

# Philatelist

SA

R1,00  
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REGISTERED AT THE GPO AS A NEWSPAPER

Vol 61 No 11

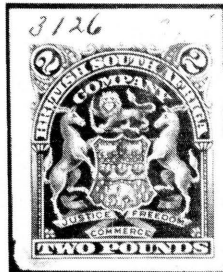
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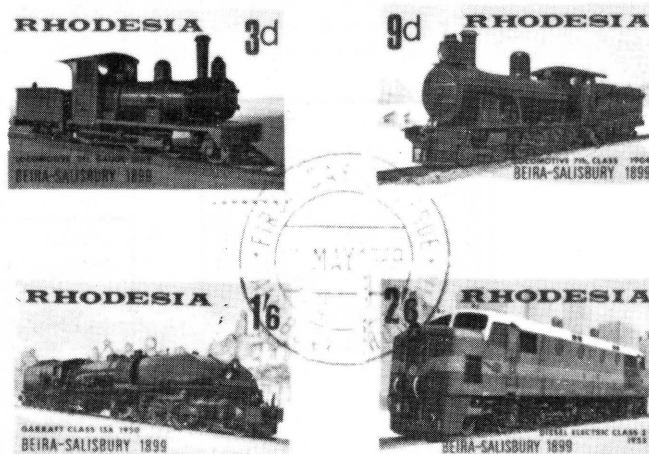
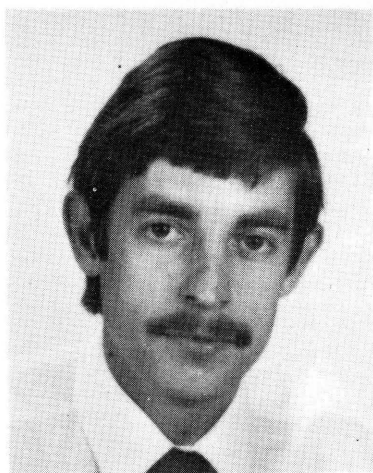
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Published by The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa,  
PO Box 375, Johannesburg 2000  
Uitgegee deur die Filateliese Federasie van  
Suider-Afrika, Posbus 375, Johannesburg 2000

Intekening/Subscription: SA — R10 (incl GST) Elsewhere — R15  
Single copy price: R1 inc. postage

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## Top collections on exhibit

AS A LEAD-IN to Johannesburg's centenary year, a special invited exhibition of the stamps and postal history of the Transvaal will be held in the Total Gallery in Johannesburg next month.

The exhibition, in the downstairs gallery in Total House, Braamfontein, will be open from 4-13 December.

It will be opened by Mr Stan Naylor RDPSA, President of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, and will comprise three aspects.

One section will be a three-dimensional exhibition on the development of the Transvaal postal services since 1860. Presented by the Post Office Museum, it will feature photographs, models, a mail cart and a replica of the Bleriot biplane used to transport the first aerial post in South Africa.

Ten of top collections of Transvaal stamps and postal history will be on view. These will include a postal history of Potchefstroom, where the first general post office of the Transvaal republic was located, and also Heidelberg and Standerton. Revenues and forgeries will also be on view.

The third aspect of the exhibition will be two half-day seminars on stamp collecting, open to the public.

The event is being staged by the Total Gallery in co-operation with the Total Stamp Club, the Post Office Museum and the Department of Education and Culture.

## Cape postcard answers

DR CHRISTOPHER BOARD, dealing with the history of the Cape of Good Hope international postcards in *The SA Philatelist* of July 1985, p 175, gives the reason why the very first of these cards, printed in 1883, could not be issued at that time.

After lying in store in Cape Town for over a decade changed circumstances made it possible to put these cards — prematurely specified in 1883 as 'Union Postale Universelle' — into circulation.

Dr Board suggests that this happened on or after 1 January 1895, the date of entry of the Cape colony into the UPU.

Mr F G Froehlich of Johannesburg has now reported a copy of the 1883 card (unoverprinted) postmarked in Cape Town on 11 July 1894, half a year earlier. Could this mean that the card had been put into circulation because by then the Cape's membership of the UPU was already a foregone conclusion?



**"NEWS FOCUS" being an up-date on organisational matters relative to the Exhibition is now available to all interested parties.**

**Recipients of Bulletins No 1 and 2, members of the "Johannesburg 100 Club" and collectors having already submitted their provisional entries will automatically receive their copy. Others may apply to PO Box 9314 Johannesburg 2000.**

**REMEMBER — REMEMBER — THE THIRTIETH OF NOVEMBER — Closing date for provisional applications as well as the Competition for the 2 airtickets to New York.**

## Transvaal is alive and well

THE FORTHCOMING centenary of the city of Johannesburg and its international stamp exhibition have awakened an unprecedented interest in collecting the stamps and postal history of the Transvaal.

Outstanding collections of Transvaal philately are being formed, and hopefully many of them will be on view at Johannesburg 100 (only a few days left for entries!).

Yet most of us view Transvaal with apprehension.

It is not something for me to collect, we say. It is one of the most difficult areas in the whole world of stamps. The early Transvaal republic had all those printings, and papers, and things, and the later issues abound with the same kind of situations.

About 20 old Transvaal items rank among the rarest stamps in the world, scarcer even than a Post Office Mauritius. There are forgeries, fakes, reprints, varieties and uncertainties. To this day controversy surrounds the authenticity of stamps such as copies of the L5 value, while there is debate as to whether the first 1869 stamps were actually used in the old republic.

So how can an ordinary collector ever think about Transvaal?

But then, just about every one of us has some Transvaal stamps. Do yourself a favour. Look at them, identify them as in the catalogue. Look at the postmark, and the date.

And start watching for these things, especially the postmarks. Check your duplicates. Arrange your ZAR and Transvaal stamps in the way you favour best.

You will have fun! You may find interesting postmarks, and decide to collect them, or collect marks from a certain area. Or collect actually used copies of the 'double disselboom' issue. Or whatever you fancy.

Surely you will find that you have duplicates for swapping, and you can share interest with fellow collectors.

Soon, in your own way and without necessarily spending sums of money, you will find yourself with a nice Transvaal sideline.

Perhaps you will be able to discover something new, this is always a possibility.

Certainly, you will derive much pleasure from the old Transvaal. It is not a dead country, it is alive and well.

— The Editor/Die Redakteur

## Commissioners appointed

OVERSEAS commissioners to facilitate international participation in the Johannesburg 100 stamp exhibition have been appointed for 10 countries, as well as six Southern African regions.

One of the commissioners is in Australia and the rest are all in the northern hemisphere.

Full details are published in the latest bulletin of the Johannesburg 100 organising committee.

The bulletin says the Johannesburg 100 club, which is open to 200 members, is nearly fully subscribed. Names of 158 members who joined the club are listed.

A total of 38 philatelic dealers who will have stands at the exhibition, including stamp dealers from Switzerland and the Netherlands, is listed.

A series of tours and excursions is planned for visitors, especially people from abroad, and the organising committee has asked intending visitors to book in good time. Copies of the news bulletin are available from Johannesburg 100, PO Box 31193, Braamfontein 2017.

## Niemand het die seël van die jaar voorspel nie



*By Beeld se onthaal was Hein Botha, kunstenaar, mev Jutta Esterhuysen, mnr Tommie Bothma, adjunkhoof van filateliedienste, en mnr Kobus Esterhuysen, wat deur Beeld as 'n seëlhandelaar beskryf is maar wat dalk beter bekend is as die ontwerper van al kleiner wordende Suid-Afrikaanse banknote.*

GEEN LESER van *Beeld* het vanjaar die seël van die jaar reg voorspel nie.

Die koerant se komitee van onafhanklike kunskenners het as die mooiste seël wat gedurende 1984 deur Suid-Afrika en die Intersafa-lande uitgegee is, die 3c-waarde van Transkei se tweede vaste reeks aangewys.

Trouens, die vaste reeks wat aspekte van die tradisionele lewenswyse in Transkei afbeeld, is as die beste seëluitgawe van die jaar gekeur.

Die reeks is ontwerp deur die beroepseëlontwerper Barry Barrett, wat ook gesorg het vir die tweede mooiste seëlstel, naamlik die 1984-uitgawe van SWA se historiese geboue.

Derde was die RSA se stel oor strategiese minerale, ontwerp deur Hein Botha.

Soos gebruikelik het *Beeld* die seël van die jaar by 'n onthaal in die Johannesburgse hoofkantoor van die koerant aangekondig.

*Mnr Andries van der Walt, Beeld se seëlrubriekskrywer, en mnr Mike Nethersole, voorsitter van die Filateliese Federasie se komitee vir beoordeeling. (Foto's: Beeld)*



**HERE IS** the real story of the airman on the 1½d War Effort stamp.

The story came to the fore in August 1985, when the airman, Cndt Bob Kershaw, was invited to address the Elpex/Olfu prize-giving banquet in East London.

The article was first published in the Elpex exhibition catalogue.



First issue of "War Effort". The 1½d Myrtle-Green, WMK. Springbok Head upright, perf. 15 x 14, issued 12th January, 1942

# How history was made — and a stamp was born

by John Morris

(Chairman, Elpex 85 organising committee)

IN A WILDERNESS of deep cut gorges and barren hills, the British waged their war against Turkey, the allies of Germany.

It was June, 1917. Captain D W Rutherford had made a forced landing in his Bristol B.E.2c. As Turkish cavalry closed in, Lieutenant Frank McNamara coming to Rutherford's aid overturned his own plane which he immediately set alight to obviate capture by the enemy. McNamara, although severely injured, climbed into his Captain's aircraft and with Rutherford scrambling into the observer's seat they took off with the Turks in hot pursuit. For this act of bravery Lt McNamara was awarded the Victoria Cross.

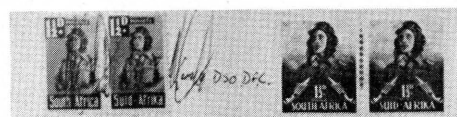
Some 24 years later in the wilderness of deep cut gorges and barren hills of Eastern Abyssinia, South Africa, allies of the British, waged their war against Italy, the allies of Germany.

It was 15 March 1941. Captain Jack Frost, SAAF, was making a forced landing in his damaged Hurricane and on touching down, the plane tipped on its nose and fell on its tail. Frost attempted to set fire to it with his Very pistol whilst from the hills Italian guns were beginning to range on him. Lieutenant Bob Kershaw, seeing his Captain stranded, strafed the area to deter enemy ground forces from capturing his flight commander. Seizing the opportunity, Lt Kershaw landed, picked up Captain Frost and, in the single seater plane, the two escaped. For this act of bravery it was immediately recommended that Lt Kershaw be awarded the Victoria Cross. However, the award was modified to the D.S.O.

*Neville Lewis putting the final touches to the painting of Lt R H C Kershaw DSO, DFC*



"The Bantams", 1942, second issue of "War Effort." The 1½d Red-Brown, WMK. Springbok head upright, perf 14 in pairs with dividing 6½ roulette varieties (a) roulette 13; (b) roulette omitted

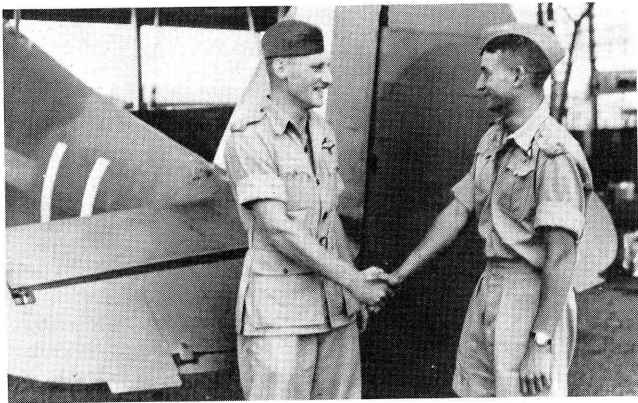


*The two issues signed by Bob Kershaw*

Robert Harold Carlyle Kershaw, born in Cape Town 18 December 1920; christened in the old wood and iron Victoria Falls Hotel; initial upbringing at Polana Hotel, Lourenco Marques; educated Sunnyside School, Pretoria and S.A.C.S. Cape Town; private pilot's licence at the age of 17 and whilst still a matric pupil, aged 18, accepted for military aircraft training with the SAAF. When his schooling was finished and with World War II started, he reported at Tempe on 31 December, 1939; furthered his pilots training at Kimberley and Wonderboom eventually receiving his commission and wings in July 1940.

As a foundation member of No. 3 Fighter Squadron and equipped with the new Hawker Hurricane, Bob and his fellow pilots were sent to Kenya. When the Squadron was up to full strength they were based at Daghabur in Italian Somaliland. The strategy of this advanced base was to make aerial attacks on the key air and railway centre at Direddawa, some 250 kilometres away, where a considerable number of Italian bombers stood ready to attack the Allied ground forces. The Allied campaign was at a critical stage.

On the morning of 15 March, six Hurricanes of No. 3 Squadron took off from Daghabur at 11.20, rain clouds hanging low on these hills. The first flight was Captain Frost, Captain Harvey and Lt Kershaw; the second, Captain van Breda Theron and Lts Morley and Venter. The six were to write a glowing page of SAAF history that day as they fulfilled their orders to destroy enemy aircraft in the air and on the main and satellite airfields.



*"Thanks Bob!" Capt. Jack Frost D.F.C. shakes the hand of his rescuer, Lt Bob Kershaw, DSO DFC*



*Commandant R H C Kershaw, DSO, DFC standing next to a portrait of a fellow old boy of SACS, Cape Town, the First World War Ace, Capt Andrew W Beauchamp-Procter VD DSO MC and Bar, DFC. Capt Beauchamp-Procter was awarded his VC in November 1918. He was credited with shooting down 54 enemy planes.*

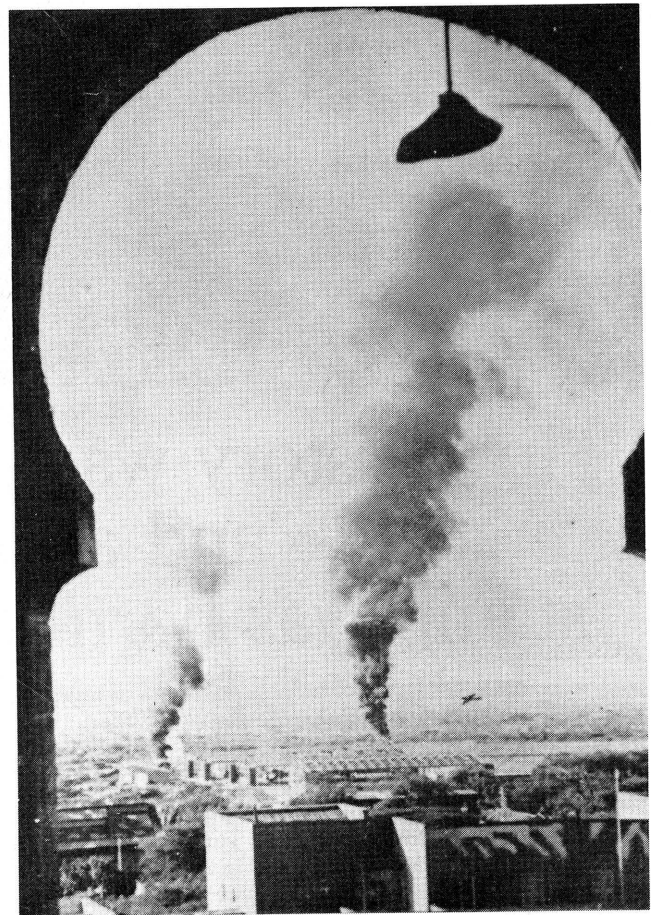
Let Bob, then 20, take up the story and I quote from a letter he wrote to his father shortly after the eventful day.

"Three days ago we went over in the morning and laid hell out of them. We all returned very pleased with ourselves. We then got ready to make a second attack on the blighters. Unfortunately this time we lost one of our pilots and another had to land on one of their aerodromes. His 'plane was hit in a vital spot.

I saw this happen and landed on the aerodrome, picked him up and brought him home. How we got away with it I'm damned if I know, but they never hit me, and it's very uncomfortable sitting two in a single seater aircraft. But this certain person (Captain Frost), whose name you mentioned in one of your letters meant a lot to me and much more to the South African Air Force. So I had to save him from the Italians and was successful in doing so.

We lost two machines and one pilot and our bag consisted of 10 burnt aircraft and eight damaged — not bad for one day! What do you think?"

Bob Kershaw was the first South African airman to be made companion of the Distinguished Service Order in the 2nd World War and the second of the campaign — the first having been given to Brigadier Dan Pienaar for the attack on El Wak. some weeks later, wounded in the chest and arm, Bob Kershaw



*An Italian view of the successful SAAF attack on the aerodrome at Diredawa in Abyssinia. It shows two aircraft on fire and a low-flying Hurricane of No. 3 (Fighter) Squadron. Note the camouflaged buildings.*

*(Major R H C Kershaw)*



*Lt Frank McNamara, RFC, was awarded the VC in June 1917, . . . for rescuing a friend.*

returned to Pretoria on leave and whilst there was sent for by General Boetie Venter. Bob continues,

"I found in him a very impressive and kindly man. After a long chat he told me that I was to proceed to Pretoria Central and meet an Officer by the name of Neville Lewis. I was never to ask why but on meeting Neville he told me that he was to paint my portrait and that certain stamps were to be printed which would depict persons from the various arms of the Defence Force."

A 1st World War poster of Britain's Royal Flying Corps stated, "War in the air recalls the olden times, when Knights rode forth to battle and won honour and glory by their deeds of personal heroism". Such an act of bravery was performed by Lt. Frank McNamara in rescuing Captain Rutherford.

With, "the greatest personal courage, determination, initiative and devotion to duty", so reads the citation for his D.S.O., Bob Kershaw re-enacted this deed of heroism and became a Knight of the Air.

# The Mashonaland Philatelic Society turns 45

by Mrs Cecilie Coventry

(Secretary Mashonaland Philatelic Society)

WHY CELEBRATE a 45th anniversary? What is its significance? The answer to that is — none! But like the beginning of the Mashonaland Philatelic Society (MPS), a chance remark started the ball rolling.

Messrs D A Allan and L F Davidson thought it would be a good idea to do something about forming a philatelic society in Salisbury (now Harare). A small society was already in existence in Bulawayo. Accordingly an advertisement was placed in *The Rhodesia Herald* inviting interested parties to call at Mr Allan's house, 8 Livingstone Avenue, Salisbury, on a specified date and this attracted the five members named below plus Mr Hesse, a well-known cotton expert at that time.

The December 1940 issue of *The SA Philatelist* welcomed the formation of a new society in Rhodesia on 1-11-40 called the Mashonaland Philatelic Society. The article named those who were elected as chairman: Mr (D A) Allan; secretary, treasurer and exchange superintendent Mr D J Peacock; librarian Mr (R) Osborne; curator (deputy chairman) Mr (T B) Simpson; asst exchange superintendent Mr (L F) Davidson. (The initials, etc in brackets have since been added).

Mr Peacock read a copy of the constitution obtained from the Pretoria society and after discussion, various alterations were made to suit local conditions. At that meeting, it was also agreed to ask His Excellency, the governor, Sir Herbert Stanley GCMG, to be its president and the Minister of Finance and Commerce, the Hon J H Smit, to be the vice-president but there is no evidence of this being followed up.

Perhaps Sir Herbert was not a well man at the time, as 14 days later *The Rhodesia Herald* reported that he was undergoing treatment at St Anne's Hospital and was progressing favourably.

Mr Peacock explained the advantages of belonging to the Federation of Southern African Philatelic Societies. A vote of thanks was then extended to Mr Allan for the use of his house for the meeting and previous preliminary meetings. That concluded the formalities of the meeting and the remainder of the evening was devoted to displays of stamps by Messrs Allan, Peacock, Davidson and Simpson.

This was not the most auspicious time to form a society, as it was during the height of the London blitz, when Nazi raiders were dropping bombs on the Royal Palace, St Pauls, St Thomas' Hospital, House of Lords, Bond and Oxford Streets. Also Mr Robson Lowe's premises in Regent Street were wrecked by a bomb. Luckily, none of the staff was injured and their stocks escaped damage, being housed in heavy safes. Several other stamp dealers, publishers and auctioneers suffered damage to some extent. It is little wonder that the inauguration of the MPS did not even warrant a mention in the local press. During those war years, quite a number of personnel from the nearby air station also attended the meetings.

In September the following year, the society became the 11th member of the Federation: the headquarters of the other members being Cape Town, East London, East Rand (Benoni), Jewish Guild, Johannesburg, Durban, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Bulawayo.

Although both Messrs D A Allan and T B Simpson relinquished their appointments after a few years, due to their busy dairy farming activities, they have remained firm friends to this day. Mr Simpson (a young 91) lives in Harare and still has good collections of Rhodesia and Britain, whilst Mr Allan (a lively 85-year-old widower) lives at Marondera (formerly Marandellas) on a smallholding, doing his own housekeeping. He has, however, disposed of a lot of his stamps including some rarities of Nova Scotia which he had bought in Edinburgh for £12 (exhibited to the MPS in 1953). This collection realised \$6000 but if these had not been damaged, he maintains

they would have fetched at least \$20 000!

Many years ago, these two gentlemen purchased Mr Osborne's very good collection of Rhodesian stamps for £100 — Mr Osborne retaining a 1d Double Head with a double dot for sentimental reasons. Mr Davidson emigrated to the Cape and resigned in 1966 but it is not known what became of Messrs Osborne or Peacock.

Mr Allan still played an active role in the society's affairs and audited the books until March 1950. Mr Simpson too, continued to keep in touch with the activities of the society and is still a member, contributing to the exchange circuit. In April 1956, he displayed some sheets from his Double Heads collection — the chief features were the rare and unusual postmarks.

Also at Rhophil 72 he exhibited a reconstructed sheet of 240 Penny Blacks of GB in superb used condition, as well as some postmarks of the Rhodesian BSA company era.

Looking back to 1950, Mr Allan recalls being offered a mint copy of a £1 Double Head, Perf 15, for £10 by a dealer in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, he did not buy it as he felt that he had spent enough on other purchases. In the 1983/4 Rhodesian Stamp Catalogue it is priced at \$22 000! Where was his crystal ball?

In April 1951 Mr P J B Wimbush (acting chairman) auctioned what was said to be "an overwhelming amount of material". This sale totalled £7 14 2d and from this 15/2d was taken as commission. In August 1954 a circular, which was passed around, referred to a new method of mounting stamps called "the clip pocket" (Hawid and other mounts as they're known today). It was felt at that time that the "gadget" was over-rated and priced. Well! so much for UHM stamps in those far off days.

The first meetings of the society were held at the private residences of committee members but as the membership slowly increased, they were moved to larger premises, ESC Building, Salisbury Polytechnic, QV Museum and since September 1977, at Riembartha. Those monthly meetings commenced by reading the previous month's minutes and correspondence (until July 1959 when the society started separate committee meetings), and general discussions, talks, displays, occasional film/slide or quiz shows, followed by house auctions and the exchange of stamps between members.

In 1945, only 21 members and one visitor attended the AGM but the total membership at the end of that year was 56. It had started with few members, a shortage of stamps and little enthusiasm. The membership of the society has grown and today stands near the 250 mark, in spite of emigration. Members are spread throughout the world.

Highlight of the society's 45 years are Rhophil '72, when three miniature sheets of our stamps: 1c, 2½c and 3½c were printed to commemorate the staging of the congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and the philatelic exhibition held by the MPS in Salisbury from 28.8.72 to 2.9.72 under the chairmanship of Mr John Walters, assisted by Mrs A Fitzgerald (Hon Sec) — both of whom are now living in RSA.

"Aloe 75" was Rhodesia's first international aloe and succulent congress, held in Salisbury during July 1975. Commemorative stamps were issued to mark this occasion and the MPS held a philatelic exhibition with a botanical theme to coincide with the congress. Mr Ken Stevenson was the society's chairman on this occasion but sad to say he passed away in England on 22.2.85. Mr J Walters again headed the sub-committee, assisted by Mr Ken Hull.

Four floating trophies have been kindly donated to the society, which are awarded annually at the AGM: N B Peinke Cup in 1969 (best general), Dr N Goldblatt Cup in 1971 (best thematic), Aloe Society Cup in 1975 (the premier trophy) and

**AUCTION  
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**VIEWING: Sunday 24th November 9.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m.  
Monday to Wednesday 25th /27th November 11.00 a.m. — 3.3.0 p.m.  
Otherwise by prior arrangement**

in 1980, Peter Beck Cup (subject chosen by the committee).

A successful stamp and social weekend was held by the society for the first time in February 1984. Also in 1984 a novice competition was held and this year a competition for a commemorative cover design for the society's 45th anniversary on 1.11.85. A stamp and social weekend is planned for 2/3 November 1985.

To sum up, I could not attempt to name all those who did so much for the MPS in the past in a short article. However, mention should be made of Mr Leo Birsen, who is one of the longest surviving members who still attends meetings; and his sister, Madame Birsen (as she was called). They both served on the committee in those early days.

Claire Birsen now lives in Tel Aviv and left her Rhodesian stamp collection with the curator at the Bulawayo Museum.

## What price research?

by Dr Max Peisach, RDPSA

(Caspip)

IT HAS become the standard practice at philatelic exhibitions, be they national or international, to assign a major portion of judging marks under the heading of philatelic research or research and philatelic knowledge. It would therefore seem that no collection could be considered in the gold or vermeil class without scoring adequate marks under this heading.

It also implies that each jury contains individuals who are capable of assessing the nature, extent and importance of research in a philatelic exhibit. Unfortunately this is just not so.

The role played by research in assessing an exhibition award is frequently limited to the extent which that collection reflects information contained in the standard handbook on the material covered by the collection. Jury members are apt to relegate original research to the equivalent of a minor irritation because, for once, a collector shows more knowledge than the judge.

It has often been repeated that original research belongs in showings at the club level. What the speaker implies is that the research is of the fly-speck variety and does not contribute to the philatelic significance of the collection. To be a true judge, it is essential that a fair evaluation be made of the significance of any original work that is being presented.

Clearly philatelic research which enables one to distinguish one printing of a stamp from another, or one cover from another, and has meaning only in relation to that item, is of much lower importance than work that is applicable to a long series of stamps issued over an extended time scale or that throws new light on a period of postal history. The wider work gains in importance because the results are applicable to a wider range of material.

Similarly, any work which is so wide that it covers many countries or is of universal applicability to major historical events, would have to be considered of being worthy of the highest possible awards. It is almost axiomatic that the higher the level of research, the fewer collections attain the appropriate standard. In science everyone can make an observation, but few get Nobel prizes.

The present rule-of-thumb at exhibitions seems to be that research collections can attain no more than a silver award. Yet, we have numerous examples of the paradox of collections which attain gold awards by using the research work of others who only a few years earlier were grudgingly awarded silver medals for their original contributions.

The time has come to call a halt to this ridiculous attitude. High level philatelic research is more meaningful to philately than the building up of a collection of hard-to-find items and should be treated as such. Stamp collecting without research is merely the squirrelling together of a pile of nuts.

To remedy the situation the selection of exhibition juries should reduce the stress on money values which is the unit of comparison for dealers and accentuate research which is the unit of comparison of the knowledgeable philatelist, for this is

Madame Birsen was also instrumental in the formation of the Midlands Stamp Club in Gwelo (now Gweru) some 30 years ago. Another member who joined the MPS in the early 40s, Mr A T R Hutchinson, remembers Mr Allan selling his 5 UM values of the 1905 Victoria Falls issue in 1944 for 25/-. He refused the 5/- stamp for an additional 15/-. That set today is worth about \$440 in this country!

The monthly meetings have twice been "locked out" during its history. Once in Jan 1967 by the QV Museum — Mr R S Benton (hon scribe) remarked at that time "The less said about it the better"! And then in January 1985 by Riembartha. Refreshments were likewise omitted on several occasions due to the keys being mislaid! But the prize must go to the chairman who forgot to call on a would-be exhibitor, as he was too busy with the evening's cash takings!

the only way in which the marks given for research can be correctly evaluated. (From the Caspip bulletin)

## LOOKING BACK

From the South African Philatelist

by D Lamont Smith

60 YEARS AGO

November 1925

### Quotation from "Stamp Collecting" (October 24th)

It is able to say definitely that at least one of the new Union stamps will be triangular in shape. Attempts have been made in South Africa to obtain information from the Government as to what the new stamps will be like, but beyond vouchsafing the news that the set will be pictorial, the authorities have not disclosed any details.

"Stamp Collecting's" information was probably obtained from the High Commissioner's office in London.

It would be an extraordinary proceeding for a British Dominion to, in this age, issue a three-cornered stamp, and we are of opinion that such a label would be intended for some special postal service, such as registration or express delivery.

30 YEARS AGO

November 1955

### Bouvet Island "Off"

The Director of the Union Weather Bureau, Dr TEW Schumann, has announced that the plan to establish a meteorological station on this inhospitable island has been abandoned for the time being.

Although such a station would have been of great value from a weather forecasting point of view, these conditions are considered too difficult and dangerous for its erection.

**Exchange wanted** — Mladen Blagaich, Panama 1, Apartado 905, Rep Panama, Central America, says he is an old hand at philately seeking to exchange full mint sets. He offers sets of Latin America, British West Indies and thematic.

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

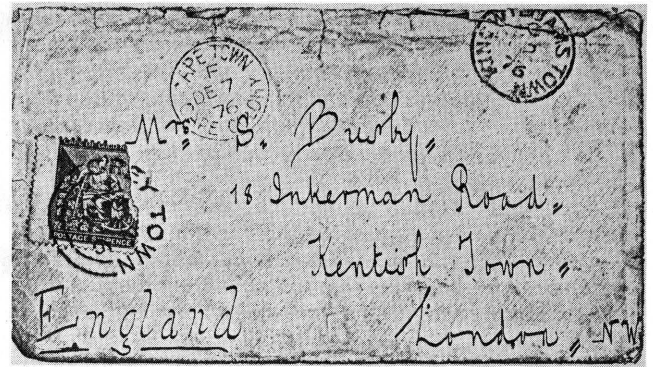
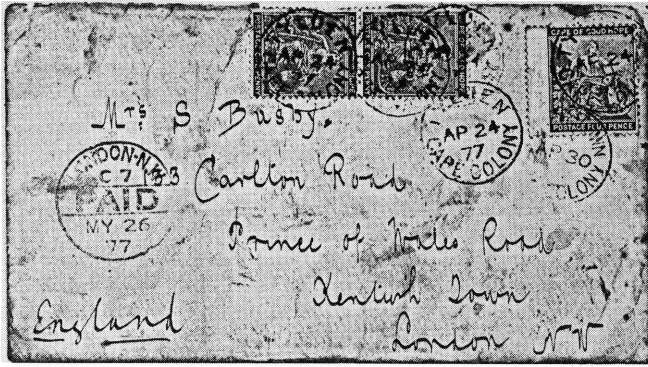
A fine stock of scarcer material of Great Britain and the Commonwealth up to 1935 is always available. Enquiries are welcome and they will receive prompt and personal attention. Arrangements can be made for payments in Rands or Sterling. Details will be supplied on request.

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Triangulars - Rectangles - Postmarks  
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**F W COLLINS**

Stoborough Croft, St. Cross,  
Winchester, England.



## Cape Stamps used in Kaffraria

by Robson Lowe

A FEW WEEKS ago a bundle of covers of little apparent interest arrived, mainly common French used to England a century ago. Dutifully, they were examined and six bedraggled envelopes, four bearing the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope written by a character who I call Frank Busby for the sake of the story.

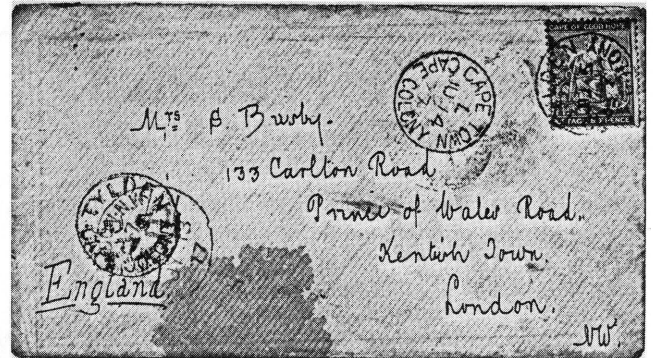
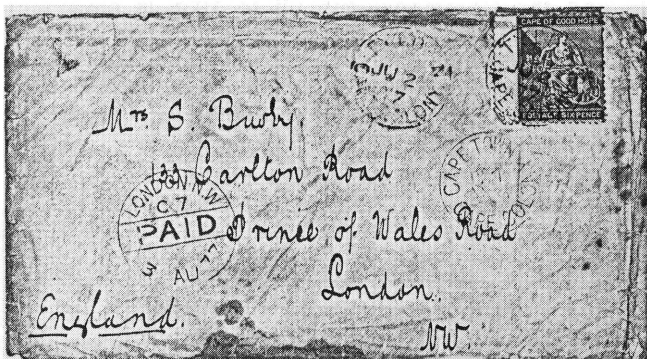
The first letter was addressed to Frank's wife, Mrs S Busby of Kentish Town, London and bore a Cape of Good Hope 6d (rather defective) cancelled at Grey Town,\* on 2 November 1876. The letter took exactly a month to reach King Williams Town which was the capital of Kaffraria. On 7 December, the letter passed through Cape Town on its way to London.

Nearly six months elapsed before the next surviving envelope addressed by Frank Busby to his wife left Tylden in Kaffraria on 24 April 1877; it was backstamped at Queens Town on the same day, being franked with a pair of one penny and a fourpence Cape. The letter passed through Cape Town on 30 April and arrived in London on 26 May. Why was Frank in Tylden, maybe something to do with the uneasy situation with the Kaffirs who had become increasingly restless since the death of their great chief Makono in 1873.

The next letter was cancelled at Tylden on 2 June, being franked by a Cape 6d, but did not reach Cape Town until 7 July and London on 3 August. What trouble had started to delay the letter a month between Tylden and the Cape. Three days later, Frank wrote again, the stamp being cancelled on 5 June, passing through Cape Town on 14 and arriving in London on 13 July, 21 days before the previous letter. The envelope was stained (?blood) and on the flaps are the initials F.R.B.

About this time, Kreli, a Galeka chief attacked another tribe, the Fingoes, and their British protectors. On 24 and 29 September the Galekas were repulsed at Ibeka. Sir Bartle Frere, the Governor General of the Cape, with a volunteer force strengthened by officers of the army proceeded to Kaffraria and on 9 October, Kreli was defeated by Commandant Griffith and his kraal burned. Later in the month Kreli's lands

\*Ken Baker advises that Grey Town was a Post Office Agency in 1874 but its name was changed to Bolo. Why the letter took a month to travel the 30 miles to King Williams Town is not known.

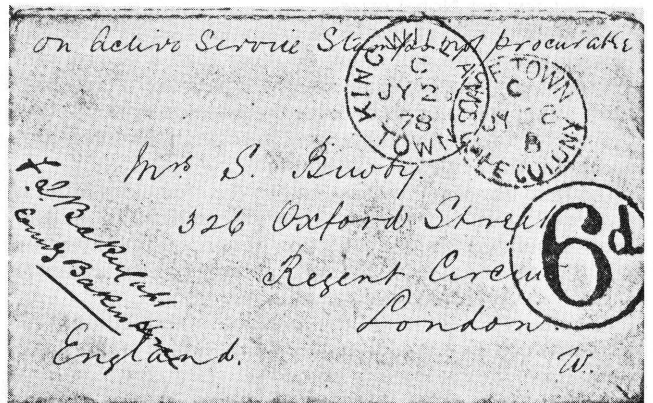


were annexed, and by December the Galekas were finally defeated and expelled.

About 30 December, an old chief, Sandilli, raised the Gaika tribe and Cetewayo, the King of the Zulus, created trouble. Sir Bartle Frere called Cetewayo "the celibate man-slaying war-machine" and asked for reinforcements from England. The 90th regiment and a battery of artillery arrived in January 1878.

On 24 January 1878 the British advanced and defeated the rebels on the 26, and at Quintana on 7 February by General Thesiger. Severe fighting continued between March and May and some of the chiefs including Sandilli were killed. On 2 July 1878 an amnesty was declared and a month later peace was restored.

What happened to Frank Busby? I suspect he was either



killed or wounded for the next envelope addressed to Mrs Busby was a soldier's letter which passed through King Williams Town on 8 January 1978 and Cape Town on the 14th. The letter was endorsed "On service in the Field. Free" and countersigned by "W.E.D. String Lieut. 24th Regt Comm I Detacht" but Mrs Busby was charged 6d on arrival.

The last envelope was headed. "On Active Service. Stamps not procurable" and was endorsed "F.E. Baker Capt., Commg Baker's Horse" in the same writing as the initials on the back of 5 June 1877. This letter passed through King Williams Town on 2 July 1878, Cape Town on the 8th. Again 6d was charged.

## It pays to advertise in *The South African Philatelist*

by Fanie Vermaak RDPSA

(taken from a newsletter of the West Rand Philatelic Society)

YEARS AGO I came across on OFS one shilling stamp with a Post Wissel Kantoor Bloemfontein cancellation showing my mother's date of birth. I kept it, though I knew not why.

Much later I happened to spot my 'birthday' on two Transvaal 2d stamps on piece. Although the year was 1894, somewhat before my time, I also kept it.

With the passage of time, various birthday items came my way, so that mid-1982 found me with nine different dates, which set me thinking: What are the chances of illustrating one's genealogy by means of postal and fiscal cancellations on stamps and covers?

I devised a certain discipline which would require just over 100 different dates to be looked for. A rather tall order, but I decided to give it a go.

A few tentative advertisements in the newsletter of the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging produced heartening results by taking my tally to more than twenty.

This was followed by a three-month run in the 'wants, offers and exchange' feature of *The SA Philatelist*, with results that can only be described as phenomenal.

I had positive responses from the most unexpected quarters — the UK, Sweden, Netherlands, Switzerland (four items), the USA and Australia. So, after six months my scoreboard stood at more than 50.

These small advertisements in *The SA Philatelist* and the AFV newsletter were repeated from time to time, giving me at present a grand tally of 94 different dates towards my target of 106.

The entire set-up has a number of my dates falling on Sundays. These are not included in the 106 and although I have acquired some of them, mostly on foreign stamps, there are still nine 'Sundays' outstanding.

The 94 dates that I have are represented by 93 stamps, some on piece, and 50 covers, 143 items in all! This apparent discrepancy is accounted for by some duplication, eg my birthday for 1963 is backed by no less than six different items, one of which is a cover. For 1938 there are five items (three covers), 1914, 1960, 1969 and 1970 three each, and so on.

Ever tried to find your date of birth or any other specific date on a stamp? Yes? Well, then you will know it is anything but plain sailing. Now then, how about aiming at a hundred and see how you fare.

### Postscript

Mr Baker reports that the tri-weekly post cart from King Williams Town to Cape Town was far from efficient and in 1876 the P.M.G. Cape wrote "route still unsatisfactory".

Tylden was named after Captain Tylden who had been in command of the R.E. in 1851 during the 8th Frontier War against the Tambookie Tribe. By 1877, Tylden was no longer in Kaffraria.

On 17th April 1866, British Kaffraria was incorporated in Cape Colony and divided into two districts administered by East London and King Williams Town. In 1876, the Transkei territories were officially incorporated into Cape Colony.

There is one beautiful story I must tell.

My scoreboard had gone beyond the 80 mark, yet I was still without my date of birth, 9 September 1913, and I was beginning to wonder whether it would ever turn up.

Returning from my annual holiday one day, I found on my desk a fairly large gift wrapped package appropriately adorned with a coloured ribbon. The inscription on it merely read "To Brey".

I eyed that thing with some misgiving. Surely my value to the stamp dealing firm D G Crocker (Pty) Ltd did not justify a special gift upon my return to duty. Or was this some sort of joke? Perhaps the charming Mary Forman was up to her tricks again! After all, she penned "To Brey" on the package.

Apprehensively I picked up the thing, expecting the worst. And to my surprise there was absolutely no weight to the thing. I shook it; there was not a rattle or anything to suggest an evil intent.

At best it could not contain more than a feather. Then it dawned! Approaching Mrs Crocker in her office, I said: "don't tell me this is nine-nine-thirteen?" Open it and see, she said.

And what did I find? A fine cover with a Transvaal Edward 1d stamp with a perfect machine cancellation of Johannesburg on 8 September 1913, addressed to Mauritius (via Lourenco Marques) and with a superb transit cancellation of 9.9.13. Eureka!

Shortly afterwards Dr Plato Mavros of Harare sent me a BSA Co Double Head 1d with a clear cancellation of Salisbury 9.9.13 7PM, expressing the hope that the time was right too. Unfortunately, from available evidence, this time was some 12 hours out. And (it never rains . . .) a month later came a Russian stamp showing 9.IX.13, from a benefactor in the USA!

Which just goes to show: it pays to advertise in *The South African Philatelist*.

And in this story, I do wish to highlight the kindnesses shown to me in my search for 'dates' by many well-wishing enthusiasts, a good number of them not even known to me, who would send me an item "with compliments". I am a stamp man, I love stamps, and I love stamp people.

## JUNIOR QUIZ

by Arie Bakker RDPSA

Write down your answers:

1. You decide to build a thematic collection "The linguistic aspects of my stamps" and prepare a scheme on how to arrange it. Which main groups do you have in mind?
2. How can you subdivide an alphabet group?
3. Give some examples of bilingualism on stamps.
4. Do you know any stamps that show three or more languages?
5. How many languages can you count on the Red Cross stamp from Denmark issued in 1966?

See answers on page 276.

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Fig 2 — Examples of the Fox Street cancellations of 1936.

# The 'Wanderstempel' of Johannesburg

by George van den Hurk

In *Postel* of July 1983 Derrick Olmesdahl tells the story of the City and Suburban post office:

It is not often that a post office has a notice in the window advertising that the premises are TO LET. The City and Suburban post office, established in 1927, was situated in Commissioner Street, Johannesburg. When it opened, one small room was big enough for the requirements of that time, but within a few years the next door premises had to be acquired and the two rooms were made into one. This had to serve until December 1938 when it was found that much larger premises were essential as that part of the city was growing rapidly and had developed into an important business and engineering area. On 3 January 1939 a new post office, the name now changed to "Commissioner Street Post Office" was opened and the old vacated premises were to let.

When comparing the year of establishment in the story as told by Derrick Olmesdahl, with postmarks and covers in my collection, it was found that some information contained in the card-index of the post office museum was not quite correct and that in fact the story of the City and Suburban post office in Commissioner Street is more complicated than appears at first sight.

Fig 1 — Part of a registered cover postmarked Commissioner Street on 21 December 1921, before the office name change to Hollard Street in 1923.

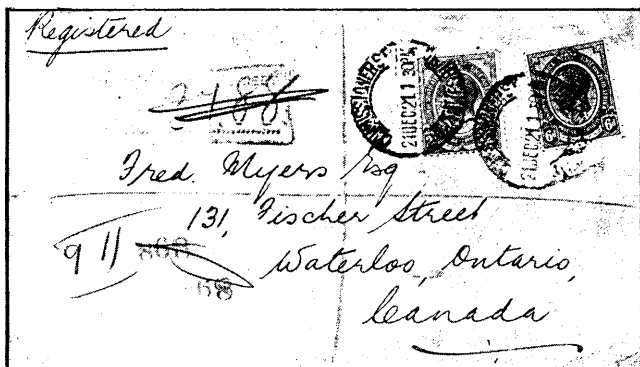


Fig 4 and 5 — City and Suburban postmarks in use in 1936.

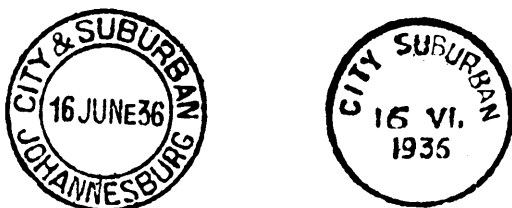


Fig 3 — Early City and Suburban registered cover dated 17 December 1924. In 1938 the post office was renamed Commissioner Street.

The Commissioner Street post office was opened in 1920. The illustration shows a registered cover postmarked with a "Commissionerst", Johannesburg, canceller dated 21 December 1921c (Fig 1) and backstamped on arrival in Canada on 19 January 1922. According to Post Office circular No 249 the name was changed to Hollard Street in 1923, and Hollard Street was renamed Fox Street in 1931.

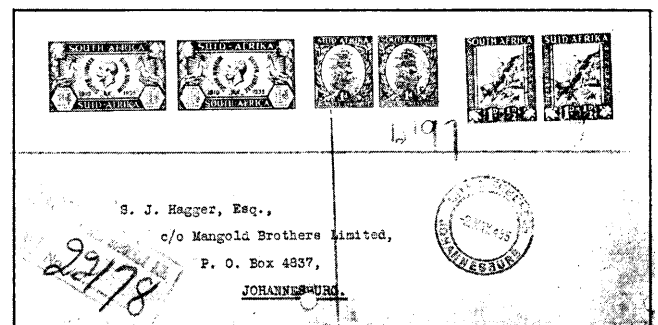
It follows that there was no Commissioner Street post office by that name for the period 1923 until 1938, when the City and Suburban post office was renamed, as will be seen later.

One of the exhibits shown at JIPEX 1936 was provided through the courtesy of Mr McGuffog, postmaster of Johannesburg, and mounted by the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg. The exhibit is described in the exhibition brochure as "showing every type of postmark in use in the city at the present (1936) time."

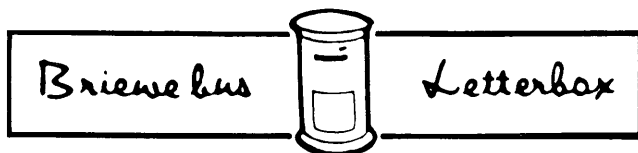
There could not have been any Commissioner Street or Hollard Street postmarks in this collection, but it features, quite correctly for 1936, five different "Fox Street" cancellers. (Fig 2).

The City and Suburban post office was opened in 1923. A registered letter in my collection is postmarked "City & Suburban, Johannesburg" and dated 17 December 1924. (Fig 3). The McGuffog collection contains one double circle datestamp (Fig 4) and one single circle relief type datestamp. (Fig 5). It is quite well possible that the large double circle datestamp in-

Fig 6 — The City and Suburban strike on a 1935 cover registered to Mr Jack Hagger RDPSA.







## 'Society news' is a priority feature

DEAR SIR — At the request of my Committee I have been asked to write to you on the matter of Press Reports.

I refer to the reports on Society meetings, activities and affairs in the *SA Philatelist*. It is not difficult to realise that for many months there will be no mention whatsoever of a particular Society's activities; and then suddenly — a column or two will be devoted to many reports of old and past activities for that Society which has become conspicuous by its absence. This has happened to the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society and would appear to be in the process of happening again. Surely if two pages, or so, of the monthly *SA Philatelist* are available for press reports, would it not be more advantageous and interesting to publish as many reports on activities on as many Societies as possible in the available space.

Your views on this matter would be appreciated.

— J Fanarof, President, Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society

*'Society news' is a priority feature of The SA Philatelist: a published report covering many months simply means that all that information had just been received by the Editor in one go. Regular society correspondents know that, depending on dates received, at most two months' activities reports will appear in one issue. There is no space limit to the Society news column. — Ed.*

## Vergete versamelings

GEAGTE REDAKTEUR — Onlangs het ek in 'n artikel in *The SA Philatelist* verwys na die bewaring van sekere van ons unieke Suid-Afrikaanse versamelings in biblioteke en museums.

In die artikel onder die opskrif "Ons vergete versamelings" het ek onder meer verwys na die Stephen Rich Unie van Suid-Afrika-versameling wat in die Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteek in Kaapstad gehuisves word. Dit is egter onder my aandag gebring dat die versameling nie in die SA biblioteek is nie, maar wel in die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum bewaar word.

Daarby is ek ook meegeedeel dat die Barbara Jurgens-gedenkversameling ook nie meer in die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek is nie, maar wel nou in die SA Kultuur-Historiese Museum in Kaapstad bewaar word.

Mnr P Westra, direkteur van die SA biblioteek, deel mee dat mnr Anton Roux van die SA Kultuur-Historiese Museum in Kaapstad 'n persoon is met wie graag geskakel kan word as daar op nasionale of internasionale vlak, of selfs op streekvlak, van die Jurgens-versameling gebruik gemaak wil word. Mnr Roux sal moontlik aan sodanige versamelings wil deelneem.

Dit sou nogal gaaf gewees het as mens dieselfde houding in Johannesburg kon kry, en veral met die oog op Johannesburg 100 aanstaande jaar van die versamelings in die erehof kon opneem. — Andries van der Walt, Total-seëlklub, Johannesburg

## Something fishy, Mr Blake!

DEAR SIR, — I enjoyed reading Mr Blake's letter which was addressed to me via the August 1985 edition of *The SA Philatelist* and in which he points out that he also has a pre-postage stamp cover addressed to Anna Rebecka of the Cape of Good Hope but it is differently addressed. This has led him to assume that she moved house, but I don't think he is correct. I am afraid that his translation of the Dutch language into English has led to a false conclusion.

Anna Rebecka was no wanton woman nor was she one of

our first immigrant hippies. She didn't live "in the street". she lived in a dwelling on the street and not "by the fish market" but in the False Bay area just south of Cape Town. There is a coastal village south of the castle on False Bay known as Vishoek (Afrikaans) or Fish Hoek (English).

By combining the information which appears on both of our covers I would conclude that Anna Rebecka lived in a dwelling, on the street near the church, at Vishoek.

It is unfortunate that I am unable to examine the original letter that was sent in the cover which is in your possession, as it is possible that the letters 'A.B.' below the inscription were the initials of the sender.

Concerning the lady's age, I have had this matter researched and expert opinion holds that the word "Rebecka" is not a corruption of the name "Van Riebeeck", nor was she in any way related to Johan (Jan) van Riebeeck.

It may be of interest to point out that the "Father" of our nation only spent 10 short years at the Cape of Good Hope before realising his ambition of attaining a senior promotion in Batavia. He left no offspring here to perpetuate his name and there are no known descendants of Johan van Riebeeck in the Republic of South Africa at the present time. That is, of course, apart from his infant son, Anthony van Riebeeck, who was born at the Cape of Good Hope on 8.12.1655 and who died about 2½ months later on 20.02.1656.

PS: No, Mr Blake Vishoek should not be translated as fish hook, the name refers to an area where fish are plentiful.

te behandige aan — to be handed to.

— Myer S Weitzmann, Vereeniging

## Where DID Anna live?

DEAR SIR, — What a treasure trove of information my first copy of *The SA Philatelist* did not turn out to be! This novice to the fascinating world of philately in particular needs all the info he can get. Thanks!

Allow me to comment on H Blake's very interesting letter headed "Ye olde Cape fish market" which appeared in the August 1985 issue. Mr Blake suggests that, according to the letter in his possession, Anna Rebecka lived near the fish market. If I am not mistaken however, the wording on the photograph accompanying his letter actually reads as follows:

"Te behandige aan Anna Rebecka woonde inde straet by Vischael".

I wonder whether the following translation would not be more correct: To be handed to Anna Rebecka, living in the street by the Fiscal (bailiff).

I am not a linguist, but to my mind the word "vischael" seems to represent an archaic form of the current Afrikaans word "fiskaal", or "bailiff" in English, and has nothing to do with anything fishy at all. Was the Arnoldus van Koevoerde mentioned on Mr Meyer Weitzman's cover (Society News; *The SA Philatelist*, March 1985), to whom Anna was housewife, not perhaps this very bailiff? — J C Coetzee, Edgemead

## Early Durban dealer?

DEAR SIR — A letter in *The SA Philatelist* of July 1985, p 171, poses the question whether Mr Findlay was a stamp dealer in Durban in 1894.

The 1893 street director for the Borough of Durban lists A Findlay & Co, merchants, 341 West Street.

It is of course possible, but rather unlikely, that the firm or its owner were part-time stamp dealers. As such they would always seek contact with overseas collectors or buyers and would have given their postal address in full, including the word 'Natal', in the company rubber-stamp.

— F G Froelich, Johannesburg

**Israphil** — Further to the report in our September issue, p 282, it has come to our attention that Dr Hillel Faktor gained a silver medal for his thematic exhibit 'Children in philately', which was subsequently awarded a gold medal at Elpex 85.

# Stamp news from M Z Booleman

by Major Ian Mathews

(Transvaal Study Circle)

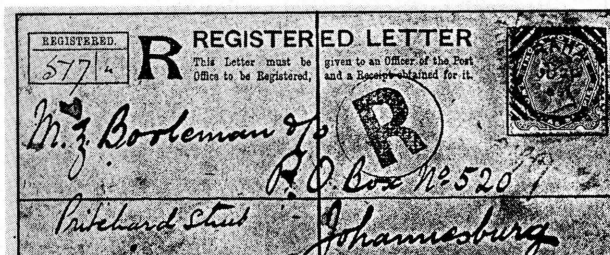
THE FIRST item is a registered cover from Raha, a small office in Assam, India, addressed to M Z Booleman at PO Box 520, Johannesburg. Posted on 20 June 1895 it received a Sea Post Office strike later in the month, was probably transhipped at Aden, although there is no mark, arrived in Durban on 12 August and in Johannesburg on 14 August where it received the oval "GEREGISTREERD" arrival mark.

The second item is of great philatelic interest. It is a postal stationery card (1d shafts) with an additional 1d stamp (rubbed) to make up the 2d overseas postcard rate, addressed to Senf of Leipzig, Germany. The date of the Johannesburg cancel is illegible but it has a Cape Town transit mark of 27 March 1895.

On the front is the M Z Booleman & Co office stamp giving his Box No 520 while the card is dated 25/3/95 and signed by Booleman, so that we know that he relinquished Box 997 prior to March 1895.



What is of great interest is the text. Senf produced a stamp catalogue and M Z Booleman is obviously here reporting new issues of Southern Africa during the month of March 1895. It



is reasonably safe to assume he did this regularly, which casts more light upon his activities.

The issues so reported are listed here with their modern SG numbers and the date recorded in the 1985 Part I catalogue.

Transvaal	16/3/95	1d "disselboom"	SG 206 1895-96
Transvaal	18/3/95	1/-	SG 211 "
Natal	13/3/95	1/2d on 6d violet	SG 114 12 Mar 95
"	20/3/95	HALF on 1d rose	SG 125 18 Mar 95
British Bechuanaland	15/3/95	Cape 2d bistre optd	SG 39 15 Mar 95.

Certainly the Transvaal dates are of great interest for this information I have not previously found anywhere. The slight discrepancy in the two Natal dates could well be accounted for by which post office they were purchased from or the information obtained. The Bechuanaland date tallies.

It will be very interesting to see if any more postcards of this nature come to light as well as the information thereon.

## ... and yet more

M Z BOOLEMAN, Johannesburg's pioneer stamp dealer, left the Golden City early in March 1897 to return to Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

This is confirmed by two advertisements in the *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde*, sent to us by Mr K Kouwenberg of the Hague.

The first, in the January 1897 issue of the Dutch journal, gives notice of his intended address change and intent to leave Johannesburg at the beginning of March 1897.

The next, in the July issue, is a halfpage advertisement for South African stamps at 'cheap prices'. The advertisement illustrates four stamps: ZAR, BSA Co, East Africa (two rupees) and British Central Africa (ten pounds).

**M. Z. BOOLEMAN,**  
RAPENBURGERSTRAAT 20,  
AMSTERDAM  
(voorheen Johannesburg, Transvaal).

Maakt bereidwillig aan Verzamelaars en Vereenigen **ZICHTZENDINGEN** in

**Zuid-Afrikaanse Zegels,**

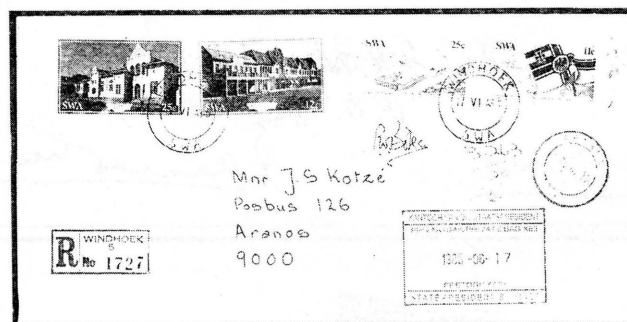
Adresverandering.

M. Z. BOOLEMAN, Stamp Importer,  
P. O. BOX 997 (niet 520).

JOHANNESBURG. TRANSVAAL.

Voornemens begin Maart '97 van Johannesburg af te reizen, kunnen alle brieven en bescheiden tot 4 Februari aan bovenstaand adres afgezonden worden. Na dien tijd is mijn adres: Rapenburgerstraat 20, Amsterdam.  
Mijne Overzeesche Correspondenten, vooral die in Oost- en West-Indië, gelieven dit tijdstip 3 à 4 weken te vervroegen.

**Exchange wanted** — Günter Rathgeb, Keplerstrasse 4, 7129 Güglingen, West Germany, would like to exchange Austrian, Berlin, and East and West German stamps for used RSA and SWA.



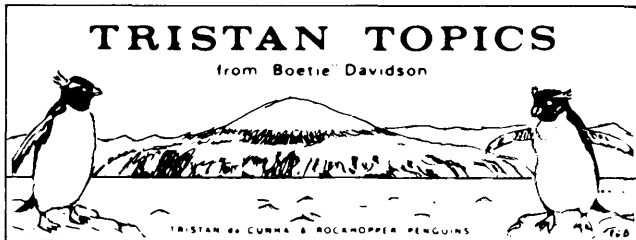
## Oorgangsregering in SWA

DIE instelling van die Oorgangsregering van Nasionale Eenheid vir SWA/Namibia op 17/6/85 het stil-stil in die filatelie-wêreld verloop.

Die ingeslote koewert uit my politieke versameling, is gefrankeer met seëls wat nie meer geredelik in omloop is nie en wat historiese gebeure, betreffende die politieke status van Suidwes-Afrika van tyd tot tyd, weerspieël.

Die geregisteerde koewert is afgelewer sonder dat die seëls gekanselleer is, met uitsondering van die posmerke op die 11c-seël. Na ontvangs te Aranos op 20/6/85 (sien datumstempel) is die koewert aan Windhoek-Poskantoor teruggestuur met die versoek dat die seëls gekanselleer word met 'n stempel teruggedateer na 17-VI-85. Aan die versoek is geredelik voldoen. Die verskil in posmerke is duidelik.

Die verdere bonus op die koewert is die handtekening en kantoorstempel van Staatspresident P W Botha, waardeur hierdie belangrike staatkundige gebeurtenis in die filatelie-wêreld verewig is. — **Dr W D Kotzé**



## Maritime cover cachet

OWING TO a variety of unforeseen circumstances this column has been dormant for most of this year. Anyway, we are well under way again and hopefully the column will attract as much interest as it has in the past — not only among Tristan buffs, but also with other postal historians and collectors!

The content of this column will remain identical as before, but because of a slight dearth of material for description or discussion, I am appealing to Tristan collectors to send me photocopies of their interesting covers, and include a brief description with the xerox of the covers.

Equally, fellow postal historians can send in covers which have problems in some or other aspect, and then by illustrating the cover and the available information about it, we can reveal

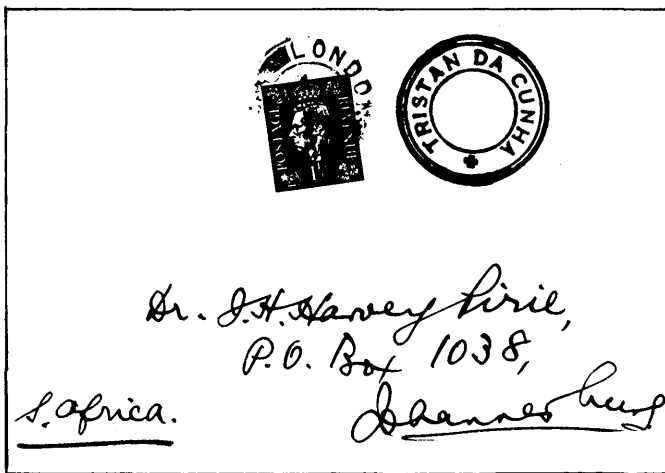
all this information in the column, and surely amongst so many Tristan collectors we should manage to come up with an accurate answer . . .

Those of us who either knew the late Dr Harvey Pirie, or read his articles and books on philately, or had his covers, were fortunate people indeed, because he was an outstanding postal historian. The cover illustrated here is self-addressed, and has evidence of having been on the island, because of the deep blue-black strike on the type VII cachet. Adjacent to it, is a British 1/2d stamp, tied to the cover with a strike of the London postmark, dated 26 MR, and the indistinct yearslug most likely is "40". Pencilled on the back of the cover are the following comments of Dr. Harvey Pirie: Received 15.4.40.

"Who stuck on the 1/2d British stamp?" The list of shipping movements at Tristan in 1940 were as follows:

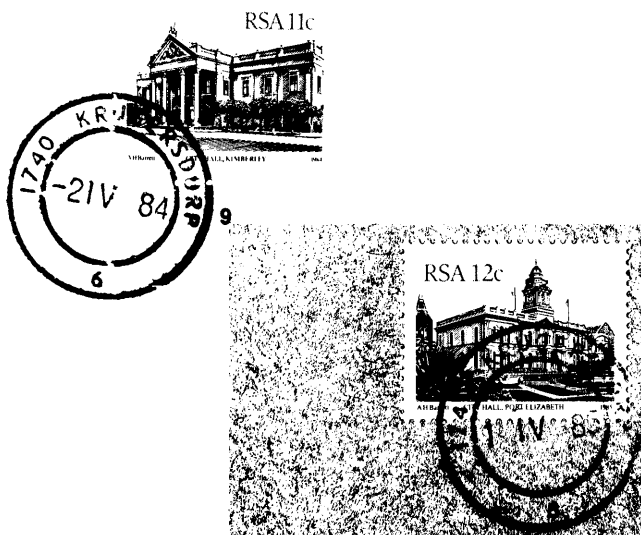
Feb or	Unknown ship
March	HMS <i>Hawkins</i>
June	Unidentified ship which took Rev Lawrence to the island.
	Whaling factory ship
	Auxiliary cruiser <i>Carinthia</i> .
Aug 24	Auxiliary cruiser <i>Queen of Bermuda</i> .
	Rev Wilde left aboard this ship.
Nov 15	AMC <i>Carnarvon Castle</i>

To have returned to South Africa by 15.4.40. and to have been processed in London on 26.3.1940, this cover had to have been carried on the unidentified ship in February/March. It had been thought that the Type VII cachet had been put "on ice" so that no mail from the island would bear any evidence of the place of origin, but obviously this was not done before early 1940, and only by carefully dating World War II covers will we be able to pinpoint exact dates, and complete our knowledge of Tristan's mystery.



"TRISTAN TOPICS" together with all fellow Tristan philatelists and postal historians, wish the Tristan Administrator and his staff, as well as all the Tristan Islanders, a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy and Successful 1986.

We also wish readers of *The South African Philatelist* the compliments of the season and every success for the busy 1986 philatelic programme.



Carla van Veenendaal, nuusbrieffmeisie van die AFV se jeugafdeling, sorg steeds dat die jonglede hul nuusbriewe in versamelbare koeverte kry!

Verlede jaar was dit met die eerste dag van die nuwe 11c-postarief op Maandag 2 April 1984, vanjaar was dit die 12c-postarief op 1 April. Dis posstukke wat egte posdiens gedoen het, van haar naaste poskantoor (Krugerdsorp) af.



A new use has been seen for Zimbabwe revenue stamps. A new departure tax levied at airports requires the cash payment of \$10, in return for which the current \$10 bird revenue stamp is affixed to the aircraft boarding pass, and date-cancelled. We illustrate the revenue stamp cancelled on an Air Zimbabwe boarding pass at Harare airport on 30 September 1985.

Poskaart gevra — Henry van Couwenberghe, Broekstraat 3A, 9160 Hamme-vl, België, wil graag met 'n versamelaar in Suid-Afrika korrespondeer. Hy stel belang in amptelike poskaarte met ingedrukte seëlwaardes.

# Natal used abroad

by R S Benton

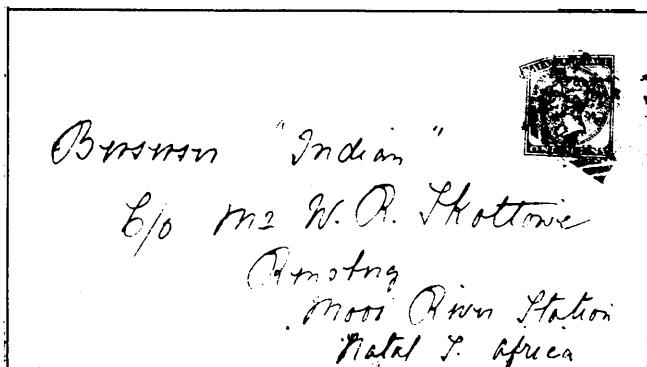
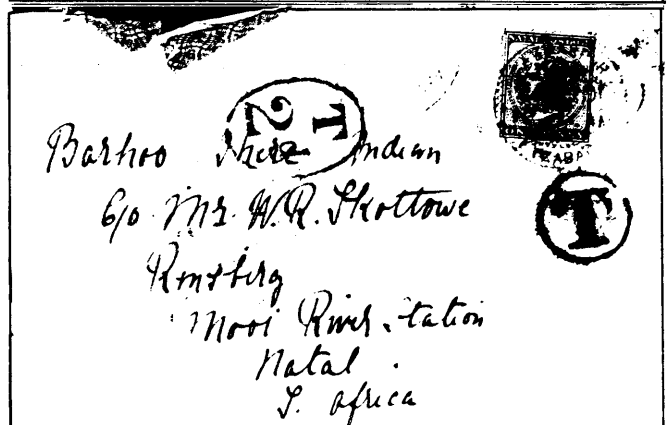
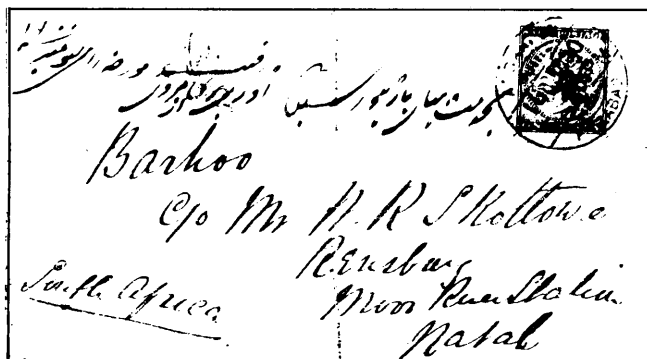
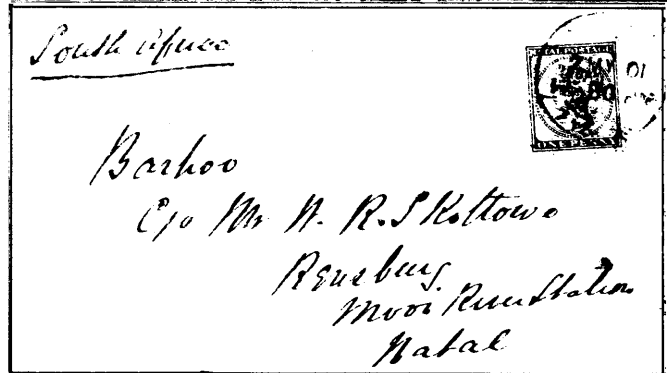
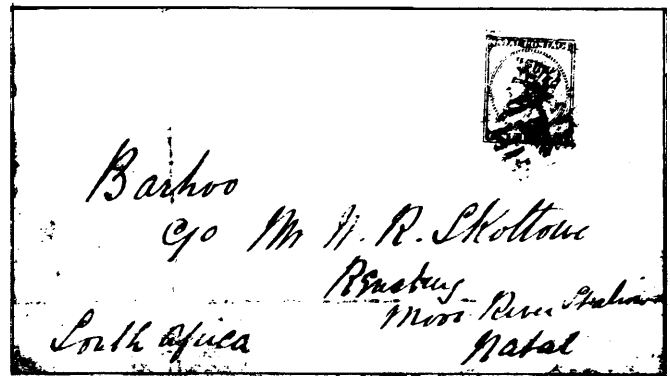
(Maritzburg Philatelic Society)

I RECENTLY came across five covers of the early 1900s each franked with Natal QV 1d rose or carmine (SG 99) but posted in India. Each is addressed to an Indian on the farm of the late Mr William Richardson Skottowe, Mooi River Station, Natal. For the purpose of this article, these covers are numbered 1,2,3,4, and 5 and are illustrated here.

No 1 was posted at Akbarpur, near Fyzabad (now Faizabad) on 10 November 1900, was received in Durban on 11 December and at Mooi River the following day. The Urdu inscription on this cover was translated and is merely an 'Indianisation' of the address in English.

This cover has pencilled on the back "Envelope addressed by W R Skottowe for the Indian working for him. Stamped envelopes were allowed for indentured Indians." This annotation has caused a number of headaches and many hours of investigation in archives and libraries just to try and find out whether these covers represent a hitherto unknown facet of Natal postal history or whether they represent a damp squib.

The other covers should be described before discussing this matter further.



No 2 emanated from "...anda..." on 9 February 1901 and was addressed to a different person. It arrived in Mooi River on 15 March and was not taxed. Unfortunately, the stamp is damaged. There is a trace of a British Army Field Post Office transit mark.

No 3 to the same person as No 1, left Akbarpur on 2 May 1901, passed through Bombay two days later and finally arrived at Mooi River some four months later.

No 4, to the same addressee, bears a barred oval A cancellation. This is a common type of Indian cancellation but I have been unable to find out where it was used. Neither Robson Lowe nor Heins mentions it. This cover is backstamped at a branch office of Fyzabad on 1 July 1901 and Durban 26 and 27 July 1901.

No 5 addressed to the same person as No 1, 3 and 4, was clearly cancelled at Akbarpur, Fyzabad, on 24 December 1901 and was received in Durban on 29 January 1902. This is the only one of the five covers to be taxed, presumably in Natal as one of the tax markings reads "2d" and not "2a" which

would be expected from an Indian marking.

I am fully conscious of the fact that there are gaps of many years in the following but present the salient points so far discovered.

By Law, number 12 of 1872 (a law to amend the Coolie Law Consolidation Law of 1869) there was created the post of Protector of Indian Immigrants (at a salary of £500 per annum). This official's duties were as indicated by his title.

It is known from the *Natal Witness* that Colonel Charles Mitchell, Colonial Secretary, Natal, arrived in Madras on 2 February 1883, obviously to inquire into the whole question of the supply and welfare of indentured Indians.

Colonel (later Sir) Charles Bullen Hugh Mitchell was Colonial Secretary, Natal, from 1878 to 1886. He acted as Governor three times and later became governor. Charlestown is named after him.

In his Annual Report for 1883 under the heading "Indian Letters" the Protector wrote:-

'Natal being so little known at present in India, Sir Charles Mitchell, on his return, recommended that Indians now resident in the Colony should be encouraged to write to their friends in India. To this end a circular was addressed to all employers asking their co-operation and encouragement in this direction and the result has been, that from July to the end of the year, 351 letters have been received and sent through this office free of charge, for delivery to the addressees by the Agents in Madras and Calcutta.'

The italics are mine. Thus we have at least one small item of postal history, namely that Indian labourers had the privilege of free postage to relatives and friends in India.

The circular to employers mentioned above, dated 26 June

1883, reads as follows:

**"NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS OF INDIAN IMMIGRANTS**

It is thought desirable for various reasons that Indian Immigrants should be encouraged to correspond with their relatives and friends in India.

With this consideration in view, letters addressed by Indians in the Colony to persons in India will, in future, if sent to the care of the Protector of Immigrants, Durban, be forwarded to their destination free of any expense to the writers for postage.

It is requested that employers of Indians will aid this Department in carrying out its object by informing their Indian employees of the facilities now afforded them for sending letters to India, and by collecting letters from the men on their estates and transmitting them at intervals to the Protector. It is also suggested that employers should address envelopes for their Indians to be enclosed in letters sent to India and in which answers to those letters could be sent.

Indian Immigration Office.  
Durban. 26th June, 1883."

L H MASON  
Acting Protector of Immigrants

## Centenary of the first stamps of Monaco

by Hilda Jeidel RDPSA

On 1 July 1885 a decree was issued to announce the first issue of the stamps of Monaco. It allowed French stamps which had been used before in the principality to be used together with the new stamps until 31 March 1886.

The first set of stamps of Monaco consists of 10 values. It is typographed in sheets of 150 stamps portraying the profile of Charles III looking to the right of the stamp. It was this ruler who authorised the opening of the casino in Monte Carlo. This and the abolition of taxation in 1869, during his reign from 1856-1889, helped to induce prosperity in the state and neighbouring French towns.

At first these values were issued, 5c, 15c and 25c, with others following later. The exact quantity of stamps printed is not known. The best values in the set are the 25c, 1fr and 5fr. Multiples of 1fr are uncommon while those of the 5fr are rare. The set was forged in Geneva, Turin, Piemont, Belgium and Marseille. Today it is considered a classic.

In 1889, following the death of Prince Charles III, Prince Albert I acceded to the throne. The second definitive set featuring Albert I's effigy now looking to the left with the shield of Monaco on the lower right was issued in 1891.

In 1900, a very unusual procedure took place. For a stamp exhibition a re-impression with the original plates of the First issue took place. It is known to exist on Bristol paper and in sheets of 25 stamps with the perforation very finely painted in. As a rule the plates of an issue are withdrawn with the death of the person portrayed, and no further use of them is made.

To come back to the second issue: this set includes all the denominations of the earlier definitives together with a new value of 50 centimes. Colours of the values are similar to their Charles III equivalent. The only exception is the 40c. The first printing of this issue is as finely engraved as the 1885 issue. This quality of procedure has been lost over the years. The set has been in use until 1921 with numerous reprintings and different papers which is not surprising if one takes political events into consideration. The years of World War I are easily recognised by the poor quality of paper used.

The second issue was again printed in 6 panes of 25 stamps, a total of 150 stamps per sheet. After the first printing, a kind of dating was introduced by adding a single digit denoting the last numeral of the year in which printing took place. This numeral is called "millésime". But it is only a guide to the student of printings as a "9" could be 1899 or 1909 or 1919. There are 3 millésimes in the center gutter per printing sheet.

Allow me a word on the reigning monarch: Prince Rainier is the son of Princess Charlotte of Monaco. She was a Grimaldi who married Prince Pierre, Comte de Polignac. Rainier is their son. He became Grimaldi by sovereign ordinance of 18 March 1920. His father, whose name he discarded, lived until 1949.

As mentioned before, issues after 1914 were printed on inferior paper. The 1920 issue celebrating the marriage of Princess Charlotte is an example. The paper is marked

This brings me to my quandary. did Mr Skottowe misread the circular to mean stamped, addressed envelopes and did four of the five covers escape taxation because of the similarity between Natal 1d rose or carmine (SG 99) and India 1a carmine (SG 115)! All five covers show traces of having been folded. In which case we have the damp squib.

On the other hand, it is reasonable to assume that if there was free postage in one direction, then there could be free postage by way of stamped addressed envelopes in the opposite direction. This would represent something so far completely unknown.

Can any reader throw any light on this matter?

"G.C." (Grande Consommation) with the millésime "9" having been printed in 1919. The 5fr of this set, fortunately not forged as frequently as that of 1885, is also regarded as a modern classic.

It is amusing that the wedding stamp is overprinted 20 March 1920 and the next issue, in honour of the birth of Princess Antoinette, bears the overprint 28 December 1920, almost exactly nine months later.

In honour of the centenary a stamp exhibition by invitation will be held in the Congress Centre in Monte Carlo from 5 to 8 December 1985. The writer of these lines has the honour of being invited.

## Cape Town author wins international gold medal

THE ONLY South African entry in an international philatelic exhibition at Cinisello Balsamo, in northern Italy, has been awarded a gold medal. The entry was a book by Cape Town author Robert Goldblatt, *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, published by Reijger Publishers (Pty) Limited.

The exhibition, Philtema '85, which was devoted primarily to philatelic publications, drew a total of 156 published entries. Of these, 75 were in the class for handbooks and special studies, the class in which Mr Goldblatt was given his gold medal. Other entries were for general catalogues (29), philatelic periodicals (38) and articles (14).

This news reached Cape Town on the eve of a stamp week at Cavendish Square, organised by the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, where the author's medal and certificate were presented to him at the opening ceremony on Friday 13 September 1985.

Mr Goldblatt's *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope* has already been distinguished by the first gold medal ever awarded for philatelic literature at a South African national exhibition (AUPEX 84 at Roodepoort). The book deals authoritatively with the postmarks and postal history of the Cape Colony and Griqualand West from 1792 to 1910, and retails at R75-00.

## JUNIOR QUIZ

Answers to questions from page 269

1. a. alphabets b. bilingualism.
2. Stamps with lettering in Greek, Latin, Cyrillic, Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese and do not forget the language as shown on the Indian Princely states, Amharic (Ethiopia) and the Teutonic writing on the runic stone at Jelling in Denmark as shown on one of the stamps of the Danish set of 1953.
3. Examples: Suid Afrika-South Africa — South West Africa-Suid Wes Afrika — België-Belgique — Belgisch Congo-Congo Belge Yugoslavia (in Latin and Cyrillic) — Hongkong (Chinese and English).
4. Examples. Israel (Hebrew-Arabic-English) Ceylon (English-Tamil-Sinhala) United Nations (English-French-Spanish-Russian-Chinese).
5. 32!

IN AUGUST 1985 the site of the World War I prisoner of war camp at Aus in South West Africa was declared a national monument.

A wreath-laying ceremony and the unveiling of a bronze plaque took place to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the erection of the camp, where German POWs were held.

Postal historians know the Aus POW camp from its official free cachet and its censor mark. A fine Aus cover was sold in the 'White Lady' auction of Sotheby's in Johannesburg during August, and is illustrated (with thanks to Sotheby's).

We also publish an article on the camp by the regional representative of the National Monuments Council in Windhoek.

## Aus: where the POWs built a village

by J J Bruwer

(National Monuments Council)

On 9 July 1915 the armed forces of the German Protectorate, who were gathered at Khorab, surrendered to the invading forces of the Union of South Africa. On that day, the capitulation agreement was signed at Kilometre 500, north-east of Otavi. This was the end of the South-West African campaign of the First World War.

One of the conditions of the agreement stipulated that all the non-commissioned officers and troops of the active German forces and the police would be held prisoner until the end of the war. For this purpose, a camp was erected near Aus in the south of South-West Africa, and by August 1915, most of the German prisoners of war had been brought there.

Three German officers, Captains Mannhardt, Von Münstermann and Berlin, accompanied the prisoners of war to maintain discipline among them. In 1916, captain Berlin was relieved by Lieutenant Von Lossnitzer. A unit of volunteers of the Union Defence Force, the South African Veteran Regiment, was stationed at the camp as garrison.

The commandants of the camp and the garrison were Lieutenant-Colonels W H Scarth (1915), R A Hawkins (1915-1917) and C W Lewis (1917-1919). A great responsibility rested on the shoulders of these officers, since they had to ensure the well-being of an average of 1 438 prisoners of war and 600 garrison troops.

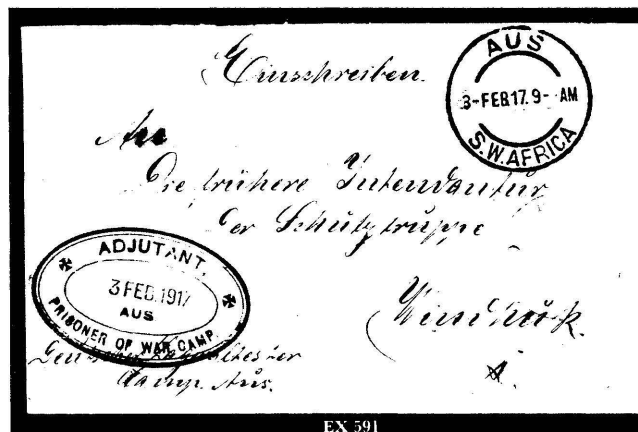
Initially the prisoners of war were accommodated in tents. This arrangement, however, was completely inadequate owing to the extreme climate at Aus. During a single week in September 1915, scorching heat was followed by rain, snow and a sand-storm. The prisoners of war built themselves huts of unbaked bricks.

Gradually a neat prisoner of war village developed which is unique in the history of architecture in South-West Africa. The huts, of which only ruins are to be seen today, were practically constructed and furnished. The non-commissioned officers and troops of the garrison, on the other hand, lived in patched tents and tents made of hessian. They were not prepared to do anything whatsoever to improve their accommodation.

The garrison had a bad reputation owing to the poor quality of its troops. Most of them were medically unfit to serve on the fronts. In 1916, the name of the unit was changed to Protectorate Garrison Regiment in an attempt to improve its image, but to no avail.

The prisoners of war laid out flower and vegetable gardens and practised a variety of sports. A brass band consisting of prisoners of war provided entertainment by regularly holding concerts. With the exception of one incident, the discipline in the camp was good.

It is not known how many prisoners of war succeeded in escaping from the camp during its existence. Those who were



caught while trying to escape, had to serve time in the detention barracks. The prisoners of war found this unacceptable, since they considered attempt at escape to be a prisoner of war's privilege.

The most prominent landmark in the camp was probably the bell-tower. According to estimates, it was more than six metres high and had the shape of a hexagonal pillar.

In 1917, tram-tracks were laid over a distance of five kilometres. This considerably simplified the transport of food and other essential articles to the prisoner of war camp.

Sixty-one prisoners of war and 60 members of the garrison and the support division lie buried in the cemetery 4,7 kilometres north-west of the prisoner of war camp. Most of the deaths were caused by the epidemic of influenza in 1918.

On 13 May 1919, the prisoner of war camp was officially closed. Two large groups of prisoners of war had, however, already left the camp during the third week of April, and the others left later in smaller groups.

The remains of the huts of the prisoners of war still to be seen today, tell a part of South-West African history that may not be forgotten. The prisoners of war showed initiative and made their life in the camp more dignified. They succeeded admirably in shaking the dust of Kilometre 500 from their clothes and not surrendering to the dust of Aus. The ruins of the huts of the prisoners of war are a worthy monument to their perseverance.

**Seëlhandboeke** — Philabook International (direkteur C Nieuwland), Posbus 8042, 3009 AA Rotterdam, Nederland, is 'n gespesialiseerde handelseak wat filateliese handboeke, naslaanwerke en katalogusse aanbied.

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COVERS

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# Borrius, die ZAR se seëldrukker van Potchefstroom

deur prof A J E Sorgdrager  
(Moorivierse Posseëklub)

BORRIUS IS in Amsterdam gebore op 23 Mei volgens die grafsteen wat in die ou begraafplaas van Potchefstroom aangeteken staan. Sy vader was 'n Nederlander en sy moeder van Franse afkoms. Hy was vier tale magtig. Frans, Duits, Engels en Nederlands.

Op 19-jarige leeftyd verlaat Borrius Amsterdam en kom in 1860 in Kaapstad aan. Na 'n kort rukkie by *Het Volksblad* Kaapstad werksaam, vertrek hy in 1861 na Swellendam waar hy werksaam is by *De Overbergse Courant*.

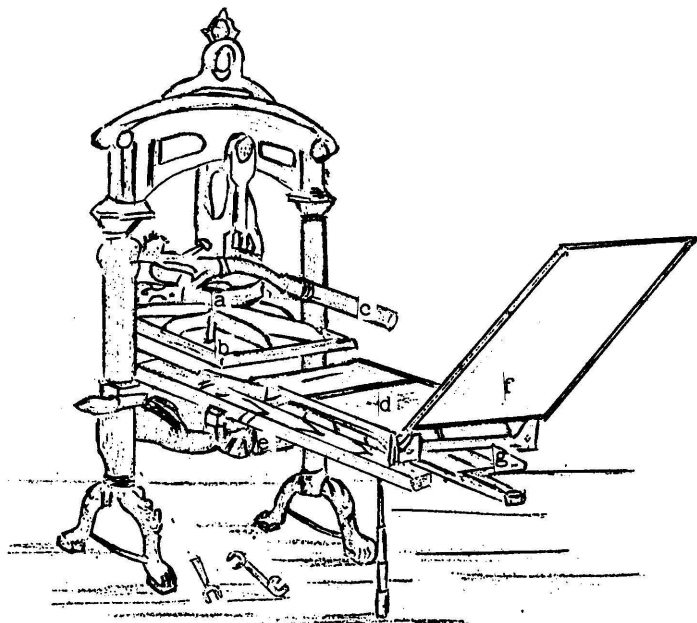
Daarna gee hy 'n kort rukkie onderwys naby Graaff-Reinet en trek saam met die geselskap van die Oberholzerfamilie via Winburg per ossewa na Transvaal. In Winburg ontmoet hy sy toekomstige vrou, Nicolantina Susanna de Beer, met wie hy op 20 Januarie 1863 in die Hervormde Kerkgebou voor die Land-droskantoor in die huwelik tree. Rondom die kerk was daar 'n muur vol skietgate sodat die Boere hulle teen aanvalle kon verdedig.

Op 2 Februarie 1863 word die regeringsetel van Potchefstroom na Pretoria verplaas en Borrius moes onderwys gaan gee vir drie pond in die maand by mnr E Grimbeek om te kan lewe. In 1866 tree sy skoonmoeder weer in die huwelik met ene Pieterse en sy vrou ontvang 'n aansienlike erfporisie. Van die geld koop Borrius nou 'n Albion-handpers uit Swede wat hom vir die res van sy lewe drukwerk help druk het. 'n Spesiale drukker, Van Alphen, is vir die doel gehuur.

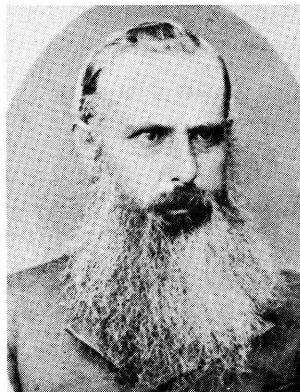
Dis hierdie drukpers wat die Borrius-druk van die ZAR se seëls gedruk het (SG 21-SG38). Die drukpers was in staat om 250 afdrucke per uur te druk. Borrius het self al die setwerk gedoen.

Op Dinsdag 8 Mei 1866 verskyn die eerste uitgawe van *De*

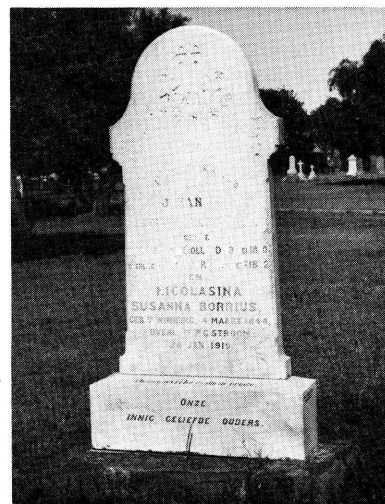
## Die drukpers van Borrius



- a. Suier.
- b. Pers of "uplaten."
- c. Hefboom.
- d. Bed.
- e. Roller.
- f. Blad. ("Tympan & frisket.")
- g. "Forme."

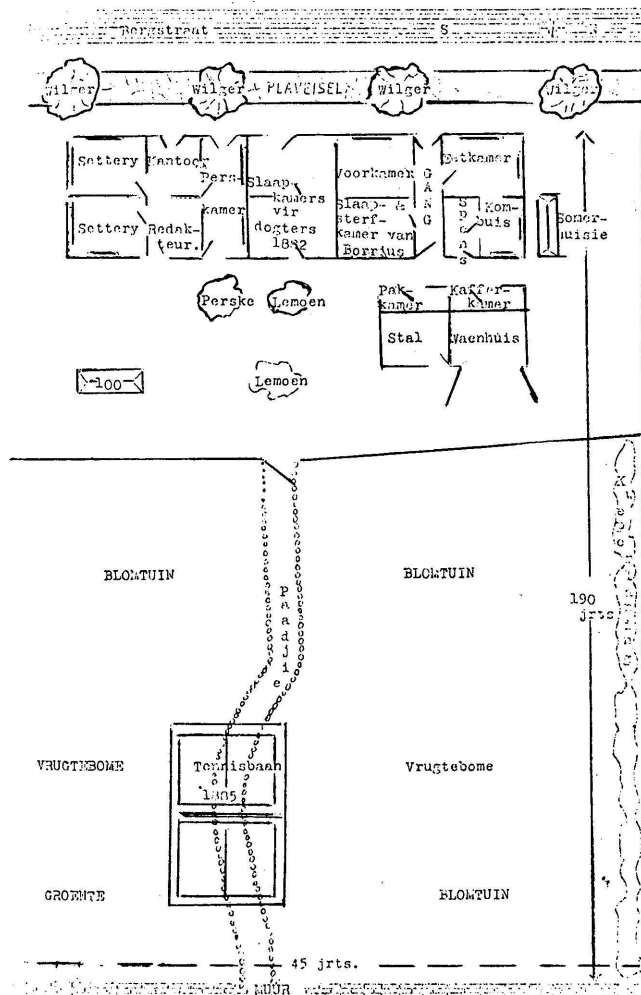


Johannes Philippus Borrius (1840-1892)



Die graf van Borrius en sy vrou

Plan van Borrius se erf en huis, wat die drukery ingesluit het. Volgens 'n Staatscourant van 1875 was hy toe 10/- agterstallig met sy erfbelasting



*Transvaalsche Argus* met Friedrich Jeppe as redakteur en Borrius as drukker. Die drukkerij was nou in Kerkstraat (standplaas 91) langs die Royal Hotel. Reeds op 23 Julie 1866 verskyn daar 'n advertensie van Borrius om seëls te ruil. Was Borrius 'n handelaar of 'n versamelaar?

Volgens sy dogters, mev Bisschoff, mev Malan en sy seun mnr A S Borrius, soos vertel aan mnr F Vermooten, is die seëls van die Republiek soos deur Borrius gedruk deur sy vrou en kinders met skêre uitgesny. In die *Staatscourant* van 20 Desember 1875 kan nog gelees word dat Borrius tien sjelings agterstallig was op die "Plaatsbelasting". Ook Roselt, die eerste Engelse onderwyser in Potchefstroom, was agterstallig.

Borrius is in 1892 oorlede.

#### Verwysings

Potchefstroomse Museum: Foto van Borrius  
Borrius en sy vrou se graf: Foto geneem deur Beyers Claassen van Potchefstroom

Koerante deur Borrius uitgegee:

- De Emigrant*
- De Transvaalsche Argus*
- The Transvaal Advocate and Commercial Advertiser*
- De Transvaal*
- De Potchefstroomer*

(Curle en Basden noem slegs *de Potchefstroomer*)

Kmdt J D Weilbach en C N J du Plessis: *Geschiedenis van die Eigranten-Boeren en van den Vrijheidsoorlog*, Potchefstroom, Soloman-drukkers 1882.

Argief, Potchefstroomse Museum.



## Newmarket — 'n ou plaas en posstasie deur Werner Seeba

PAK NEWMARKET, Harrismith-distrik. (Tak Kafferpos/Newmarket). Geopen omtrent 1880, gesluit 5 Februarie 1905, heropen Januarie 1906, naam verander na Outlook, Julie 1906.

"Newmarket" was 'n plaas, en in vroeër dae welbekend vanweë sy belangrikheid as een van die stasies van die poskoetse, met 'n winkel waar verskillende handelaars goeie sake gedoen het.

Die plek was geleë omtrent nege myl (15 km) noord van Cornelisrivier langs die pad na Transvaal. Die plaas is omtrent 1860/61 toegeken deur 'n landkommissie. Hierdie landkommissies het maar dikwels baie sorgeloos te werk gegaan met die vasstelling van die grense. Enige boom of miershoop is as baken bepaal.

So word verhaal dat in een grondbrief "een kraai zittende op een miershoop" as baken beskryf is. Soms het 'n lid van die kommissie op sy rug gaan lê, sy been in die lug gehou en oor sy voet na 'n punt gepeil! Afstande is met 'n stappende perd gemeet.

Vermoedelik het die klein markstad Newmarket van Wes-Suffolk in Engeland, waar elke jaar die Cambridgeshire-perderesies gehou word, sy naam aan hierdie plaas gegee.

Sover bekend is, was 'n sekere C Puren, 'n ystersmit baie jare gelede op "Newmarket" en die eerste handelaar daar was 'n



## POSTAGE-STAMPS.

Die Ondergeteekende verzoekt een ieder, die de hierby vermeldte gebruikte Postage-Stamps mogt bezitten, dezelve aan hem tegen betaling te willen afstaan:

NATALSCHIE die voor 7 á 10 jaren, of daaromtrent, gebruikt werden, als 1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., en 1sh.

KAAPSCHE 4d. zwartachtige die op brieven van 1859 te vinden zyn; en vermilloen-roode en blaauwe, die van Jan. tot Sept. 1861 in omloop waren.

J. P. BORRIUS.

Potchefstroom, 23 July 1866. (103)

Was Borrius die eerste seëlversamelaar of -handelaar in Transvaal? Met hierdie advertensie van 1866 in *De Transvaalsche Argus* het hy seëls te koop gevra. Wat het Borrius geweet van die 'swartagtige' Kaapse 4d driehoekseël?



mnr J C Cloete. Later in die tagtiger- en negentigerjare was die handelaar en fotograaf 'n mnr Blogoslawenski, en die mense het hom sommer "Blokus" genoem, 'n baas-afnemer onder die boere van die omgewing. Die winkel was nie alleen die slagara van die handel nie maar was dikwels ook 'n bymeakaar-komplek vir sosiale bedrywighede soos sport en perderesies.

Die eerste posagent was blykbaar 'n veldkornet, Odendaal. Na verskyning van die poskoetse is teen 1887 in die winkel 'n posagentskap ingerig. Die ou stempel (sien foto) was tot omtrent 1903 in gebruik.

Later in 1904/5 is 'n rubberstempel 39 mm groot met POA, datum en NEWMARKET, ORC (sien foto) gebruik.

Tussen 5 Februarie tot einde Desember 1905 was die posbedryf by hierdie winkel gestaak, maar reeds in Januarie 1906 is die posdiens hervat en die nommerstempel "5" (sien foto) was aan hierdie agentskap toegedeel. Blykbaar na verdeling van die plaas in 1906 is in Julie die naam tot Outlook verander.

1984 STAMP issues, broken down into 118 topical categories, are in the American Topical Association's latest Handbook 108A, *Topical Issues of 1984 with 1985 Catalog Numbers*.

Over 7 000 stamps, issued by the world's governments, are arranged alphabetically by country in each of the topical categories.

All the listed stamps are identified by the main design and include Scott 1985 catalogue numbers or numbers from the *Scott Stamp Monthly* supplements since the 1985 catalogue were released — making the handbook as current as possible. Non-Scott items are also included.

Handbook 108A sells for \$7,00 postpaid. Yearly listings from 1962 to 1983 are also available from the American Topical Association, PO Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907, USA.

# Society News ~ Onderonies

## BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**May** — This was a workshop evening and once again proved most popular with members. Dr Brian Wilson put up illustrations of the different types of perforation and discussed them pointing out the differences between line, comb and harrow perforations.

He stated that not only were perfs used for the measuring of stamps and old postal stationery but they were often a means of identifying different printings of a stamp. Blind perfs were caused by broken or missing pins in the machines. During World War II roulette type of perforation was used in SA in the Bantam issues of the special War stamps.

Mrs E J van Niekerk spoke on **forgeries**. She said that these were executed not only to defraud the postal authorities but also the collector. She mentioned forgeries in our own country of Cape Triangulars and their postmarks and of the 1d value of the 1st Transvaal Republic. Not all forgeries are well executed. Some are discernible to the naked eye.

She showed some of the forgeries of German, Italian and French stamps made by the British Government in World War II. Compared with the original stamps issued by these countries, the forgeries were very nearly perfect, slight differences occurring in lettering and perforations.

Mr W Drake spoke on **philatelic terms**. He illustrated his talk lavishly. Some of the terms he spoke of were: aniline dyes, Bantams, telegraph stamps, tête-bêche stamps, graphite lines, inter-provincials, booklets, sheet numbers and colour wedges. Members found the explanations most interesting.

Mr G Jeeves then gave a talk on the **laying out and lettering of sheets**. This proved interesting and helpful for new members wanting to put up exhibits for our cup competitions. Mr Jeeves showed how to measure out and space lettering. Writing up can be done by hand, by means of a typewriter, by using stencils or with Letraset. (A useful tip was that Letraset can be removed with masking tape without damaging the page).

**June** — We were privileged to have Mr Richard Knight as our visiting exhibitor this month. He showed us a new collection that he is busy building up, the **Large Arms issue of 1896 of the British South Africa Company**. He pointed out early dies 1 and 2 and their changes and plates 1 and 2 were shown with the changes brought about and plates 3 and 4 which were then printed.

Mint sheets with flaws were shown with enlargements of these flaws alongside them so that viewers could easily identify them. Mr Knight pointed out the Jubilee lines on all sheets. The corners of these were square-joined and mitred. This is a highly specialised and unusual collection which members thoroughly enjoyed viewing.

After tea Mr D Reynolds showed his collection of **Rhodesia — post-Federation**. This is a well-presented, very colourful and interesting collection.

**July** — Hugh Lee displayed his **Railways collection** and gave an informative talk on the history of railways from 125 to the present day. He discussed the various wheel combinations of locomotives, the various methods of firing — coal, diesel and electric — and the various British Railway companies and their gradual amalgamation to form British Railways.

Although the British engineer George Stephenson was the "father" of world railway engineering and introduced railway services to Britain in 1825, GB has never issued a stamp of him and only in 1975 did it issue a set of commemorative Railway stamps. To get stamps which portray the advance of railways, Hugh had to go to foreign countries — some of them blacklisted.

Today SA builds its own locos. Our Blue Train is recognised as being the finest in every aspect of any long-distance train, while our 6 diesel locos used to pull ± 120 trucks of ore from Sishen to Port Elizabeth are the largest in the world.

Members were impressed by this well-set-out collection abounding in information which reflects Hugh's interest in his subject and the vast amount of research he has done for it.

After tea Eddie Beunderman showed SA used blocks of 4 up to 1952 and SATS seals commemorating the 75th anniversary of the SA Railways.

Mr Stutterheim then showed a collection of Netherlands stamps dating from 1852. He pointed out the different perforations and stated that there were very few watermarks involved.

**August** — August was ladies' night. Because the number of lady members has shrunk considerably, the club invited Mrs Beinat of the Royal to participate in the evening.

The following exhibits were tabled:

**For the Reynolds Cup — country exhibits**

1. Great Britain 1952-1977 — Mrs Moore
  2. Vatican issues 1978-84 — Mrs Mathee
  3. Norfolk Island 1947-69 — Mrs E J van Niekerk
- For the Ladies' Trophy — thematics**
1. Buildings in SWA — Mrs S Brink
  2. RSA Presidents (stamps and covers) — Mrs Fernhout
  3. The women's connection — Miss A Gordon-Hogg.

Mrs van Niekerk and Miss Gordon-Hogg were declared winners of the respective competitions.

Mrs Beinat then showed her highly specialised collection of the Mardon Printings of Rhodesia 1965 — 67 after the declaration of UDI. She showed the first Independence value with ordinary perfs and an imperf pair, a presentation card, UDI overprints with their varieties, eg fading overprints, offsets and inverted overprints, forgeries and trial printings on all papers and all gums, an essay for the Nature Conservation issue signed by the designer, a presentation proof card of Rhopec issue and an imperf miniature sheet at trial stage.

There were also photographic proofs of 2/6 value of 1966, 20th anniversary of CAA and the 1/3 and 5/- values in both issued and unadopted colours and proofs of 1967 Rhodes National Gallery issue. This unusual and fine exhibit was greatly appreciated by our members.

To round off the evening 2 mini-exhibits were tabled:

Ships by Miss Gordon-Hogg.

Queens by Mr H Stutterheim. This exhibit included stamps of Isabella of Spain, Victoria of England and Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

— Mrs E J van Niekerk

## BOKSBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**July** — The letter for the month was M and seven members brought along items of philatelic interest.

The juniors that exhibited in Sasolburg brought their exhibits along.

Richard Higgs — Gold and best exhibit in the age group 8 to 11 — Sound of music  
Guinevere Higgs — Silver-gilt and best written up exhibit for The Art gallery;  
John White — Silver for Safety;  
Maxine White — Silver for Ciskei (country collection);  
Lyndsay Redmond — Silver for Transport;

Angela van der Mey — Bronze for Transport.

Each junior gave a little talk on their exhibits.

**August** — In the absence of the president who was attending Elpex, Doug King took the chair. Seven members entered the fun evening:

Ursula White — Churches  
Allan White — Communications  
Norman Cook — War  
Danie Mostert — Water  
Doug King — Animals  
Jimmy Mitchell — Famous people on South African stamps  
Dave Cowling — Trains.

The exhibits were most enjoyable and it was pleasing to see so many exhibits.

**September** — The president welcomed everyone pre-

sent. She then gave a report from congress. A general discussion regarding philatelic matters was held. — A P White

## HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS attended the meeting held in the New Germany Library in September.

The chairman, Tony Hitchcock, was pleased to see four good exhibits entered for the first awarding of the copper Rose Bowl for the Red Gibbons competition.

The chairman offered to have a master listing made up of the different definitive issues, and their varieties, which occur in the building printings. Many of these issues are turning out to be very interesting indeed.

Some lovely frankings from the main centres, Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Durban were discussed. Wavy lines from automatic machines are quite different to the wavy lines put on with a hand roller cancellation. A relief canceller is sometimes used and if this happens two little lines appear on the round franking which indicates the fact that a temporary/relief canceller has been used.

Reg, our Treasurer, spoke of the British Xmas stamps which had stars on the back. Some had a D printed on the back. The stars emanated from booklets, while the D denoted definitives in booklets.

There is to be an issue of 25 000 covers from EXPO 85, and the envelope will have the 20c Beach scene stamp on it. Some members felt this would be exploiting the public.

Mr Don Mitchell brought along a few items with very interesting labels on them, such as Datapost, a timed delivery label, etc.

A lovely digital clock was given to the club to raffle for our new project. This will take place at the next meeting.

After tea, the chairman and judges spent quite some time on the exhibits. One was on Ireland, one on England, one on covers from Great Britain, and one on Lesotho.

The winner, Mr Don Mitchell, whose exhibit had a lot of pre-stamp material and cancellations of Great Britain, and the Irish exhibit came second.

— Val Mann

## MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**September** — The evening was opened by Mr Harry Sinclair (chairman) who welcomed 58 members and four visitors, followed by extending congratulations to member Mr A D Harris and his wife, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Two displays were put on the boards, both being entries for the Goldblatt Cup. Mrs L Duncan showed "Medicinal plants". Considering that she had only been a member for six months, this was an excellent exhibit. After the tea interval, Mr G E Cooke mounted his "Local railways" exhibit — another excellent entry. Members were amazed at the wealth of information given and material obtained.

This was followed by a lively auction conducted by the humorous, Mr Mike Fox. As the weather had at long last warmed up, so had the bidding!

— (Mrs) Cecilie Coventry

## NATAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**August** — We held our annual competition for the Percy Bishop Cup, for stamps etc in Red Gibbons.

Dr H Campbell showed South West Africa, from the early Union stamps overprinted, and some German SWA, to the more recent issues. The pages were a little overcrowded, but a good effort from a relatively newcomer to the exhibiting game.

R Osborne showed Seychelles. A comprehensive exhibit, from the first stamps of 1892 to the Second KGV I set, plus some postal stationery.

Mr D Warren showed Zanzibar. A very good exhibit from the first 'Sultan' issue of 1896 to the last, deposed sultan, of 1964. Very well written-up and presented. A pleasure to the eye.

The jury, Messrs Hartley, Raw and Draper decided Mr Warren was the winner.

**4 September** — This was our annual competition for the Festival Cup, donated by the late H F Griffiths, for novices, who had never won anything.

Miss L Wade showed Republic of South Africa, the first five years. The pages showed cylinder blocks, FDCs, watermark varieties etc. Very well written-up, but a little 'sterile' in appearance.

Mr H Cock showed butterflies. This was a very well done showing, with booklets, covers, errors, and varieties. The pages were well appointed and written-up.

Mr E A Schultz showed Baden, a state of the present Germany. A well composed exhibit showing stamps, postmarks and postal stationery. The pages well balanced and written-up. The condition of some of the stamps could be improved on, but they are difficult to find!

The jury, Messrs Hartley, Osborne and East, found Mr Cook to be the winner. — **Rex Osborne**

#### SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**September** — Ken Joseph excelled himself as our guest speaker. Prior to explaining the various methods of watermark detection, Ken gave a very comprehensive description on the processes of paper making, getting right down to basics.

We all heard how the cellulose fibre mixed with water and chemicals is beaten into suspension in order for the frayed fibres to bond together, and compressed over a dandy roll under pressure. The watermarks are in actual fact "thinning" under extreme pressure. However, because of the speed of manufacture and also the high pressure exerted by the rollers in order to give a gloss finish, watermarks detection in some instances is very difficult.

A practical demonstration of the use of benzene, even showing its effect on chalky paper, was the first method employed. Then watermark fluid which is more stable, was used. Then followed the Morleybrite detector which relies on pressure and on opaque substance which brings up the "thinning" of the watermark, and finally the Signascope which uses the refraction of light through a prism, possibly the most effective method, but this unit is comparatively expensive.

Even a method of identifying a watermark if a stamp while on cover was explained.

Ribbed paper, laid paper, thread in paper on embossed stamps, was no longer a mystery to some of our members. The look of enlightenment on all faces was a joy to see. I hope none of them were disillusioned when they went home and tried to identify some of their problem stamps themselves.

The demonstration was so effective, that our treasurer was persuaded to take his hand off his heart, and lay out the money for the society to buy a Morley brite detector.

Tony Palmer was the winner of the quiz. We will

have to enter him on the "Flinkdink" TV programme. — **Eddie Kier**

#### SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

Our September meeting was very poorly attended by only 12 members — the lowest in years — which was a pity as we had a top exhibits evening with the prize-winners at Elpex showing their exhibits.

Dr Hillel Faktor won a gold medal, which is most unusual for a thematic collection, as well as the Robert Goldblatt award plus the ATA Gold for his magnificent exhibition of 'Children in philately', which was truly a work of art. It took much research and a lot of hard work to get it all together in such a short time.

Hillel, you did us all proud and we expect great things in the future from you. It contained such wonderful themes in the development of a child's life — showing all the various aspects and growing up process with stamps from all over the world.

Hillel also displayed his second exhibit, 'Israel proof artist', which won a silver award. It had many proofs with the artists' signatures, accepted signed copies by most Israeli artists, and also signed copies by famous Israelis, including Ben Gurion and other famous personalities. It was a great pity that such high class exhibits were missed by so many of our regulars.

Other winners at Elpex were David Stern — a silver gilt for his Queen Elizabeth II errors and another silver for his Israel covers 1948-1952 which hopefully will be exhibited at our society shortly. Rabbi Stanley Zaiden also won a certificate of merit for his New Zealand health.

David Stern prepared a quiz of a high standard which was won — not surprisingly — by Boris Glassman who is a walking encyclopedia on anything on stamps. Boris, your reward will be to prepare a quiz next year.

David Stern proposed a vote of thanks to Hillel. Once again, Hillel, thanks for a wonderful evening.

— **W Mann**

#### THEMATIC STAMP CLUB: CAPE TOWN

**September** — For "all member's night" seven members exhibited. Charles Hudson showed 'Steam safari', Rudi Jeidel 'Early SA aerial posts', Gerald Lee 'GB errors and varieties', Ian Berry 'History of South Africa', Ron Turton 'Ball games', Clem Baker 'The masked ball' and Sheila Savidge 'Mammals'.

The exhibits were all so different and interesting and the general feeling was that we should have more such evenings when more members can have the opportunity of showing a small display each. It also encourages new members through constructive criticism to improve on their work.

The 'Fun' competition on the subject BIG was won by Charles Hudson for the "Biggest hobby in

the world". Several others entered but could not match Charles' imaginative entry.

We extend our condolences to Maria Ehardt on the sad loss of her son. Another stalwart and long-standing member, Rena Whitehead, has undergone a major operation in Groote Schuur Hospital and we wish her a speedy and full recovery.

— **Ron Turton**

#### WINDHOEK-FILATELIEVERENIGING

**Julie-August** — Ons klubdele vergader nou al te lekker in ons nuwe tuiste in die ontspanningssaal van Star Binders & Printers. En weer eens is ons almal baie trots met die prestasie en sukses wat ons lede met ELPEX te Oos London behaal het. Almal ons lede wat wel uitgestal het, het inderdaad met 'n medalje weggestap:

Regter-President H J Berker: Vergulde silwer (1915-23: SWA se Britse Besettingstyd).

Frank Snyman: Vergulde silwer Duits SWA, en Rose Crocker-Skild vir beste uitstalling SWA.

Walter Göring: Vergulde silwer, Herero Feldpost 1904-7.

Carls Raehs: Silver met onderskeiding, SWA — 1923-50.

Gerd Keding: Silver, SWA-Lugpos.

Helmut zur Strassen: Silver, SWA-boetesels en -posgeskiedenis.

Leon Jacobson: Silver-brons, Ondergefrankeerde pos, SWA.

Hans von Einsiedel: Silver-Bron, Vaste reeks SWA 1961.

Leon Jacobson/P Detlefs: Silver met onderskeiding, SWA Handboek.

Ongelukkig is die Gambia-versameling nie uitgestal nie, wat met sy onlangse byvoegings miskien in die goudklas kon beweeg het. En nou sien ons lede alreeds uit na die internasionale uitstalling "Johannesburg 100". Tot dusver is 8 lede voornemens om daar mee te ding.

Verlede jaar, net na die nasionale uitstalling SWA 100, was daar 'n toer aangebied na die Etosha Nasionale Wildtuin. Volgens die 31 gaste was die toer 'n groot sukses. In Oktober 1986, net na die afloop van Johannesburg 100, sal daar weer 'n toer in Suidwes aangebied word, nadat heelwat van die vorige gaste sodanige voorstelle gemaak het. Hulle wil graag deur die suide van Suidwes reis. Meer inligting sal betyds versprei word.

Danny Swart se besoek aan Windhoek met die "White Lady"-versameling was beslis een van die hoogtepunte van die jaar. Vir die meeste van ons lede was die eintlike veiling ietwat van 'n teleurstelling, aangesien hulle nie die materiaal kon kry waarin hulle belang gestel het nie. Maar twee van ons lede hier en ook twee van ons buitelede het goed gevaar en wil ons hulle graag geluk wens. Ons sou egter bly gewees het as daar meer van die goeie Suidwes-materiaal kon "huis toe gekom het".

— **Helmut zur Strassen**

**Address change** — Argyll Etkin Limited has moved to 48 Conduit Street, New Bond Street, London W1R 9FB, telephone 01-437-7800.

**Exchange wanted** — Dr Krunoslav Koscak, D Rakovca 18, 42 000 Varadzin, Yugoslavia, says he would be very happy to exchange stamps with South Africa. He is a medical doctor and lives in an old and small town to the north of Croatia.

**Seëluil gevra** — M N A Nieuwenhuisen, Kosterijstraat 7, 1645 SW Ursem, Nederland, het na aanleiding van Johannesburg 100 kontak opgeneem met Arie Bakker RDPSA, wat nou in Nederland woon. Arie het hom natuurlik dadelik na *The SA Philatelist* verwys! Die heer Nieuwenhuisen wil graag korrespondeer, seëls ruil, en sommer net vriende maak.

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# The Cape Column

by Ken Baker  
and  
Bob Goldblatt  
RDPSA



Here is our new Cape column which we announced in our June 1985 issue, p 134.

A number of readers have sent questions, either via the Editor or directly to Mr Ken Baker, 31 Graham Street, Bedford 5180.

YOUR QUESTIONS ON Cape philately and postal history are most welcome!

We would also like to suggest that readers use our column to report new finds concerning the Cape.

For example, reports on earlier or later dates discovered for the oval town postmarks of the Cape than those already recorded will update the available information.

We would like to illustrate such postmarks (clear photostats please), and we believe this column can be a useful forum to correct and amplify the listing of the Cape barred oval numeral cancellers.

## “Pre-Union”, Pretoria, writes

*From the Stanley Gibbons catalogue I glean that Cape (rectangular) stamps were overprinted for Griqualand West, Orange River Colony and Bechuanaland. For how many territories and uses were Cape stamps overprinted and used?*

## Answer

Additionally to Griqualand West, Orange River Colony and Bechuanaland, Cape rectangular stamps were also overprinted and used in Rhodesia. These were overprinted BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

The 4d Blue value may be found with only a partial overprint — “company” omitted. This is exceptionally valuable. This overprinting came about as a result of a shortage of Rhodesian stamps at Bulawayo, due to both the 1896 Rebellion and the rinderpest plague.

The government of the Cape Colony was requested by telegram through the British South Africa Company’s agent in Cape Town to furnish a supply of Cape stamps suitably overprinted for use in Rhodesia. The overprinting was entrusted to the Argus Printing Company, Cape Town. The first consignment of six values, namely ½d to 6d, was forwarded on 5 May 1896 and a second consignment, which included the 1/- value, was sent in July of that year.

Although Gibbons states the date of issue as 22 May 1896, Dann refers to

their issue in Bulawayo in July of that year. The last of this issue was sold in the Salisbury Post Office at noon on Monday 27 February 1899.

During the Anglo-Boer War, Cape rectangular postage stamps also received overprints to serve special circumstances. The “Mafeking Besieged” overprints are well known, whilst Cape stamps were pressed into service duly overprinted during the Boer occupation of Vryburg in November 1899 and during its re-occupation by British Forces in May 1900.

The ½d and 1d Cape rectangulars were made use of as overprinted stamps during the siege of Schweizer-Renecke, shortly after 19 August 1900. All siege issues are very much in demand.

The Warren Expedition captured Vryburg on 7 February 1885 and the Military Authorities took over the post office services, current 6d and 1/- Cape rectangulars were overprinted “Military Telegraphs” and used exclusively by the Military on telegrams.

## Mrs Amie Maree, Donkerhoek, Pretoria, writes

*I have a red Transvaal 1d King’s Head stamp with a Port Elizabeth postmark dated in December 1911. Was this an error that passed unnoticed as the Cape’s 1d stamp was also red?*

## Answer

The Red 1d King’s Head stamp used in Port Elizabeth and postmarked in December 1911 is not an error as with the coming into being in 1910 of the Union of South Africa the rectangular stamps of the colonies were still valid for postal use throughout South Africa until they were demonitised on 31 December 1937.

1d South African stamps were only printed from 1 September 1913, and your example is typical of the use of a Transvaal stamp during the so-called “Interprovincial period” which extended from 19 August 1910 to 31 August 1913. (A Government notice dated 19 August 1910 removed any restrictions confining the use of postage stamps to within their territorial boundaries and authorised their general use through the Union).

## Jasper Visser, Pospersoneel Pk Hermanus, skryf

*Ek hoor Hermanus se naam was eers Hermanuspetrusfontein, en Springbok was Springbokfontein, maar hierdie*

*name was te lank vir die ou Kaapse posstempels, en toe is die plekname verkort. Is dit waar?*

## Antwoord

Hermanuspetrusfontein is so genoem vir die hoofman Hermanus Pieters. Dit was die beleid om buitensporige lang name van plekke te verkort, maar of dit op aansoek van die Poswese was, aldan nie, kan ek nie sê nie.

Dat die naam Hermanuspetrusfontein te lank was vir die ou Kaapse stempels is sekerlik nie die rede daarvoor nie, want die naam Hermanuspetrusfontein is bekend op Kaapse posstempels wat gebruik was voor die verkorting van die naam. Dit geld ook vir Springbokfontein.

## Hermanuspetrusfontein, additional information:

This office in the Caledon postal division was evidently opened in 1882 as a post office agency. By 1902 the office is listed as Hermanus, a money order office, and now a post office and not an agency. This change from an agency to a post office could have taken place earlier than 1902.



## Wilhelm Grütter, Cape Town, writes

*In the last century coasters used Port Beaufort, about 28 km inland from the Breede River mouth, to serve the district of Swellendam. Is any mail known to have been carried on this route?*

## Answer

Not only did coasters use Port Beaufort, but Murray notes that small sailing vessels chartered from England brought goods through the Port for Messrs Barry & Co. Barry bought their own steamer *Kadie* in the 1850s, and this plied along the coast, and possibly made voyages such as to Mauritius and St Helena.

In 1830/31 Mr W Dunn, probably the ex PE postmaster, was appointed as ‘Gratuitous’ postal agent at the Port. This suggests that mail came through the port at this time, although I have never seen any letters to prove this. Any mail arriving at this time would be sent, to Swellendam.

Port Beaufort post office was opened April 1846 and a mail route to Cape Town via Swellendam was established about the same time. →

**Andre Bezuidenhout MPC. Bloemfontein, writes**

*During the Anglo-Boer War many Free Staters used the Basutoland postal services to correspond with relatives interred as POWs in Ceylon. On some Ceylon covers from northern Basutoland there is a circular cachet with a serrated border, reading "O V / Cencor / S". What does this mark mean? Could it have been an OVS censor?*

**Answer**

We both would agree the mark is a censor mark; is not 'CENCOR' high Dutch for censor?

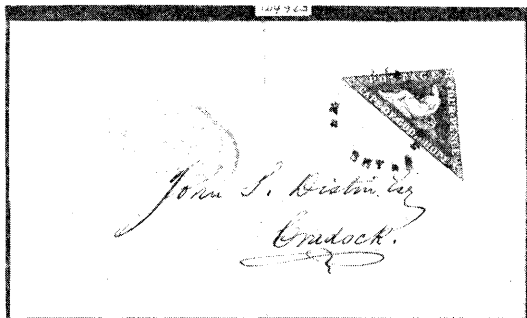
**Don't forget that maritime questions are as acceptable as those concerning stamps, postmarks, post offices, postal routes etc, send along as many as you can.**

## Cape 4d Triangular used in OFS

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The letter is to John S Distin Esq of Cradock. Mr Spangenthal has other letters to Distin addressed in the same handwriting, but from Burghersdorp.



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