

SA**40C**

Philatelist

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SOUTH AFRICA 1910 – 1960

at the LANDDROST HOTEL
JOHANNESBURG
24 JUNE 1977

This comprehensive collection opens with a die proof of the 1910 2½d, commemorative; King's Head essays, 1913-22 die proofs, colour trials (a magnificent range) and the issued stamps with fifteen copies of the £1 including a block of four.



Air mail flights 1911-20 are well represented as well as specialist sections of all the issued air mail stamps.

London Pictorials start with Harrison essays and issued stamps include imprint blocks and scarce perforation and watermark varieties.

1935 Silver Jubilees include plate flaws and there is a specialised collection of the 1954 Airmail series. Stamp booklets, postage dues, Officials and postal history items round off the sale.

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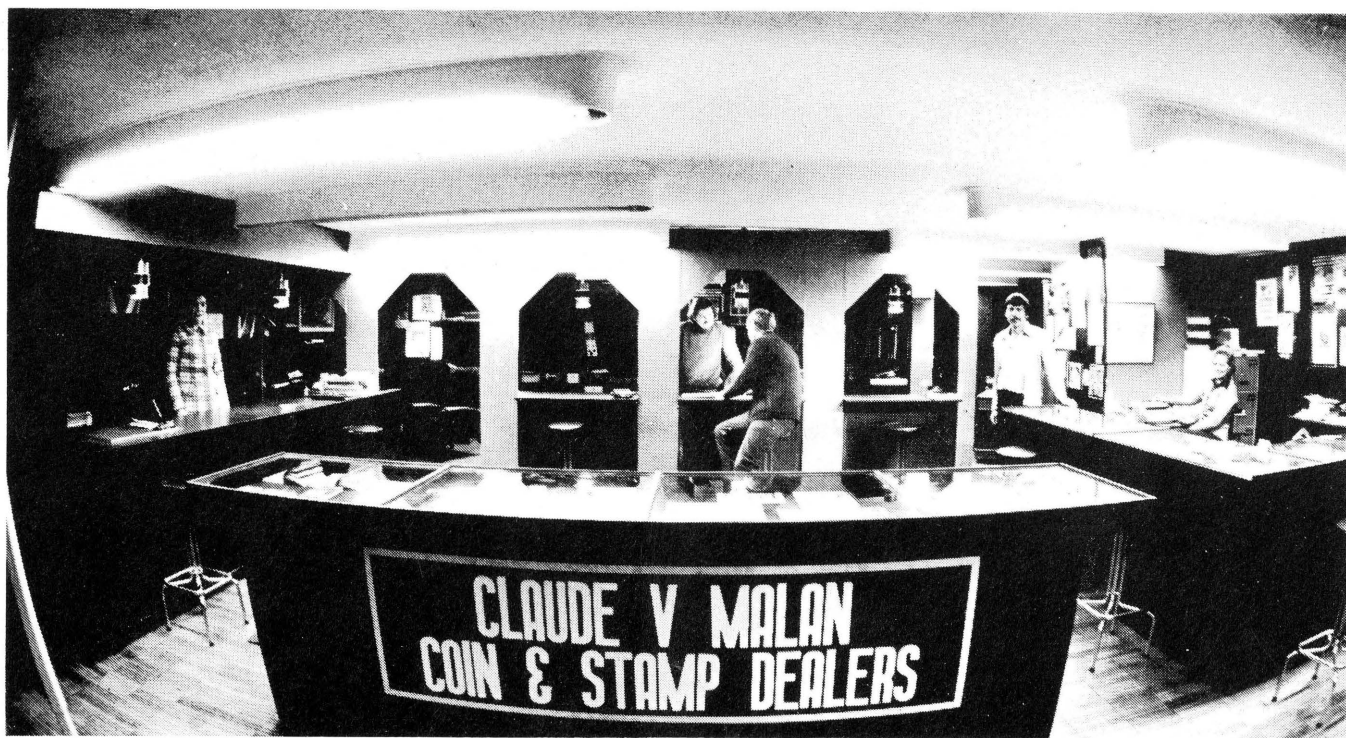
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The S.A. Philatelist Management Committee/ Bestuurskomitee:

Hon Editor: J M Weinstein, RDPSA, FRPSL
P O Box 4430, Pretoria 0001.

Hon Asst Editors: Joh Groenewald
Dr Hasso O Reisener

Subscriptions and advertising: J Michelson, RDPSA, FRPSL
P O Box 375, Johannesburg 2000

Society subscriptions: D Brown
P O Box 2388, Pretoria 0001

Other members: Mr K E W Lydall, RDPSA, Mr Natie Becker

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Advertising rates on application from Mr Michelson (address above).

Correspondence to the Hon Editor (address above)

Rand 77 will be the big event

Rand 77, this year's national stamp exhibition, will be a festival of philately – an event collectors from far and wide will want to attend. It will be held in Johannesburg in the week of 22 - 27 August 1977.

In addition to the national exhibition the annual congress of the Philatelic Federation will be held as well as meetings of specialist groups.

The exhibition, the first national stamp show in Johannesburg since ZAR 100 in 1969, will be in the City Hall. It will comprise 700 frames with a total of 14 000 album sheets from 200 participants.

Mr Louis F Rive, the Postmaster General, will open Rand 77 on Monday morning 22 August, and the exhibition will be open daily from 10h00 to 21h00, including Saturday, but on Friday 26 August it will close at 18h00.

There will be a temporary exhibition post office, using a special datestamp. Five postal administrations will have official exhibits while 22 stamp dealers will have stalls. Eight of the dealers are from abroad.

The chairman of the Rand 77 jury will be Mr Robson Lowe, the doyen of professional philatelists in Great Britain. Mr Lowe, who first visited South Africa for the Durban exhibition in 1928, has been involved in the philatelic trade for over 50 years.

Souvenir sheet

The exhibition cover with special postmark, the Rand 77 souvenir sheet of the Philatelic Foundation and a cover for the souvenir sheet will be sold by Intersapa. (Details of prices etc have not yet been received.)

The philatelic congress will be held in the Allied Building Society Auditorium, corner of Rissik and Bree Streets, and will be opened by the Mayor of Johannesburg on Tuesday 23 August.

Other events planned for the week are meetings of the SA Postmark Society, Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, SA Stamp Study Circle, Aerophilatelic Society of SA; and a viewing of the automatic mail sorting equipment at the Jeppe Street GPO.

Special postmarks

We are pleased to advise readers that Philatelic Services will soon be making advance announcements, covering periods of six months at a time, of the introduction of special or commemorative postmarks.

We heartily commend those responsible for their positive and co-operative action.

New postmark slogan – A new machine cancellation slogan, Buy Defence Bonds/Koop Verdedigingsobligasies, is due to appear in the postmarks of Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Windhoek.



Manufacturomania

Dit is so dat geen versamelaar van Suid-Afrika wil „agterbly” nie. Hy wil tydig weet van nuwe seëls, poskaarte, aërogramme, spesiale datumstempels, eerstedagkoeverte en gedenkkoeverte. Hy probeer ook om hierdie stukke met die mins moontlike vertraging by sy versameling te voeg.

Hierdie versamel-behoefte het ongelukkig daartoe aanleiding gegee dat allerlei instansies posstukke begin „vervaardig” en bemark onder die een of ander skyn van amp telikheid of groot belangrikheid. Kyk ’n mens dan mooi na die aanbieding, begin jy dikwels wonder of jy te doen het met iets wat in die versamelaar se belang is, of met iets wat in die finansiële belang van die vervaardiger is.

Sekerlik kan enige versamelaar versamel net wat hy wil. Dit is, solank hy dit blymoedig doen, en uit sy eie keuse.

Maar waarom ons nogmaals ’n sterk waarskuwing wil rig, is die allerhande koeverte en poskaarte en so aan wat onder allerhande vaandels deur private belange aangebied word. Daardie stukke maak geen verskil aan die volledigheid aldan nie van ’n Suid-Afrika-versameling nie. Wat filatelie in sy egte sin betref, is dit ’n verkwisting van geld om sulke stukke te koop.

Ons het nou al meermale oor hierdie soort ding gemaan. Soos die reeks „beleggings”-koeverte wat kastag gebeurte uit die Vryheidsoorlog gedenk. Of die rugbykoeverte, waaroor ons verlede jaar ’n satire gepubliseer het. Tog hou hierdie soort van ding aan – talle versamelaars het die indruk dat hulle sulke stukke in hul versameling „moet” hê.

Aan versamelaars wil ons se: Moet u nie nodeloos laat mislei nie. Kyk gerus of die aangebode stukke enige amp telike status het. Is daar ’n amptelike stempel, en indien wel ook ’n amptelike gedenkkoeverte en datumstempel-kaart? As u u Suid-Afrika-versameling wil uitbrei, vergeet die opgediste ditjies en datjies en kyk na iets betekenisvols, soos die posstempels van Bophuthatswana.

Aan die bemarkers van private stukke sê ons: as u werklik die filatelie wil bevorder, sal u hiervoor volop geleentheid vind.

– Die Redakteur/The Editor.

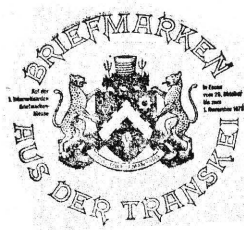
Date set for the mini-exhibition

The dates for the mini-exhibition on the West Rand have now been fixed as Friday 7 October, Saturday 8 October and Monday 10 October 1977 (the latter a public holiday).

Arrangements are being made by the West Rand Philatelic Society, P O Box 397, Krugersdorp 1740. Enquiries may be directed to the Hon Secretary at this address.

The exhibition will be in the Roodepoort City Hall. (Roodepoort receives city status on 1 October 1977, and this event will be marked by the use of a special datestamp.)

The West Rand Philatelic Society is prepared an exhibition cover, to feature the 15c Uranium stamp due for issue on 8 October.



Mystery cover of Transkei

An unusual Transkei cover has made its appearance in Europe.

The cover is franked with the four stamps of the Transkei independence commemoratives and cancelled with a large fancy circular mark reading “Briefmarken aus der Transkei” (which means “Stamps from the Transkei”). The mark, of which there is a second impression on the cover, incorporates the official Transkei coat of arms.

The cancellation incorporates the date of the Rhein-Ruhr-Posta stamp fair held in Essen from 29 October to 1 November 1976 (the Transkei issued the stamps on 26 October 1976).

The cover was sold at this fair from a stand which visiting collectors took to be one representing South Africa.

Apparently this cover was not available in South Africa, either from Umtata or through Intersapa, the official agents for marketing the Transkei's stamps here and abroad. A collector who enquired at the Intersapa main office in Pretoria found nobody at that office who had ever seen or heard of the cover or could supply it.

‘Filatelieterme’ now available

The new English-Afrikaans philatelic terminology appeared last month as a handsome utility booklet listing 2 500 stamp collectors’ terms.

The book, published by the Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging and the Vaktaalburo (technical language bureau) of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, was sponsored by Glen and Valda Carpendale of World Stamps, Pretoria.

It is an updating and complete revision of the pioneering terminology list published by the AFV in 1954. The list is strong in postal history, postmark, paper and printing terms (one of the collaborators was Mr Jan de Beer, the Government Printer).

This fine work will be an asset to both English and Afrikaans speaking collectors, and its use is recommended (a review will appear shortly). Copies may be ordered at R1,50 from World Stamps, P O Box 26423, Arcadia 0007. There is also a limited hardbound edition of 200 copies at R2,50 each.

High court centenary

by Dr H.J. Raubenheimer, RDPSA

A special commemorative postage stamp was issued on 18 May 1977 on the occasion of the centenary of a Transvaal Supreme Court in Pretoria. Its denomination is 4c and it would be on sale for two months.

A special commemorative cover, No 2.23, was also issued on 18 May at 20c, serviced.

Design: a simple one – a full length picture of the Palace of Justice in white on a red-brown background. The inscriptions in white are top left “RSA”, top right “4c” and along the bottom in small letters left “transvaal supreme court”, centre “1877-1977” and right “transvaalse hoogeregshof”, and in the bottom gutter, in tiny letters, left “hannes meiring” and right “1977” in brown.

Paper: Harrison, phosphorescent, no watermark, PVA gum. *Sheet format:* Horizontal, measuring about 440 x 283 mm. Two panes, A and B, hundred stamps per sheet (10 rows x 10).

Stamp format: horizontal, measuring 40,2 x 23,9 mm.

Printing technique: photogravure, one cylinder, cross lined screened, number 764, red-brown. This coloured number is shown on the bottom margin below stamp No 9 and the pane letter A or B, in brown, is below stamp No 10. Printed on the De la Rue Giori 841 machine.

Sheet numbers: six figure black, with an added -0, shown on the bottom margin below stamp No 10. A with even numbers, B with odd.

Arrows: brown, centrally placed on all four margins.

Marginal bars: brown, broken bars. A pane: top margin, single line, without the central extended gap, above stamps 1 to 10 (the second bar from the left has a large broken gap in its centre); bottom margin, double lines below stamps 6, 7 and 8. B pane: top margin, double lines above stamps 6 to 10 (margin above stamps 1 to 5 is blank); bottom margin, single line below stamps 1 to 5 and 6, 7 and 8.

Date of printing: in black digits 25.11.76 on the bottom margin below stamps 8 and 9; the 5 of 25 is on the vertical row of perforations.

Register control mark: consists of a continuous thick brown line on the bottom margin of Pane A below stamps 1 to 5.

Perforations: internally on the rotary machine, gauge 11,75 x 12,5. All top and bottom margins are perforated through and the left and right margins are imperforate except for the single extra hole at each end of the horizontal rows of perforations. An extra, second, hole is found is found on the B panes and on the sheets examined it is on the line between rows 9 and 10.

All the A panes seen are well perforated with clean holes. On the B panes, however, there is a marked difference between the top five rows and the bottom five rows. The sheets with the second extra hole can be distinguished as follows: (1) top half clean perforations, bottom half many blind perforations – has the second extra hole, (2) top half many blind holes, bottom half clean holes – has no second hole.

Varieties

Pane A

Row 4 No 1 White dot at left of 4 of 4c.

Row 4 No 5 Large white “moon” below 4c.

Pane B

Row 3 No 2 Very tiny faint white dot at left of 4 of 4c.

Ericas on new postcards

A set of ten pictorial postcards was issued with the third definitive series on 27 May 1977. They are white cards, glossy front and matt back, measuring about 132 x 90 mm.

The monocolour printed 3c stamp, *Protea neriifolia*, is the same as the sheet 3c stamp but it is in myrtle-green on a very pale greenish yellow background. On the left of the stamp is a broad vertical phosphor band about 124 mm long. All other inscriptions are in black: “Postcard” with “Poskaart” below it at top centre. Below this is “For address only” with “Slegs vir adres”, with five lines.

On the left of the card is a large panel in a bronze-green frame with a coloured picture of an erica, a South African heath. Its latin name is in a white panel at top left.

The cards were printed on large sheets on the Albertina machine in two panes of 10 cards each. Each pane has two rows of five cards each and the cards’ setting is, top row left to right: *Erica leucotrachela*, *Erica curviflora*, *Erica pinea*, *Erica ventricosa*, *Erica blenna* (Lantern heath – the same as on the 2c stamp of the second republican definitive series). Second row: *Erica strigilifolia*, *Erica urna-virides*, *Erica moriae*, *Erica versicolor* and *Erica patersonia* (Mealie heath).

The cards were printed on screened cylinders. The pictures are from photographs by E G H Oliver with the exception of two, *E. urna-virides* and *E. versicolor*, by M J Wells. The packets of ten cards are sold for 40c.

Datestamp cards

Philatelic Services this year started issuing special datestamp cards bearing an impression of the first day or period of new special postmarks.

The cards are white and are of the same size as that of the special commemorative cover for the occasion. The card bears a 3c definitive stamp and two identical postmarks, one on the stamp and the other at top centre.

The printing, in grey, consists of the country’s coat of arms, top left, and below that in English and Afrikaans “Republic of South Africa”, “Date-stamp card”, “Philatelic Services, GPO, 0001 Pretoria” with the Post Office emblem. So far all cards have the same inscriptions and they cost 10c.

The four cards issued are

1. Agricultural congress, Pretoria, 10-14 January 1977.
2. S.A.M.P.C. (Paraplegic championships), Johannesburg, 12-18 March 1977.
3. MOTHS, Warrior’s Gate, Durban, 7 May 1977.
4. Kruithuis, Stellenbosch, 5 May 1977.

Rand Show – The special Rand Show datestamp was again in use from 25 April to 7 May 1977.

The protea stamps are beautiful!

by Margaret Lawder

The third definitive series of stamps of the Republic of South Africa which was launched by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs at Kirstenbosch, on 27 May, will excite deep interest even far beyond philatelic circles throughout the world. Botanists, horticulturists and just plain plant lovers will be delighted with the beautiful stamp portraits of flowers of the protea family, Proteaceae.

In this article we shall discuss the stamps, not from the important philatelic point of view, but from that of the peoples of the Republic who value the proteas of South Africa and are perhaps especially interested in the magnificent 'King' protea (*Protea cynaroides*) which has lately been declared our country's national flower emblem.

This, of course, is by no means the first time that flower portraits have appeared on our stamps. *Disa uniflora*, the well known Cape arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) and the majestic so-called Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia regina*) and others have all done so. But never before has a whole South African series been devoted to one plant family. This distinction has now been conferred on Proteaceae. All 21 stamp pictures belong to this large family with members so diverse in shape and size that it was called after the ancient god, Protea, who had the ability to assume any shape or size which he fancied!

Protea repens (*P. mellifera*) on the 1 cent stamp will be recognised by most people. It is of course the familiar suikerbossie which early settlers prized for the syrup which they drew from the flower head as a sugar substitute and to relieve coughs.

Should the magnificent 'King' (*P. cynaroides*) have been given pride of place on the stamp of the highest value in the series – the R2? Perhaps. But, as it is, it decorates the 5 cent stamp while the Marsh Rose is most appropriate on the R2.

Unfamiliar to most people outside botanical circles, it is a most important member of Proteaceae. It is very, very rare. In fact there are only a few specimens in existence. So that when, recently, a horticulturist succeeded in grafting it on to a member of another of the family's genera, the *Leucospermum* (the species was *L. conocarpodendron*) an important breakthrough was made – the result of much hard work and hard thinking. Thus, unless some disaster should overtake the few plants we have, the future of the Marsh Rose, less musically called *Orothamnus zeheri*, is almost certainly safe.

Serruria florida, the Blushing Bride, which appears on the 9 cent stamp had, in times gone by, as narrow an escape from extinction as that undergone in this decade by the Marsh Rose.

Discovered in the eighteenth century, the Bride was lost for some one hundred years and it was feared that she would never be seen again. But in 1914 a very few specimens were found in the only known natural habitat, the Franschhoek Mountains. These were taken to Kirstenbosch. One of the famous Botanic Garden's rescue operations was carried out on the Bride so successfully that she is now a familiar sight gracing not only South African gardens but gardens of many countries throughout the world.

Much more could be written about the proteas whose pictures we now see on our stamps. But it must suffice to close this article by quoting from a letter which the famous botanist, Linne or Linnaeus, wrote to Governor Ryk Tulbagh who was keenly interested in the Cape flowers and often sent specimens to Linnaeus.

Here in part is what the old botanist wrote to Governor Ryk Tulbagh:

"May you be fully aware of your fortunate lot . . . to inhabit the Cape of Good Hope which the beneficent Creator has enriched with his choicest (floral) wonders".

Surely this lovely stamp series will help us moderns to even

fuller awareness of this 'choicest heritage'. Perhaps generations far in the future will be able to say of the people of the late twentieth century that in spite of upheavals, unprecedented difficulties and alarming plant habitation destructions, they did become aware of their 'fortunate lot' and cared for their choicest floral wonders'.



Die vier posseëls wat die Namibwoestyn uitbeeld en op 29 Maart 1977 deur Suidwes-Afrika uitgegee is. Die Namib is een van die oudste en onherbergzaamste woestyngebiede ter wêreld, en het bewegende sandduine van tot 200 m hoog. Die seëls is in panorama-formaat en die gedenkstempel van Luderitz toon 'n kokerboom.



RSA Postal History Club – Mr P J Densham of PO Box 1048, Pietermaritzburg 3200, advises that the initial subscription for members joining the club is R4,50, which includes their newsletter and 8 covers per year.

Durban automatic mail sorting – The new automatic mail sorting equipment is being tested in Durban and mail from there has recently shown the automatic sorting marks. Test lines have also been applied to some mail.

Postmark book – Dr H O Reisener is working on a second edition of his postmark book, which will include the special postmarks of SWA. Collectors wishing to submit addenda and corrigenda, detailed information and clear photostats may write to Dr Reisener at 396 Om de Berg, Lynnwood, Pretoria 0002.

That unlucky number 13 of SAA

SAA cover No 13 was issued on 1 January 1977 to commemorate the first scheduled Airbus flight to Cape Town from Johannesburg. This also was the first batch of covers to be handled by Intersapa, which had been appointed the official agents for South African Airways Philatelic Section.

The covers were duly serviced, postmarked and despatched from Jan Smuts Airport on this flight. On arrival in Cape Town they were taken to the GPO for backstamping. It was decided, on account of the large number (13 000), to feed them through a machine canceller.

Unfortunately things went awry with the backstamping. Four different postmarks were applied, and this could cause a little distress in aerophilatelic and cover-collecting circles. Thus one may give this cover, SAA No 13, the name "the unlucky thirteenth".

An official notice, which was sent to all subscribers and could be obtained from the agency's office in Pretoria, provided a breakdown of the percentages of the covers showing the different postmarks. It was said that less than 700 of the one type (Type D), the scarcest of the four, were suitable for distribution. Later it was said that even this figure was on the high side.

Percentages

The percentages given were A = 50%; B = 26%; C = 18%; and D = 6%. The letters refer to the types and these have been retained for listing purposes. Based on the supposition that around 700 covers of the type D were available and that 13 000 covers originally were serviced, then the rounded-off numbers issued may be approximated as follows: type A = 6 500; type B = 3 380; type C = 2 340 and type D = 700.

The relative valuation is about 8:4:3:1. It therefore follows that the scarcest item, type D, will command an enhanced price. This, however, cannot be compared to the SAA No 12 cover, of which 500 each were dropped off at Lisbon and Zürich en route to Vienna.

The reason for the damage to the No 13 covers, which is not mentioned in the notice sent out at the beginning of February 1977, and which resulted in the application of three other postmarks besides the machine cancellation, may be attributed to the fact that the covers were not sealed.

On passing through the high-speed automatic cancelling machine, unsealed covers could be inflated through air entering under the flap, with the result that some covers became jammed and damaged. Further spoiling took place through offset-markings of the date die and sleeve appearing on the front of the cover when passed through the cancelling rolls after one or more covers had been skipped.

Handstamped

As soon as this malfunctioning and damage, and the spoiling, was observed logical remedial steps were taken by the Postmaster in Cape Town. No further covers were processed in the cancelling machine and it was decided to handstamp the remainder to expedite the return to the agency. The large number involved, slightly over 12 000, made it necessary to employ three officials, all using different datestamps, to postmark the covers. The covers were then flown back to Jan Smuts Airport and delivered to Intersapa.

This was what one might call a "philatelic calamity", especially after the No 12 affair. This already had caused an outcry. The "unlucky thirteenth" placed the agency in a very em-

barrassing position. The supply hardly covered the orders placed. An equitable system of distribution had to be introduced to avoid recriminations.

A distribution, based on mathematical principles, was devised with the broad outlines given in the special notice. The calculations based mainly on orders for ten or more covers, provided the distribution factors. They were $A \cong +$ $B = 3 + C = 2 + D = 1$ giving a total of 10. Orders for less than 10 were handled on a similar basis. A special table was drawn up for the distribution, to which the staff strictly adhered.

It may be said, without any doubt, that a fairer method could not be devised. It should be remembered that, besides dealers, many orders were placed by philatelic societies and clubs, one reason being to obtain the discount of 5 cents per cover on orders of 100 or more. The author placed an order for 6 covers and received one each of type C and D.

It is said that about 1 200 orders were received. Hence about 50% were in the running for a complete set. The unlucky ones were those who placed orders for one to three covers.

Unfortunate

The whole episode is unfortunate and was totally unexpected. Neither South African Airways, Philatelic Services nor Intersapa are to blame. The latter did an equitable job.

The different Cape Town arrival markings are really of secondary importance as far as first flight covers are concerned. The backstamping was applied to prove that the covers were flown, thus confirming their aerophilatelic nature. They should be of real interest only to the specialist. Regrettably there will be some who will place undue value on these markings and quote ridiculous prices. Unfortunately many, without any real knowledge of the subject, will end up paying them.

The 4 types of Cape Town arrival postmarks are as follows:
"A" has "Kaaipstad" in the top segment.
"B" has "Cape Town" in the top segment.
"C" has "Kaaipstad/CapeTown" in the top segment.
"D" has a Cape Town machine cancellation.

(See The S A Philatelist March 1977, page 60) (HOR).

SAA 15 backstamps

Two different backstamps of the Sydney GPO have been found on SAA cover 15, which was for the first scheduled Boeing 747SP flight from Johannesburg to Sydney on 6 January 1977.

Mr A T de Villiers of Cape Town reports a GPO SYDNEY 127 backstamp instead of the GPO Sydney mark hitherto seen.



More varieties of of SAA 8

The controversial SAA 8 covers with the manually altered dates have been described in The SAP on many occasions. The differences in the manual alterations have been recorded as well as the fact that a large and a small Athens datestamp were used to backstamp the covers with the date 25 IV 76. (See our January 1977 issue, page 3.) On page 2 it is reported that 4 types exist. This can now be increased through a find made by Dr John Haigh of Grahamstown. He has observed that two different types of the small postmark were applied to the covers.

The one postmark measures 23 mm in diameter with the date 25 IV 76 20 which shows a regular "25". ATHINA at the bottom measures 23 mm from A to I. The omega also is more slender. It would appear that this postmark is the more common of the two. The other measures nearly 24 mm in diameter. The 25 is irregular with the 5 dropped about a half millimetre. The A to I measurement is 24 mm and the omega at the top is flatter. The impression also appears to be heavier.

From these facts, discovered by Dr Haigh, it can be deduced that two datestamps of almost identical appearance were used in Athens. Collectors interested in these covers now have another search on their hands to complete their collections. In all probability this will increase the number of basic types to 6. Good luck to the finders of this added variety.



REGIONAL MANAGER
SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
4000 DURBAN



ASSISTENT-HANDELSDIRECTEUR
(BEMARKING EN VERKOPE)
SUID-AFRIKAANSE LUGDIENS
2000 JOHANNESBURG



The S.A. Airways Representative
'Poste Restante'
Terminal 2
Heathrow Airport (London)
Hounslow
TW6 1EX



Die Streekbestuurder
Suid-Afrikaanse Lugdiens
8000 KAAPSTAD



Flying birds on aerograms

Collectors are no doubt now familiar with the new aerogram designs which made their first appearance towards the end of last year.

The following are the particulars of these aerograms, all of which were designed by artist Dick Findlay of Pretoria, and which depict different swallows. They were issued on 1 October 1976.

Aerogram	Denomination	Description of swallow
RSA -	4c -	Apus melba, Alpine swift
RSA -	10c -	Hirundo rustica, European swallow
SWA -	4c -	Apus caffer, White-rumped swift
SWA -	10c -	Cecropis cillata, Larger striped swallow.

Gibbons visitor - Mr Colin Whitehead of Stanley Gibbons Ltd will visit South Africa during August. He will be in Cape Town from 15 to 18 August and in Johannesburg from 19 to 28 August, his visit coinciding with Rand 77.

- Vier onlangse SAL-koeverte is -
 No 16, eerste Airbus-roostervlug van Johannesburg na Durban op 1 April 1977
 No 17, eerste Airbus-roostervlug van Durban na Johannesburg op 1 April 1977
 No 18, eerste regstreekse roostervlug per Boeing 747SP van Kaapstad na Londen op 1 April 1977
 No 19, eerste regstreekse roostervlug per Boeing 747SP van Londen na Kaapstad op 2 April 1977.

Medicinal plants on Transkei stamps

by Dr H.J. Raubenheimer, RDPSA

Four special commemorative postage stamps were issued on 16 May 1977 showing medicinal plants in Transkei. The denominations are 4c, 10c, 15c and 20c and each shows one of the plants with its flowers. Sale period three months.

Common features are

Design: the motif is the plant with its flower in colour on a white background within a thin black frame. The inscriptions, all in black, are top left "Transkei", top right the denomination, bottom left "Medicinal plants" with the Xhosa title above it in tiny letters. In the bottom gutter, in tiny letters, are left the latin name and right "Dick Findlay 1977".

Paper: Harrison, not phosphorescent, no watermark, PVA gum.

Sheet format: vertical, measuring about 143 x 235 mm. Single pane, 25 stamps per sheet (5 rows x 5).

Stamp format: vertical, measuring 23,9 x 40,5 mm.

Printing technique: lithography, four plates for each denomination and their numbers in coloured rectangles are shown on the bottom margin below stamps 1 to 4. On their left is the emblem of Transkei Posts and Telecommunications in white on a black rectangle. The same four plate colours are used for all denominations and they are new blue, bright rose, greenish yellow and black. The other margins are blank. The

stamps were printed in larger sheets on four panes which were later separated and issued as smaller sheets.

Perforations: by the Walter Kroll machine, gauge 12,5 x 11,75. All bottom margins are imperforate, the other margins are perforated through but every fourth sheet has its left margin imperforate. This sheet was the left one of the four panes on the larger sheet. For convenience it is termed No 1.

Varieties

Only one constant variety was found on all the sheets examined as well as the large proof sheet at Philatelic Services. This was on the 10c on pane 2. It is row 4, number 2, small pink "comma" at the right of the tip of the centre leaf.

The 4c

Umhlonyane, wild wormwood, Artemisia affra.

Design: sprays of leaves and flowers of this plant. The stems and leaves are in sage and light greens and the florets in yellow and black. At centre left is a small butterfly, *Peracolus*, known as the Orange tip. It has white wings with orange tips.

Plates: numbered from the left 129 blue, 130 rose, 131 yellow and 132 black.

The 10c

Ingelwane, rooiwortel, "red root", Bulbine natalensis.

Design: a plant growing in rocks. It has long black edged leaves in tints of pinks and greens and has three long stalks with tiny yellow florets with black centres.

Plates: numbered from the left 133 blue, 134 rose, 135 yellow and 136 black.

The 15c

Ubuhlungubemamba, kruidjie-roer-my-nie, Melianthus major.

Design: a branch of this plant with its serrated leaves in blues, greens and brown, bearing its flower with deep claret and black floret.

Plates: numbered from the left 137 blue, 138 yellow, 139 rose and 140 black.

The 20c

Iphewula, plakkie, pig's ear, Cotyledon orbiculata.

Design: two long stemmed groups of bell-shaped florets in yellows and brown, from the broad red edged grey and white fleshy leaves at the bottom.

Plates: numbered from the left 141 blue, 142 yellow, 143 rose and 144 black.

Nog 'n SAL-fout

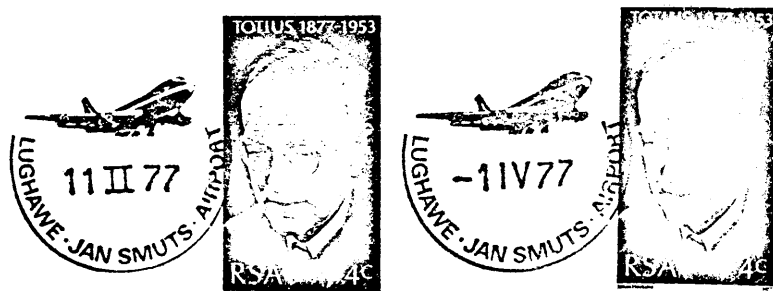
Nog 'n fout met 'n SAL-koevert is by die vergadering van die Afrikaanse Filatelistevereniging aan die begin van Mei vertoon en toe deur die AFV onder ons aandag gebring.

Daarna het twee versamelaars, mnr G C Rogers van Windhoek en dr M A Rozwadowski van Kaapstad, ook fotostate gestuur om die afwyking te illustreer.

Die fout is met SAL-koevert 16 vir die eerste Airbus-roostervlug van Johannesburg na Durban op 1 April 1977: die Jan Smuts-posmerk voorop het die datum 11 II 77 (dus 11 Februarie) en die Durbanse rugstempel van 1 April 1977. Soos by die AFV-vergadering opgemerk is, of dis 'n donkie-agtige Airbus of iets is fout met Intersapa.

Die meeste van die SAL 16-koeverte toon die korrekte Jan Smuts-datum van 1 IV 77. Mnr Rogers sê dat hy die korrekte koevert by die filatelietoombank in Windhoek gekry het, maar een van sy ses koeverte op bestelling vanaf Intersapa vertoon die afwyking. Hy wys ook daarop dat die koevert vir die eerste vlug van Transkei Airways Johannesburg-Umtata die Jan Smuts-merk met daardie datum 11 II 77 vertoon.

Dus: „Suid-Afrikaanse Lugdiens kondig met leedwese 'n vertraging van sewe weke aan vir die vertrek van sy Airbus-vlug na Durban . . .”



Mr Bill Hart – Mr Bill Hart, postal history expert of Argyll Etkin Ltd of London, and Mrs Hart will visit South Africa in August. They will spend some time in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria before attending Rand 77, where Mr Hart will be one of the judges.

Northern Territories – A postal history handbook on the out-back, the Australian Northern Territory, has been published by the Society of Australasian Specialists at US \$9 and is available from E A Williams, 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14216, USA.

German camps which held SA POWs

by A. Tabachnik

The German camps in which SA POW's were housed during World War II were the following:

STALAG (other ranks)

Camp No.

3A	-	9C	Bad-Sulza
4A	Hohenstein	10B	ILAG (?)
4B	Mühlberg	11A	Oyserode
4C	Wistriz	13C	-
4D	Neuberxdorf	18A	Wolfsberg, Austria
4F	-	18C	Spittal, Austria
4G	-	20A	-
7A	Moosberg, Bavaria	20B	-
7B	Memingen	21D	(Transit Camp)
7C	-		Posen Poland
8A	Garlitz	317	-
8B	Landsdorf	339	-
8C	Sagan	344	Lamsdorf
8F	-	357	-
9B	-	383	-

OFLAG (officers)

Camp No.

4D	-
4F	-
4G	ALL Hohenstein
5A	Weinsberg
7D	-
9A	-
12B	Hadamer (350 officers)
21B	Schubin, Poland
79	

Luft 1, 3, 4 & 6 housed only captured airmen, probably both officers and other ranks, in different sections.

Dulag Luft - Transit camp for airmen.

Marlag and Milag were camps for naval officers.

Stalag 7A was the transit camp for SA POWs arriving in Germany.

Camp 383 was actually a convalescent camp for POWs. A letter seen from one POW enthused about the beautiful setting of the camp and the excellent services and entertainment provided.

All mail for airmen had to be addressed to Luft 3, which was the Base Office for censoring, after which the mail was re-addressed to the requisite camp.

The majority of POWs volunteered for work, the incentive being double rations. They received about 12 cents per day, but in most cases very little could be bought, either in Ger-

many or Italy. Food and treatment were generally better in Germany. Cigarettes were universal currency in all camps. Happy was the non-smoker who could implement his rations by judicious exchanges.

Mail from German camps

This article seeks to implement the information on this subject, given by the late Mr Godfrey in the November 1969 issue of The SA Philatelist.

Mail was handed over to the International Red Cross, who paid the postage fee (per air mail) to the German authorities. The requisite amount was inscribed on each letter card or postcard in manuscript. The mail, thereafter, appears to have been forwarded via Sofia, Istanbul and Cairo or via Lisbon and Cairo. Time for delivery varied from 6 weeks to 5 months.

Two types of letter cards have been seen, the one shown by Godfrey and the one illustrated here. On the latter, the heading of the letter card "Kriegsgefangenpost" is 54 mm long, whereas on the former it is only 34 mm. The text is the same.

Censor marks have been examined from a number of camps. It is apparent that the censors had quite a wide choice of varieties, five different types have been found from Camp 8C alone. Some additional censor marks are shown, but there must be many more types.

Also illustrated are several markings not previously recorded - a "Tax Percue" strike, not boxed; a dumb postmark with a wider diameter and a rubberstamped censor's instruction in regard to writing letters, found on the back of a postcard.

Finally, a large number of Coloured and Black POWs were sent to German labour camps in France. Three of these were sited at Dax, Chartreux and Bouvain. Little is known of these camps and no specimen of this mail has been seen by the writer.

1. First Type lettercard.
2. Second Type lettercard with "Kriegsgefangenenpost" in bolder lettering.
3. Postcard with larger type "Dumb" postmark (4).
5. Unboxed "Mit luftpost / Par Avion / Taxe Percue".
6. Censor mark Camp 18C.
7. Censor mark Camp Oflag 5A.
8. Censor mark Camp Stalag 4C.
- 9/ 13 Censor marks from Stalag 8C.
14. US Censor mark on letter card.
15. Writing instructions - "write very clearly, short and legibly to avoid delay in censorship".

STALAG VIII C
13
geprüft.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

27. 6. 49

7.11.43 89

An MR. AND MRS. E. E. MCGREGOR.
SHONE.

Empfangsort: RO. ALIWAAL NORTH.
Straße: "WANGANELLA FARM."
Kreis: CAPE PROVINCE.
Land: SOUTH AFRICA.
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Gebührenfrei

Stalag VIII C
geprüft
41

Kriegsgefangenenpost

By AIR MAIL.

27. 6. 49

An MR AND MRS E. E. M. SHONE.

Mit Luftpost
Per Avion
Taxe perçue

RM. 0.2 Pf.

Gebührenfrei

Empfangsort: ALIWAAL NORTH.
Straße: "WANGANELLA."
Kreis: CAPE PROVINCE.
Landesteil: SOUTH AFRICA.

Kriegsgefangenenpost
MIT LUFTPOST VIA -LONDON
PAR AVION J. AMSTERDAM.

Postkarte

25 25

Offlag V A

12

Gefangenfrei

Absender:

Vor- und Zuname:

MR D HARRIS

Empfangsort:

2 MARITZBURG

21 LEINSTER RD

Straße:

SCOTTSDALE

Gefangenennummer:

127

Lager-Bezeichnung:

Kriegsgefangenenlager V A

Land:

SOUTH AFRICA

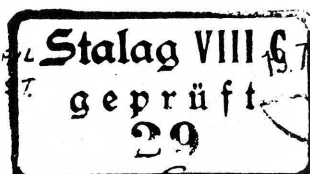
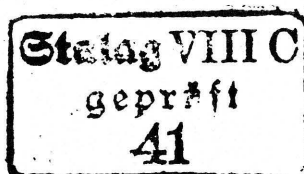
Landesteil (Provincie usw.):

Deutschland (Allemagne)

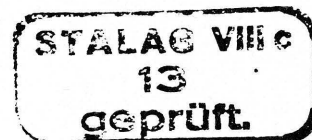
Mit Luftpost
Par Avion
Taxe perçue



RA 5 PE



10852
U.S. CENSOR



Kriegsgefangenenpost very clearly, short and legibly to avoid delay in censorship

WW II internment camps in Rhodesia

by D.T. Swart

Being unable to locate any information on internment camps operating in Southern Rhodesia during World War II, especially insofar as it affects the history of postal material emanating from these sources, I wrote to the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation in Salisbury. Their chief executive officer, Posts and Services, Mr D Pelan, passed my request to the Ministry of Defence and I am pleased to be able to reproduce below, with due acknowledgement to Army Headquarters Salisbury, their memorandum on the Internment Camps and Refugee Settlements. I consider this information fills a vital gap in the published data seen to date on the subject.

Administrative History

Immediately after the outbreak of World War II in 1939, all enemy subjects in Rhodesia were detained by the Police and housed in the Central Prison at Salisbury as a temporary measure until permanent accommodation could be found. On 12 September they were transferred to the Colony's first internment camp at Hartley and this came under the control of the newly-formed Department of Internment Camps and Refugee Settlements; five weeks later, however, the Hartley camp was closed down and the internees were transferred back to Salisbury, this time to No. 1 (General) Salisbury Camp

which had just been completed. By November this centre boasted a hospital for minor ailments, a barber's shop, a tailor's shop, and a boot repair shop, and hot and cold water was available for the convenience of the inmates.

The next internment camp was opened in 1941 when No. 2 (Tanganyika) Salisbury Camp was established to provide accommodation for German and Italian families from Tanganyika. During the next year a big increase in the number of internees necessitated the establishment of the Southern Rhodesia Internment Camp Corps as a unit of the Army, and by 1943, its members were distributed among five camps, viz.

- No. 1 (General) Salisbury, for the accommodation of
 - (a) Southern Rhodesia internees
 - (b) Northern Rhodesia internees
 - (c) Italian internees from East Africa
 - (d) Palestinian internees
 - (e) A small number of South African internees
- No. 2 (Tanganyika) Salisbury, for German and Italian internee families from Tanganyika, and certain female internees held here on behalf of the South African Government
- No. 3 (Gatooma), about five miles west of Gatooma, for Italians from East Africa

No. 4 (Umvuma), one mile east of the township, for Italians from East Africa

No. 5 (Fort Victoria), also for Italians from East Africa.

The total number of inmates at these camps was now over 5 000.

By this time it had also become necessary to provide accommodation for hundreds of European refugees, who had been sent to Rhodesia, and there were settlements for them at Rusape, Marandellas, and Diggleford; the last-named was a boarding school for Polish children.

Although the Internment Camp was a unit of the Army, the Department itself was under the aegis of the Minister of Justice from its inception, and was responsible for the administration of all camps and refugee settlements in the Colony. 90% of the costs of its headquarters, 60% of No. 1 (General) Camp, and full costs of numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5 Camps were recoverable from other Governments. The Department also exercised a supervisory control over each internee's personal money, maintaining a separate ledger account for each individual in his parent camp, against which he was allowed certain limited monthly drawings. In addition all monies earned by internees for the manufacture and sale of goods was controlled by camp accounting offices, who deducted 10% of such internees income, by agreement and credited it to a fund for the common welfare of all inmates.

Food and other supplies were obtained through the Southern Rhodesia Supply Corps which had a station supply store at each camp with the exception of No. 1 Camp, where supplies were obtained directly from the Supply Corps' headquarters in Salisbury. Meals, planned by the Director of Medical Services, were prepared by the inmates themselves on a communal basis. To boost morale, hut leaders were selected from internees themselves to deal with grievances and complaints. Educational facilities were available at each

camp. Where possible, internees were released on parole for employment within the Colony, usually as farmhands.

From 1945, No. 1 (General) Camp was used purely as a transit camp for the accommodation of internees in transit between camps and employers or for those held temporarily whilst undergoing out-patient treatment at the Salisbury hospital. The former inmates were now, together with those from No. 2 Camp, transferred to a new camp at Norton. By this time, a start had been made with the repatriation of internees, and in April it was possible to close No. 4 (Umvuma) Camp. This was followed, in 1946, by the closure of all camps with the exception of that at Norton which now housed 900 internees. The number of internees repatriated during this period was well over 4 000.

In 1947, the inmates of the three Refugee Settlements were moved to No. 3 (Gatooma) Internment Camp pending this repatriation, and the Internment Camp Corps stood down finally at the end of March, after which date the remaining camps were "civilianized" and put under the control of a Superintendent. As from July of this year responsibility for the repatriation of all internees was taken over by the International Refugee Organization, and by March 1949, the remainder of the Polish refugees had been returned to Europe. By this time all camps had been closed, and with the disposal of their movable assets the Department of Internment Camps and Refugee Settlements was dissolved.

Directors of Internment Camps and Refugee Settlements

Maj E E Burt 1939-1940

C Deane Simmons (Acting) 1941

Col R Hamilton 1942-1946

W T Smith 1947

A L Reynolds 1948-1949

A cover with a story

by A. Leslie Leon, RDPSA FRPSL

Without the manuscript superscription on this cover, many philatelists would be mystified by the rubber stamped cachet reading OVER-NIGHT AIR MAIL SERVICE and by the fact that the adhesives cancelled at Kobe are those of Japan and the United States; there was no aircraft in 1925 capable of carrying on a mail service between those two countries. Taking into consideration the manuscript instruction, an interesting story is revealed.

The Japanese 20 sen blue stamp is SG336 and the United States is SG761 16 cents deep green, one of a set of three issued in 1918 the values being 6, 16 and 24 cents. The use of these stamps was not restricted to airmail and they were also available for ordinary postage.

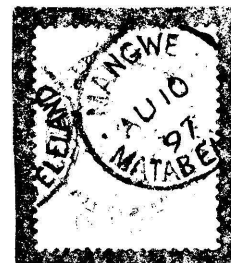
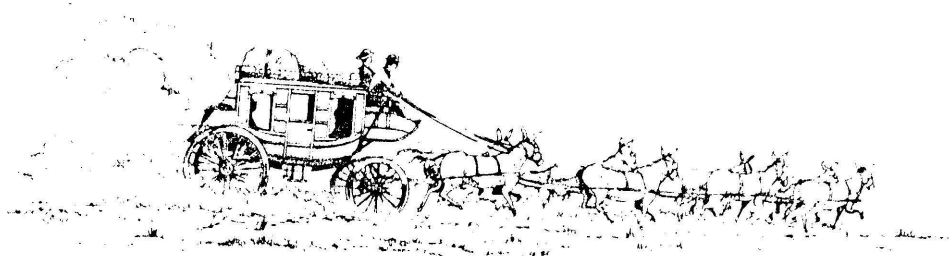
In order to speed up mail between Japan and the United States the latter country instituted an airmail service from San Francisco and guaranteed delivery to outer terminal points within 24 hours. The country was divided into three zones and additional postage was required according to the distance – 8 cents for one zone, 16 cents for two zones and 24 cents for three zones. The last figure would carry a letter from San Francisco to New York. It is interesting to note that although the set referred to above was still current, the postal administration introduced another set of three especially for airmail and that the values of this set were 8, 16 and 24 cents; although the latter set was not available at Post Offices until 16 June 1924, they were on sale at the Philatelic Agency at Washington from August 1923.

The overnight airmail service operated from 1 July 1924 and was continued by the Post Office until the end of August 1927 when it was taken over by private contract carriers.



The cover in question was posted in Kobe on 18 April 1925, that being the date of the cancellation on the stamps, was carried by sea to San Francisco from where it was conveyed by the overnight air service to Chicago. As the latter city is within 2000 miles of San Francisco, the required additional postage was 16 cents for two zones.

There is on the cover a commercial (that is, non-official) backstamp reading APR 25 REC'D showing that the cover took exactly 7 days between posting and delivery. Obviously, from Chicago to Benton Harbour, Michigan, ordinary postal methods were used. Thus this cover was transported by three different types of conveyance – all in all, quite an achievement.



Mangwe/Matabeleland datestamp of 1897.

Life at mail station Mangwe

by Werner K. Seeba

P.T.A. MANGWE / Div. Matabeleland / H.O. Mafeking.
Opened June 1894, closed about 1898.

The telegraph line from Tati to Bulawayo reached Mangwe in mid-1894. Wooden poles cut from mopani trees were used. The cost of this section did not exceed £30 per mile. In order to strengthen the chain of telegraphic communication northward it was decided to erect a short alternative iron pole route from Macloutsi to Mangwe (112 miles) along the Semokwe River, which reached Mangwe on 21 June 1894. Construction of the telegraph line was accomplished at the rate of about three miles a day.

Mangwe was of strategic importance as a telegraph office later during the disturbances (Matabele Rebellion 1896/97) as three lines converged at this point. One was from Macloutsi; one from Tati; and another from Bulawayo. It was thus possible to route traffic from Bulawayo to Salisbury via the Macloutsi route when the direct Salisbury-Bulawayo line was cut by the rebels, as it often was.

Elephant and giraffe were also sometimes responsible for interruptions to line communication. Even to this day occasions arise when these animals are responsible for line damage.

Mr E C Harley was appointed by the British South Africa Company as a telegraphist at Mangwe, in November 1896. He joined Zeederberg's coach at Mafeking, and the journey to Mangwe occupied about ten days of continuous travelling day and night. Mules were changed every ten miles. He was appointed at a salary of £180 per annum with free accommodation and medical attention.

Fort Mangwe was established just south of the Mangwe pass.

The office

The office building was a wattle and daub structure, with a thatched roof. Between the wall and roof there was an opening of approximately a foot, which extended an open invitation for everything crawlable to enter. The floor consisted of mother earth in its natural state with a division of poles through the centre separating the office from the sleeping portion. The furniture consisted of four poles planted in the ground, to which a Union Castle advertising tin-plate had been nailed, and which served as a table for the telegraph instrument. The circumstances under which the advertising board landed in the telegraph office at Mangwe would be very interesting, but there is no record of how this came about. There were two packing cases, one containing the incidentals necessary for the maintenance of a telegraph line, and the other, together with a whisky box, serving as the office table and chair.

In the sleeping section, there was a canvas camp stretcher and nothing more. This constituted the free accommodation by the Company, and the nearest medical officer was some 50 miles away.

The thatched roofs used for covering both the Post Office and the quarters were an ideal home for rats and other



Mr E C Harley, telegraphist and postmaster at Mangwe, in front of Mangwe post office.

animals. The rats were a great nuisance. They attacked everything edible and, in the absence of proper protecting receptacles, caused a great deal of damage. The rats burrowed all over the place and were a great attraction for snakes.

The night mail

The mail coach passed through Mangwe at about 2 a.m. and the postmaster had to get up at this hour to receive his mail and hand the driver his despatch for Mafeking. Walking at this time of night from his quarters to the post office and back again called for a certain amount of courage and the postmaster never did so without being armed. This procedure applied to a number of stations and was one reason why some postmasters preferred to sleep in the post office itself, rather than in their quarters.

Being a postmaster at these intermediate stations was a very lonely occupation. There were very few others on the station and the only entertainment was meeting passing travellers, who journeyed by coach or oxwagon. Occasionally an oxwagon would arrive and spend the night at the station, but the news they brought was so old it was completely out of date. But such company was nevertheless always welcome and afforded some relief to the monotony. But the travellers soon moved on again, leaving the postmaster alone with his thoughts.

Shooting was one of the main pastimes for the pioneer postal staff. Apart from the sport it afforded, it was about the only way of procuring meat. While Mr Harley was at Mangwe he tells in his memoirs of an experience he had while out shooting in the district. He came across the carcass of an animal that had been killed by a lion the previous night. In company with a native, he climbed a tree, knowing that the lion would return to the scene of the kill. The native was instructed in the use of the gun. Not long afterwards the lion arrived and, much to the astonishment of everyone concerned, the native shot it dead.

The skin was sent to Bulawayo to be sold, and this was another way in which the cost of living was overcome.

Cost of living

Another problem which had to be contended with was the entertainment of passing transport riders, some of whom had suffered losses to their draught animals due either to sickness or wild animals' attacks. They remained as guests with the postmaster until replacements could be obtained. Feeding them under these conditions was expensive, and not all provided their own drink.

There was considerable dissatisfaction amongst many of the staff, for the conditions under which they had to work were far from satisfactory. Apart from poor accommodation and lack of general amenities, the cost of living was extremely high, and salaries were only £15 per month. Supplies were difficult to procure and the cost was very much greater than many of them had been led to believe, although this was in part due to the effects of the rinderpest and the rebellion.

The railway had reached Palla/Bechuanaland (1896) and the transport rate from there to Bulawayo was £5 per 100 lbs. As an illustration, the cost, including transport, for a bag of

mealie meal weighing 200 lbs. would be about £15 – a month's salary.

The Post System of Rhodesia, like the laws, had its roots in the Cape Colony. Not only were most of the early staff recruited from there, but so was the Post Office law. The Post Office was originally administered under the Cape of Good Hope Post Office Act No. 4 of 1882, and the Electric Telegraph Act No. 20 of 1861. The Cape Post Office circulars and book of instructions were distributed to all Rhodesian offices.

Mr George Henry Eyre was appointed from the Cape Administration to succeed Mr George Pauling as Postmaster-General in 1897. He was to remain in this post for 24 years.

Mr Eyre arrived in Rhodesia by coach with a personal staff consisting of Messrs A F Emerton, who was to be secretary of the Department, and D Gillespie, the accountant. He entered Rhodesia via Mangwe, where he arrived at 6 a.m. and immediately proceeded to check the office. Later he handed the Postmaster, Mr Harley, a test letter addressed to a fictitious address in Bulawayo, containing a marked halfcrown.

He apparently had no great opinion of the staff he was to administer.

Bibliography: Rhodesia, a postal history by R C Smith

Back door or front door?

by S.J. Hagger, RDPSA

The sixpenny Union stamp with "OFFISIEEL" of the overprint reading upwards instead of down, illustrated and described on page 141 of *The S A Philatelist* of May 1976, is not a new discovery as was stated, seeing that it is listed as 035 VI in the Golden Jubilee edition of the Union Handbook/Catalogue.

The Honorary Editor informs me that since attention has been drawn to the variety a reader has suggested that it is a manufactured or illegitimate item but I do not consider that this is necessarily so.

In the first place the variety occurred only four times in the sheet of 240 stamps, on the right hand one of the bottom four rows (17 to 20/12), which is exactly the same location as the only comparable and undoubtedly legitimate variety, the dropped "OFFICIAL", occurred on the stamps of this format in set 10. This latter variety is also found in rows 17 to 20/6 on some of the larger format officials, which is the most likely spot to find anything wrong if you consider that the overprint formes were almost certainly made up in four-row sections, and started in what we see as the bottom right corner.

Secondly, if it is a questionable item, such as for example the double overprints, one would have expected it to have been available from only one source and at a comparatively high price for that time. My impression is that this was not so and that the first collectors to acquire them did so at the face value. A previous owner of the bottom right corner pair in my collection had it cancelled to order in 1947, something he was hardly likely to have done if he had paid a high price for it.

Thirdly, it is significant that one does occasionally come across overprinted 6d stamps of exactly the same appearance, although from different parts of the sheets, in mint and used condition, some of the latter having postmarks which indicate that they were used on official correspondence.

Margin tears

The only suspicious factor is that my used pair has part of the margin torn off in the corner, similarly to that in the illustration already referred to. The procedure was for the checkers to make a blue pencil mark on the margin of a sheet when they found something wrong on it, such as a misplaced

ment of the overprint, indicating that it was to be removed and destroyed. Thus it is possible that the error was detected after only a few sheets had been overprinted and the forme then corrected for the remainder of the overprinting. If these sheets with the error were not destroyed then the margins could have been torn off to remove the blue pencil marks.

Unfortunately it is most unlikely that this matter will ever be resolved, as I had deemed to be the case with another of these official stamp errors about which I had long had my suspicions. This is the 1/- value of set 19 in which the first stamp of some of the rows has both words of the overprint in English, and on the last stamp both words are in Afrikaans. They are listed in the Handbook as 090 VI and V2.

What I did not like about them was the fact that I had only come across them in a complete row – never even a single stamp in mint or used condition – and every row that I knew of had been offered for sale, in the first place, in England. Thus, for it to have been a legitimate issue a whole series of unusual occurrences, both in the overprinting and the distribution, would have had to have taken place, and this was most unlikely.

Two typed pages

Some information which has recently come to light has shown that my suspicions were well founded and explains why the stamps were only on offer in England. One of the lots auctioned by Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd on 6 May last year in Johannesburg was a double-row piece of these 1/- officials which was accompanied by two folios typed on the letterheads of a firm of London stamp dealers. Neither is dated nor signed and they look like fourth or fifth carbon copies, so, although legible, they are unsuitable for photocopying and only their wording can be quoted as follows:

"By a stroke of good fortune I have recently acquired one of the only existing two half sheets of 1/- South Africa official errors. Column one of the sheet bears both the words in English OFFICIAL OFFICIAL (instead of one in English OFFICIAL and one in Afrikaans OFFISIEEL) and the last or sixth column bears both words in Afrikaans OFFISIEEL OFFISIEEL.

"I have decided to break this into five pieces 12 blocks of 12 (two rows of six) so as to show all four errors of surcharge, i.e.,

1. The two English overprints on the Afrikaans stamp
(SUID AFRIKA)
2. The two English overprints on the English stamp
(SOUTH AFRICA)
3. The two Afrikaans overprints on the English stamp
(SOUTH AFRICA)
4. The two Afrikaans overprints on the Afrikaans stamp
(SUID AFRIKA)

"The block of twelve thus includes all four errors of surcharge the price of which is £45. It will be seen from the enclosed description there are only ten of each of the four different errors existing. I enclose a block for your approval and shall be glad of your reply by return as the numbers are limited."

The second is headed "The story of the 1/- S A Official Error" and reads:

"Two half sheets (of the same sheet) were discovered in the stock of the Department of Exterior. The clerk who deals with stamps bought a normal sheet at the P O and substituted it for the errors. I acquired one half sheet.

"Subsequently I made enquiries at the Govt Printing Works and Mr Boysen in charge of stamp printing stated that he remembers such error having been discovered and the few sheets that were so overprinted were defaced, and in such condition returned to the GPO to be destroyed. He is quite sure that not one more than one sheet escaped attention.

"His statement is borne out by two facts. Immediately after the acquisition of the stamps Mr de Villiers chief inspector of the GPO inquired at the other Departments where such official stamps were in stock but no more was found with such errors. An examination of stocks at the GPO stamp stores was also fruitless.

"Further, the stamps were discovered two years ago but no further sheets or even strips or single stamps came to light.

"Mr Boysen's explanation how such error could have occurred is that these overprints are made of linotype slugs that are placed in the order needed on a galley, and the man who made up the forms most likely misplaced a row of slugs on the galley."

As will be seen, the first letter offered the double row piece for sale. The only comment I have is that it was intended to convey that the half sheet had been broken into five pieces of 12 stamps each, but this could not have been the case as the piece that was auctioned consisted of rows 16 and 17. Obviously a prospective purchaser would need some assurance of the genuineness of what was being offered and this was supplied in the "story". Apart from admitting at this stage that it is a good one, I shall leave further comment till later.

The auction lot was purchased by Mr M J H Tonking of Phalaborwa and when he examined it carefully he was amazed to find three varieties of the overprint at the beginning of the upper row, number 16 of the sheet. The first stamp has its right hand "OFFICIAL" shorter and the second and third have the diæresis marks over the second "E" of "OFFISIEEL". This discovery is of the greatest significance as it proves that this overprinting must have been done at approximately the same time as that of the 1/- and 2/6 stamps of set 21, numbers 0101 and 0102 in the Handbook, where the three varieties occurred in exactly the same positions but in row 6 of the sheets. The piece also has a black four-figure sheet number on its right margin.

With these facts in front of us we are now in a position to analyse the "story" in detail. It mentions at the outset two halves of the same sheet which is curious, as at that time, 1948 or thereabouts, details of the values and quantities of stamps which had been overprinted were being published in The S A Philatelist, and at that time complete sheets of 120 stamps of 1/- value were being processed, while those of the 2/6 value

were half sheets of 60, found to be in each case from the same upper or lower part.

The procedure

Before going on to criticise the replies received at the Government Printing Works it helps to tell something of the procedure which was followed there when stamps had to receive the official overprint. The required number of sheets of stamps of each value was supplied from the GPO stocks and in due course the GPO got back the same number of overprinted sheets, sometimes less one of each value which had been retained for record purposes.

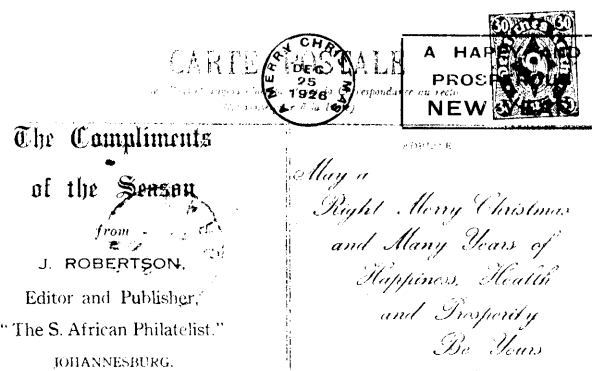
If, therefore, any defaced sheets had been returned to the GPO one would have expected them to be replaced so that the full quota of 1/- stamps could be overprinted with the corrected forme. This was almost certainly not done because, as mentioned earlier, there are no other overprinted 1/- stamps of similar appearance, and the 1/- stamps of set 21 show no more than the normal slight variations found in a batch of sheets taken from stock at the same time for overprinting.

The emphasis throughout on the single sheet is significant and I believe that there was actually only one, but I think it was much more likely to have been smuggled into the Government Printing Works and not the Department of Exterior.

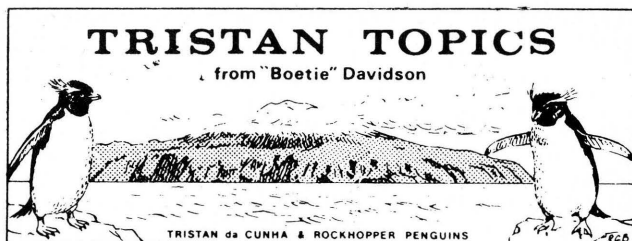
When the sheets of 1/- stamps of set 21 had been overprinted the lower half of the forme would have been dismantled and the half sheets of the 2/6 value processed. Before dismantling the rest of the forme, I suggest that the first and last columns of type were transposed and the halves of the smuggled sheet overprinted and smuggled out again.

This would explain how overprint varieties which occurred in rows 5 and 6 of the sheets of the 1/- and 2/6 stamps of set 21 have now turned up in rows 15 and 16 respectively of the sheet which had the two OFFICIALS on the first and two OFFISIEELS on the last stamps of each of the rows. I am quite sure that we shall find in due course that both halves of this questionable sheet have the other overprint varieties in exactly the corresponding locations as the upper halves of the sheets of 1/- and 2/6 stamps of set 21.

To this end, therefore, it would be appreciated if collectors who have any of these rows of stamps would examine them very carefully and let me know, care of the Honorary Editor, of any varieties, of the stamps or overprints, that they discover.



This unusual postmark on a purely philatelic card (a French picture postcard) was the Christmas card from our founder editor, the late John Robertson, in 1926.



Tristan's earliest entire

The collecting of postal history has a charm, a fascination and an excitement totally unique unto itself. This is probably because there still are such large gaps in our early knowledge in this field that one is always living in the hope of finding yet another major piece to fit into the "jigsaw puzzle" to clarify and complete it. In addition, the scarcity of these items as well as the infrequency with which they are unearthed are totally responsible for the excitement generated.

The earliest Tristan cover, carried by HMS "Thrusy" in 1898, was described in "Ice Cap News" 17: 101 in 1972. Then, in 1975, a veritable storehouse of Tristan treasure was unearthed, and because of the great importance of this find it was described in great detail in the philatelic press ("The Philatelist" May 1975, "Ice Cap News", 20:113, "The SA Philatelist" November 1975 page 277). One of the items from this "treasure chest" was a letter written in May 1896 by Peter Green, together with the envelope front from that letter. Peter Green was 88 years old when he wrote that letter, which discusses various members of his family in Holland, and makes mention of various Dutch ships which called at Tristan, and some of the crew members.

The former owner of this item, Mr Bert Groen of Ilford, England, is an indirect descendant of the famous Tristanian. Bert states that the envelope belonging to Peter Green's letter was not backstamped because he (Bert) possesses a hand-written and hand-drawn facsimile of the cover and letter (the facsimiles were made by his grandfather's brother to be sent round the family). Nevertheless, it certainly is a great shame that the letter is accompanied by only a front and, technically therefore, one must consider the item described hereunder as Tristan's earliest entire.

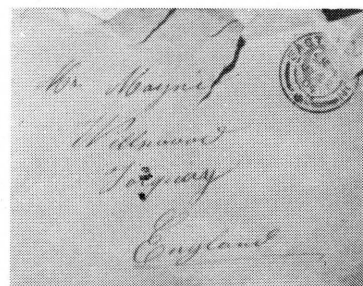
The cover addressed to "Mr Mayni" of Torquay, England, was "officially" posted at East London on 22 July 1904 (four years before Tristan acquired her first "Missionary" cachet). Tristan had no direct postal communication with any part of the world and letters from islanders were handed to the Captains of passing ships, for posting at the ship's first port of call – usually a port in the Southern Hemisphere. Hence the East London postmark on the cover and no outward evidence of the entire having emanated from Tristan D'Acunha. It is feasible that the Ship's Captain himself affixed the 1d Cape of Good Hope definitive before posting the letter, and from the date of the East London postmark we know that this entire left Tristan aboard the "Cromartysire". The envelope is backstamped with the Torquay arrival postmark of 14 August, 1904.

The letter inside the cover was written by Andreas Repetto, an Italian, who was shipwrecked off Tristan in 1890 when the three-masted barque "Italia", bound from Greenock for the Cape, was wrecked. Repetto, with his friend and crewmate, Gaetano Lavarello, elected to remain on Tristan. Repetto's interesting letter is transcribed hereunder and, despite the broken English with the Italian overlay, it certainly makes sense.

Tristan D'acunha April/16/04.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry I could not give you any information of the seed you have send to the island because is to lathy in the



season now but I will do it by the first warship visit the island.

I been wrote to you before but I have to search for the seed to find your properly address which they come to me not soon than the 20th of March however I thought to write to you this few line and tell you I have receive the seed and thank you very much for it and the interest you taking for this lonely island.

I all take the interest to corrispond to hem which the island be interest to and thank all them which be so kind to send anything and be very glad to have a news from the world ones a year which I am only one whom have knowledged for to do so also I take the interest to distrabie whatever come to the island also if you wish to send anything please you may address to me so you will have a ultimate answer more eny friend of your please you may knowledged that too. I wrote a letter in South Australia to Mr. I.M. Millar which he tell me about your kind and interest you have for the island and he tall me in is letter I write a letter to you and give you an information about the seed but ist too lathy in the season for to do so.

I do not know the time this letter reach you because the passing ships ar in great scarcity but I will send by the fast opportunity.

I will give you a better information about the island but in the present I am little busy in forest tree planting whom been send here in my care from the cape governor and I have to see in to but I will write to you by and by and give you an nicely account of it I am your truly,

A Repetto

Another early Tristan item has reared its head, been recognised and documented. A little more of the island's fascinating postal history has been revealed, a pre-cachet era Tristan entire has been found. What other early Tristan items lie dormant, still to be unearthed to help weave the pattern in the fabric of early Tristan life and history?

It was the erudite Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797) who realised the importance of all forms of history. Hence his classical quotation – "People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors".

The latest expedition

Since the first scientific expedition to Tristan (1873, when HMS "Challenger" called at the island), there have been numerous expeditions, mainly medical, resulting in the islanders having had their hair examined, their blood taken, X-ray pictures done, their teeth examined repeatedly, culminating in a genetics survey undertaken there a few years ago. And at that time, the visiting geneticist indicated that the islanders had just about had enough of all these scientific experiences.

A few months ago I received a letter from Dr Nigel Wace, telling me that he would be travelling to Tristan and en route would pass through South Africa. Unfortunately we could not meet while he was here in South Africa, but I received a letter from him, posted at Tristan on 13 October, and bearing a boxed cachet to document his particular scientific expedition to Tristan. This cover is illustrated.

In his letter Dr Wace mentions that he, a geomorphologist colleague and fellow Australian, Dr Cliff Ollier, and the Tristan islander and former Headman, Harold Green, would be going down to Gough Island, intending spending a month there, working on the history of the volcanic landforms, setting up pollen traps and studying the flora of the island. After about a month on Gough Island, the three will return to Tristan and Drs Wace and Ollier are hoping to leave aboard the "Lindblad Explorer".

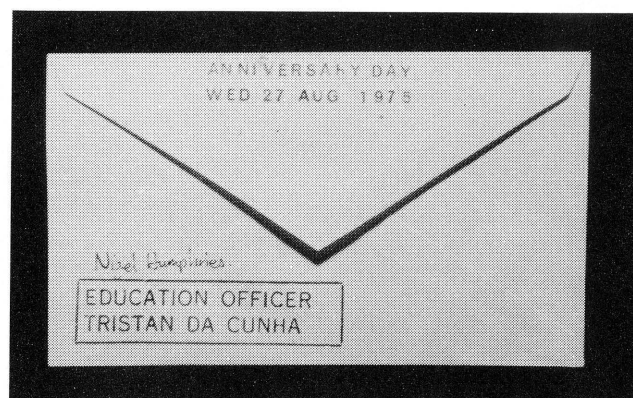
Dr Wace has written numerous articles etc on Tristan da Cunha, and it was he supplied the information required and utilised when the current Tristan definitive issue was designed. His most recent publication on Tristan is entitled "Man and Nature in the Tristan da Cunha Islands", and in his letter Dr Wace mentions that he no longer has reprints of earlier papers of his because they have been distributed to interested parties - "everyone seems to be interested in Tristan". Fortunately, the current publication summarises some of his previous papers on biology and history and even incorporates a little about philately "as a resource of value to the islanders".

We are indeed grateful to Drs Wace and Ollier for the documentation of their visit with a cachet, and we shall eagerly look forward to reading of their findings. I am sure that this will have been a most successful expedition to Tristan and Gough Islands.

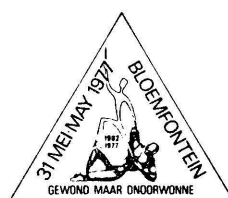


Tristan school

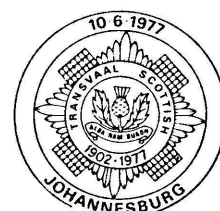
Mr Nigel Humphries is Tristan's education officer, and he, and his family have recently returned to Tristan from England, where they went on leave. The island now has a new large, airy school with all modern conveniences, and this has recently been recorded on a philatelic cover.



The front of the cover has a lino-cut depicting the school, against the backdrop of the high Tristan volcano, with an inverted longboat in the foreground. There is a boxed cachet telling that it is "St. Mary's School", and another boxed cachet which says "opening day". A commemorative stamp is tied to the cover with the Post Office postmark of 27 August 1975, the same date as on the envelope flap underneath the words "Anniversary Day". Also on the back of the cover is a boxed cachet - "Education Officer, Tristan da Cunha", and above this cachet the Education Officer, Mr Nigel Humphries has signed his name.



Die spesiale stempel vir die "heronthulling" van die Nasionale Vrouemonument in Bloemfontein op 31 Mei 1977 het as ontwerp Coert Steynberg se Vrede van Vereenigingstandbeeld op Vereeniging. Die ontwerp is ook op die 4c seël van die RSA 10-viering in 1971.



Die spesiale datumstempel vir die 75-jarige herdenking van die Transvaal Scottish Regiment. Die stempel is op 10 Junie 1977 in Johannesburg gebruik. Die Transvaal Scottish het as regiment enkele dae ná die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog se einde tot stand gekom.

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1927 2/6 SG 37 FM - R90
1930-45 3d SG 45 - R75
inscriptional pair UM

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1953-8 Edward Crown
UM - R140

AUSTRALIA

5/- SG 327a FM - R110

WEST GERMANY

Mi 120 FU - R57,50
Mi 121-2 FU - R72,50
Mi 139-40 FU - R110
Mi 159 FU - R54
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Bophuthatswana's post offices

The Post Office is making preparations for the change-over when Bophuthatswana is declared an independent republic in December 1977. A tentative list of the post offices and postal agencies in the homelands area in the Transvaal, Northern Cape and the Orange Free State has been drawn up. A total of 101 offices are envisaged. There are 67 in the Transvaal, 30 in the Cape and 4 in the OFS. Most of them will be agencies. A list of the names is shown below.

Those shown as Tta, TA, tA and TES are telegraph and telephone agencies which do not handle mail. There are 25 of them. This leaves 76 offices and agencies which will be concerned with postal matters.

Transvaal region

Office	Class	Head office
Bafokeng	POA	Rustenburg
Baleêma	POTtA	Rustenburg
Bamaaka	PA	Rustenburg
Bamore Letsa	PA	Hammanskraal
Baratheo	POTtA	Rustenburg
Bedwang	PA	Warmbad, Tvl.
Bethanie	POTtA	Brits
Bodibe	PTtA	Lichtenburg
Dinokana	POTtA	Zeerust
Disaneng	TtA	Mafeking
Dwarsberg	PA	Rustenburg
Enapog	TtA	Zeerust
Ga-Rankuwa	PW/MO	Pretoria
Gopane	POTtA	Zeerust
Hebron	PA	Pretoria
Heystekrand	PTtA	Rustenburg
Itsooseng	PW/MO	Lichtenburg
Jericho	POTtA	Brits
Kalafi	TtA	Rustenburg
Kameelboom	PA	Rustenburg
Kayakulu	PA	Rustenburg
Kgolane	TtA	Rustenburg
Leithlo	TtA	Rustenburg
Lekubung	TA	Rustenburg
Lerato	TtA	Zeerust
Lotlhakane	PTtA	Mafeking
Luka	PA	Rustenburg
Mabaalstad	POTtA	Swartruggens
Mabeskraal	POTtA	Rustenburg
Mabopane	PW/MO	Pretoria
Madikwe	TtA	Groot Marico
Majaneng	PTtA	Hammanskraal
Makapaanstad	PTtA	Hammanskraal
Makgobistad	PTtA	Maeking
Manamela	TtA	Rustenburg
Mantsho	TtA	Rustenburg
Matooster	TES	Rustenburg
Modimola	POTtA	Mafeking
Modimosana	PTtA	Swartruggens
Mogono	POA	Rustenburg
Mokgaotsistad	POTtA	Groot Marico
Mokgathla	POTtA	Groot Marico
Molatedi	POA	Rustenburg
Mosabela	TtA	Rustenburg
Motswedi	POTtA	Zeerust
Mphe-Batho	PA	Hammanskraal
Phokeng	POTtA	Rustenburg
Pilanesberg	TtA	Rustenburg
Radithuso	PW/MO	Lichtenburg
Ramokokstad	POTtA	Brits
Rantebeng	PA	Hammanskraal
Roosplaas	PTtA	Lichtenburg
Saulspoort	PW/MO	Rustenburg
Silkaatskop	POTtA	Groot Marico

Silwerkrans	PTtA	Swartruggens
Stad Mafeking	PA	Mafeking
Supingstad	POTtA	Zeerust
Swartbooistad	PTtA	Hammanskraal
Swartfontein	POTtA	Zeerust
Tamosstad	POTtA	Swartruggens
Thusong	TtA	Lichtenburg
Tlhabane	PW/MO	Rustenburg
Toemaskop	POTtA	Rustenburg
Tshidilamolomo	PTtA	Mafeking
Winterveld	POA	Pretoria
Witgoud	POA	Rustenburg
Witkleigat	PTtA	Zeerust

Northern Cape region

Banksdrif	PTtA	Magogong
Battharo	POTtA	Kuruman
Bothitong	PTtA	Vryburg
Calnow, Kuruman	TES	Kuruman
Daantjiesrus, Kuruman	TES	Kuruman
Dry Harts	POTtA	Vryburg
Ga-Mopedi	PTtA	Kuruman
Ganyesa, Coetzersdam	TES	Coetzersdam
Heunaar	TtA	Vryburg
Kamden	PTtA	Vryburg
Kraaipan	POTtA	Madibogo
Kunana	POTtA	Madibogo
Lolwane, Coetzersdam	TES	Vryburg
Madibogo	PW/MO	
Madipelesa	POTtA	Warrenton
Magopela	TtA	Taung/sta; P.O.
Maiping	TtA	Kuruman
Manthestad	PTtA	Taung/sta; P.O.
Maruping	TtA	
Mololema	PA	Taung/sta; P.O.
Morokweng	PTtA	Vryburg
Norlim	PW/MO	Taung/sta; P.O.
Pampierstad	POTtA	Hartswater
Pudimoe	PW/MO	Taung/sta; P.O.
Setlagole	PA	Madibogo
Taung	PW/MO	-
Taung/sta; P.O.	PW/MO	-
Tlhakgameng	PTtA	Vryburg
Tseoge	TtA	Vryburg
Tsineng	TtA	Kuruman

OFS region

Ga-Rpulana	PW/MO	Thaba 'Nchu
Kgalala	tA	Thaba 'Nchu
Kildare	PTtA	-do-
Santoord	PTtA	-do-

PW/MO = Money Order Office

POTtA = Post Office Telegraph and Telephone Agency

POA = Post Office Agency

PA = Postal Agency

TtA = Telegraph and Telephone Agency

TES = Telephone Exchange Theoretical

tA = Telephone Agency

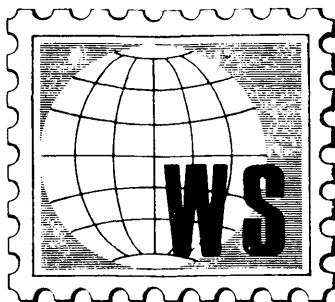
Three societies meet

The annual get-together of members of the Port Elizabeth, East London and Grahamstown philatelic societies took place on 26 and 27 March this year at the Rhodes Speech and Drama room at Grahamstown.

The annual dinner held in the Orange Room at the Rhodes Club was a very happy affair.

The auction held on the Sunday morning provided some tempting material, but pockets were tight and it was not a seller's market. All in all it was a very happy weekend.

— Jeanne Hutchinson.



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REVIEWS

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Volume 4, Queen Elizabeth 2 Decimal Issues. First edition. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 391 Strand, London WC2R 0LX. Price £5 plus postage 50c (approx. R9).

It is now some fourteen months since the GB pre-decimal specialised catalogue was released and the eagerly awaited decimal version has now been released. It is incredible that six years of British decimal stamp issues can fill 256 pages. This indicates the vast amount of highly specialised information which has been accumulated for this essential reference work for all modern GB collectors.

The last six years have been a fascinating period for technological innovation and experiment in stamp production. The Machin low values changed from the original phosphor bands (in all their variations) to fluorescent coated paper combined with various gums. Inflation brought about frequent increases in postal rates, which was further complicated by Post Office experiments in "all over" phosphor and phosphor-coated paper. These changes affected sheets, booklet panes and costs as well as the Regional, postage due and Commemorative issues.

As a result of these changes the Machin issues do not conform easily to well defined groupings and thus they are treated value by value. The special issues are treated chronologically in a separate section as are the Regional issues, Postage Dues and Booklets.

There is a fascinating introduction to the "Jumelle" press and a very good appendix on the various rotary perforators used which is accompanied by clear illustrations.

Prices of the basic stamps in Volume 4 are generally in line with those quoted in the 1977 Elizabethan. Great care has apparently been taken in assessing prices for the more specialised material which are listed here for the first time.

All in all this catalogue lives up to the reputation of its illustrious predecessors and should be in the libraries of all modern GB collectors. – C Roché

Sieger Katalog Fussballweltmeisterschaft Briefmarken (Football World Championship Stamps), Sieger Verlag, Lorch, 1976, Price DM 5.- (R1.80)

This catalogue of the aerophilatelic covers flown by Lufthansa since April 1955 to 1976 provides a sequential listing with prices in D-marks. The 498 page catalogue lists about 1500 items and illustrates over 2400 items, including postmarks and cachets. It is a comprehensive catalogue, giving details of flights which cover every part of the globe.

For the aerophilatelist this catalogue will be a welcome addition to his or her library. The popularity of airmail covers, flown by the international airlines, has increased tremendously, as evidenced by the pricing of some items. Covers flown into and out of South Africa are listed. – HOR

Sieger Katalog Fussballweltmeisterschaft Briefmarken (Football World Championship STamps), Sieger Verlag, Lorch, Wurttemberg. 3rd Edition, 1976. Price DM 5.- (R1.80).

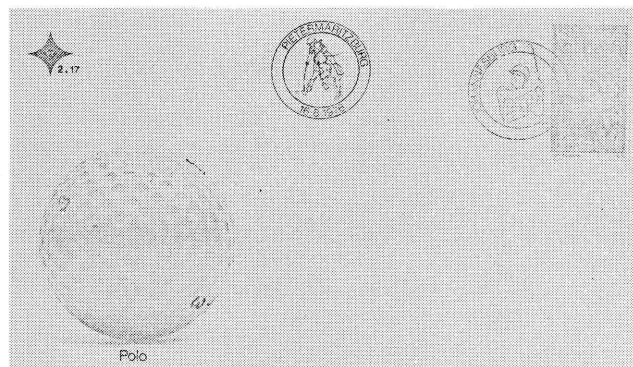
This new Sieger catalogue lists with prices in D-marks all the stamps which have appeared since 1924 for the Football (Soccer) World Championships. The 270 page catalogue with 980 illustrations shows how popular this game is in most countries. It starts off with the Uruguay issues of 1924 when this country were the winners at the Olympic Games held in Amsterdam, before the FIFA stepped in and broke away from the Olympic movement. It also shows the many doubtful items issued by the Arab States and also the popularity the game finds in the Third World, especially in South America and Africa. – HOR

Both the above are available from Dr H O Reisener, 396 Om de Berg, Lynnwood, Pretoria 0081.

Freak covers

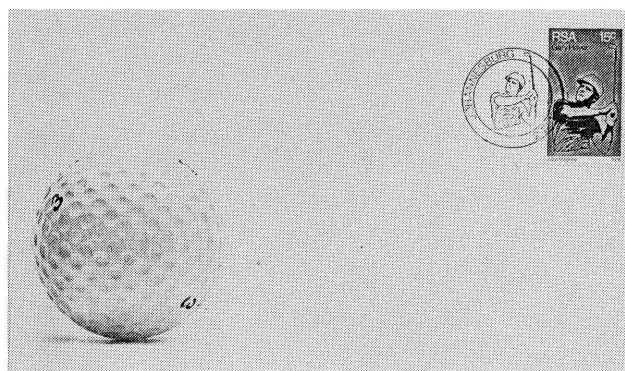
The official Polo cover No 2.17 which was issued on 16 August 1976 depicts a polo ball on the left, and an impression of the postmark appears in the centre at the top with the Post Office emblem and number 2.17 in the top left corner. Now a misprinted cover has come to light which was issued with the Gary Player Golf cover No 2.20.

The fully serviced cover with the Gary Player stamp, postmarked with the golf datestamp, shows the number 2.17, but the golf ball with "POLO" beneath it. The printed version of the Polo postmark appears at the top in the centre. It would appear that the printers used some sheets on which the black printing had been applied, showing the Post Office emblem, the number 2.17, the Polo postmark and the word "POLO" at the bottom, instead of the expected Gary Player printing.



This freak cover was found by an anonymous collector and the illustration shown is a photostat of this item. It would appear that the persons servicing the covers did not notice this aberration. The balls are printed in the same colour, making detection not easy when attention is placed on affixing the stamp.

This item should cause some excitement in circles specialising in these covers. A similar cover (the Voortrekker Monument issue of 1974) with transposed postmark also was issued some time ago.



Mr B M Rowe of Stilfontein has reported another freak Gary Player cover. The printing of the cover number (2.20), Player's name and the imprinted postmark is missing.

SA Postmark Society – This specialist group is considering a change of constitution and of its name to The South African Postmark and Postal History Society. All members have been invited to attend the forthcoming annual general meeting, to be held in conjunction with Rand 77 in Johannesburg during August.

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A philatelist remembers

John Robertson

by W. Mann

It was good to see it in print at last the obituary of John Robertson, SA's most famous stamp dealer of over 50 years standing – and by a fellow dealer. Thank you, Mr Sherwood, for the last respects you paid to a colleague and for so ably speaking for all who knew him.

I have my own memories of John Robertson, which go back 40 years or more. My first contact with him was in the early 1930's. A teenager, I had left school and my first job took me to Touws River, Cape, a tiny village, tucked away from the world, and "far from the maddening crowds". A philatelist almost from birth, I knew of only one dealer in South Africa – John Robertson in Johannesburg! My greatest joy – I was now his "regular" customer and on his mailing list – was the arrival of his "Empire Sales" packets at the none too frequent intervals. They were the highlight of my social life, made my life bearable, and with care and almost trembling with joy I'd select my modest needs.

I still have the plain manilla foolscap envelope with the horizontal pair of ½d K G V Silver Jubilee Stamps, dated 1 May 1935, in JR's own handwriting, inscribed at the bottom with a plain rubber stamp "First Day Cover" – none of today's new-fangled, multicoloured, fancy printed with special blocks and "made to order" envelopes ... such was philately then, personal, warm, unique.

The typed pricelist still inside the envelope gives an insight into JR's character. The prices listed all the way down are to the nearest penny, 1/10d, 1/11d, 2/1d, 2/2d and so on (not in round figures and formidable Rands as they are today). Honest John, he gave you value for money and never "took you for a ride".

When the war ended I moved to Johannesburg. One day I called on JR to make his acquaintance. I entered the well-known stamp shop in the Old Arcade, made my modest purchase, then tendered a Germiston bank cheque. He looked at it, looked up at me and said: "Sorry, I do not take cheques from strangers!" Then the name Mann caught his eye. He thought for a moment, then said: "I had an old customer in Touws River, his name was Mann". I was taken aback – what a memory – "Yours truly ...", I stammered. His face relaxed into a smile and he became almost friendly, but not before he had asked the crucial question – Where had I been during the war! "The army", I said. He seemed satisfied. He took my cheque, but still insisted on the 6d for exchange – it was not a Johannesburg cheque – and rules are rules! Sometime later, when I handed him cheques from my Jhb account and from force of habit added the 6d for exchange, he promptly gave it back to me. Such was JR the man of principle.

We struck up what came closest to a "firmedly" relationship. I was one of the happy breed whom he had never "chucked out" of his shop!

One day I met Boris Glassman at JR's shop and to my surprise JR turned to Boris and with a hint of pride in his voice said: "You know, Mr Mann was a customer of mine before the war, in Touws River", and then added with typical Robertsonian humour – "and you know, I always thought he was an Englishman".

JR would not let anyone get close to him. He kept aloof, he was John R the honest trader, and no more. Now and then he'd surprise even me. Once at a special dinner of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg I saw him and his wife alone at a table, and went across – with my wife – to join them. John R opened up and kept us amused all evening – what a store of stories and jokes in his typical dry humour. "So this was the inscrutable JR", I thought in disbelief, "he is human after all". He must have been a lonely man at heart, and it was good to see him be "himself" once in a while.

His other human "weakness" was stamps. It was a passion with him. He presented our society with the cup which bears his name for research into early British Empire stamps – King Edward and KG V. He seldom came to our meetings, but was always there at the Annual General Meeting, dressed in his Sunday best, proud and full of smiles, to present his cup to the winner.

He loved the early British Classics, but abhorred the modern, multi-coloured – to him they were "garish" stamps, especially the "foreign" ones.

The South African philatelic world is not likely to see another of his breed for a long time. He had become almost an institution – a bulwark of honesty, integrity and fair play, whose motto seemed to be:

"no gimmicks, no special prices, or special bargains, no gross overcharging"

He would not let you come too close to him, nor to love him, but he won our hearts in his own special way – he earned our deep respect!

Rare air covers auctioned

Outstanding items were auctioned in the Robson Lowe sale of South African airmails at Geneva on 29 April 1977. A number of interesting items sold are –

27 Dec 1911 Muizenberg-Kenilworth flight post-card autographed by the pilot	R 450
30 Dec 1911 Kenilworth-Muizenberg incorrect date, signed by the founders of the African Aviation Syndicate	R 840
30 Dec 1911, as last but date-stamp corrected	R 555
31 Aug 1913 Kimberley-Bulawayo "Aerogram" crash cover	R1570
7 Nov 1917 R.F.C. Recruiting Tour autographed envelope containing a letter to a son 14 months old	R 900
21 Nov 1917 same, from Port Elizabeth, letter and cover signed by Miller	R 840
15 May 1918 same, Park Rynie to Balgovan, autographed	R1440
7 Oct 1918 Wynberg-Green Point Common flight, uncut card from PMG	R 900
19 Nov 1918 Transvaal leaflet	R 720
16 Dec 1918 Dingaan's Day card Cape Town to London, signed	R 960
2 Aug 1919 Pigeon post cover, Cape Town	R1550
15 Nov 1919 Johannesburg-Durban flight cover, autographed by Miller	R3300
15 Feb 1920 Cape Town to Beaufort West flight cover, signed	R 950
1925 Air stamps, set on souvenir card, signed T Boydell	R 570
1925 Airs, 1d to 9d in blocks of four showing the four different value positions, one 3d block short	R1440
1925 Airs, 1d to 9d in blocks of four showing the four different value positions, one 3d block short	R1440
1925 Airs 9d corner block of four imperf at foot	R 900
1929 Art pull from the 1/- original drawing	R 480
1929 1/- plate proofs, pairs in five different colours	R1300

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A hobby for everyone

Dear Sir,

I have read Mr Zeller's letter in the February issue. I feel I must take him to task on certain points but do agree with him on the whole.

First and foremost, philately does not have to be a rich man's hobby.

In my own case I am far from rich and never will be, but I have built up a very acceptable collection of Mauritius. I started 7 years ago with one album and now have seven. I have never overspent as my wife would not let me.

One of my most satisfactory purchases was a pair of 1c Arms Type, with a Pillar Box Curepipe strike at a cost of 10c! I sat for 4 hours in Mr Pollard's Salisbury shop once with a shoe box full of 2c and 5c KG VI used Mauritius stamps. I purchased two stamps at 3c each, but one showed the Pillar Box General Post Office strike 12/7/45, at the time the latest known date of use of the strike. Since then a September one has been found.

Peter Ibbotson has the only known copy of the Mahebourg Pillar Box strike. He found it in a club approval book, price 4p!

Mrs Barbara Zarnack has probably the finest thematic collection of stamps in the Republic, but most of the stamps are inexpensive.

The young collector can be easily guided into the interesting realms of postal markings. For instance, see the article in the February SA Philatelist on Afrikaans markings on mail.

The late Jimmy Walker had a wonderful collection of Natal postmarks, mostly obtained from office mail, etc.

The late Fred King had a fabulous collection of the GB 1d Red, letters in all four corners, trying to complete the 152 plates each having 240 stamps, a mammoth 36 000 stamps. At the time of his passing he had over 34 000. These stamps are cheap except, of course plate 77!! And Fred really had a thrill when he filled a gap.

The recently issued Transkei stamps open up a new field for the beginner. Go back to the forerunners, small agency strikes, etc.

Judges at exhibitions are not fools. They are not over-impressed by money, but by the collector who shows them something different who teaches them something. Anyone may copy out of the catalogue dates of issue and perforations. But, referring again to the February SA Philatelist page 43, "New OFS V.R.I. varieties", those stamps are by no means rare or costly.

So I say take new heart, beginners. If you smoke, cut it down or give it up and put the cash into stamps. Your collection and health will benefit. If you play golf, cut down on the golf, and finance your collection that way. It will pay dividends!

Yours faithfully

Rex Osborne
Durban.

Fabricated covers

Dear Sir,

I read with interest Dr Reisener's rather scathing comments about miniature sheets on cover (SAP March 77), which criticism I hardly think justified.

An official First Day Cover itself is a deplorable fabrication of the Post Office which should be worth little more than the stamps it carries, as is largely the case overseas. However, in

this country, collectors seem quite willing to pay large sums of money for such items simply because there are not enough to go round. The position is exactly the same with the MS covers. Because the Post Office were not prepared to fabricate some official nonsense, private collectors took the initiative. In this respect, the covers could be regarded as the private covers of the entire Union period, which did not bear that tragic label 'official'. A serious collector of covers desires the MS on cover as well and has to pay according to the market.

Personally, I see no reason why this item should be singled out for attack. I would far rather see a return to the system where all privately made FDCs were regarded as 'the real thing' and not looked on as second rate. (And they are probably far scarcer than official ones).

If Dr Reisener, in his capacity as expert on this subject, intends to condemn such covers, he must logically condemn all private covers, which indicates that he supports only official covers, and upholds the present farce in collecting. Such a position seems, to me, quite untenable.

Yours faithfully,

A.C. Beck.
Cape Town.

The botanic names

Sir,

In The SA Philatelist of March 1977 (p.77), H F Werner of PO Berlin queries the use of the specific epithet '**jamesonii**' on the 25c stamp. His argument is that this word should be spelled with only one 'i' at the end.

Dr L E Codd and the artist and printer are quite correct in using '**Jamesonii**' with two 'i's'. The reason for this usage is given in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, which states (p.45 of the 1952 edition):

Recommendation 82C

When a new specific or subspecific epithet is taken from the name of a man it should be formed in the following manner.

(b) When the name ends in a consonant, the letters **ii** are added (**ramondii** from Ramond), except when the name ends in **-er** when **i** is added (thus **kernerii** from Kerner). Those who follow this Recommendation may treat the termination **-i** as an orthographic error and correct it.

This and the other rules and recommendations laid down in the International Code are being followed by the vast majority of modern botanists, in an attempt to clarify the whole matter of nomenclature. It is proving most successful.

A. Jacot Guillarmod
Grahamstown.

Good response

Dear Sir,

One is always apt to criticize any wrong doings but not in such a hurry to give credit where such is due.

I merely wish to let you know that as a result of a smalls advertisement in your publication, I have had numerous replies from readers of the S.A.P., some of them to my benefit.

Yours philatelically,
I.A. Miller
Johannesburg.

Gibbons profit – In the year ended 31 December 1976 Stanley Gibbons International had a group turnover of £9 192 900 and a pre-tax profit of £1 307 937, which means that the turnover rose by 30 per cent and the profit by 35,8 per cent.

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SG 69a	M	R	135	1924 Block Cypher (12v)	M	R	60
SG 69/79	U/M	R	7	1934 Re-engraved (3v)	M	R	325
SG 120a (A) LESOTHO	U/M	R	65	1934 Photogravure (11v)	M	R	40
SG 120a (B) LESOTHO	U/M	R	40	1937 Dark Colours (15v)	U/M	R	30
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new issue spotlight

by James Murray



Non-British Commonwealth postal releases are featured this month; not all, but 35 selected nations.

TRANSKEI tops the list below, plus two one-day RSA handstamps.

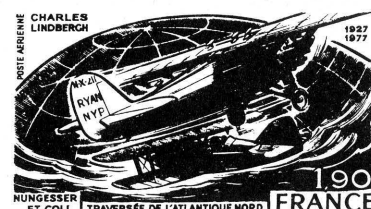
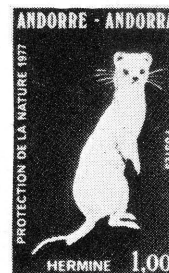
RSA'S protea definitives will be released May 27 of course, preceded on May 18 by a 4c stamp commemorating 100 years of the Transvaal Supreme Court.

Next month's spotlight will feature new issues of the British Commonwealth released or scheduled since May's coverage.

TRANSKEI Xhosa medicinal plants (4v: 4, 10, 15, 25c; FDC, collectors' sheet, etc., from Intersapa) May 16 for 3 months.

RSA special one-day date-stamps: May 5 bicentenary of DEIC "Kruithuis" at Stellenbosch (souvenir cover @ 50c., or 10c date-stamp card from GPO);

May 7 M.O.T.H.S. golden jubilee, Durban (souvenir cover @ 40c., or 10c date-stamp card from GPO).



ANDORRA ermine (1v) April 4; AUSTRIA indoor handball championships (1v), Joseph von Jaquin (botanist, 1v), Oswald van Wolkenstein's 600th birthday (poet, 1v); all Feb 2; Alfred Kubin's 100th birthday (artist, 1v) March 28; Europa (1v) May; two new series postal cards announced. 14 cards imprinted 4 sch. stamp for foreign rate, 29 imprinted 2.50 sch. domestic rate; each card has a different tourist view. BELGIUM Rubens (1v) Feb 14; Red Cross semi-postals (2v) Feb 21; BERLIN West new coil defs (3v) April 14;

CHINA Rep. (Taiwan) ancient paintings (pine, bamboo, plum, 3v plus maxim cards) Jan 12; Taiwan birds (3v) Feb 16; domestic letter sheet (2.50) March 1; census of industry (2v) March 16; Mme. Chaing Kai-shek's landscape paintings 1977 (4v) March 31; 1976 pack (8 sets) April 11; 10th world anti-communist conf. (2v) April 18; CZECHOSLOVAKIA Auxiliary Police 25th ann'y (1v) April 21; EGYPT police day (1v) Feb 25; Afro-arab summit conf. (1v) March 7; late King Feisal of Saudi Arabia (1v) March 22; EQUATORIAL GUINEA QEII silver jubilee (8v coronation scenes) issue date unknown; ETHIOPIA women's hairstyles of different regions 2nd series (7v) April 28;

FINLAND European figure-skating championships (1v) Jan 25; winter steamship to Sweden centenary (1v) March 2; first nuclear power supply (1v) March 3; new 0.30 def (1v) April 18; FRANCE Brittany (1v) Feb 21; Alsace (1v) Feb 28; Vasarely painting (1v) April 8; Champagne-Ardenne (1v) April 18; Nat. Hort. Society 150 yrs (1v); Europa (2v) April 25; Florales International at Nantes (1v) May 9; catholic institutions (1v) May 16; Nat. Philatelic Fed'n congress, Annecy (v) May 31; Fontenay abbey (1v); Lindbergh atlantic crossing (1v) June 6;

GB silver jubilee (4v) May 11; GERMANY West new coil defs pt III (2v) April 14; GREECE WHO anti-rheumatism campaign (5v) March 15; ICELAND Europa (landscapes 2v) May 2; ISRAEL children's "peace" paintings (3v) Feb; JAPAN world figure skating championships (2v) March 1; national treasures III (50y animals from a picture scroll; 100y Buddhist saints on a cloud, 2v) March 25; afforestation campaign (1v) April 16; philately week (2 x 50y se-tenant) April 20; LIBERIA 2nd World Black

ly interesting and evoked a number of questions from the audience who were enthralled with this talk and demonstration. James Hayman thanked Mr de Villiers on our behalf.

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members – Mr Sam Kaganson, Mrs A Kruger and Mr S Toerien – **MvS**

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

January – March 1977 – At the first three meetings of the year attendances proved very gratifying, averaging 35, and new members continue to join the society. Our numbers have been boosted by visiting groups of schoolboys from Hilton College, and it was with this in mind that the Annual General Meeting in February unanimously passed an amendment to the constitution, opening a junior section of the society to philatelists between 12 and 18 years old. The same amendment opened the society to members of all races.

As well as showing improved attendances, this year's meetings have been lively. The regular

monthly auctions have been well patronized and at times bidding has been keen. Tape slide shows continue to be popular. At the January meeting, Mr Pipes showed two tape slide presentations on British stamps which were well received. The February meeting saw an impressively arranged collection of South West Africa backed by postal stationery, presented by Mr Wright. In March the exhibit turned to thematics, sent by Mr Hodgson of Plumstead. Three collections were shown: Farthing stamps; Queen Victoria and her descendants; and Behind the Stamp. These unusual exhibits were thoroughly appreciated by the members who were impressed by the depth of study involved in a good thematic collection. – **CEM**

TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE

The Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Study Circle was held in London on Wednesday 20 April 1977. The following officers were elected:

Chairman – W.R. Hart
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer – Major H.M. Criddle
Hon. Editor – E.E. Marshall
Hon. Packet Supt. – P.J. Woods
Major Criddle reported that the Study Circle had experienced another successful year and that the membership now stood at 54.

After the AGM effect was given to the policy whereby all members are asked to show the society such material as they possess and thus enable the experts to view the maximum range available before the Handbook of Transvaal Philately is written.

Mr R B T Keen showed that part of his collection which began with the surcharges of May 1885 and went on to part of the Boer War material. The main merit of the collection lay in the variety of postmarks, some of which were unusual, others forged and the remainder commonplace. The first two kinds created some lively discussion between the experts!

Hon. Secretary: Major H.M. Criddle 23, Longcroft Avenue, Banstead, Surrey.

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