny, Transvaal, Edward VII stamp. It is illustrated here and has the unusual statement “ $\frac{1}{4}$ d paid.” The Editor asked for any information which might be available as to whether it was used as a postal or revenue cancellation.

Moreover, an enquiry was made as to what had appeared in the lower part of the double circle which did not appear on the stamp. In April 1967 Mr David Allison wrote in *The SAP* saying that “Mr J Walker of Durban has kindly supplied an explanation of its use. His information relates to a later period (“around the 1920 era”) than the probable period of use of the specimen illustrated, but presumably it applies equally to the Edwardian era.

“Newspaper publishers used to send their wrappers to the PO who cancelled them for a fee of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. The publishers then wrapped their newspapers and sent them to the Post Office. (The presence of this mark on an adhesive is doubtless an accident of the kind which occurs from time to time.)”

Now, recently I have been in correspondence with the Editor who has sent me, for inspection, another similar Bloemfontein mark, this time on blank paper – probably a part of a newspaper wrapper – but with a “ $\frac{1}{2}$ d. paid” mark. This item, which I have also endeavoured to reproduce, raises almost as many questions as it answers.

Obviously it supports much that Mr J Walker of Durban had to say. Could it be that  $\frac{1}{4}$ d was charged for inland news-



papers and  $\frac{1}{4}$ d for overseas newspapers? Then since we now know, from Mr Weinstein's mark, that the lower part of the circle was blank would it be right to infer (1) that there was in Edwardian times a similar mark bearing the letters ORC or (2) that these marks were used during the interprovincial period – since in one case the Bloemfontein mark appears on a Transvaal Edwardian stamp and the Edwardians were, of course, in use during the interprovincial period.

Or, after all could it be that the Transvaal Edwardian stamp was used after the interprovincial period and even late enough to correspond with Mr Walker's recollections. We do not know. It is possible that some reader can supply the answer, or might the Bloemfontein Archives or those of the Union of South Africa at Pretoria be able to supply the answer?

## REVIEWS

**STANLEY GIBBONS OVERSEAS 2 STAMP CATALOGUE, D-J, second edition, published in November 1976. Price in the UK £6.50**

Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd of 391 Strand, London, have published the second edition of their catalogue Overseas 2, D-J. This publication consists of 848 pages, an increase of 144 pages over the first edition which appeared some years ago. It includes important countries such as Egypt, Iran, Israel and Japan and also many south American, Asian and African states.

The present volume shows many improvements on the first edition which appeared in March 1974. It follows the same style as adopted for this new family of catalogues. This one belongs to the so-called “Blue Group”. A comprehensive index is included which lists all the “foreign” countries and refers the user to the appropriate volume. This is a very handy innovation. Palestine has been repeated from the British Commonwealth Catalogue. New listings have been included such as the Ecuador Scadta stamps.

As is to be expected, the prices have been reviewed and reflect some of the latest market trends. Users will be surprised at some of the increases, pleasing to the possessor but annoying to the buyer. This applies to the stamps of Japan, Egypt, Iraq, Israel and Jordan. The ex-German Colonies, mainly influenced by the strength of the mark, show substantial increases.

The binding is reasonably good. For such a publication illustrations are sadly lacking and the user is forced to read much of the small print to identify some stamps. On the whole the illustrations are good. The chronological listing can be regarded as logical. Old users of SG catalogues will have to ad-

just to this innovation. This does draw attention to the official and postage due stamps, which for the most part have been sadly neglected.

For the foreign collector the acquisition of this and following editions is a must. A tremendous amount of work has been put into re-pricing and revisions, and the price quoted is very reasonable for such a large and detailed publication, which has been awarded high honours such as gold medals at British National Philatelic Exhibitions. – HOR

**Robemark Catalogue of the Stamps of South Africa and South West Africa, 1977 (5th Edition), by Benjé Joseph & Sons, and published by the authors.**

This is the only comprehensive and up-to-date catalogue covering the stamps of these two countries that is available to collectors. As such it fills a need for that reason alone.

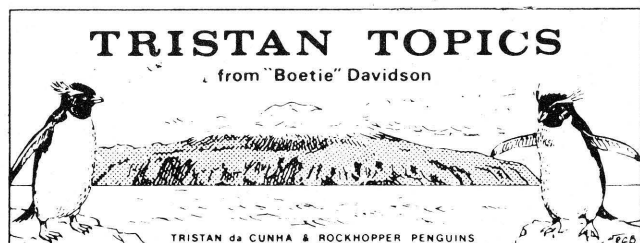
In addition, the authors have produced a catalogue that is far more than a simple listing of stamps and their current selling prices. It commences with some useful introductory notes, followed by a section on Interprovincials, and through the Union Kings Head to the end of the Union period, plus the section dealing with RSA. Postage dues and officials are given due prominence, although we would prefer to see a little more attention paid to the interesting details that the latter issues have to offer.

The section on SWA commences with the German SWA issues of 1897, thence to the King George V stamps of the Union of South Africa, used in SWA (the so-called “fore-runners”), to the various KG V overprinted issues, and thereafter all the issues until the end of 1976.

As with the South African section, FDC's are listed and priced wherever possible, commencing in 1935 (SWA) and 1910 (South Africa) respectively.

Priced at R8.50 and available from Robemark Philatelists (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 11419, Johannesburg 2000, this most useful and well-produced catalogue is highly recommended to those desirous of being brought up-to-date both in South African and SWA philately. As a priced guide it is invaluable.

J.M.W.

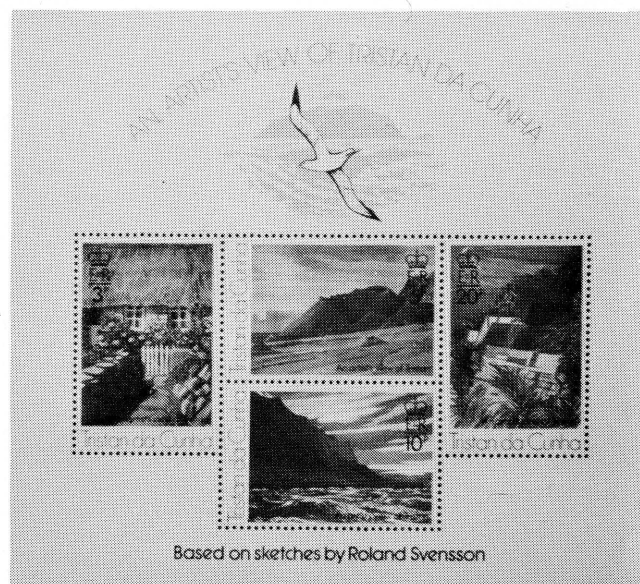


## An artist's view

On 4 October 1976 a series of four stamps and a miniature sheet were issued from the Tristan Post Office and by the Crown Agents. These stamps are based on sketches by the Swedish artist, Roland Svensson, who previously designed the successful "Longboats" issue and provided the photographs for the current postcards obtainable from the island Post Office.

Svensson has visited Tristan on a few occasions, so it is no wonder that the stamps he has designed are not only typical of the local scene, but stamps which completely capture the mood on Tristan, the ruggedness of the cruel natural surroundings, the beauty of different scenes and the homely warmth of the island cottages. In fact, rather than describe this issue, I would prefer to quote the artist's own comment:

"The actual stamps are grounded on my watercolours; the island house depicts one of the oldest houses on Tristan, still in use by David Hagan and his wife. A rather fine example of



the art, once common, of building strong homes with a masonry of high standard.

"The Settlement describes the little village, as indicated. The patches design is a green watercolour which depicts an old volcano, which today has become grassed over, but at the foot of the volcano one sees the black spots of cultivated land where islanders of any distinction have their potato patches. This, maybe, is one of the most important activities of the Tristan Islanders, as potatoes still are the mainstay of their diet.

"The Nightingale island scene gives one a true insight into the small, rather primitive huts the islanders nowadays build on this island. They sail off to Nightingale for eggs, guano and birds, and this is a most exciting adventure for all who take part – islanders and outsiders alike, although few "h'outsiders" have ever had this experience. This sailing experience is amongst some of my most thrilling expeditions in life. The joy, the danger, the skill of the islanders – their absorbing delight in being supreme above any outsider – the freedom of

being their own masters in their own boats – the secret and private enjoyments in the flax, in the small huts when the dark covers the world. The sounds of millions of birds at night. I'm lacking words."

Surely only one who has personally experienced what Svensson has, who has actually lived on Tristan as Svensson has, and who has the magnificent talent, as Svensson has, is qualified to record a series of stamps which does justice to its title, to record a series of stamps which helps bring philatelists closer to the country of their choice, and make the philatelist as much a part of the island as he may ever be.

## New cachets

Ever since 1908, Tristan mail has been identified by one means or another – initially by the 'Missionary' Cachets, then by stamps and official postmarks, and at the same time by various different cachets, to which can be added two new ones.

The first of the two new cachets shows a "profile" view of the island, modernistic in design, and underneath the design is the wording "Tristan da Cunha, South Atlantic Ocean". The drawing of the island is not a new one, having first appeared on Tristan mail in the days when Roy Folgate was Tristan Postmaster, i.e. in the late 1960s, but the wording beneath the illustration is a recent addendum.



The second cachet (illustrated) is indeed unusual. It is circular, 37 mm in diameter, and has an inner circle of 24 mm diameter. Between these two circles are the words "Tristan da Cunha:South Atlantic Ocean", separated by two stars, and inside the smaller circle is a strange, spread-eagled, startled penguin, whose tassels look more like rabbit ears than the short, colourful tassels of the rockhopper!

This cachet was made for Ian Anderson, and as he is no longer on the island, it is unlikely that we will ever again see this cachet on the Tristan mail.

The reason for the documentation of these two private cachets is that they are private, and not official cachets, and that present Tristan collectors, as well as future generations of Tristan postal historians, will recognise them as such.

**A new hand** – Stanley Gibbons are branching out in a new direction: they will hold their first auction of playing cards in London on 1 June 1977. The auction will comprise 400 lots estimated to be worth at least £17 000 and will include a pack of cards produced in Sicily in 1617.

**Transkei interest** – Dutch interest in the stamps of the Transkei is evident from the frequent mentions in recent issues of Netherlands philatelic magazines, which also quoted the articles by Dr Tom Berry RDPSA and Dr H J Raubenheimer RDPSA on Transkei philately in *The SA Philatelist*. "Philatelie" has described the Transkei definitives as a particularly pleasing issue.

# Fishes, frogs and reptiles

*Lower Vertebrates: Fishes, Amphibia and Reptiles on Stamps of the World* is the title of an authoritative, up-to-date reference work published by the American Topical Association. This new handbook brings together the expertise gained over a period of 25 years of publication by the Biology Unit of ATA as well as the extensive professional knowledge of major contributors.

Arranged in two parts (1) Fishes, Fishing and Fisheries, and (2) Amphibians and Reptiles, both sections of the book contain a taxonomic listing and a country listing in conformity with the style of previous biological stamp handbooks on Birds and Mammals.

The checklist of fish stamps includes issues from 1865 to 1975 by 256 countries and represents 107 fish families with more than 700 recognizable species. Numerous labels, primarily from the Trucial States, and British locals have been included to answer the inquiries made about the identity of fishes which often do not appear elsewhere on stamps. Checklist entries give country, Scott catalogue number, date of issue, value and a symbol indicating relative prominence of the fish in design as well as designation of those depicted in natural colours.

The checklist of amphibians and reptiles similarly presents issues from 114 stamp producing entities. Among the lists are to be found 29 stamps depicting 23 species of frogs and toads, five species of salamanders on 11 stamps, 20 species of turtles on 109 stamps, 51 species of lizards on 84 stamps, 57 species of snakes on 126 stamps, 12 species of crocodiles on 127 stamps plus 38 fossil species on 61 stamps.

Fishes, with their beauty, diversity of form, behavior, edibility and potential for sport, have fascinated mankind since the beginning. Public aquaria list high attendance figures, and at least 5 million people in the United States keep fishes in

their homes. The number of anglers far exceeds hunters, and commercial fishing involves many people. It is no surprise that fishes, along with amphibians and reptiles, have become a favorite theme on postage stamps.

Yet the taxonomy of many lower vertebrates is in a state of flux. Scientific names are sometimes changed and when appearing on stamps, they are often obsolete or even erroneous. For the benefit of readers who wish to explore the subject of classification in greater detail, the compilers have listed a number of relevant publications.

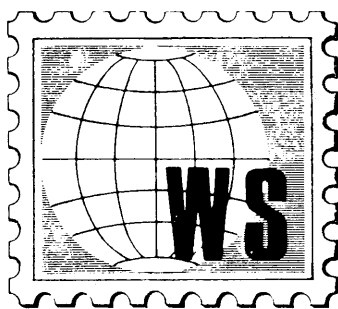
*Lower Vertebrates: Fishes, Amphibia and Reptiles*, ATA HB 91, is a volume of 120 pages including hundreds of stamp illustrations. Introductory orders are now being accepted at a special price of \$7 from the American Topical Association, 3308 North 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216, USA. Previous zoological handbooks in this series by Dr Stanley *et al* are also available: *Mammals on Stamps* HB 79 for \$5 and *Birds on Stamps* HB 82 for \$6. All three books are available at the special price of \$16.95.

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**Airpost award** – Captain Milton F Stern RDPSA was the runner-up for the L B Gatchell Literature Award for articles published in the Airpost Journal for the past year.

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**School visits** – All schools in the Witwatersrand area have been invited to send groups of up to 30 pupils for free visits to Rand 77, where guides will show the youngsters around. Interested teachers and parents may contact Mr Fanie Vermaak RDPSA, tel 672-2691.



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# Seëlnuus uit Nederland

'n Goeie begin is die helfte van die werk. Op 25 Januarie het die nuwe posseëljaar begin met twee toepaslike uitgawes: goeie energie-gebruik en verkiesings.

Die energieseël, met 'n waarde van 40c, beeld straling uit van hitte en lig, die twee energiebronne, en is bestem vir voorligting vir verstandige en spaarsame energiegebruik. Die seëls is ontwerp deur Otto Treumann in geel, rooi, blou en silwer, afmeting 25x36 mm, tanding 12 : 14, gedruk op fosforeserende papier sonder watermerk, in velle van 100 seëls.

Die 45c-seël, ontwerp deur Gratama, De Vries en V.d. Troon, vertoon 'n deel van 'n verkiesingsstrook met 'n vakkie wat rooi ingevul is. Dis opvallend dat die Hollanders die hele vakkie rooi maak, terwyl ons net 'n kruis sit. Die posseël dien om belangstelling vir die komende verkiesing in Mei aan te wakker. Dis uitgevoer in geel, rooi, grys en swart, 36x25 mm, tanding 12 : 14, in velle van 100 seëls, met dieselfde papier as die 40c-seël. Van albei seëls is ook rolseëls uitgegee, wat tweesydig getand is.

Op 21 Februarie is die sterfdag van die beroemde filosoof Baruch de Spinoza (1632-1677) herdenk. Die ontwerp is gegrond op 'n 17e eeuse portret van Spinoza in die munisipale museum in Den Haag. Die seël is uitgevoer in geel, pers, rooi en blou, waarde 75c, tanding 12 : 14, 25x36 mm, gedruk in rasterdiepdruk op fosfopapier sonder watermerk, 100 seëls per vel

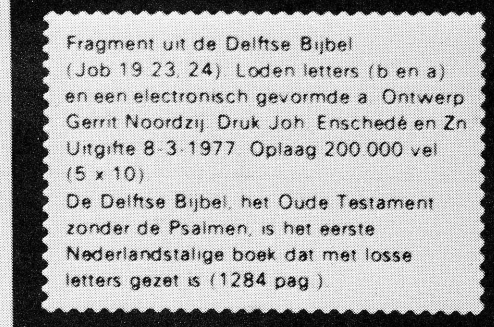
## Oudste boek

Dan het op 8 Maart 'n baie interessante posseël verskyn van 55c vir die 500-jarige bestaan van die oudste gedrukte boek in Nederland, nl. die Delftse Bybel. Hier vind ons lettertipes teen 'n agtergrond van 'n Bybelteks, nl. Job 19: 23-24. Dit is ontwerp deur G Noordzij, kleure geel, swart, in velle van 50 seëls, afmeting 36x25 mm, tanding 14 : 12. Iets heeltemal nuuts is dat by elke seël 'n strokie gevoeg is met die toelichting dat die Delftse Bybel, wat die Ou Testament omvat sonder die Psalms, die eerste Nederlandse boek is wat met los letters geset is; dit het 1284 bladsye beslaan.

Op die Nederlandse Antille het einde verlede jaar nog drie seëls verskyn om die feit te herdenk dat twee eeue gelede op 16 November 1776, vir die eerste keer op St Eustatius-eiland die vlag van die Verenigde State van Amerika, wat toe net tot stand gekom het, met saluutskote begroet is. Die stel is ontwerp deur A Rolando: 25c plakette met erkenning van die saluut deur die president van die Verenigde State, 40c die saluut self, 55c Jan de Graaff, toenmalige goewerneur van Sint Eustatius. Die kleure van die seëls is geel, rooi, blou en swart, 33x22 mm afmeting, tanding 14 : 12 en gedruk in velle van 50 seëls.

Op 20 Januarie het drie karnavalseëls verskyn: 25c, 35c en 40c, elkeen met 'n tafereel uit die optog in 1976 in Willemstad op Curacao. Die seëls is 25x36 mm, tanding 12 : 14, ontwerp deur W Garcia. Hulle maak 'n feestelike indruk.

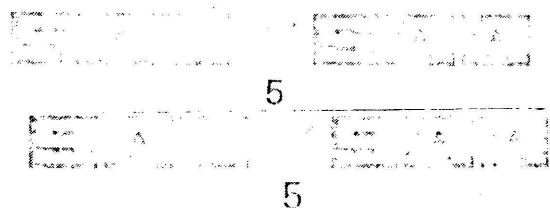
Tenslotte het op 2 Maart ses seëls met nasionale kleredrag in Suriname verskyn: 10c, 15c, 35c, 60c 75c en een gulde afmeting 28,9x42 mm, tanding 13 : 13, ontwerp volgens kleurskryfies. Daar was twee afsonderlike eerstedagkoeverte in gebruik, een vir elke drie posseëls. - N.



## Two types of SAA5

Mr I P Strydom of Pretoria has reported that two printings of the SAA 5 cover were made. The difference lies in the size of the 5 which appears at the bottom of the cover below the airway's emblem. The one 5 measures 3,5 mm in height and appears to be the most common. The other 5 measures 3,0 mm. The blue and orange printings also vary considerably in shade. Covers also show differences in the texture of the pa-

per. The shades vary from a light pinkish hue to a light grey with a pink tinge.





# 1976 Botswana Coins

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We are pleased to announce the issue of the first ever currency coins of the Republic of Botswana, the "Pula", as well as a special 150 Pula Gold Coin and a 5 Pula Sterling Silver Coin. The issue commemorates the 10th Anniversary of Independence of Botswana.

During the last ten years and under the wise and able leadership of its President His Excellency Sir Seretse Khama, Botswana achieved progress which is envied by other nations: sound economy, new great mines, new roads, hospitals, schools and abattoirs, a new social system to provide all comfort for the people of Botswana.

Therefore, after only ten years of independence Botswana could establish its own Central Bank and issue its own currency. These three coincidental events the people of Botswana are celebrating with joy and hope for the future. As a climax to these celebrations the Government of Botswana is issuing a new Gold Coin of 150 Pula as well as a 5 Pula Silver Coin (both of which are legal tender) commemorating this great event. At the same time it is making numismatic history by asking the Royal Mint of Great Britain to strike a limited quantity of these gold and silver coins, as well as the currency coins, in proof version for sale to collectors.

The Government of Botswana has decided to protect the collectors by advising the Royal Mint of Great Britain, the official minter of these coins, to strike only a limited issue of 10 000 proof currency coins, and 2 000 Gold Proof Coins and 5 000 Silver Proof Coins for the whole world.

In spite of the world-wide demand the Swaziland Philatelic Bureau has fought to obtain a very limited quantity of these coins for distribution in Southern Africa. Only 500 currency sets, 500 Gold coins and 500 Silver coins.

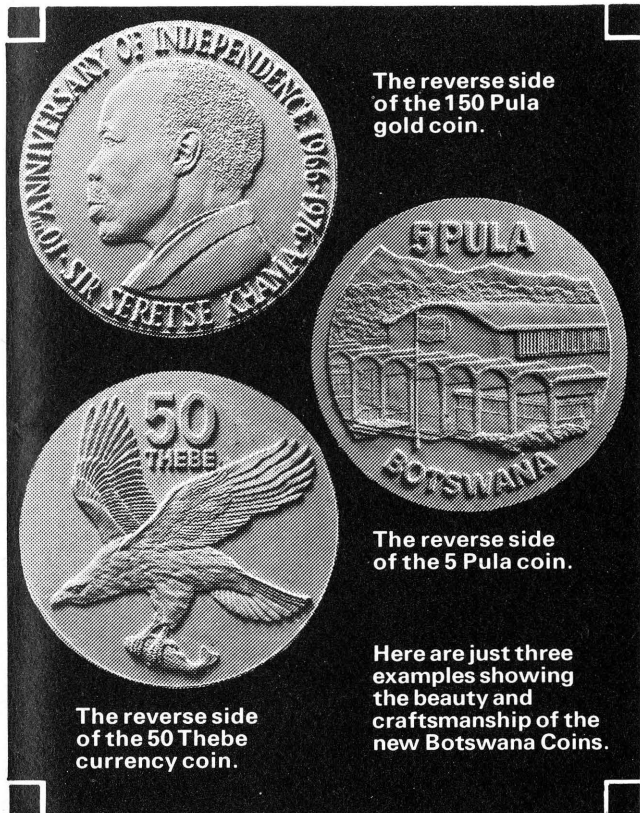
**GOLD PROOF COINS** of face value 150 Pula are being sold at R285 each plus handling and shipping charges of R5.

**SILVER PROOF COINS** of face value 5 Pula are being sold at R22 each plus R3 handling and shipping charges.

**SETS OF SIX PROOF CURRENCY COINS** are being sold at R17 per set plus R2 for handling and shipping charges.

Since wise and experienced collectors and connoisseurs all over the world never miss any issue of first ever coins, heavy world-wide demand is expected, so to secure your favourite coins, act immediately. Fill in the coupon and send with payment (preferably bank draft) payable to **SWAZILAND PHILATELIC BUREAU**

And since 'Pula' means 'grace' in Tswana language, we wish you grace, luck and great enjoyment of your coins.



The reverse side of the 150 Pula gold coin.

The reverse side of the 5 Pula coin.

The reverse side of the 50 Thebe currency coin.

Here are just three examples showing the beauty and craftsmanship of the new Botswana Coins.

## OFFICIAL ORDER FORM 1976 Botswana Coins

To: Swaziland Philatelic Bureau, Princess Drive.  
P.O. Box 1244 - Mbabane - Swaziland.  
Tel. (0194) 3263 - Telex: 2024 - Cable: Philbur.

Please reserve the following:

.....Proof Gold Coins @ R290 each \_\_\_\_\_

.....Proof Silver Coins @ R25 each \_\_\_\_\_

.....Sets of 6 Proof Currency  
.....Coins @ R19 each \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

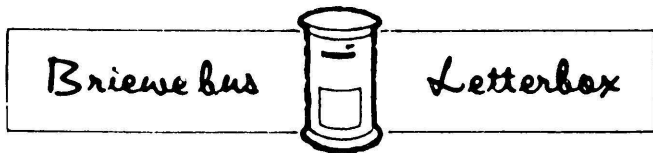
Name: .....

Address: .....

Date: ..... Tel: .....

Prices include handling, insured shipping etc.  
Please allow 6 - 8 weeks for delivery.

R2067



## Aerogram

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter from Dr A Jacot Guillarmod in the February 1977 South African Philatelist to which the Director Posts commented as follows:

"From a linguistic point of view, the terms 'aerogram' and 'aerogramme' are both acceptable. We have given preference to the shorter form, viz. aerogram and it is in fact the only term that is given in the Post Office Dictionary".

Yours faithfully  
Postmaster General  
Pretoria

## Die naam Benoni

Meneer,

Met verwysing na die artikel van J Finlay Dick, "Biblical place-names in South Africa", in The SA Philatelist van Mei 1974, wil ek graag die volgende oor die naam Benoni onder die aandag van lesers bring.

Met die opening van ons dorp se nuwe administratiewe gebou deur die LUK vir plaaslike bestuur, mnr D J Hough, het hy die volgende in sy openingstoespraak gesê:

Die dorp en gemeenskap het 'n uiters stormagtige ontstaan gehad en vir jare 'n twyfelagtige bestaan gevoer. Benoni is in 1904 uitgemeent en het in 1906 sy eerste vorm van plaaslike bestuur, 'n gesondheidskomitee, gekry.

Die jong landmeter-generaal, wat die uitgemete plase name moes gee, het die naam Benoni teëgekome toe hy Genesis 35 gelees het.

Tog is daar verskillende teorieë oor hierdie naamgewing van Benoni, "seun van smarte".

1. Rissik het baie probleme ervaar om die bakens van die plaas te kry sodat dit in sy opmeting kan inpas.
2. Die oorspronklike opmeting wat in 1878 deur J Brooks gedoen is, was op 'n koue stowwerige dag en sy teodoliet het omgeval en is beskadig. Die naam beskryf Brooks se innerlike gevoel.
3. In 'n brief van George Rennie, geskryf aan die seun van Rissik, word gesê dat daar 'n parallel is tussen die oorspronklike Benoni, wat onder ongelukkige omstandighede gebore is, en die plaas wat opnuut opgemeent is.

4. 'n Laaste teorie is dat dit 'n arbitrêre naamgewing was, naamlik dat name in alfabetiese volgorde gegee is, en wel soos volg: Apex, Benoni, Cloverfield, ens.

Wat die waarheid is, sal ons seker nooit weet nie. Tog was die naam nie onvanpas nie want veral die wordingsjare was beslis stormagtig en vol probleme en smarte.

Ds G H J Kruger  
Benoni.

## Those SAA covers

Dear Sir,

I found the January issue of The SA Philatelist very interesting, especially in respect of the SAA episode.

I ordered SAA covers 13 to 15 from Intersapa and believe it or not but I have three varieties of cover 13, bearing three different backstamps. One wonders how many more there are?

I think if we push them enough things may come right one day.

M J Taljaard  
Colenso.

## Eerste SAL-koevert

Geagte Meneer,

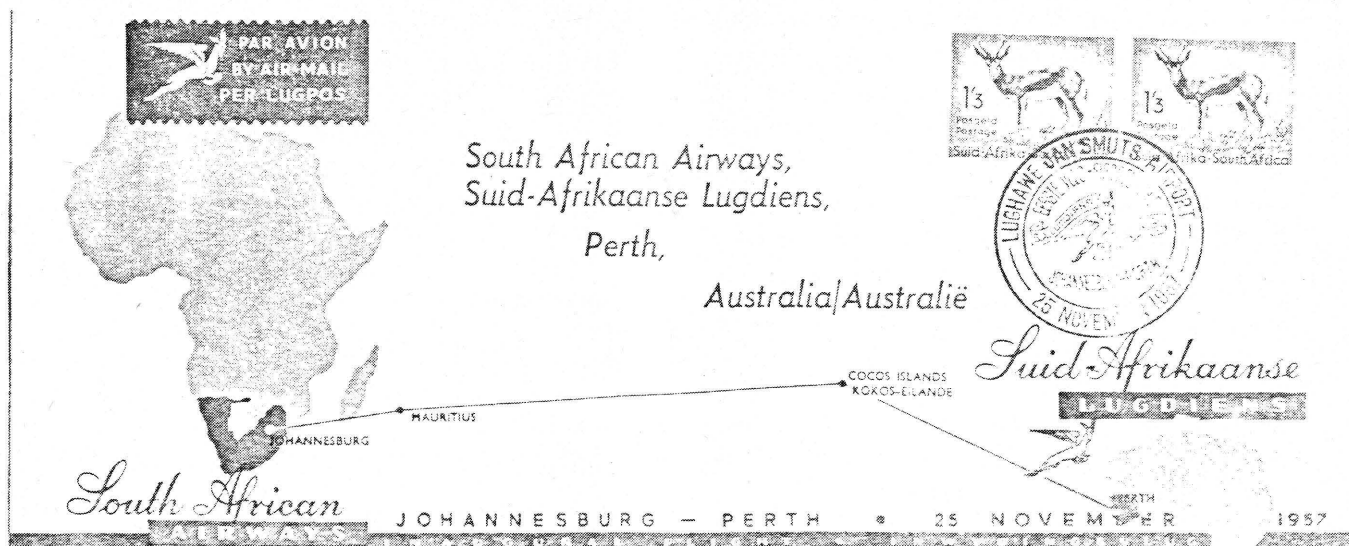
Met belangstelling het ek die twee artikels oor die SAL-koeverte in die Januarie-uitgawe van The SA Philatelist gelees. Sowel dr Raubenheimer ('I spy a thing in the sky') as dr Reisener ('The SAA special covers') vermeld dat SAL-koevert nommer een op 3 September 1973 uitgegee is.

Hierby ingesluit is 'n illustrasie van 'n koevert wat in my besit is en wat sover ek weet deur die SA Lugdiens uitgebring is, en wel op 25 November 1957 as herinnering aan die eerste SAL-vlug na Perth in Wes-Australië.

Dus, soos u sien, was daar al voor 3 September 1973 'n SAL -gedenkkoevert!

Versamelaarsgroete,  
G D Bresser  
Sasolburg.

(U is heeltemal reg. Die koevert word vermeld in die Union Handbook, Golden Jubilee-uitgawe 1960, bl 64; en in dr Reisener se boek The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa, bl 74, waar dit as nommer 117 gelys word. Dit is die eerste vlugkoevert wat deur SAL uitgereik is en die oplaag was 6 000. - Red.)





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**S. AFRICA** – Official covers 3 – R7: 7 – R7: 8 – R10: 9 – R60: 10 – R10: 12 Helicopter R20: 18 – R25.

Miniature sheets: No. 1 (Baines) R2 used R3,50 Error missing perfs. R10 – used same price; No. 2 R1,20 (Sportsmen); No. 3 (Meyer) R1,50; Bowling Winners (30) R17. Complete commemoratives 1961 – 1976 including priced watermark varieties and miniature sheets (1 16 stamps & 3 miniature sheets) R48

**S.W. AFRICA** – Official covers 1 – R25; 2 – R25: 4 – R21: 5 – R17: Complete commemorative issues 1961 – 1976 including 2 miniature sheets and Swart in strips of 3 (68 stamps and 2 sheets) R32

**TERMS** – C.W.O. Post free over R10:

# Platteburg Society plans aggressive press campaign

by James Murray

It is axiomatic that the actual dues-paying membership of any local philatelic society represents only the tip of the iceberg.

For every member there are perhaps two score stamp collectors eligible to take part who yet know nothing about organised philately and its benefits, or where to locate other collectors.

The influence of organised philately should grow in proportion to the expanding popularity of stamp collecting, and this can be attempted by letting the public know we are here.

As a start, it is suggested that the society newsletter be drafted (the first paragraphs at least) with a special eye to the news editor of the local press.

This harassed individual should automatically be sent every newsletter with a 'compliments' slip attached; this piece of paper should carry the telephone number of the society's Mr Knowledgeable, who drafted the newsletter and who can supply more information on any item therein.

## Press release

In effect, this newsletter becomes a press release.

Your press release will compete for attention with lots of others, all shouting for a share of the same limited editorial space.

Where you score is that you offer live local news.

Unless it takes you 2-3 weeks to get the newsletter out; in that case, be a little elastic about pinning events down to actual dates.

If your society newsletter is slothfully not put into the mail until 2-3 weeks after a meeting, it will be stale, not live, news.

Instead of reporting that Mr Maltese Cross won the coveted Gold Stamp Hinge award at the meeting of Platteburg Philatelic Society on September 5, if your newsletter is not issued until the month's end just say: "at the September meeting."

Remember that newspapers live on advertising, not revenue from sales.

Live local news is proof to commercial advertisers that the paper is read.

To the lay mind, philatelists are mostly well-heeled discerning individuals, thus a desirable object for consumer advertising.

It is true that some of them are (not us, of course) and the local press will not be slow to publicise our activities if we can put interesting, easily assimilable facts into its hands.

Begin with an eye-catching opening line that spotlights the activity you want to put across.

If possible, emphasise people in numbers. As an alternative, spotlight one pre-eminent personage, and the intriguing circumstances he initiated;

"Twenty-five enthusiastic stamp collectors packed Ye Olde Vicarage for the annual 'Hunt the Penny Black' competition staged by Platteburg Philatelic Society."

"Genial Mrs. Oordruk, chairperson, stated . . ."

Or: "Baron Terrein impressed the September meeting of Platteburg Stamp Club with his giant world thematic display of hamburgers on stamps."

"It was really food for thought!" chuckled the youngest member present, 63 yr old Col. Chinstrap, RDPSA."

Remember, many lay readers are not yet fully cognisant

with the hardworked term philately, which can be mistaken for bird-watching, and the word has to be worked in gently.

## Hard facts

Who, what, where, why, and other hard facts should be built into every press release in the first paragraph or two, before jaded editorial interest wanders.

Do not eschew evocative terms; they will transmit the same emotion to the reader – unless he is a rare hard-bitten cynic like you and me.

If you can pre-fix your release with a short punchy headline, do so.

"Stamp Club Delegates to National Show Nominated."

"Local 'Classic' Collectors' Secret Fear of Re-Gumming."

"Visitors From Blinkpan Stun Local Collectors with Platteburg Postal History Display."

The headline which ignites your imagination may not be used, or may be editorially reworded, but it will help ensure that your release captures the news editor's eye as an item of possible importance designed for his readers' attention.

Always 'round off' your release with an invitation; this avoids a log-jam of public enquiries at the newspaper switchboard, and the irritating feeling on the news editor's part that he should have had the forethought to include the information anyway.

The Platteburg club meets evenings on the 5th Wednesday each month at the Old Coach Huis, where interested visitors are guaranteed a friendly welcome (and free refreshments if there are any, state, for many collectors will travel miles to get something for nothing) from its fast-expanding membership.

It all takes practice, and is great fun.

Every column centimetre is free publicity for our hobby.

The society scribe may not score a bulls-eye in the press for a while, but it will certainly come as and when the local news desk finds your releases arrive on the dot.

And, with mutual confidence established, some regular column centimetres may well be earmarked for you.

When this happens – you are ready to leap onto Stage Two (!) which really requires talent, and more about that in due course!

---

## Wêreld-uitstallings

Afgesien van Amphilex 77 aanstaande maand in Amsterdam, is die eerskomende FIP-erkende internasionale filateliese uitstallings die volgende –

Portucala 77, Oporto, 28 Oktober – 6 November 1977. Dit is 'n tematiese uitstalling en die kommissaris vir Suid-Afrika is kapt Milton F Stern RDPSA, Posbus 3654, Kaapstad 8000.

Taipei, Taiwan, Nasionalistiese China, 20 Maart – 3 April 1978.

Capex 78, Toronto, Kanada, 9 - 18 Junie 1978.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse kommissaris vir die laasgenoemde twee uitstallings is mnr Herman Steyn, Filateliedienste, HPK, Pretoria 0001.

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# Rendezvous

## **Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa**

Meets periodically in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. AGM held in conjunction with the philatelic congress. Hon Secretary, PO Box 3654, Cape Town 8000.

## **Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging**

Vergader eerste Saterdag van die maand, 14h00, Openbare Biblioteek, Markplein, Johannesburg. Eresekretaris E Thamm, Posbus 56195, Pinegowrie 2123.

## **Afrikaanse Philateliese Vereniging van Pretoria**

Vergader vierde Woensdag van die maand, 19h30, Patologiegebou, hoek Soutpansbergweg en Beatrixstraat. Eresekretaris, Posbus 706, Pretoria 0001.

## **Bellville Philatelic Society**

Meets first Wednesday of the month, 19h30, Van Riet Auditorium, Bellville Public Library, Coronation Street. Hon Secretary Mrs Maureen van Strijp, 15 Aandbloem Street, Cape Town 8001.

## **Blantyre Philatelic Society**

Meets first Thursday of the month, 19h00, in the upstairs lounge of the Shire Highlands Hotel, Blantyre.

## **Cape Society for Palestine-Israel Philately (CASPIP)**

Meets third Wednesday of the month, 20h00, Boardroom, 9th floor, Zeeland House, Foreshore, Cape Town. Hon Secretary, PO Box 6160, Roggebaai 8012.

## **Carletonville Stamp Club**

Meets first Thursday of the month, 19h30, 6 Alchee Court, Carletonville. Hon Secretary, 6 Alchee Court, Carletonville 2500.

## **Copperbelt Philatelic Society**

Meets third Thursday of the month, 19h30, Jewish Synagogue Hall, Kitwe. Hon Secretary, PO Box 261, Kitwe, Zambia.

## **East London Philatelic Society**

Meets fourth Thursday of the month, 19h30 for 20h00, Public Library. Hon Secretary, PO Box 925, East London 5200.

## **East Rand Philatelic Society**

Meets second Monday of the month, 20h00, Benoni Public Library. Hon Secretary, PO Box 1066, Benoni 1500.

## **Fish Hoek Philatelic Society**

Meets first Wednesday of month, 20h00, Library Hall, Beach Road, Fish Hoek. Hon Secretary, 8 Pearson Avenue, Kenilworth 7700.

## **Filatelistevereniging van die Potchefstroomse Universiteit**

## **Germiston Philatelic Society**

Meets third Wednesday of the month, 19h45 for 20h00, NCP Tennis Clubhouse, Delville, Germiston. Hon Secretary, PO Box 30, Germiston 1400.

## **Kempton Park Philatelic Society**

Meets second Tuesday of the month, 19h30, Bennie Jacobs Auditorium, Public Library, Kempton Park. Hon Secretary, PO Box 6081, Birchleigh 1621.

## **Kimberley Philatelic Society**

Meets second Tuesday in the month. Hon. Secretary Mrs C S Westley, 18 William Street, Kimberley.

## **Klerksdorp Philatelic Society**

## **Maritzburg Philatelic Society**

Meets last Monday of month, 19h30, Department of Psychology, Natal University, Golf Road, Pietermaritzburg. Hon. Secretary, PO Box 256, Pietermaritzburg 3200.

## **Mashonaland Philatelic Society**

Meets second Wednesday of the month, 20h00, Lecture Hall, Queen Victoria Museum, Civic Centre, Salisbury. Hon Secretary, PO Box 2735, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

## **Midlands Stamp Club**

Meets fourth Tuesday of the month, 20h00, Presbyterian Church Hall, 8th Street, Gwelo. Hon Secretary J Cupido, PO Box 550, Gwelo, Rhodesia.

## **Manicaland Philatelic Society**

Meets third Wednesday of the month, 20h00, The Cecil Hotel. Hon Secretary, Sr Denise, PO Box 684, Umtali.

## **Mooirivierse Posseëlklub**

Vergader op die eerste Woensdag van elke tweede maand (gelyke getalle), 19h30, Stadsaal, Eresekretaris, Posbus 72L Potchefstroom 2520.

## **Orange Free State Philatelic Society**

Vergader vierde Vrydag van die maand (behalwe Desember), 19h30, Nasionale Museumsaal. Hon Secretary, PO Box 702, Bloemfontein 9300.

## **Phalaborwa Philatelic Club**

## **Pretoria Railway Philatelic Society**

## **Paarlse Filatelistevereniging**

Vergader derde Donderdag van die maand, 20h00, Central Hotel. Eresekretaris, Posbus 60, Paarl 7620.

## **Philatelic Society of Johannesburg**

Meets second Tuesday and fourth Monday of the month, 20h00, Johannesburg Public Library, Market Square, Johannesburg. Hon Secretary, PO Box 4967, Johannesburg 2000.

## **Pretoria Philatelic Society**

Meets first Monday of month, 20h00, Cultural History Museum, Boom Street. Hon Secretary T Haylett, PO Box 514, Pretoria 0001

## **Philatelic Society of Natal**

Meets first and third Wednesdays of the month, 19h30, Geo Cato Room, City Hall, Durban. Hon Secretary, PO Box 588, Durban 4000.

## **West Rand Philatelic Society**

Meets fourth Wednesday of the month, 20h00, West Rand Union Club, Ockerse Street, Krugersdorp. Hon Secretary, c/o PO Box 397, Krugersdorp 1740.

## **Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society**

Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, 20h00, Walmer Library Hall, Walmer. A junior stamp clinic for collectors 6-14 is held on the last Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. 14h15, same venue. Hon Secretary, PO Box 3, Port Elizabeth 6000.

## **Post Office Tree Philatelic Society**

Meets second Monday of the month, 20h00, Library Hall, Marsh Street, Mossel Bay. Hon Secretary, PO Box 152, Mossel Bay 6500.

## **Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town**

Meets second and fourth Mondays of the month, 20h00, Athenaeum Hall, 154 Camp Ground Road, Newlands (adjacent railway station, Newlands). Hon Secretary, PO Box 1973, Cape Town 8000.

## **Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia**

Meets first Wednesday of the month, 19h30, Old Miltoniars Club, Townsend Road/Third Street, Bulawayo. Hon Secretary, PO Box 803, Bulawayo, Rhodesia.

## **Society of Israel Philately**

Meets first Monday of the month, 20h00, Diamond Club of SA, Diamond Exchange Building, corner De Villiers and Quartz Streets, Johannesburg. Hon Secretary, PO Box 11502, Johannesburg 2000.

## **SABC Philatelic Club/SAUK-Filatelielklub**

## **Sand River Philatelic Society**

## **SWA Stamp Study Group**

## **SWA Philatelic Society**

## **South African Stamp Study Circle**

Meets second Saturday of the month, 14h15, M.O.T.H. Memorial Centre, 14 Noord Street, Johannesburg. Hon Secretary, PO Box 7640, Johannesburg 2000.

## **Thematic Stamp Club**

Meets third Tuesday of the month, 20h00, Business and Professional Women's Club, 49 Burg Street, Cape Town. Hon Secretary, PO Box 752, Cape Town 8000.

## **Vereeniging Stamp Club**

Meets third Friday of month, 19h45, Group Activities Room, Public Library. Hon. Secretary, PO Box 222, Vereeniging 1930.

## **Welkom Philatelic Society**

Meets first Wednesday of the month, 19h45, Public Library lecture room. Hon Secretary, R Barlow, PO Box 22, Welkom 9460.

## **South African Postmark Society**

Meets fifth Saturday of the month at the Hon Secretary's house, 79 Galway Road, Parkview, Johannesburg, and regularly at Dr Tom Berry's home, 24 Herald Drive, Umhlanga Rocks, and at Mr David Allison's home, 14 Vredenburg Avenue, Rosebank, Cape Town. Hon Secretary, Dr W R Horne, PO Box 4584, Johannesburg 2000.

## **Witbank Philatelic Society**

Meets third Wednesday of the month (confirm at tel 2698), 18 Gerry Mann's Building, Athlone Avenue. Hon Secretary L Lewis, PO Box 693, Witbank 1035.

## **Wanderers Philatelic Society**

*Note: Hon Secretaries are asked to check this column and notify changes or additions.*

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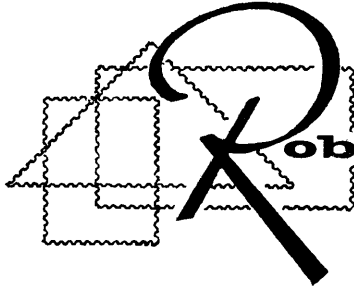
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# Society News - Onderonies

## PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**16 November** - 33 members and 9 visitors were in attendance. The President welcomed back Ileen Barrington (our backroom lady) following major surgery and wished her on behalf of all members a speedy recovery to full health.

Mr Ellis introduced his display of Canadian covers and other items from North America with a short talk in which he mentioned a number of items of interest that were being displayed. Amongst these were the four unique souvenir sheets from the Philadelphia Exhibition for the United States Bicentenary which drew 25 000 visitors to its first day.

The display was attractively mounted depicting mint and used stamps together with the first day covers.

Following Mr Ellis's display Mr Bülbring gave a display which was a mixed variety of Germany plus three very attractive souvenir sheets of Austria celebrating 1 000 years of Austrian existence.

The display of German stamps consisted of unusual German philatelic material including occupation stamps, overprints, sea mail cancellations etc. plus sheets from countries which are no longer in existence such as Latvia and Estonia.

Following the tea interval members were treated to an added bonus. Mrs Havilland showed her collection of Greece.

This collection was very attractive and was mounted in sets depicting many aspects of modern and ancient Greece. The write up included sections of maps showing the exact locations of various towns and villages which were depicted on the stamps.

A vote of thanks to the three exhibitors was passed by the President. - L.W.C.

**7 December** - The meeting was attended by 29 members and 11 visitors. The President welcomed a new visitor, Mrs Lowe, from overseas.

Since this was "President's Night", the display was given by Mr Strachan.

The President gave an introductory talk to a part of his classical and specialist collection of "St Vincent".

The exhibit was divided into five sections, and commenced with a display of ship's letters from the period 1775-1836, when mail was conveyed between the various islands by the good grace of ship's captains, who received a gratuity of 1d per letter, which was later raised to 2d. These ship letters were hand stamped on arrival, with the recipient paying the costs which were extremely high, a single sheet costing 1/-; 2 sheets consisting 2/- and 1 oz 6/3d. These letters were the forerunners of the postal services in the West Indies.

The 2nd part of the exhibit consisted of "One Century of St Vincent" and included numerous examples of pre-adhesive covers: British stamps used in St Vincent prior to their own issues and Victorian issues including numerous complete sheets.

Then followed a 16 page display of village postmarks most of which are very scarce and extremely difficult to acquire.

The 4th part of the exhibit consisted of a complete collection of St Vincent "Specimen Stamps", including some of the only known issues of particular specimen stamps. Also shown was a collection of specimen issues of postal stationery.

The final part of the exhibit consisted of 16 pages of extremely interesting rare covers, each of which told its own particular story.

The vote of thanks for the exhibit was ably given by Mr Bülbring. This collection was awarded a Silver Gilt Award at the national exhibition recently held in East London.

A very entertaining and enjoyable evening ended with our usual auction. - L.W.C.

**18 Jan 1977** - This was the first meeting of the New Year and it was very gratifying to see such a large

turn-out of 37 members and 14 visitors in attendance.

The President opened the meeting by wishing all present a happy and prosperous New Year, and he welcomed individually our large number of visitors.

The evening's programme was the competitive meeting for the Bülbring/Lydall trophy for Junior members.

The following 4 Junior members had brought collections for display:

S. Gardiner - Rhodesia  
Goldsmith - Republic of South Africa  
Marock - South Africa  
S.P. Westraad - Flowers on Stamps

Each exhibitor gave a short introductory talk prior to his display. The standard of the exhibits was very high, especially considering these were Junior members.

The vote of thanks to the exhibitors was passed by the President, and the evenings proceedings were concluded with our usual auction. - L.W.C.

**3 Feb 1977** - There were 31 members and 11 visitors in attendance.

The evening's display was one of the society's highlights of the year, for Mr E Nagel exhibited his classical collection of "Cape Triangles".

Mr Nagel gave a fascinating and delightfully informal introductory talk prior to the display. He told of the wonderful developments in the world today, but that it was the small new inventions which affected the ordinary man the most, as was the case with the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp at the Cape in September 1853, which revolutionised communications in this part of the world. The normal shape of stamps in those days was square, but the Cape Authorities decided upon a different shape which would be immediately recognised as coming from the Cape. The stamps were designed from a Roman emblem by Charles Bell and the first designs were hexagon in shape but, due to the difficulties in cutting out stamps of this shape, he finally came up with the now famous triangles. The first two values to be issued were the 1d reddish-brown for newspapers and the 4d blue for letters; later additional values of different colours were issued.

Mr Nagel told us how, in 1861, a near disaster occurred which resulted in the birth of a Philatelic Treasure when stocks of stamps at the Cape were running out. As no new stocks were in transit from the British printers, great despair was created at the Cape. The Postmaster General instructed Saul Solomon to print some stamps locally. Mr Solomon engaged a Mr J Roberts, a Cape Town engraver, to prepare, almost overnight, an essay which could be used for postage stamps. So the very rare, valuable and much sought after Woodblock issues were born. These stamps were issued only for 2 months, unlike the normal Cape Triangles which were issued for 14 years. The Woodblock stamps were issued only in 1d and 4d values and, due to a mix-up in the printing, a few very rare ones were issued in the wrong colours. The printing of Cape Triangle stamps finally ceased with the De la Rues issued in 1863-64.

Apart from his collection of Cape Triangles, Mr Nagel also told us about some very interesting pre-adhesive covers of the Cape which he also displayed, and these included some fascinating historical and military items.

The display itself was superb and included numerous examples of the various Cape Triangular issues including mint, used, blocks etc. All the various denominations were on show, and the display included some prime examples of the Woodblock issues. Mr Nagel enabled members further to appreciate his collection by issuing printed sheets giving full details relating to the stamps and covers on display.

Mr Bülbring passed an enthusiastic vote of thanks, and I would like to take this opportunity,

on behalf of all present that evening, of thanking Mr Nagel for presenting us with such a very interesting talk and wonderful display. - L.W.C.

## KIMBERLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**February** - Mr R Oliver brought some of his stamp albums to the meeting, and members enjoyed paging through them.

Our new committee is Chairman Mr Oliver, Hon Secretary Mrs C S Westley, and members Mrs A S Burger, Mr A Waddington and Mr R Savage. - CSW

## PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG

A rather belated resume of the activities of our Society from the last meeting in October 1976, which was a bourse.

This popular evening again proved that this is what members and visitors want more of. There were some 70 enthusiasts including approximately seven dealers. There was much activity, and no doubt, much business and swapping was transacted. **November 9th** - This date was set aside for a Commonwealth evening. We were given a pleasant surprise by Dr Franks, who tabled a collection of "Dominion of Canada 1868 - 1902". We had been trying to get Dr Franks to mount and write up this collection. We were not disappointed. To name a few gems:

-The first Essay 1867 by the National Bank Note Co. of New York;

-An 1884 Essay of the Riel Rebellion;

-An Essay of Canada Bank Note Co.;

-A Biseet of 1897 1c;

-Specimens of the 1897 Diamond Jubilee issue and proofs of Registration 2, 5 and 8 cent stamps.

Keep it up Dr Franks. We expect big things from you!

Dave Morrison showed his Geo. V Falkland Islands, concentrating on postal stationery and used Dependencies. Among the better items were a rare Postal Station cover of South Shetland; and a good selection of postmarks, namely Foxbay; Port Stanley; South Island; South Georgia; etc. Another excellent first time exhibit.

Hymie Nathanson thrilled us with the recess printed Britannia stamps of Trinidad. The collection began with a representation of the Primary Die and deviations from same. Britannia was originally adopted for Mauritius, and later Perkins Bacon suggested it should be used for Trinidad. This was approved in 1848. A very specialised collection, with much research, and well written up. An evening of high quality and much interest. **November 22nd** - "Inter Society Quiz"

Once again, a very well attended and lighthearted evening. For the second year running, our popular Treasurer, Danie Swart, was the quizmaster, and very able he was too. The teams were as follows:

East Rand

Mr M Ubaghs - Kempton Park Society.

Mr H Godwin - East Rand Society.

Mr R Mephius - Germiston Society.

Pretoria

Commander C Enoch - Pretoria Society.

Mr G Carpendale - Pretoria Railway Society.

Dr H O Reisener - Pretoria Afrikaans Society.

Johannesburg

Mr T Coleman - Israeli Society.

Mr D Crocker - Johannesburg Society.

Mr H Hoffman - Afrikaans Society.

West Rand

Miss M Bromfield - West Rand Society.

Major Mathews - S.A. Study Circle.

Mr W Oppenheim - Wanderers Society.

The winning team was West Rand, with Mary Bromfield winning the sudden-death play-off, and thus keeping the cup for the ensuing year. Well done, the winners!

#### December 14th – Thematic and Novices Evening.

An interesting exhibit with slides on the last Apollo Mission, was compiled by Mr V Right-house. Mr C Smith, a new member, showed us Republic First Definitives; King Geo Silver Jubilee issues by Mr B Krugel. Part of the Late Dr Levy's collection of Heraldry was tabled by Mr H Schwab. Our Secretary, Mr Worthington, brought along current postage stamps of the countries he had just visited on a Far East trip, returning via Moscow, Prague and Vienna.

**January 11th** – Once again, the ever popular bourse which was well attended with a few dealers as well.

#### January 24th – Ladies Evening

This is the annual event, for which Mrs Koralek had donated the "Ladies Bowl" (and also changed the date of departure for her holiday so as to enable her to attend her 21st Ladies Night in succession). Well done Mrs Koralek, may you spend many more such meetings with us.

Mrs Hartman's thematic showing of Sea Shells accompanied by the actual shells with some rare species not seen by many, except perhaps in museums. Some of the shells are more expensive than the stamps themselves. A beautifully displayed exhibit.

Mrs J Slater is a beginner who showed USA. We saw a nucleus of a good collection, which has a lot of work ahead of it. Good luck, Joan.

Helena Zmrzly was last but not least with an almost complete collection of RSA First Day covers. Also a collection of Commemorative Cylinder Blocks from 2nd Definitive Series. Still a lot of writing up to do but plenty of time to do it in. Keep trying Helena!

#### Members activities:

Congratulations to Mr Ken Lydall on being made President of Federation, and a speedy recovery from your illness, Ken.

Mr Wim Hartman presented an Audio-Visual Show on his "Red Cross Collection" to the Red Cross Museum, Geneva. A good gesture Wim.

We regret the passing of Mr J G G Kupferman. This gentleman was one of our earliest Hon. Secretaries.

Congratulations to Mr J Michelson for 24 years of unbroken service to Federation! – HHS

#### MOOIRIVERSE POSSEELKLUB

**Februarie** – Vyftien lede en gaste het ons eerste verandering van die jaar bygewoon, met ons voorsitter Prof Sorgdrager in die stoel.

Nadat die sake van die aand, wat gegaan het oor ons Wes -Transvaalse mini-uitstalling wat gehou gaan word van 14 tot 19 Maart in die Frans du Toit-saal by die Universiteit deur die Studente, Klerksdorpse en Mooirivierse Posseelklubs gesamentlik, en die Nasionale Seëlkongres wat vanaf 4 tot 9 September 1978 in Potchefstroom aangebied sal word onder "Potch 78", afgehandel was, is ons die aand deur drie dames vergas wat 'n baie mooi en interessante uitstalling van posfris seëls.

Mev O Gier het 'n versameling van Suid-Afrikaanse seëluitgawes van die laaste twee jaar vertoon, mev S A Dougans het van haar Jersey en mev W Ward het 'n gedeelte van haar Nieu-Seelandse seëls uitgestal.

Almal was aangenaam verras met die gehalte van die uitstallings wat die dames voor die dag mee gekom het, en na 'n paar woorde van advies het die voorsitter hulle baie geluk gewens en aangemoedig om meer dikwels in die toekoms uit te stal, en het 'n baie gesellige en interessante aand tot einde gekom. – JASM

#### OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**January** – The President opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all present and wished everybody a prosperous and philatelically happy year. During the course of the meeting Mr R Jones, the newly elected Vice President for the OFS, gave a short account of the first meeting of the Federation Exco for 1977.

After the normal business of the meeting, a collection of "Sport Miniature Sheets" and one of "Sport Covers" were displayed by our President, Mr A L Meyburgh. These proved to be very popular.

The material was excellent and attractive. A mi-

niature sheet and a cover have always their particular charm, and when collections of them are displayed, especially on a popular subject, the interest reaches its highest levels.

**February** – The 44th AGM was held during this meeting. It is amazing to see how an Annual General Meeting can scare away members; all year round very good turnouts are recorded and suddenly only a handful turns up but "the show must go on" and from this handful the new committee was elected.

President – Mr H J Weil  
V. President – Mr R Jones  
Secretary – Mr S Marus  
Sale Super – Mr C Myburg  
Treasurer – Mr J J Jordaan  
Committee Members – Prof S Fourie, Mr J Welthagen  
Hon. Auditor – Mr J Welthagen

The outgoing President, Mr A L Meyburgh, did not make himself available for re-election. In his report he said that he felt that the time had come for him to step down and to leave the running of the society to younger members. The newly elected President replied proposing that Mr Meyburgh be elected Hon. Life President. The consent was unanimous. It was a proper way to show the feeling of the Society for a man who has dedicated so much of his life to the well-being of our Society. – S.M.

#### BELLEVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**February** – We had the pleasure of a visit by Mr and Mrs H Beinart to whom a warm welcome was extended. Mr Beinart showed "Olympic Games" and gave an enlightening talk on the games from their inception, as well as the stamps depicted. On our behalf Andre de Villiers gave a tremendous vote of thanks to Mr Beinart and said we were truly honoured and edified by his presentation.

It was also the occasion for our Annual General Meeting and the following were elected as office bearers:

President: Mr H W H Lee,  
Treasurer: Mr D Reynolds,  
Ex. Supt: Mr J Kloppers  
Vice-President/and Secretary: Mrs M van Strijp  
Committee: Messrs Goldblatt, Fouche, Beunderman and Hayman. – MvS

**March** – Once again we had a feast of philately and were privileged to see an exhibit by Mr D Hanson of Australian stamps and postal history and also Mr R C Knight's exhibit of Rhodesia. Hugh Lee extended a hearty welcome to both these gentlemen, and Eddy and Bob thanked them on our behalf for the splendid and outstanding exhibitions we had seen.

The audio-visual slide show "Jewels on the Wing" proved enjoyable and the monthly auction once again was a great success.

A welcome is extended to our new members Mrs Bornmeyer and Mr Melech whom we hope will have a long and successful association with the society. – MvS

#### GRAHAMSTOWN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

We are glad to be back in the national philatelic fraternity after a short spell of disaffiliation dating from December 1973.

**February** – This, the first meeting of the year, was our traditional AGM, held at the home of our long serving president, Professor Nic Heideman. He and his equally long serving and dedicated secretary, Dr John Haigh, were at last able to devolve their responsibility on a new committee. **March** – The incoming president, Dr Chris Hummel, welcomed a large gathering of members (18 out of a total membership of 27) to the home of John and Lin Haigh. This was our first opportunity to "officially" thank Nic and John for three years (1974-1976) of unbroken and unflagging leadership of our society, in the course of which they executed the successful souvenir cover and date stamp to mark the International Convention of Women held at the Settlers' Monument from 1-5 December 1975. They have also made Grahamstown a regular venue for one of three triangular meetings a year between our society and those of East London and Port Elizabeth.

And so appropriately, the meeting made ar-

rangements for this year's annual get-together, scheduled for the weekend of 26/27 March. These, as usual, include a wide range of exhibits by our visitors, but also the opportunity for those who missed the national exhibition at East London in October last year to see the exhibit of French airmails by one of our members, Prof Malvern van Wyk Smith (a display which earned him a silver gilt medal).

The rest of the evening was given over to a two part demonstration by John Haigh; firstly, a film strip with sound track, showing the nature and notoriety of forgeries, especially those 'afflicting' South African issues. Secondly, John's own expert demonstration – intended to warn the unsuspecting, and even the expert – of how easy it is (for a chemist) to "doctor" South African stamps by means of chemical erasure and change of colour.

Last but not least, Nic and John are preparing a detailed postal history of Grahamstown and the Albany district. Readers who can contribute any items of information on any aspect of our region's postal history, including postmarks and the date and location of pillar boxes, please contact either of them c/o Rhodes University, Box 94, Grahamstown 6140. – HCH

#### ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE

On Saturday 5 March 1977 members of the Study Circle were delightfully entertained at Gerard Buckley's home, first of all to an excellent meal prepared by Mrs Buckley and afterwards to a fine display of Gerard's collection.

Those present included Messrs M W Jerram (President), A R Allison (Chairman), A G M Batten, Major H M Criddle, D B Hepworth, P J Wood and, by special invitation, Miss Martha Gerson, sister of Don Gerson. Martha is at College in London and she showed members some of Don's recent OFS acquisitions.

Archie Batten was congratulated on his receiving the Award of the Crawford Medal from the Royal Philatelic Society, London for his recently published book "The Orange Free State – Its Postal Offices and Their Markings 1868-1910". The Medal is awarded for in the opinion of the Society, the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form anywhere in the world during the preceding two years (in this case 1975/76).

The Chairman reported that, on the suggestion of the President, Stanley Gibbons had invited Gerard Buckley to rewrite the Orange Free State section of their Commonwealth catalogue. The revision would be incorporated in the 1979/80 edition of the catalogue.

Maurice Jerram showed members the silver President's Cup which he was donating to the Study Circle for annual presentation to the member achieving the most significant discovery in the year, or undertaking the most significant research. The Cup was about a foot high and was quite magnificent. It was accompanied by a silver miniature for permanent retention by the first winner.

Following the business part of the meeting, members studied Gerard Buckley's collection which he had conveniently divided into eight sections. Once again on this, the second "member's home" visit of the year, a most pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all attending and our most sincere thanks are due to Gerard and his wife for their most warm hospitality and kindness. – ARA

#### ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

**January** – On the 10th of the month the Society was entertained to a showing of German pioneer flight covers from the collection of Mr Ralph Putzel, an offshoot of his Zeppelin collection. The first covers and cards by aeroplane date from 1909.

Interesting attempts at speeding up the early mails were the catapult flights. In July 1929 while the vessel "Bremen" of the North German Lloyd Line was crossing the Atlantic on its maiden voyage, mail on board addressed to America was catapulted off the ship in a specially designed Heinkel sea-plane from a point some 300 miles from New York. On the return voyage in August 1929 a similar catapult flight was made from off Cherbourg, first port of call in Europe and so saving some 36

hours for mails to Germany.

Similarly mail was launched from the "Europa" and each cover bears an identification cachet. This method became standard practice and by 1933 mail between New York and Germany took only 4 ½ days. In the 7 years that catapult mails were used there was only one serious accident when plane, pilot and wireless officer were lost off Nova Scotia. As there was, of course, no plane for the "Bremen's" return voyage no covers exist both to and from USA for this one trip.

Another air phenomenon of the 1930's was the giant twelve-engined Dornier D.O.X. flying boat which took to the air over Lake Constance with a record load of 169 passengers. Later flights took the D.O.X further afield, all commemorated by covers in Mr Putzel's fascinating collection. This remarkable plane also gave occasion for Newfoundland's "Trans-Atlantic West to East" overprints in 1932.

Mr John Levett of London accompanied by his wife and other members of his family visited the Society on 24 January. A large audience was privileged to view his world-class exhibit on "The Postal System of France during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71". Balloons were used to carry individuals and messages out of Paris and this balloon mail was largely the subject of John Levett's display. In all 56 successful balloon flights were made out of Paris, landing in various parts of Europe as the wind took them.

There were varying rates of postage depending on destination: there was a rate to Moscow and even one to India, obviously not the whole way by balloon! Attempts were also made to get mail into Paris. While from Paris to anywhere by Paris did not apply.

Pigeons were, however, flown out by balloon and then used to fly letters back. For this purpose microfilm was used and that in 1870/71! All this and much more the exhibitor illustrated with a superlative array of covers, stamps and illustrations from old issues of the "Graphic". Also in attendance at this meeting was another long-standing friend and acquaintance, Mr Cyril Harmer, who did the vote of thanks. - GRM

#### AFRIKAANSE FILATELISTEVERENIGING

**Januarie** - Op hierdie eerste vergadering van die jaar het die voorsitter 'n program probeer opstel vir die uitstallings in 1977.

Met die talle trofee wat gewen kan word was daar baie lede lus om deel te neem.

Die miniatuurvelletjies is nog steeds die onderwerp van gesprek: die algemene gevoel was dat een velletjie per jaar, soos die Filateliedienste oorspronklik toegesê het, 'n versameling verwerwendig maar dis oordrewe om nog 'n velletjie te maak van seëls wat al oud is. Ook die Hafnia-kaart word afgekeur omdat daar geen stempel van Denemarke op staan nie en dus geen sigbare verbintenis met dié land aangetoon kan word nie.

Hierna het Arie Bakker as veilingmeester die geld uit die beurse probeer losmaak wat hom baie goed geluk het. Die veiling is 'n gesellige vertien waar 'n mens boondien nog winskopies kan behaal.

Mnr Van Riet het sy versameling Nederland EDK's uitgestal. Vanaf nr 1 tot op hede met daarby variasies en besondere afstempelings. Wat die versameling interessant maak, is dat hy geprobeer het "egte" eerstedagstempels te kry deur die koevert met die pos te verstuur. Die gebruiklike pakkiësverkeer het die byeenkoms afgesluit.

**Februarie** - Daar was weer 'n baie groot opkoms, seker vanweë die mooi uitstallings vir die Rembrandt-trofee.

Mev Scholtz van die Afr. Philatelistiese Ver. van Pretoria het die saal in 'n museum verander met haar uitstalling van Chinese kunsskatte. Dit was werklik pragtige poseëls.

Mnr Grijzenhout het die Duitse besetting doen herlewe met sy omvangryke versameling van dié onderwerp en dit het hom vir hierdie jaar die Rembrandt-trofee opgelewer.

Na aanleiding van die vreemde gebeurtenisse met die SAL-koevert nr 12, waar blykbaar te min van was en op die laaste oomblik nog koevert bygevoeg is wat in Lissabon en Zurich beland het in plaas van in Wenen, het mnr Marnus Steyn 'n mosie opgestel wat met algemene stemme aanvaar is:

"Die AFV spreek sy teleurstelling en misnoeë uit oor die uiters swak en onbevredigende beheer wat daar oor die amptelike SAL-koevert uitgeoefen word en versoek die Federasie om baie sterk beswaar by die nodige instansie aan te teken m.b.t. die voorafgaande."

Dis almal na aanleiding van koevert nr. 12. Volgens dr Reisener bestaan daar egter op koevert nr. 13 ook weer vier verskillende stempels.

Ons jongste AFV-lid Paul Mensink het as besluit van die vergadering 'n stukkie lewende posgeskiedenis vertoon, nl. die poststempels wat die Suid-Afrikaanse militêre mag in Suidwes gebruik, kompleet met sensorstempels en spelfoute op stempels. Baie interessant en 'n bewys dat filatelie nie veel hoef te kos nie. DT

**Maart** - Die voorsitter het hierdie middag 'n wedloop met die tyd gehou want 'n baie lywige program moes op die jaarvergadering afgehandel word.

Die verslae van die voorsitter, penningmeester, jeugleier, rondsenddiens en spesiale koevertediens is voorgelees.

Dit sou te veel wees om hier die verslae op te som. Ek wil net meld dat die rondsenddiens in 1976 'n omset gehad het van R25 000 met 96 pakkiës en dat R19 000 aan deelnemers uitbetaal is. Lesers wat belang stel in die AFV-nuusbrief met alle verslae kan hom gratis kry by die 2de sekretaris, Preston Place 1408, Alexandrastraat 30, Berea Jhb 2198.

Mnr Bakker het toe die woord gevra en vertel dat daar al tien jaar lank iemand in die bestuur dien as SEKRETARIS met hoofletters. Mense word dikwels geëer met 'n titel maar hier word die titel geëer deur die man, wat altyd regstaan vir die AFV. Mnr Bakker het voorgestel om Mnr Thamm, want oor hom het hy gepraat, tot erelid te benoem wat natuurlik eenparig aangeneem is.

Uiteindelik het die tydstop aangebreek vir die bekendstelling en oorhandiging van die pryse, welke taak Eric Thamm op hom geneem het.

Sertifikaat van Verdienste: Ds Du Toit vir sy werksaamhede as roetehoof.

Sertifikaat van Waardering: Mev Mioch vir haar werk aan die nuusbrief.

Veka Wisseltrofee: Mnr V.d. Mey vir sy uitstalling van Ned-Indië.

Rembrandt Wisseltrofee: Mnr Grijzenhout vir Opkoms en val van die Derde ryk.

Anna Smith Wisseltrofee: Mnr Bakker vir sy Posgeskiedenis van Ned-Indië.

Fanie Vermaak Toekening: Mnr Vorster vir sy eerste uitstalling.

AFV-Eretoekennings: Mnr Van Riet en Mev Banerbrug.

Op die jaarvergadering is dit tradisie dat die voorsitter iets van sy eie versameling uitstal en mnr Rossouw het dié tradisie voortgesit deur ons mee te neem op reis na Bolivië. Dit was 'n interessante versameling waarby selfs die ou seëls met hulle vervalsings getoon is.

Die vergadering is afgesluit met die rede van die voorsitter en die verkiesing van die nuwe bestuur wat byna dieselfde is as die huidige bestuur omdat "hulle die kans moet kry op die ingeslane weg voort te gaan". - DT

#### EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**February** - Our February meeting was our 57th Annual General Meeting, with an attendance of thirty-five.

After the various reports had been given, we came to the awards of our two floating trophies and Mr Legator was called upon to make the presentation. The Legator Trophy went to Mr Holden for his GB collection and the Suklje Trophy went to Mr Wossler for his thematic on the Olympics.

This was followed by the election of a new Committee, which turned out as follows:

President - Dr T Isakov

Vice President - H Godwin

Secretary - E K Holden

Treasurer - B Hildebrand

Members - L van Riet, R t'Hart, B Taylor

In the general discussions that followed, a very important matter was raised, namely the insurance cover organised for a recent Mini-Exhibition. One of our members, who was asked to exhibit and who stated that he had lost two sheets from his collection at the exhibition, was subsequently advised by the insurance company that they would not pay

out. It would appear that the insurance cover which had been arranged was applicable only while the stamps were under glass.

It was pointed out to our members that at national and international exhibitions insurance cover is usually arranged for the whole period from the time an exhibitor's collection leaves his own front door to the time it returns and this is what one would expect to be arranged, particularly for a Court of Honour exhibit. It was stressed therefore that members exhibiting at any future exhibitions should look into this aspect and for their own good satisfy themselves that adequate insurance cover had been arranged by the organisers or arrange for their own insurance.

Following these general discussions we had two very well produced and very interesting recorded slide lectures. The first was "Cape Rectangulars" by Kobus Esterhuysen and this was followed by "Children's Stories and Fairytales" by Barbara Ubahgs. - BT

#### SA STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

**November** - We had a notable display of the half-penny roll stamps including the rare issues 15 and 16 presented by Jack Hagger which was an eye opener as to what can be done with comparatively inexpensive material.

Mr Japhe, up from the Cape, gave us a very interesting talk on the results of his researches into the logical listing of current issues.

**December** - This meeting was devoted to one of our two annual major auctions where 138 lots were sold under the able hammer of our auctioneer, Sam Legator.

**January** - Mr A T de Villiers, up from the Cape, presented some interesting facts and theories on cyclometric numbering which gave rise to discussion and this was followed by displays by Jack Burrell on "Wings over the Cape", John Driver on the hyphenated 1d Union Stamps and Jack Hagger on Union Roto stamps printed on creased paper.

**February** - Dr Henry Raubenheimer presented his annual report on the Reference Collection and then exposed the four different varieties of Cape Town backstamps on SAA cover number 13.

The meeting generally deplored these unnecessary varieties.

In general our meetings continue to be well attended, interesting and lively and our membership increases month by month.

Future items on the programme are:

14 May, Pretoria Typographs ½d and 6d, Mr S P Naylor

11 June, 1925 Airmails, Mr Jan H Smith

9 July, Major Auction - IBM

#### PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL

**February 2** - This was our Napex/Nafu Trophy night and it was very pleasing to see three entries on the boards.

Firstly, Mrs Corke showed a very comprehensive display of additional definitives to the first definitive series, i.e. the 4c Ram and Constantia, and 15c Lamb. It was very well written up, and the lady read us a very good paper and deservedly took the honours.

The second exhibit was Mr Storm's Republic definitives and commemoratives which contained some very nice pieces, and was well written up in Afrikaans.

The third competitor was Mr Swan who showed us the controversial Balloon Covers and Rugby Covers. Perhaps not everyone's cup of tea but one man's meat is ... He also showed unusual Paquebot covers and explained how he had obtained them. A very pleasing exhibit of material not many of us had ever seen.

Mr Ranta concluded the meeting with a lively auction.

**February 16** - This meeting called for a display by collectors of Machin Heads. Only three collectors responded but it was most interesting to see how differently collectors mount and write up identical stamps. A notable item was Mrs Mackintosh's FDC with the three new high value GB Definitives.

A very large crowd was present, over 60 I think, and a large volume of material came under the hammer at our auction, held by Nick Ranta. - RO

**March** - Our retiring President took the chair at a

well attended AGM and members heard the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Sales Pkt. Supt. Then our President delivered his annual report to the society and Mr Wooster spoke in glowing terms of the afore mentioned members.

He said the members were lucky to have such hard working and upright people to run the club. Our financial position was very strong due in no small way to the efforts of our Sales Pkt. Supt, Geo Ponsford, Mrs Leak our treasurer, and Mr Tunley, our examiner, were congratulated as well.

Cups were then presented to competition winning members, Mrs Corke, NAPEX/NAFU trophy for RSA; Mr Teicher, the Winde cup for Foreign; Mrs Zarnack, the Maynard Cup for Thematics; Mr Wooster, the Percy Bishop Cup for Red Gibbons; and Mrs McIntosh the Festival Cup for novices.

We then elected office bearers for 1977. Our new President, Rev J Draper, Vice-President Mr H W Wooster, Secretary Mrs D Reinecke, Treasurer, Mrs B Leak, Sales Pkt. Supt. Mr G Ponsford. Editors, Rex & Julia Osborne, Examiner Mr D Tunley, Auctioneer Mr N Ranta, and committee Mr & Mrs Zarnack, Mr R Booker, Mr A Rouillard and Mr A Hitchcock. Messrs R Tomlin and G Milner-Palmer were retained as Trustees.

**March 16** - This was our new President's first evening in the chair and the Rev J Draper welcomed a very large crowd. The occasion was our first maxi auction of the year and our auctioneer Nick Ranta got things moving smartly. We had a large pile of magazines, donated by Mr L Bevis, which sold quickly for club funds, and then a mixed lot of covers, sets, singles and accumulations came under the hammer. The result was one of the largest turn-overs we've ever had! - RO

#### AFRIKAANSE PHILATELISTIESE VERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

**Februarie** - Dit was damesaand en daar is twee baie mooi versamelings uitgestal. Mev Scholtz het 'n versameling seëls gehad met die motief waters van Suid-Afrika. Die versameling het sy begin opstel in die Waterjaar en dit omvat riviere, brúe, damme en mere, gebruike, ens. Dit is met veel oorspronklikheid en baie mooi opgestel. Nie te veel op een blad- sy nie, waardeer dit 'n mooi oorsigtelike geheel geword het.

Die ander versameling was mev Rhodie se Oostenrykse posgebruikte seëls. Daar was baie mooi koeverte met die seëls van hierdie land. Die koeverte word "amptelik" deur die handelaarsvereniging uitgegee en het 'n klein merkie links onder. Hier kon ons leer hoe om koeverte te versamel sonder dat dit oorvol word of dat die items oor mekaar lê. Dit was ook 'n baie mooi versameling.

Voorts het mev Rhodie Kersseëls van Suid-Afrika uitgestal, vanaf 1929. Aanvanklik los seëls later velletjies van 20 seëls. 'n Mens vergeet hierdie seëls gou en die verskillende items bring weer heelwat herinnerings. Ook hierdie versameling was baie mooi opgestel en het bygedra tot die hoë peil van die uitstallings.

Dit was ook ons jaarvergadering. As voorsitter is verkies prof Van Wyk; ondervoorsitter mev Rhodie; sekretaris prof Nilant; ondersekretaris mnr Pretorius; penningmeester kol Badenhorst; bygestaan deur mnr Briel. Nuusbrief mev Rhodie, nuwe uitgawes mnr Steenekamp; rondsenddiens mnr Van Renssen, mnr Hardijzer; veiligings mnr Briel, Pretorius, De Swardt; verteenwoordigers by Federasie prof Gonin en mnr Wessels; verversings mev Scholtz en mev Brits.

Die voorsitter se verslag, die verslag van die penningmeester en die rondsenddiens was opgeruim en gesond. Finansiëel is die vereniging in 'n goeie posisie. Die voorsitter het die aftredende bestuur, en veral mnr Bernhadi en mnr Sondorp, baie hartlik bedank vir alle moeite en werk wat hulle in die afgelope jaar vir die vereniging verrig het. Dit blyk ook dat daar nog nooit soveel belangstelling vir ons maandelikse byeenkomste was as in die afgelope jaar nie. Dis die jaar waarin die vereniging sy 25e bestaan gevier het en ons kan met sekere tevredenheid op die jaar terugkyk. - N

#### MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**January** - The Chairman greeted 72 members and guests with a special welcome for the guest from Gwelo and the one from Umtali. The Umtali guest was the Chairman of the Manicaland Philatelic Society, Mr Warner.

The evening's displays, put up by the chairman and Secretary for the Aloe Trophy and Goldblatt Cup respectively, were hampered by poor lighting in the Committee Room. Adjudication was therefore postponed to the subsequent Committee meeting.

The Chairman, Mr Stevenson, displayed "Australia 1913-1935".

The Secretary, Mr Hull, showed "The Machin Stamps of Great Britain".

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