

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

FEBRUARY
1997

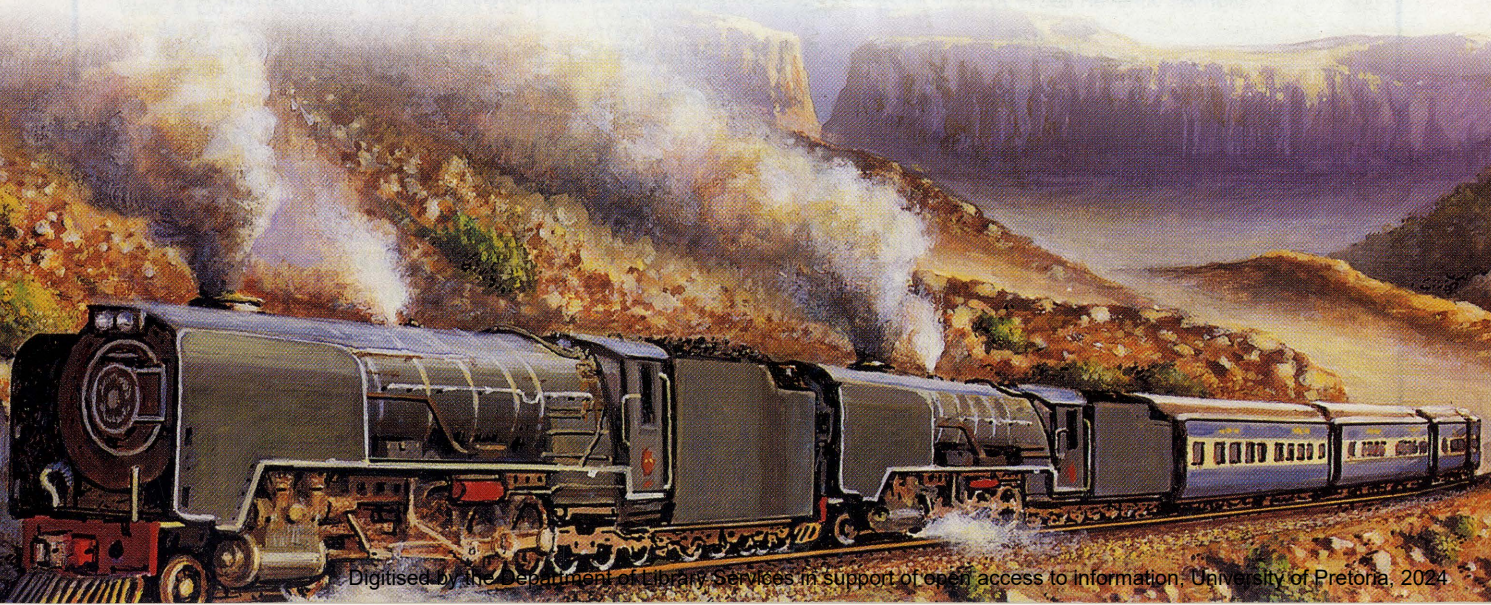
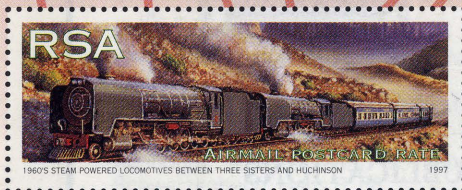
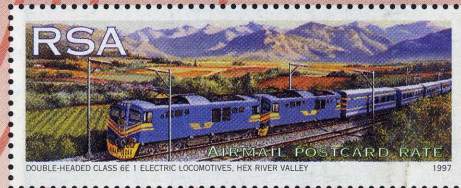
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Vol 73:1 820

- A doyen throws light on machine cancels
- Kyk hoe mens politieke EDKs kan versamel
- World War II mail routes through Switzerland
- Volledige bladwyser vir 1996 in die middel
- Uitvoerige verslae van Federasie werk
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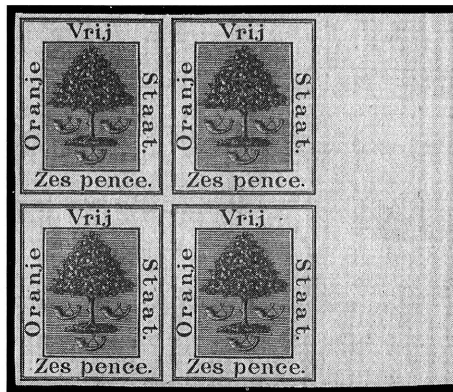


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Soos ek dit sien/In my view The Editor/Die Redakteur

ATTENTION is drawn to the research results among societies affilia-
ted to The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa regarding the ques-
tion of a suitable issuing policy for South Africa (see page 28).

Two points need to be made. It is seldom, indeed probably unheard
of, that a community of interest responds to the tune of 40 per cent of
its membership to a request to voice its opinions and preferences. In
normal market research, a response of 5 per cent of individuals is alrea-
dy regarded as phenomenal.

Thus the profile of what South African collectors regard as an ap-
propriate policy for the SA Post Office to consider can be said to be the
most authoritative ever compiled. It is a clear and unequivocal expres-
sion of opinion of what the postal authorities assure us is an important
client base among its customers.

The second point is this. Collectors are not, though they might like
to think so, the largest client base of the SA Post Office. It has been
said, for example, that one order of Reader's Digest strips outweighs
what collectors spend in a year.

It is clear, therefore, that an issue policy will have to be formulated
with other interests in mind as well. However, it would be extremely
foolish ignore those of collectors.

KONGRESGANGERS het verlede jaar op Bloemfontein jaar die
heuglike nuus gekry het dat die Federasie die intekengeld op ons tyd-
skrif nie verhoog nie, maar dit geld nie vir intekenare wat nie aan 'n ge-
affilieerde vereniging behoort nie. Die matige verhogings wat uit die ko-
lom hiernaas blyk, is suiwer koste-aanpassings – maar ook afdoende be-
wys van die voordele daarvan om 'n lid van die Federasie te wees.

73:1 (820) 1

Uit die possak/From the mailbag

Watch the current mails

Bruce Metelerkamp of Hilton writes: Hardly a day passes by without the mail bringing in something of interest.

Fig 1 is a cover that obviously folded as it went through the cancelling machine, yet made it through all right. I also like the slogan canceller in English (and French): "I am bilingual. Are you?"

Then there is Fig 2 of a cover which went through a fluorescent coding machine twice (*Editor's note: Did it, or is it a two-line code?*). And don't be fooled by my wife's use of German airmail etiquettes.

I experience a great deal of pain from Fig 3. At dispatch the Post Office employee assisted in no uncertain fashion in the provision of clean strikes. But look at the delivery scribbles from my local post office – which to its credit is no longer so careless after being chastised.

I believe that it is laid down in PO rules that stamps may not be written on. Is that correct?

Fig 4 is probably the most extreme form of cancellation I have yet come across (apart from Post Office employees writing numbers with thick black felt pens!)

I must add that I also once received a package from Zimbabwe with at least 50 \$2,00 stamps, all of which had been marked with a pen in addition to normal cancellation. Presumably this was to either check that all had been cancelled conventionally, or to prevent theft and re-use.

I was most indignant about this, and wanted to send back the stamps to the postmaster at Marondera to complain, but never did.

I also wonder about the notches on either side of high value UK stamps. Are these for machine counting and alignment. (*Editor's note: To my knowledge, these are intended as high security perforations.*)

Pros of pre-printed albums

George van den Hurk, RDPSA of Edenvale: Philatelists in South Africa appear to be strongly prejudiced against the use of pre-printed country albums.

When I was a youngster most of us started with pre-printed albums

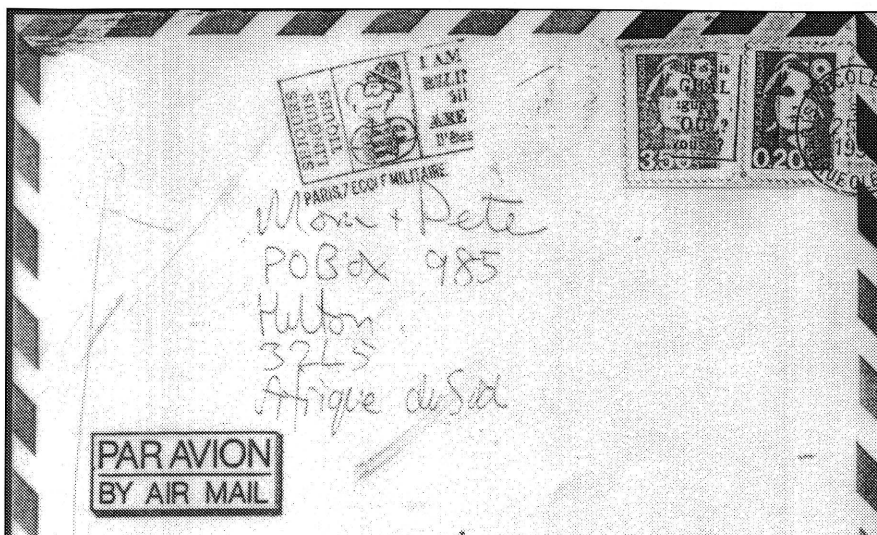


Fig 1.

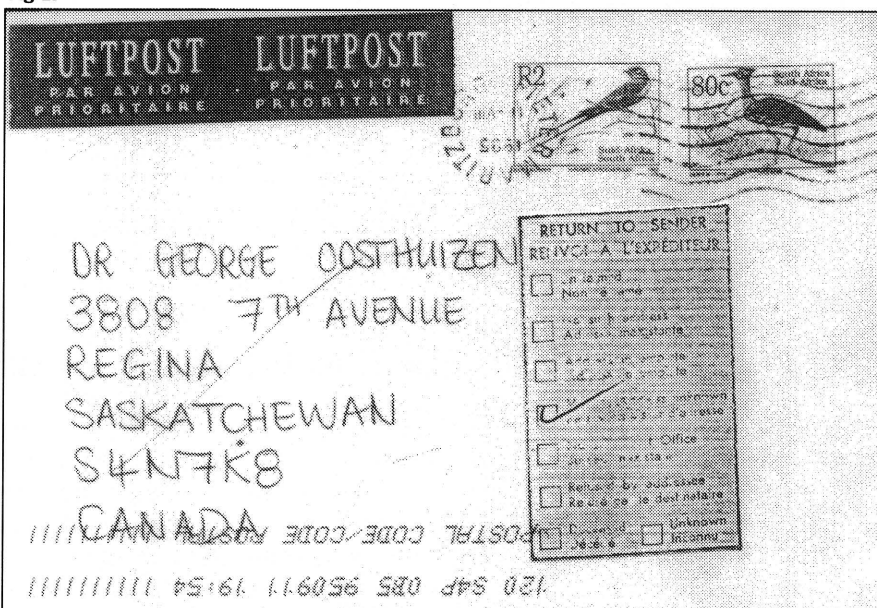


Fig 2



Fig 3

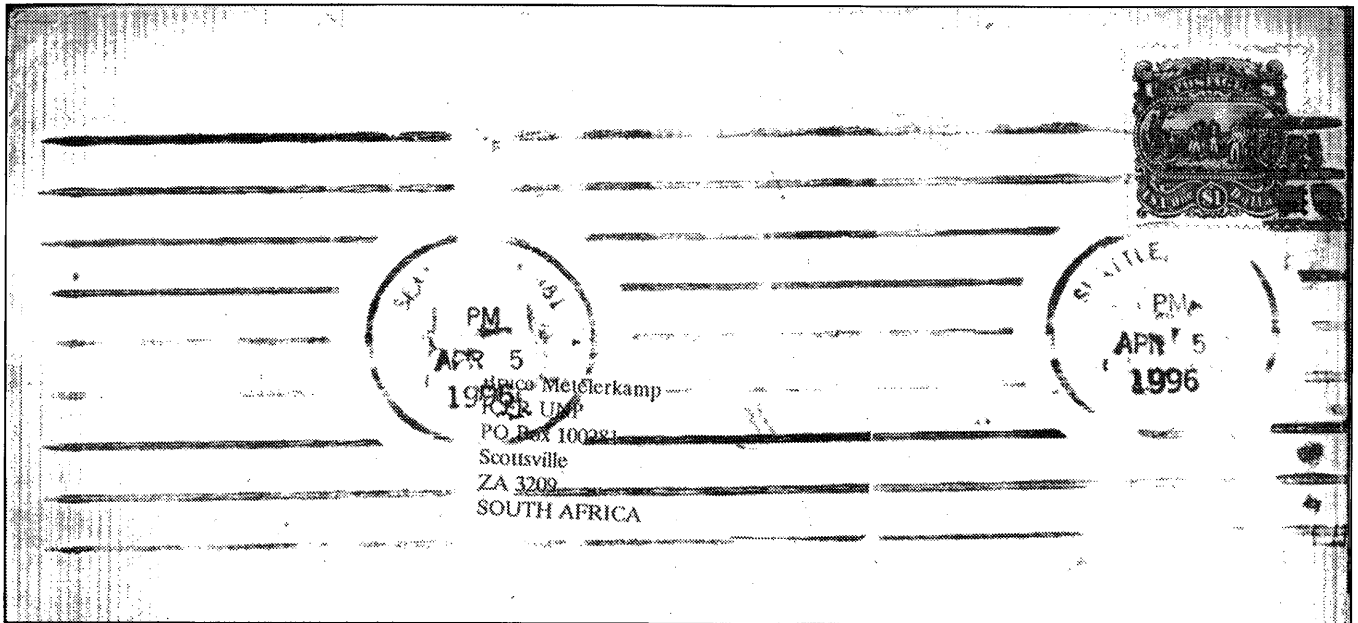


Fig 4

which served us well, and I am convinced that for the beginner and many advanced collectors, whether young or old, the pre-printed country album is still today a good way to house a stamp collection. Too much emphasis on the maxim that “philately starts where the catalogue (and the pre-printed album) ends”, is ignoring the needs of a majority of stamp collectors who do not have the inclination of becoming philatelists if this means that they have to produce their own album pages.

Mary Bromfield said in “Showing off your Stamps” (*The SA Philatelist*, October 1996, p150) that in her opinion the greatest disadvantages of pre-printed albums are: great irritation of empty spaces for missing items, and that there are no provisions for varieties and covers. Furthermore, that there is no scope for individuality and that every collection in that type of album looks identical . . .

Bill Welch said in his Editor’s Letter in *The American Philatelist* of February 1994: “Advanced collectors sometimes sneer at those who use stamp albums. Yet the longer I deal with stamp collectors at all levels, the more convinced I am that we all are ‘just filling in the spaces’. The difference lies in the nature of the spaces.”

In my opinion it does not diminish the irritation whether the empty space is in the album or in the mind. In fact, no provision for varieties in pre-printed albums may even lessen that irritation!

There are pre-printed albums which provide for different printings,

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watermarks and perforations, however, and scope for the individual touch is found in the quality of the material, margins, perforations, cancellations, etc. . . This will make the difference between a good and a bad collection. But just be careful not to throw out the space-fillers before a better copy is obtained!

It is not so long ago that the Post Office Museum in the Netherlands paid a million guilders for an imperfect Post Office Mauritius!

Spelfoute wat krap

Frank van Rensburg van Roo-depoort skryf: Dit blyk dat die twis-

punt omtrent die gehalte van 1996 se matriekresultate reeds sy neerslag by die poskantoor vind.

Agterop die jongste seëlboekies word die woord “poskantore” verkeerdelik “postkantore” gespel.

En die Engelse weergawe van die cachet wat op 'n koevert aangebring is in verband met straataflewering lees dat die posbusnommer van “adres-ses” voorsien moet word, pleks van “addressee’s”.

(Dan wil ek ook my hoed afhaal vir die Vrystaters vir 'n baie goed georganiseerde, interessante en vermaaklike Bloem 150 verlede jaar, en wat daarmee gepaard gaan. Dit wys dat dit ge-doen kan word.)

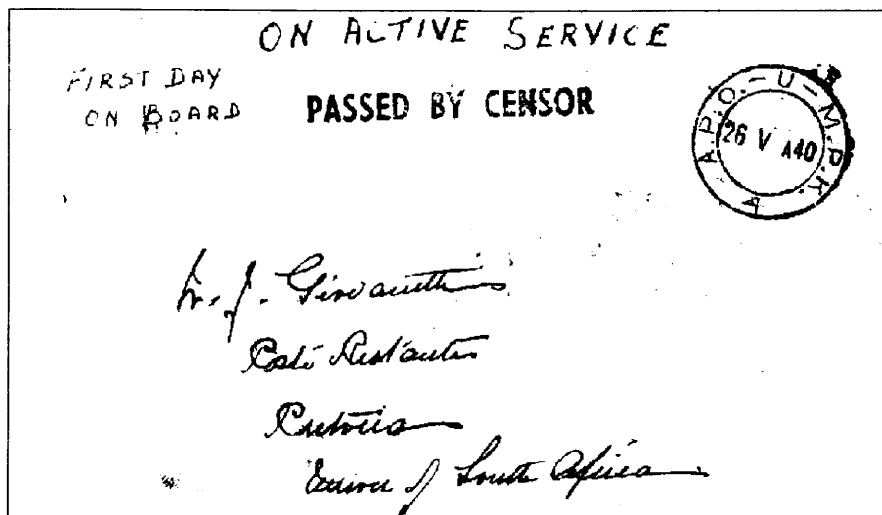
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Military mail to Giovanetti

Judge TM Mullins of The Penthouse, 401 Park Lindos, Museum Street, Port Elizabeth 6001 writes: I wonder if any of your readers have any knowledge of a collector by the name of W J Giovanetti, who is probably now deceased, or his son Alfred. There are a number of covers in existence addressed to W J Giovanetti at various Post Restante addresses, including Pretoria, Pietersburg and Kimberley, bearing Army Post Office 4 datestamp of 26 May 1940, and endorsed "First Day on Board". However according to available authorities, APO 4 was only opened at Mombasa a month later, on 26 June.

The covers all appear to have been sent for philatelic purposes. Despite being endorsed "On Active Service", some covers bear neat blocks of four of 1/2d and 1d stamps, and are neatly

datestamped. What is intriguing however, is how the datestamp came to be used on board ship a month before the APO was opened, and why a month elapsed from the date of departure, presumably from Durban, until the office was opened. It was probably an unauthorised usage of the datestamp.

A later cover to W J Giovanetti (an Air Mail Letter card) contains a message to "Dad" from "Alfred", and if Alfred is still alive I would very much like to contact him, or hear from any one else who can help solve the mystery. I enclose a photostat of one of the covers.

More about dubious issues

Rex Osborne of Durban writes: I refer to the letter of Chris Cordes in the December 1996 issue of *The SA Philatelist*, p179. Today the stamp world is being flooded with unneces-

sary issues. I quote some instances which have come to my notice recently.

- QE II St Helena stamps (unmounted mint sets) are offered at 75 per cent face. You may even get them cheaper.
- A batch of 30 000 recent FDCs of RSA offered at 30c each. If you took more than 50, there was a further discount. (Face value was at least R1,00 each, plus the cost of the cover.)
- A batch of St Vincent stamps, (unmounted mint sets), offered at 25 per cent of face.
- A Durban collector offered unmounted mint sets, B4s etc, of the Isle of Man at face. No takers!
- I have unsubstantiated stories of East African stamps offered at 10 per cent face.
- South African and UK dealers often use the older commemorative stamps for postage. (There is an ad in your magazine to buy at 60 per cent face.)

All this, and plenty more other instances are doing philately immense harm. And I have not even mentioned "junk" issues by Eastern European and Arabian countries

Small boys who used to collect are obviously scared off when they realise they have spent their pocket money on rubbish.

RSA is heading this way too. The only hope is that organised stamp collecting – in the shape of your magazine – does something to stop the deluge. If you don't, stamp collecting, and its attendant science, philately, will die.

■ S J HAGGER, RDPSA Johannesburg Philatelic Society

SA Machine cancels without slogans

THE author, elected to the Roll of Honour in 1957, and now at the venerable age of 92, needs no introduction.

"Jack" Hagger is synonymous with the in-depth research he has produced over the years on the printing of the Union's stamps, culminating in his definitive edition of the *Union Handbook* (1986). Yet he shows, like all true philatelists, that there is ever another arrow to his quiver.

ALTHOUGH I do not collect machine cancels other than the Cape Town PAQUEBOT ones, I may be able to provide some of the information asked for by Neville Gomm in the article which appeared on page 82 of the June 1996 number of *The SA Philatelist*.

In my collection "Union Philately of the First world War" I have six cards or covers which are there because of other markings which they bear. Four were posted in Cape

Town and their details are as follows:

Cape Town without number, date Feb 13 - 1915; with number "8" dated Dec 9 - 1915; and Cape Town Kaapstad without number, dated Aug 7 - 1916 and Dec 2 - 1916. Then there is a fifth: Port Elizabeth without number, and dated Oct 25 - 1914.

However all five of them have next to these dates six straight lines.

My sixth cover: Pretoria South Africa number 2 was cancelled twice, Mar 12 and 18 - 1915, and there were five straight lines. I think that after the first cancelling the cover must have gone back to the Prisoner of War Camp at Robert's Heights to receive the Commandant's Official Free cachet, as the

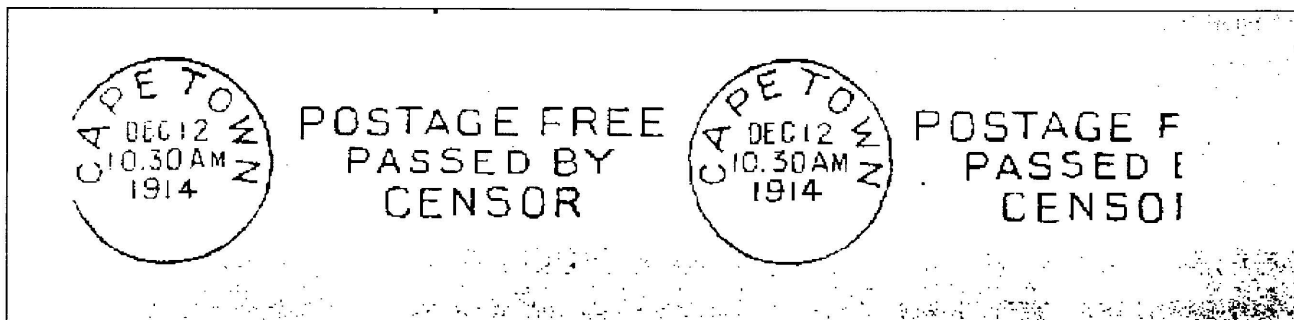


Fig 1

original SA Police one was not accepted.

Postage free, Passed by Censor

Figure 1 is an example of the "Postage Free/ Passed by/ Censor" mark in my collection. It is reproduced in its actual size, as this is important for an understanding of what follows. Gomm's Figure 4 has been reduced in size, and the ends of the box brought in.

Sydow and Vermaak accepted this mark as being a machine cancellation because that is exactly what the maker of it hoped would be the reaction of everyone who saw it. I, on the other hand, was suspicious of it the first time I saw it, and now that Gomm has also accepted it, it is high time my objections appear in print.

My first point is that in December 1914 South Africa had been at war for some months, and only the Defence Department could have authorised the placing of those words on mail matter. The rubber stamps – probably made in Cape Town – which bear those words plus the base number, also in English only, would have accompanied the troops to Luderitzbucht and Walfish Bay, and would have been applied to their mail for the first month or two before being replaced by a bilingual censor stamp.

At the time, too, it would have been an offence for anyone to have placed those words on mail matter which had not been officially censored. Would the staff of the Post Office in Cape Town have committed it a million or more times by using them in a machine canceller? If they had, would they have made such a botch of it and surrounded it with a box for the first and only time?

While I agree with the article that it was used for official bulk posting, I suggest that it would have been used for just one particular batch which re-

quired a large envelope, and thus was unsuitable for machine date stamping. To have had a forme set up (Fig 1) and printed it on them would have been quicker and easier than placing a Defence Department "Official Free" handstamp.

The wording, also the fact that they had been bulk posted, would have made them more likely to have escaped the attention of anyone inimical to the war effort – of whom there were so many at the time.

Unfortunately, however, the compositor made the forme longer than had been stipulated, but my printer friend assures me that it would have been a simple matter to have faded out the unwanted letters or parts of them. Then enclosing the whole with a box of the stipulated size, would have completed the disguise.

I too wonder if any more examples will come to light, but if they do, I'm quite sure they will all show the time as 10:30 AM and the date as Dec 12 and the year 1914.

Paquebot

Vermaak was correct when he said that the first of the Cape Town machine Paquebot cancellers was used in 1915, and I agree with Gomm that

the time has come for us to try to find out exactly how many different ones were used after my Fig 2, dated Nov 6 - 1915.

To this end I show here the remainder in chronological order of date, and in the text explain how I distinguish one from the other. If collectors will now compare their own examples with them and inform the Editor, for publication, of any that I am missing, we can really start counting.

They all have both names, Cape Town and Kaapstad, and they can be distinguished one from the other by their spacing or placement in regard to each other.

At this point I must warn of the unfortunate practice in Cape Town of sometimes bringing back into use Paquebot and Shipping Postmaster datestamps after they had been superseded by a newer type. Only careful comparison and measuring will determine whether or not something of the kind happened with the machine cancellers as well.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 all have Cape Town on the left but they differ as follows:

Fig 3 has the spacing between the tops of the "N" and "K" approxima-

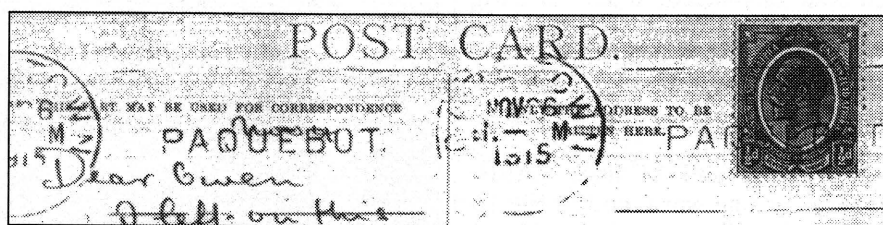


Fig 2

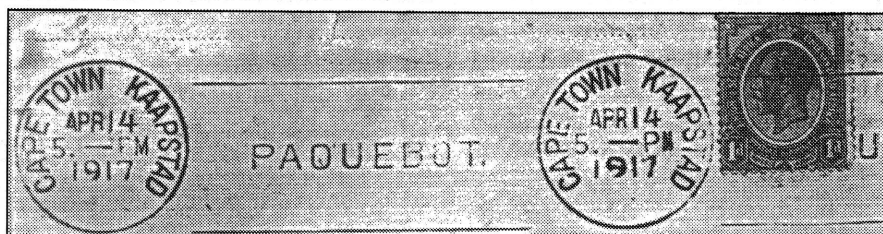


Fig 3

tely 5 mm. I also have an "On Active Service" cover with the date Aug 16 - 1918 and a card from a member of the Australian Imperial Forces on which I cannot make out the year, so it must have remained in use for the rest of the War period.

In Fig 4 it is 3,5 mm and in Fig 5 the words are separated by a dash.

Figures 6 to 12 all have Cape Town at the top and here the differences in spacing between the "E" and "T" are:

Fig 6 has its spacing at 4 mm, Fig 7 has it 2,5 mm, and Fig 8 4,5 mm. Figs 9 and 10, from 1931 and 1934 respectively, confirm each other at 2 mm, and I also have another example on a London 2d stamp with date Jun 15 - 1931.

Fig 11 has much smaller lettering, while the spacing is 4 mm. Fig 12 is completely different in that the names are in different rings, the date is now ringed, and CAPETOWN appears as one word. This is almost certainly the one which, for security reasons, had everything removed from the rings and was used during this War period. It should not be confused with a similar one used in Durban which retained the date.

Figures 13 to 17 marked a complete departure in that, unless they had been "pruned" before I got them, the date appears only once with the time above and the month in Roman numerals. Cape Town as one or two words appears at the top or bottom and between them the code letters "A", "B", "C" or blank, on either side. PAQUEBOT is on the right reading downward and flanked on either side by five short wavy lines. They differ as follows:

Fig 13 has Kaapstad at the top and the code or machine letter "B", Fig 14 corresponds to Gomm's Fig 6 and has CAPE TOWN at the top and code letter "C", Fig 15 again has CAPE TOWN at the top, but there is no code letter.

Figures 16 and 17 have CAPE-TOWN, as one word, and in Fig 16 the letter is "A" whereas in Fig 17 it is "C".

In my experience the latter marks are rare and it will be observed that I have only one example dated between 1949 and 1959, thus there could be many more.

Any readers who have persevered thus far must be very interested indeed, and I appeal to them to carry on with the job.

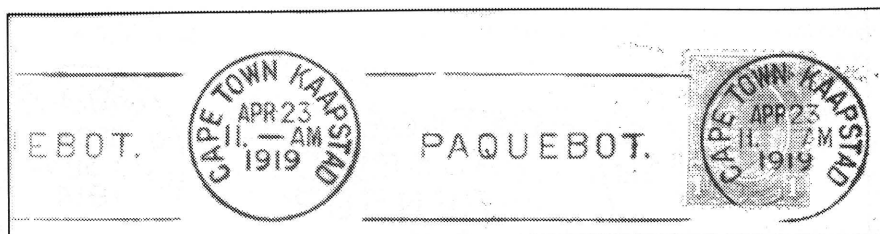


Fig 4

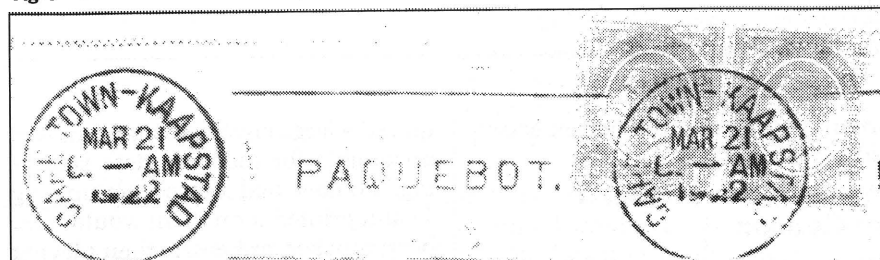


Fig 5



Fig 6

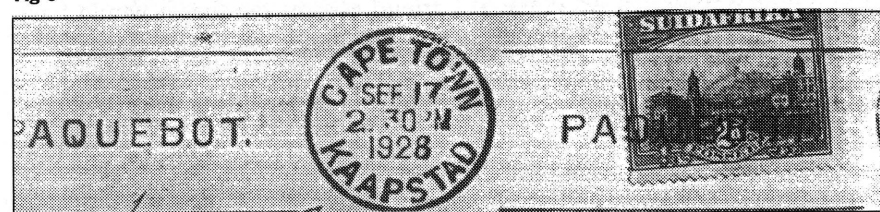


Fig 7



Fig 8

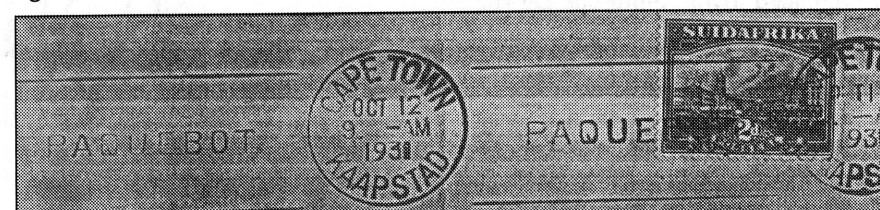


Fig 9

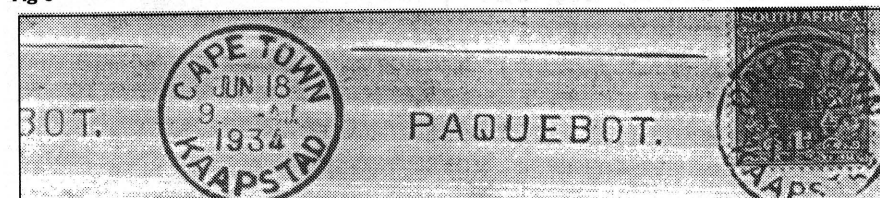


Fig 10

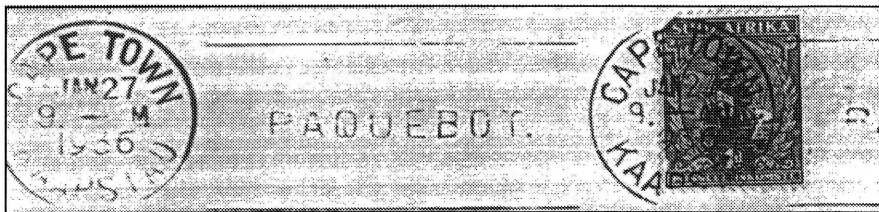


Fig 11

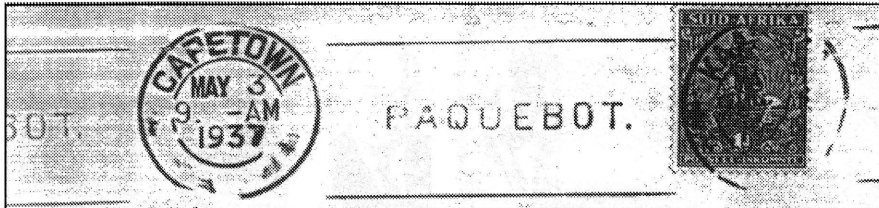


Fig 12

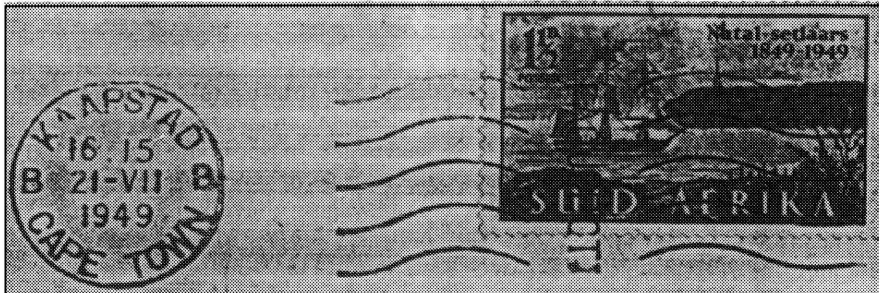


Fig 13

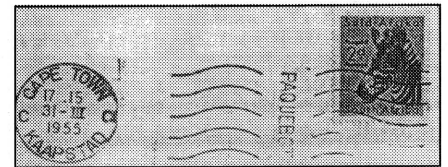


Fig 14

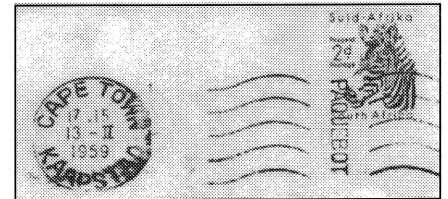


Fig 15

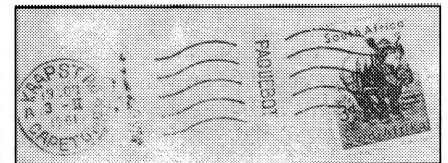


Fig 16



Fig 17

■ DR J W VAN TONDER

Suid-Afrikaanse filateliese politiek

IN die lig van die besluit wat die Filateliese Federasie op sy kongres op Bloemfontein in 1996 geneem het – dat 'n klas vir eerstedagkoeverte by uitstallings geskep word – is hierdie 'n welkome artikel, wat uiteensit hoe een besondere versamelaar die taak sien.

Dr Van Tonder is 'n professionele persoon in Heidelberg, Transvaal, en die artikel verskyn tweetalig, soos dit ontvang is.

20TH CENTURY political development in South Africa as seen on first day covers is discussed, with additional stamps depicting all the leaders during this period.

Die versameling eerstedagkoeverte beeld die Eerste Ministers en Staatspresidente uit van die Unie en later die Republiek van Suid-Afrika.

Die evolusie van die landsvlag word ook vasgevang op die koeverte.

A brief history of each person and his political development during his time in office is given.

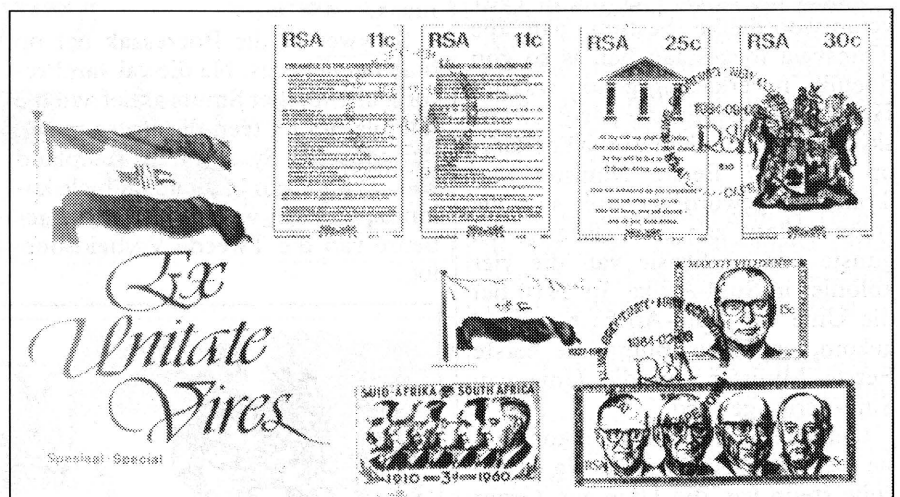


Fig 1

A. Suid-Afrika se Eerste Ministers

1. Genl Louis Botha Fig. I, IV
2. Genl J C Smuts Fig. I, IV, XIII
3. Genl J B M Hertzog Fig. I, IV
4. Dr D F Malan Fig. I, IV, XIII
5. Adv J G Strydom Fig. I, IV
6. Dr H F Verwoerd Fig. I, II, IV, V
7. Mnr B J Vorster Fig. II, III
8. Mnr. P W Botha Fig. II, III, VI-1

B. Suid-Afrika se Presidente

1. Mnr C R Swart Fig. II, IV, V, VI-2, IX
2. Mnr J J Fouché Fig. II, III, IV, V, VI-2, IX
3. Mnr N Diederichs Fig. II, III, IV, V, VI-2, IX
4. Mnr B J Vorster Fig. II, IV, V VI-2, IX
5. Mnr Marais Viljoen Fig. II, III,

IV, V, VI-2, IX

6. Mnr P W Botha Fig. II, III, V, VI, VI-2, X

7. Mnr F W de Klerk Fig. II, V, VII

8. Mnr Nelson Mandela Fig. VIII

C. South African flag

Fig. I, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII

A. Die Eerste Ministers

1. Genl Louis Botha : (1910 – 1919)

Genl Louis Botha het 'n groot rol gespeel in die militêre en politieke geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika.

In 1897 het hy Volksraadslid van die distrik Vryheid geword. Hy het verskeie swart tale soos Zoeloe en Swazi vlot gepraat, en was baie werd vir President Kruger en sy Volksraad.

Tydens die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog is Botha aangestel as Kommandant-Generaal van die Boerekrysmagte van Transvaal – 'n posisie wat hy tot met die vredesluiting in 1902 beklee het. Hierna het hy 'n leidende rol gespeel om 'n verenigde Suid-Afrikaanse nasie, bestaande uit Afrikaans- en Engelssprekendes, tot stand te bring.

Hy was 'n ware vredemaker. Sy leuse ná 1902 was "Herstelling na verwoesting". Hy het in 1904 'n leidende rol gespeel met die stigting van 'n politieke party vir Afrikaners, naamlik die Het Volk party.

Nadat die Britse regering in 1907 verantwoordelike bestuur aan die Transvaal toegestaan het, is so gou doenlik 'n verkiesing gehou waaruit Het Volk as die sterkste party tevoorskyn getree het. Genl Botha het daarop in 1907 Eerste Minister van Transvaal geword. Hy het sy volle steun verleen aan die beweging ten gunste van unifikasie van die vier kolonies in Suid-Afrika. In 1910 het die Unie van Suid-Afrika tot stand gekom, en Louis Botha die eerste Eerste Minister van die Unie van Suid-Afrika geword.

Genl Botha het daarna 'n konsiliasie (versoeningsbeleid) gevolg en die volle steun van die Unie aan Groot Brittanje beloof tydens die Eerste Wêreldoorlog. Hy het ook Duits Suidwes-Afrika verower en die Rebelie van 1914 onderdruk.

Die te ver gedrewe konsiliasiebeleid van genl Botha, getrou gesteun deur genl Smuts, het tot 'n onafwendbare skeuring in Afrikanergeledere gelei.

2. Genl J C Smuts: (1919 – 1924; 1939 – 1948)

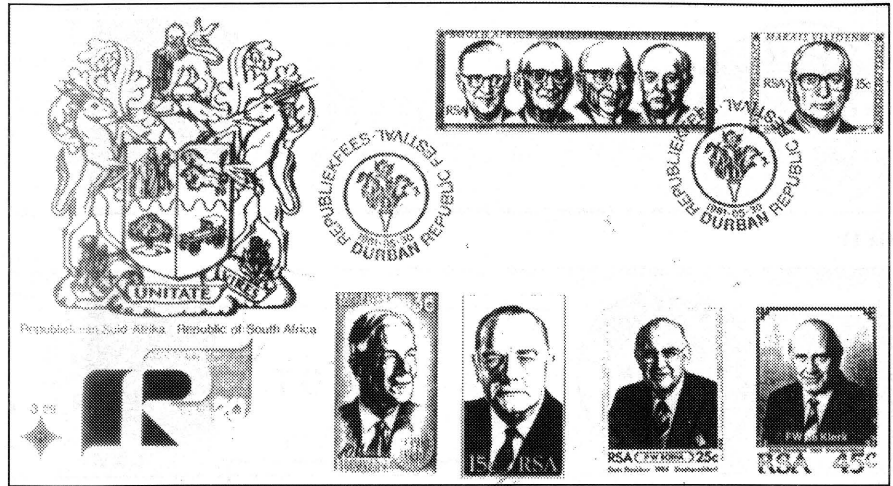


Fig. II

Genl Jan Christiaan Smuts was onder die politieke leiers van Suid-Afrika seker die mees omstrede figuur in ons geskiedenis.

Jan Smuts het op Stellenbosch studeer en daarna is hy na Engeland waar hy in die regte gestudeer het. Na vier jaar het jy hom gevestig as advokaat in Kaapstad.

Met die onthulling van Cecil John Rhodes se volle betrokkenheid by die Jameson strooptog in 1896, het Jan Smuts by wyse van reaksie aangetrokke gevoel tot die Nasionale Afrikanerstrewe, veral soos dit in Paul Kruger gestalte gevind het. Laasgenoemde het hom in 1898 staatsprokureur gemaak.

Sy wyer in die Boeresak het op oortuiging berus. Na die val van Pretoria in 1900 het Smuts aktief aan die guerilla-oorlog teen die Britse magte deelgeneem. Sy inval in Kaapland aan die hoof van 'n uiters mobiele kolonne, was een van die roemryke gebeure van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog.

Na die vrede in 1902 was dit genl Smuts se strewe om al sy kragte aan die herstel en heropbou van Transvaal te gee. 'n Spontane ywer het hom beetgepak in sy aksie om die hele Transvaalse bevolking vooruit te help. Hy het genl Louis Botha bygestaan om Het Volk te stig. In 1906 is Jan Smuts na Engeland om die Britse premier, sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman te oordeel om verantwoordelike bestuur aan Transvaal toe te staan. Genl Smuts het sy doel bereik, en dit het 'n dramatiese ommekeer in sy toekomstige staatkundige insigte teweeggebring.

Sy politieke denkrigting was van toe af vas gekoppel aan die belange van die Britse Ryk.

Genl Smuts het geesdriftig gepleit vir die totstandkoming van die Unie van Suid-Afrika in 1910. Na genl Botha se dood in 1919, het J C Smuts Eerste Minister van die Unie geword. In 1924 het die Nasionale Party die Smutsbewind oorgeneem.

In 1933 het Suid-Afrika ernstige

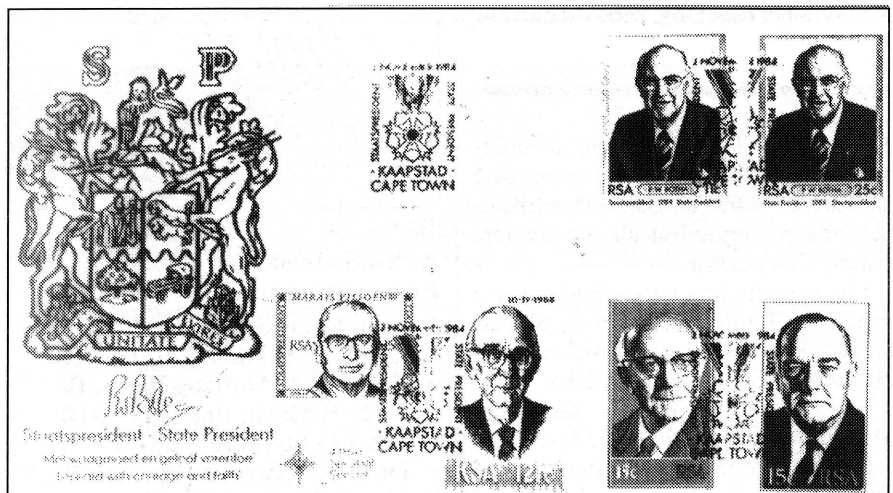


Fig. III

droogte, depressie en die armbanke vraagstuk beleef, waarna Jan Smuts bereid was om as adjunk-premier onder sy politieke aartsvriend, genl Hertzog, te dien – die sogenaamde Smelters bewind tot 1939.

Met die uitbreek van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog, begin van September 1939, het genl Smuts dit as Suid-

Afrika se plig beskou om Engeland in die oorlog teen Duitsland te steun, terwyl die premier, genl Hertzog, se standpunt was dat die Unie neutraal behoort te bly. Genl Smuts het 'n meerderheid van 13 in die Parlement behaal, en het weer Eerste Minister geword. Gedurende hierdie oorlog het Jan Smuts die hoogtepunt van sy

loopbaan bereik.

3. *Genl J B M Hertzog: (1924 – 1939)*
James Barry Munnik Hertzog was die man wat die grondslag van die nasionale bewussyn van die Afrikanervolk gelê het, en die skepper van die leuse “Suid-Afrika Eerste.”

Hy het sy studies in die regte in die buiteland voltooi, en as advokaat kom praktiseer in sy vaderland. Kort ná die uitbreek van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog in 1899, is adv Hertzog deur President Steyn as Vrystaatse veggeneraal aangestel. Met die opstel en bewoording van die vredesvoorwaardes in Mei 1902, het genls Hertzog en Smuts 'n besondere rol gespeel.

Hy was altyd op die voorpos vir volk en taal, en het in 1908 sy Onderwyswet ingevoer in die OVS, wat voorsiening gemaak het vir absolute taalgelykheid in skole.

Barry Hertzog het gebots met die konsiliasiepolitiek van die Botha/Smuts beleid en het gelyke regte vir die twee blanke volkselemente geëis. Elkeen moes sy eie kultuur beoefen en ontwikkel volgens sy eie aard en aanleg – sy bekende tweestroom politiek.

Op 7 Desember 1912 het Barry Hertzog sy beroemde toespraak op De Wildt (naby Brits) gehou, waar hy verklaar het dat, wanneer die belange van Suid-Afrika met die van Brittanje bots, hy hom aan die kant van Suid-Afrika sou skaar – die Nasionale leuse: “Suid-Afrika Eerste”. Hierna het genl Louis Botha 'n nuwe kabinet saamgestel en genl Barry Hertzog daaruit weggelaat.

Die Nasionale Party is in 1914 in die lewe geroep met genl Hertzog as die hoofleier. Die algemene verkiesing in 1924 is deur die Nasionale Party gewen, en genl Hertzog het Eerste Minister geword.

Een van sy vernaamste prestasies is bereik op die Statebondskonferensie van 1926 in London, waarin hy die bewoording in die Statuut van Westminster voorgestel het, dat die Unie van Suid-Afrika heeltemal 'n soewereine onafhanklike staat moet wees.

Genl Hertzog het hom daarna bewywer dat Suid-Afrika sy eie vlag, volkslied, nywerhede, handel en lewensbestaan verkry.

Ná die erge depressie, droogte en armbankevraagstuk van 1933, het Hertzog aan Smuts voorgestel dat die twee groot partye moet saamsmelt ter wille van gemeenskaplike belang. Die

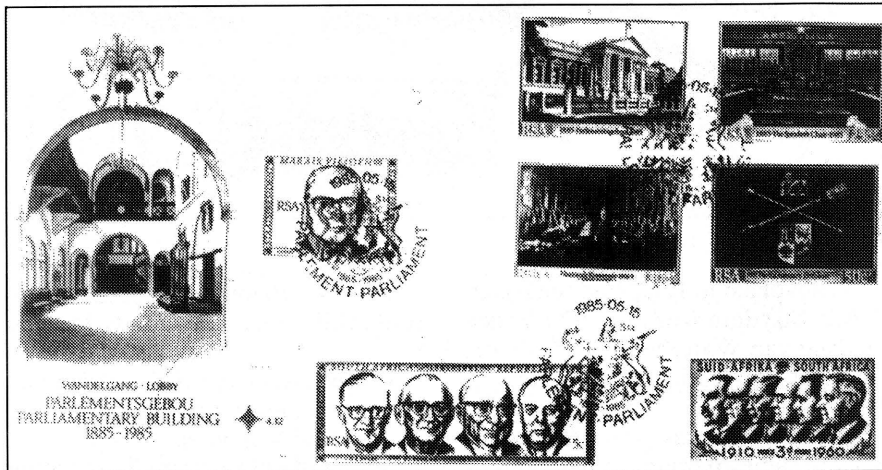


Fig. IV

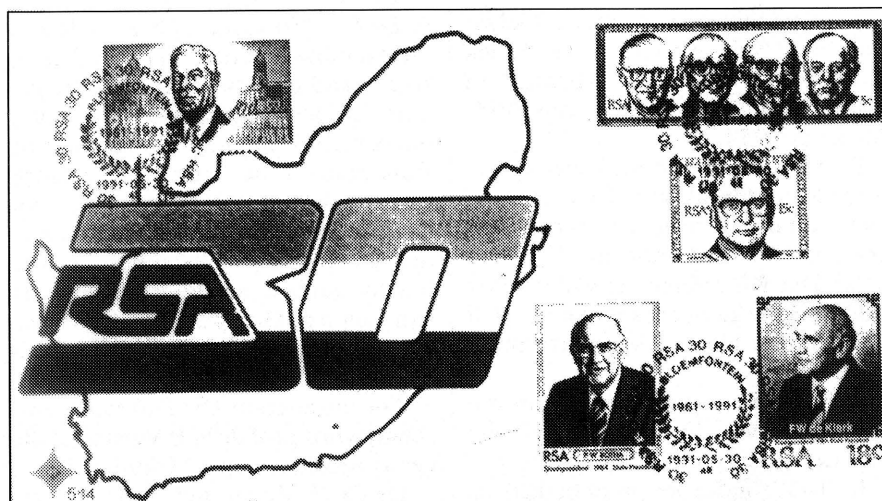


Fig. V

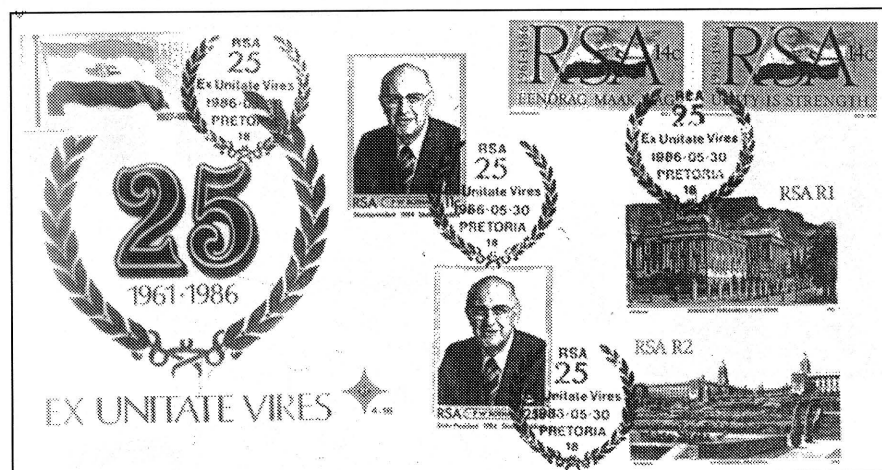


Fig. VI.1



Fig. VIII

spesiale opdrag die Departement van Naturelle Sake.

Ná die dood van adv J G Strydom word dr Verwoerd aangewys as die sesde Eerste Minister van Suid-Afrika, op 2 September 1958.

In 1959 het dr Verwoerd 'n wetsontwerp in die Parlement ingedien waardeur die direkte verteenwoordiging wat die naturelle in die Parlement gehad het, verval. In die plek daarvan is aan agt tuislande volle selfbestuur in die vooruitsig gestel, met 'n Kommissaris-Generaal vir elk.

Dr Verwoerd oorleef sy eerste sluipmoordaanval op Saterdag, 9 April 1960 by die Randse Paasskou, toe hy twee keer in die gesig geskiet is.

'n Volkstemming in Suid-Afrika vind plaas op 5 Oktober 1960, waarby die Ja-stem seëvier. Die Unie word die Republiek van Suid-Afrika.

In die Gemenebeskonferensie van 1962 gaan stel dr Verwoerd die Republiek se saak om nog in die Britse Statebond te bly. Weens opbouende anti-Suid-Afrikaanse gevoelens, trek hy egter die aansoek terug. Hy ontvang 'n luisteryke ontvangs op Jan Smuts lughawe met sy terugkoms.

Op 6 September 1966, voor 'n parlementsitting, tref 'n dolk die liggaam en hart van dr H F Verwoerd, en hy sterf.

Dr H F Verwoerd word in latere jare beskou as die vader van die apartheidsera.

7. The Hon. B J Vorster, State President of the Republic of South Africa

Balthazar Johannes Vorster was born on 13 December 1915 at Jamestown in the Cape Province, the 13th of a family of 14 children.

It is remarkable how prominently

the figure 13 featured in his career. As Minister of Justice in the late dr Verwoerd's cabinet he was 13th in order of seniority when he was elected Prime Minister, had then been a Member of Parliament for exactly 13 years, and he assumed office as Prime Minister of South Africa on 13 September 1966. To cap it all, Mr Vorster, who was an enthusiastic golfer, had a handicap of 13 when he became Prime Minister.

The young John Vorster went to Stellenbosch in 1934 to read law.

After obtaining his BA LLB degree in 1938, Mr Vorster became registrar to the late Judge President, Justice H S van Zyl, in Cape Town. Later he practised as an attorney, first in Port Elizabeth and subsequently in Brakpan. After his election to Parliament in 1953 he was admitted to the Johannesburg Bar and practised as an advocate until his appointment as Deputy Minister in 1958.

As one of the leading figures in the anti-war organization, the Ossewa Brandwag, Mr Vorster was arrested in September 1942 in Port Elizabeth, where he was then practising as an attorney, detained without trial for three months, and interned briefly, but was released in 1944.

Immediately after the war Mr Vorster entered active politics and contested the Brakpan seat in 1948. In that election he was defeated by two votes, but in the next general election in 1953 he captured the neighbouring seat of Nigel for the National Party. He represented this constituency up to the time of his resignation as Prime Minister.

During his term of office as Prime Minister Mr Vorster set himself the aim not only of fostering good relations between the Afrikaans and English-speaking sections, but also of stabilizing the peaceful co-existence of the various race groups in South Africa. Mr Vorster had an unshakeable belief in the policy of separate development, enabling each national group to develop independently and thus retain its identity.

Furthermore, Vorster had always believed that as South Africa is part of Africa, she should normalize her relations with the countries of Africa. It is in recent times especially that his efforts to normalize relations have brought Mr Vorster's policy of détente into prominence, particularly after his by now famous "Peace in Africa" speech on 23 October 1974 in the Se-



Fig. XI

nate, in which he strongly emphasized peace, progress, and development in Africa.

Mnr B J Vorster hanteer dringende en netelige vraagstukke, soos die moeilike posisie van Rhodesië, die vraagstuk van Suidwes-Afrika en die stryd in Angola.

Die dryfvere van mnr Vorster se regime sal altyd vasstaan:

(a) Sy ywer om die internasionale isolasie van Suid-Afrika te stuit.

(b) Sy ywer om die volkeresamelewing en vreedsame naasbestaan te verstewig, en

(c) Sy ywer om die selfbeskikking vir elke volk te verskans.

In September 1978 het mnr Vorster die amp as Eerste Minister neergelê, en het hy die vierde Staatspresident geword op 10 Oktober 1978. Die pos het hy beklee tot 4 Junie 1979.

8. *The State President, Mr P W Botha, DMS*

Pieter Willem Botha was born in the Paul Roux district, Orange Free State, on 12 January 1916.

He received his school education at Paul Roux and Bethlehem, and studied law at the University of the Orange Free State. He was secretary or chairman of various student societies. At the age of twenty he became an organizer of the National Party in the Cape Province.

From 1946 to 1948 he was Union Information Officer of the National Party. In the 1948 general election he became member of Parliament for George. During 1958 he was appointed Deputy Minister of the Interior, and in 1961 he was appointed Minister of Community Development and of Coloured Affairs. During 1964 he also became Minister of Public Works.

From April 1966 to October 1980 he was Minister of Defence and in 1966 he was unanimously elected Leader of the National Party in the Cape Province. He was also appointed member of the Board of Directors of Nasionale Pers Beperk.

In January 1975 he was appointed Leader of the House of Assembly – a position he held until 1978 when he became the eighth Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa and also handled the portfolio of the National Intelligence Service.

On 5 September 1984 Pieter Willem Botha was unanimously elected first Executive State President of the

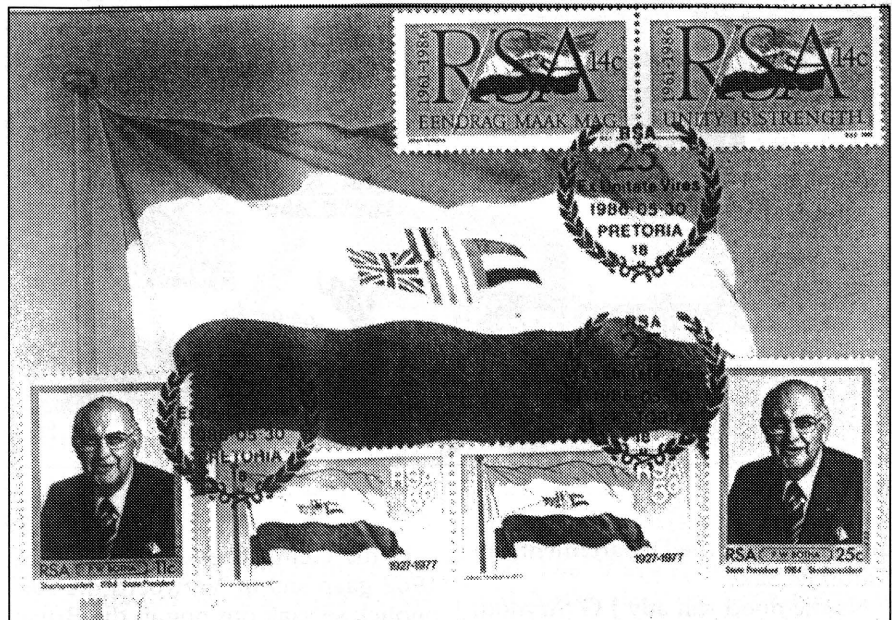


Fig. X

Republic of South Africa, and he was installed in this office on 14 September 1984, a post he held till 1989.

Mnr P W Botha dui die toekoms vir Suid-Afrika aan. Hy verwerp die "een mens, een stem" gedagte, asook blanke oorheersing, en is ten gunste van verdeling van mag met wedersydse erkenning van mekaar se regte.

Hy het gesê apartheid is die resep vir permanente konflik. P W Botha stel sy twaalfpunt plan op. Dit is:

1. Die aanvaarding van veelvolkigheid en minderheidsgroepe in Suid-Afrika.

2. Die aanvaarding van vertikale differensiasie met die beginsel van selfbeskikking op soveel vlakke as

moontlik.

3. Die skepping van staatkundige strukture wat sover as moontlik gekonsolideer is.

4. Die verdeling van mag tussen Blankes, Kleurling en Indiërs, met 'n stelsel van raadpleging waar gesamentlike belange geraak word.

5. Die aanvaarding van die beginsel van eie skole en gemeenskappe.

6. Die verwydering van kwetsende en onnodige diskriminerende maatreëls.

7. Die interafhanklikheid van Suid-Afrikaanse state op ekonomiese en ander gebiede.

8. Die nastrewing van 'n konstellasie van Suid-Afrikaanse state met we-

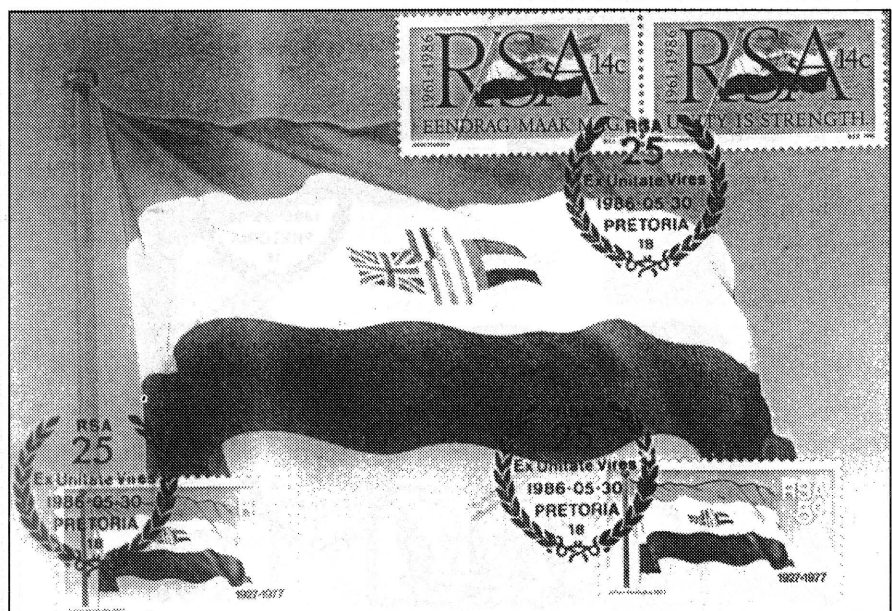


Fig. XI

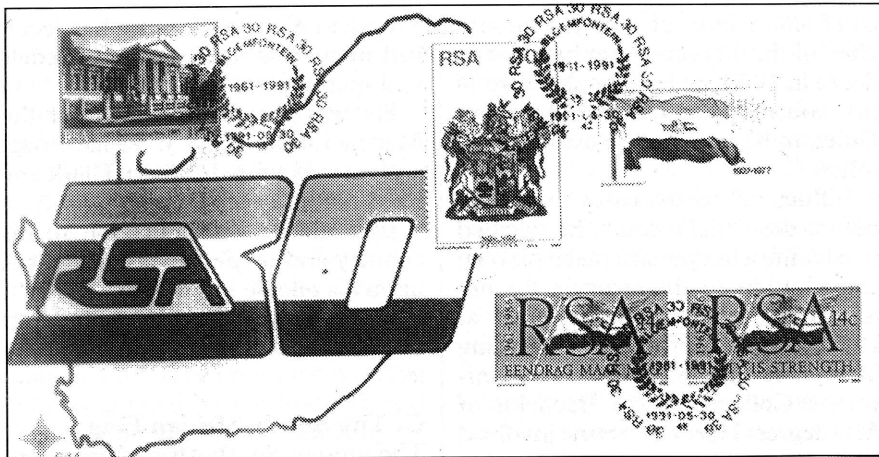


Fig. XII

dersydse respek vir mekaar se standpunte.

9. Die vasberadenheid om Suid-Afrika teen buitelandse inmenging te beskerm.

10. Die nastrewing van 'n beleid van gekwalifiseerde neutraliteit waarin die land se eie belange van oorwegende belang sal wees.

11. Doeltreffende besluitneming gegrond op 'n sterk weermag en suiver administrasie.

12. Die handhawing van die vrye ondernemingstelsel.

B. DIE STAATSPRESIDENTE

I. Charles Robberts Swart – Eerste President, 31 Mei 1961 – 31 Mei 1967

Soos sy opvolgers, was adv. Swart ook 'n Vrystater van geboorte.

Na hy sy grade BA LLB. van UOVS verwerf het, bestudeer hy joernalistiek aan die Universiteit van Columbia, New York. Van 1909 tot 1930 was hy landdrosklerk op Winburg, onderwyser op Ficksburg en advokaat van die Hooggeregshof in Bloemfontein.

C R Swart was 'n veelsydige politikus en was LV vir Ladybrand en Winburg. Hy was ook die waarnemende Eerste Minister na die afsterwe van adv J G Strydom.

Van Januarie 1960 tot April 1961 was hy Goewerneur-Generaal van die Unie van Suid-Afrika.

Van 31 Mei 1961 tot 31 Mei 1967 beklee hy die hoë amp van Staatspresident van RSA.

II. Johannes Jacobs Fouché – Tweede Staatspresident, 1968 – 1975

As Jong Vrystater het J J Fouché homself gou bekwaam as 'n bekende Afrikaner-beesboer. Gedurende die depressiejare (1930 tot 1933) het hy hom die lotgevallen van die boeregemeenskap ter harte geneem.

In 1941 word hy LV vir Smithfield. In 1950 beklee hy die pos as Administrateur van Oranje Vrystaat.

J J Fouché beywer hom om Afrikaans en Engels tot hulle reg te laat kom, en verander enkelmedium onderwysopleiding na parallelmedium.

In 1959 word hy Minister van Verdediging. Nadat Suid-Afrika uit die

Statebond getree het, onderhandel hy met Brittanje oor die aankoop van militêre toerusting. Hy ontvang lisensies vir die vervaardiging van wapentuig, en so begin die grootliks selfvoorsienende Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag.

As Staatspresident beywer hy hom vir groter eenheid tussen die nasies van die RSA.

III. Derde Staatspresident – Nicolaas Diederichs, 1975 – 1978

N. Diederichs behaal sy BA en MA grade met lof aan die UOVS en daarna sy graad D.Litt et Phil. met lof aan die Universiteit van Leiden.

Op 29 jaar word hy professor in Staatsleer en Wysbegeerte aan die UOVS in 1933. Hy ontwikkel belangstelling in die sosiologiese aspekte van die armblankevraagstuk en word leier van die Reddingsdaadbond.

In 1948 betree hy die politiek en word LV vir Randfontein. Van 1958 tot 1974 was hy LV van Losberg. In 1958 is hy aangestel as Minister van Ekonomiese Sake, 1961 – 1963 Minister van Mynwese en in 1976 Minister van Finansies.

Nicolaas Diederichs plaas Suid-Afrika op die "goue pad" en was 'n bekwame akademikus, finansier, ekonoom en staatsman. Die kern van sy lewensfilosofie was dat arbeid die grondslag van alle welvaart is.

IV. Vierde Staatspresident Balthazar Johannes Vorster, 10 Oktober 1978 – 4 Junie 1979

Soos beskryf onder Suid-Afrika se Eerste Ministers.

V. Staatspresident Marais Viljoen 1979 – 1984

Marais Viljoen begin sy loopbaan as poskantoorwerker in 1932. Hy beklee verskillende poste sedert sy toetred tot die openbare lewe – aanvanklik as Provinsiale Raadslid vir Pretoria Sentraal, daarna in 1953 Volksraadslid van Alberton, Adjunk-minister van Arbeid en Mynwese en Binnelandse Sake in 1961.

In 1967 word hy Minister van Arbeid en Kleurlingsake, en in 1970 Minister van Arbeid, Pos en Telekommunikasiewese. In 1976 word hy President van die Senaat en in 1979 die vyfde Staatspresident van die RSA.

Hantering van Binnelandse Sake het hy op regverdige eise gegrond.

VI. Staatspresident P W Botha 1984 – 1989

Soos beskryf onder Suid-Afrika se

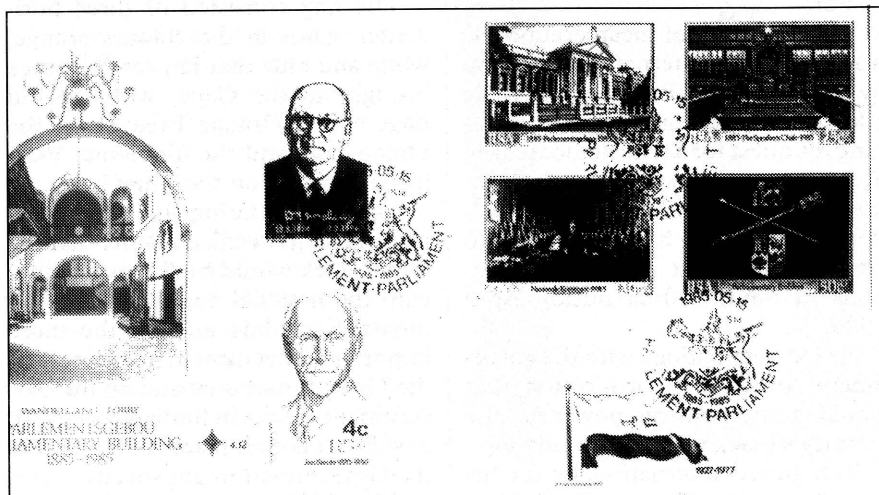


Fig. XIII

Eerste Ministers.

VII. *State President Mr F W de Klerk, DMS, 1989 – 1994*

Mnr F W de Klerk het hom en die nuwe regering verbind tot 'n duidelike mandaat vir hervorming en vernuwing, naamlik

1. 'n Nuwe Suid-Afrika
2. 'n Totaal veranderde Suid-Afrika

3. 'n SA wat ontslae geraak het van die antagonisme van die verlede

4. 'n SA vry van oorheersing of verdrukking in watter vorm ook al

5. 'n SA waarin die demokratiese magte – alle redelike mense – hulle verenig agter onderling aanvaarde doelstellingen en teen radikalisme, ongeag die oorsprong.

F W de Klerk het voorts vyf brandpunte aangedui waarop gekonsentreer sou word:

1. Alles gaan in die werk gestel word om die diep kloof van wantroue, agterdog en vrees tussen Suid-Afrikers te oorbrug.

2. Die onderhandelingsproses sal van meet af indringende aandag kry.

3. Die deur na voorspoed en ekonomiese groei gaan oopgemaak word.

4. Daar gaan 'n nuwe staatkundige bedeling ontwikkel waaraan almal sonder oorheersing kan deelneem.

5. Daar gaan voortgegaan word om onrus en geweld met 'n ferm hand te hanteer.

President F W de Klerk's reforms led to the end of apartheid. In 1990 he ended the ban on the African National Congress and other opposition parties. He also ordered the release of political prisoners, including the ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Under De Klerk's leadership, the government repealed the last of the laws that formed the legal basis of apartheid in 1992. In March more than two-thirds of the voters in a whites-only referendum endorsed his policy of negotiating a new constitution to extend political rights to blacks.

After extensive talks between black and white political leaders, the country's first elections in which blacks were allowed to vote were held in 1994.

VIII. *President Nelson Mandela*

On 10 May 1994, South Africa entered a new dispensation with the inauguration of the country's first democratically elected president.

Born on 18 July 1918 at Qunu near Umtata in the Transkei, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was the son of a

chief councillor of the paramount chief of the Tembu. After his father's death in 1930, he became the ward of his cousin, the acting Paramount Chief, to be groomed to assume high office.

Influenced by the cases that came before the Chief's court, he decided to become a lawyer and make his own contribution to the struggle for democracy. After matriculating at Healdtown Methodist Boarding School, he enrolled at Fort Hare University College for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Here he became involved in student politics and was suspended for joining in a protest boycott.

He then went to Johannesburg where he completed his BA by correspondence, took articles of clerkship and commenced studying for his LLB degree.

His political career started in earnest when he joined the African National Congress in 1942, becoming national president of the Youth League in 1950, and national leader of the Defiance Campaign in 1952. Charged and brought to trial for his role in this campaign, the court found that he and his co-accused had "consistently advised their followers to adopt a peaceful course of action and to avoid all violence".

Continuing his political activities, he was accused of high treason in 1956, and at the end of a four-and-a-half year long trial found not guilty. In 1961 he became commander-in-chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military arm of the ANC, where his activities eventually led to the Rivonia Trial during which he was found guilty of sabotage and in 1964 sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island.

After 27 years of incarceration, he was released to international acclaim by the then State President, F W de Klerk, on 11 February 1990. Continuing his quest for a true democracy in South Africa, Nelson Mandela became president of the ANC, the position he held when he led his party to victory in the first democratic elections in South Africa during April 1994.

He led negotiations with the government for a new constitution that would grant political power to the country's black majority population.

Recognised internationally for his contribution to the struggle for human rights, freedom and equality,

President Nelson Mandela has received many honorary degrees, medals and special prizes.

He was the first recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr Peace Prize, and shared with F W de Klerk the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

Epitomising his dedication to his country and its people are his words upon his release in February 1990: "I stand before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant to you, the people."

C. *The South African Flag*

The present South African flag is not our first flag. From 1910 to 1928 the country's flag was the British "Red Ensign" on which the shield of the Union Coat of Arms was superimposed. However, the flag was not very popular, and in 1921 consideration was given to its replacement, although it still served as the flag of the merchant fleet until 1951.

In February 1925 Dr D F Malan, the then Minister of the Interior, of Social Welfare and of Education, introduced a bill in the Union Parliament that made provision for an official flag for the Union of South Africa. Three years later, on Union Day 1928, the flag was hoisted everywhere in the country.

For three years commissions of the House of Parliament and organisations outside the political arena had searched for a flag to satisfy the English speaking people who wished to retain the Union Jack, as well as the Afrikaners who rejected it. Design after design was rejected, but eventually in 1927 a compromise was negotiated, and at a combined sitting of both Houses of Parliament the Union flag was unanimously approved.

The flag consisted of three horizontal bands in the colours orange, white and blue that Jan van Riebeeck brought to the Cape, with the old flags of the Orange Free State, the Union Jack and the Transvaal Vierkleur depicted on the white band.

The law declaring this flag as the national flag specified further that the Union Jack would be flown together with the national flag on the Parliamentary building and on the more important government buildings, at the Union's harbours and on the Government offices in foreign countries, as well as at other places in the Union the Government might specify.

In 1957 the practice of flying the Union Jack alongside the Union Flag

was discontinued.

As elsewhere, flags in South Africa have been an inflammatory issue, with die-hard Afrikaner right-wingers parading the banners of the old Boer Republics, British descendants hanging the Union Jack over their cocktail bars, and black activists often burning the South African flag in anti-apartheid protests. So it came as a relief when a multiparty council overseeing the April 1994 general election managed to agree on a new national banner, created by the State Herald Fred Brownell, to fly over the May inauguration of the country's new President.

The new South African Flag com-

bines a distinctly African character with flag colours known in South Africa since 1652.

The design represents "a converging of paths, merging history and present political realities". The two broad green bands flowing into one are to symbolise reconciliation and the convergence of past and future.

25th Anniversary of the Republic of South Africa : 31 May 1986

Since the establishment of the Republic of South Africa 25 years ago, far reaching constitutional reforms took place at all levels of government. This process of reform and constitutional development continues, and affects

all of South Africa's peoples. (Fig. VI.2 and 2)

The most important single step in the process of constitutional reform since 1961 was undoubtedly the promulgation on 3 September 1984 of the new Constitution in terms of which the former Whites-only parliament and an Executive were replaced by a tricameral Parliament and executive in which Whites, Coloureds and Indians were directly represented. Priority was given to the political accommodation of Black South Africans in government. A special Cabinet Committee investigated the future constitutional arrangements with a view to achieving this.

DAVID COLLYER M, APO *Philatelic Society of New South Wales*

World War II mails from Switzerland to destinations outside Europe

ONE would like to comment on Robert Wenger's article "Censored WW II Mail from Switzerland" (*The SA Philatelist*, April 1996, p41) and its predecessors by Georg van den Hurk RDPSA (*The SA Philatelist*, June 1993, p40 and December 1995, p195). Whilst my accumulation of material is to somewhere other than South Africa, it can be used to show how mails moved from Switzerland to destinations outside Europe, but principally to the Dominions of the British Commonwealth.

The first cover described in the article (Figs 1 and 2) is an example of surface mail whilst the second (Fig 3 and the reverse) is an example of air-mail. Mail transported by these services differed in the handling.

Switzerland was a Neutral in South Central Europe in German occupied Europe, and its international mail during WW II had to pass through German or German occupied territory. Since 1930 Switzerland had been part of the "Oslo States", Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, each of whom had "Neutrality" as a plank in their foreign policy. Portugal was also a Neutral nation in Europe, was bordered on land by another Neutral, Spain, but had a sea border which gave it access to Allied shipping.

As the mail being described originates in Switzerland, let us look at the

situations which faced the Swiss postal authorities over time:

September 1939 to 21 June 1940: Britain and France declare war on Germany. Switzerland could receive and mail directly from both warring parties. Mail to Scandinavia probably was routed via Germany because there was a direct rail link. Mail to Britain and France would have probably gone out through Geneva because of its land border with France.

Italy was a non-belligerent until 10 June 1940, so mail could have travel-

THE author has contributed to *The SA Philatelist* on several occasions : November/December 1990, p178, September/October 1991, p144 and April 1944, p36.

He is an eminent philatelic librarian and a national judge for literature in his native Australia.

David visited South Africa earlier last year, and recently became a member of the Australian Philatelic Order (see *The SA Philatelist*, December 1996, p189).

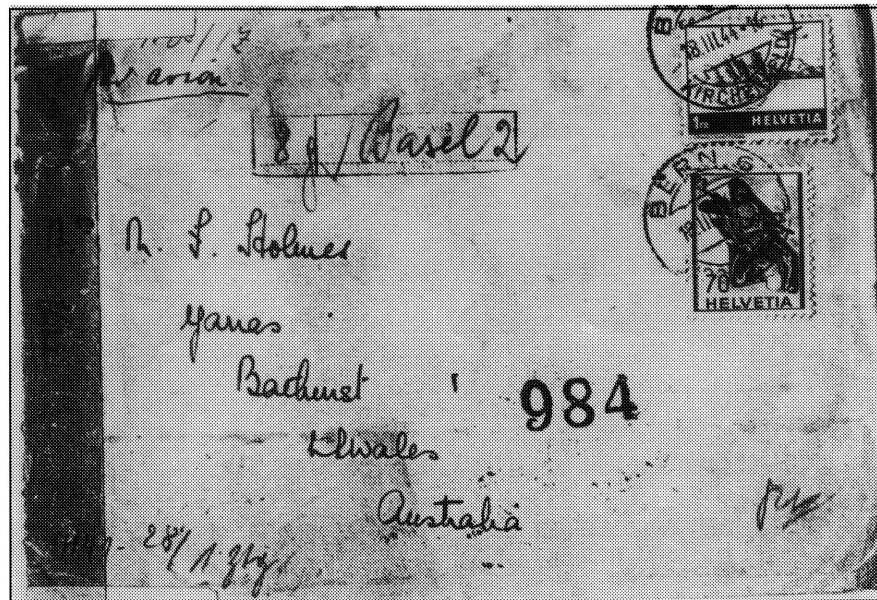


Fig 1: Bern 6/Kirchenfeld 18 III 44 to Bathurst NSW, rate Fr 1.70, endorsed "Par Avion", inscribed Basel 2, German censor code B, no postal backstamps but bears US Civil Censor inspection tape.



Fig 2: Bern 1/Briefannahme 2 XII 44 to Sydney NSW, rate Fr 17.70, "Airmail" printed on envelope, inscribed Basel 2, cacheted "Via Schweden England", German censor code B, UK censor tape, Australian censor tape for NSW, no postal backstamps.

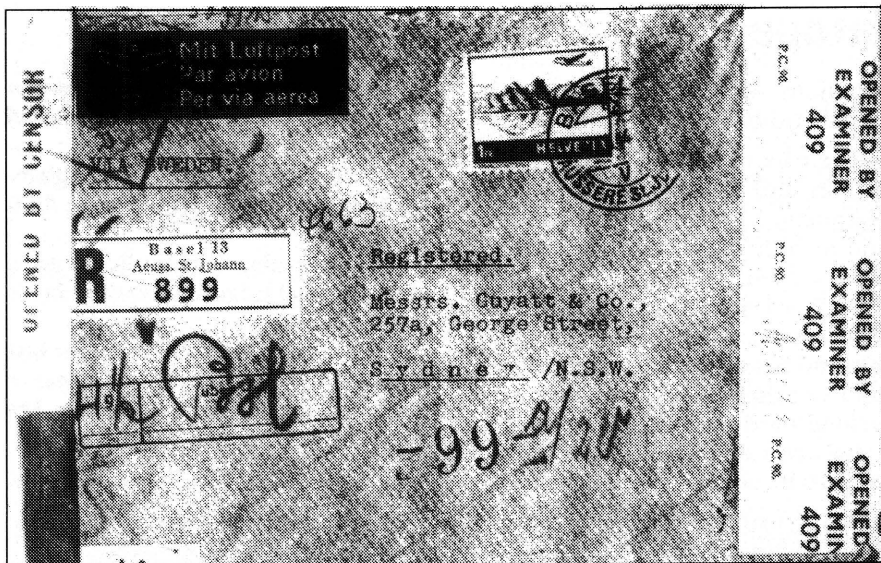


Fig 3: Basel 13/Aeuss St Johan 2 XII 44 to Sydney NSW, rate Fr 1 (other stamp removed) registered, airmail, endorsed Basel, typed inscription "Via Sweden", German censor code B, British censor tape, Australian censor tape for NSW, (backstamped GPO Sydney 1 MR 45 and GPO Sydney 5 MR 45).

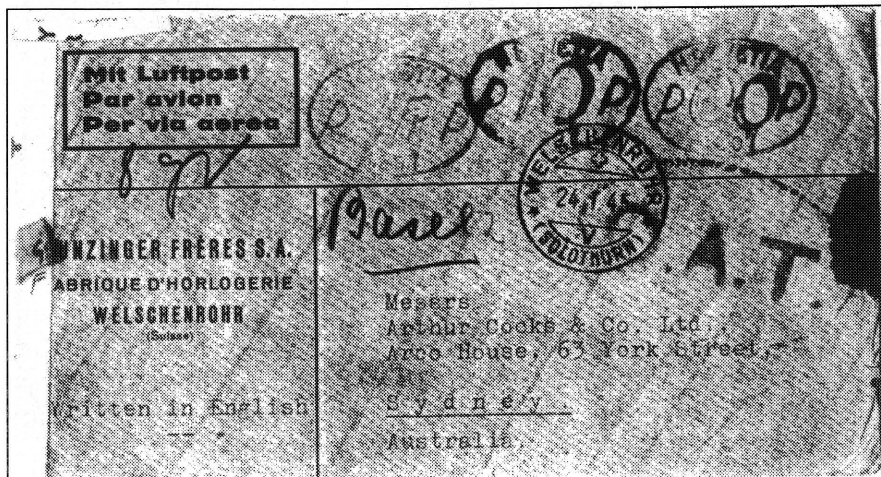


Fig 4: Welschenrohr (Solothurn) 24 I 45 to Sydney, rate Fr 1.70 by meter, airmail, endorsed Basel 2 British censor tape, no backstamps.

led south. KLM actually established a terminus at Genoa for its air services from the Dutch East Indies which operated until the Italians entered WW II.

21 June 1940 to 3 December 1942: France capitulates and is divided into two zones, one occupied by the Germans and the second administered by the Vichy French under Marshall Petain. Scandinavian mails would still run through Germany, but could take advantage of using a direct rail connection through Denmark instead of going through the Berlin-Sassnitz TPO.

Mails to France would have remained as before, with the exception that those to occupied France would have been able to be inspected by the Germans. The mails to unoccupied France would have been handled by the Vichy censors. Mail to other foreign countries would have been accepted, but was likely to have been inspected by the German censors.

The probable route for surface mail would have been across unoccupied France to Spain and thence to Portugal for distribution. Mails to Italy should have travelled without much distribution other than Italian censorship.

December 1942 to September 1943: Allies invaded French North Africa and the Germans responded by stationing troops in previously unoccupied Vichy France. The mail routes would have remained as they were, but the Germans would now have been able to censor mails which had previously been routed via Vichy France.

Mussolini was deposed in June 1943 but Italy remained in the Axis.

September 1943 to June 1944: The Italian mainland is invaded by the Allies and Italy switches sides. The Germans occupy Italy north of Naples and reinstate Mussolini. The Allies occupy Italy south of Naples.

Mail to Italy would have been affected, but mail to other destinations would have moved as in previous periods.

June to August 1944: The Allies invade Normandy in June 1944 and on the French Mediterranean coast in August. Rail and air services from Switzerland would have been gradually closed off.

August 1944 to May 1945: Most international mail from Switzerland

was routed via Germany to Sweden, a Scandinavian Neutral country. German armies in Northern Italy would have precluded mail moving via that route.

Switzerland manned its frontiers on 28 August 1939 and general mobilisation took place on 1 September. The Simplon Tunnel and the Saint Gotthard Tunnel were the two of the three main rail corridors between Germany and Italy. The British accidentally bombed the Basel Railway station in December 1940, but this does not seem to have greatly affected mails.

After the capitulation of Germany on 8 May 1945 mail routes were re-established, although for some time there was considerable movement of military personnel in countries outside Switzerland.

At the beginning of the war Germany, like other countries, established a system for the censorship of civilian mails. Not only were German mails inspected, but also those mails transiting German territory. The following codes were used in the main censorship offices within Germany.

- Aa Königsberg (East Prussia)
- Ab Berlin
- Ac Köln (Rhineland)
- Ad München
- Ae Frankfurt am Main
- Af Hamburg
- Ag Vienna and Prague

During the occupation of Europe the Germans also established censorship offices outside Germany at the following locations:

- Ak Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Al Lyon (France)
- Ao Oslo (Norway)
- Ax Paris (France)
- Ay Bordeaux (France)

In addition there were sub-stations of the main German offices in the following centres:

- Ac Köln – substation at Brussels (Belgium)
- Ad München – substation at Milan (Italy)
- Ae Frankfurt am Main – substation at Nancy (France)
- Ag Vienna and Prague – substation at Belgrade (Yugoslavia)

The peace treaty with France in June 1940 saw the Alsace, Lorraine and Luxembourg incorporated into the Reich. In August 1940 all three areas issued German stamps overprinted for their use. From 1 January 1942



Fig 5: Geneva 1/Rue Du Stand 26 | 45 to Sydney, rate Fr 1.70, airmail, Australian censor tape for NSW, no postal backstamps.

only German stamps were valid until liberation.

The Swiss city of Basel is the meeting point for the borders of France, Germany and Switzerland. The German rail system ends at Bad Basel, which is on the German side of the Rhine, but the rail line continues on into the City of Basel. The main station at Basel is split into two sections, one covering the Swiss system and the other for French services, but located within Switzerland.

The incorporation of the Alsace into the Reich in August 1940 meant that the railways on both sides of the Rhine heading down stream from Basel were in German territory.

Let us look at the March 1944 surface mail item from Geneva to Johannesburg via Lisbon (*The SA Philatelist*, April 1996, p41, Fig 1). It is originally endorsed "Via Allemagne" (Via Germany) but this has been altered to "Via Lissabon". The German censor tape and censor handstamp bear the code letter "X" indicating that the mail was inspected at Paris.

It would seem that there was an agreement between the Swiss and the Germans that out-going mail from Switzerland would go through German territory. Why the inspection at Paris? . . . perhaps because it was on the route. Why such a lengthy lapse of time? . . . possibly because of disruptions to the rail service all over France. The Normandy invasion was less than three months away, and one of the aims of the Allied air campaign was to cut transport links within France.

The June 1943 cover (*The SA Philatelist* April 1996, p41, Fig 3) is an example of war time airmail that shows that the system, although complex, did work. The cover was posted at Geneva 77 on 2 June 1943. The Basel 2 inscription shows us that it transited via Basel. The code letter of the German censor is "B" which indicates inspection at Berlin. At that point in the war Germany occupied much of Europe. North Africa had fallen but Sicily was not invaded until 10 July 1943.

Deutsche Lufthansa had a virtual monopoly on air services within Europe and operated a regular service to Spain. From Spain the mail crossed into Portugal and linked up with the PAA Atlantic Clipper service – FAM 19 to New York. The cover arrived there on 28 July 1943 and departed for Miami the same day.

Arriving at Miami on 29 July it departed on 3 August 1943 on FAM 23, the South Atlantic service via Brazil, to Liberia terminating in the Belgian Congo – an example of a cover that has crossed the Atlantic twice to get to its destination.

Allied censor regulations varied over time. During much of 1943 to around March 1944 inspection by one Allied power was sufficient, although there could be exceptions.

To add to the picture I have the following examples, addressed mainly to Australia, which may assist to develop a pattern (Figs 1 to 5).

R W Stern writing in the *NSW Philatelist* in 1994 recorded a cover from Geneva by airmail to Australia at Fr

2.40, posted in May 1944 and endorsed: "Via Lisbon and New York". Mail posted after the cessation of hostilities in Europe generally bears no evidence of censorship and no postal transit markings unless it was registered.

The sample of material to South Africa and Australia shows that mail from Switzerland from 1943 to the end of hostilities in Europe to countries outside Europe passed through the Basel 2 Post Office. Most airmail was inspected by the German censor station in Berlin. In late December 1944 there is evidence of inspection

by German censors, but this ceases by late January 1945.

Inspection by the Allies was generally carried out by the British with additional inspection at country of destination possible. In 1943 and early 1944 covers are recorded inspected only by the US censorship authorities.

As regards inward mail to Switzerland, covers illustrated in articles by Georg van den Hurk RDPSA show two routes may have been used. In *The SA Philatelist* (June 1993, p70, Fig 1) there is a cover illustrated showing the German censor code Ag

indicating that it was inspected at Vienna or Prague. This item may have travelled from South Africa to Egypt, thence north to Turkey and into occupied Europe. Material illustrated on p195 of *The SA Philatelist* December 1995 (Fig 2) shows the German censor code Ax, indicating that it was inspected at Paris and probably entered Europe via Portugal.

More material will hopefully fill in gaps in the various periods outlined and thus give a fuller picture of how mail from Switzerland to destinations outside Europe was handled in the course of WW II. ■

■ NEVILLE GOMM, *Postmark and Postal History Society*

Postmark record/Stempelverslag

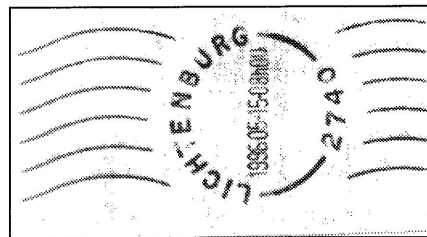
The Post Office mail room

Some time ago I had occasion to write to the Post Office for information on slogans. The envelope of the letter in which I received my reply had on the reverse a rubber stamp impression in red ink as illustrated. The rubber stamp was in use in 1996 in the office of the Senior Manager: Letters in Pretoria.

Another rubber stamp pertaining to Post Office mail emanates from Head Office, and was provided by our Editor. The horizontal lines of this rubber stamp are 45 mm long and the vertical distance between the top and the bottom lines is 37 mm.

A rubber stamp of similar design (too faint to reproduce) has been seen. The horizontal lines are longer at 55 mm and the distance between the top and the bottom lines is also 37

mm. The English wording at the top is "South African Post Office/-Communication Services" (in upper and lower case) and the Afrikaans is: "Kommunikasiedienste/Suid-Afrikaanse Poskantoor".



Die handroller rojeerders

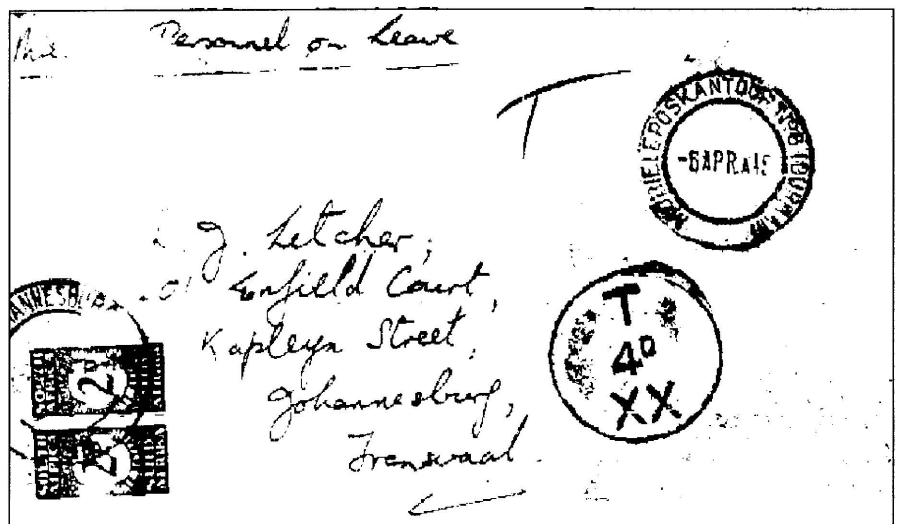
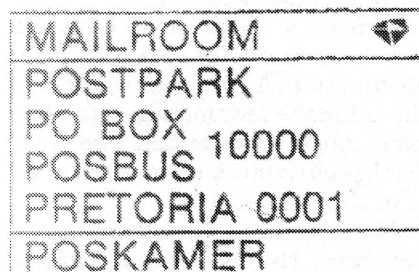
In 'n vorige uitgawe van hierdie rubriek het ek gevra of daar nie 'n leser is wat spesialiseer in die versameling van handroller rojeerposmerke nie.

Dit wil voorkom of daar nie 'n spesialisversamelaar is nie, want niemand het nog gereageer nie. Dit sou interessant wees om 'n lys te sien van al die poskantore wat rollers gebruik.

Die illustrasie wys 'n afdruk van Lichtenburg in die Noordwes Provinsie se roller rojeerder.

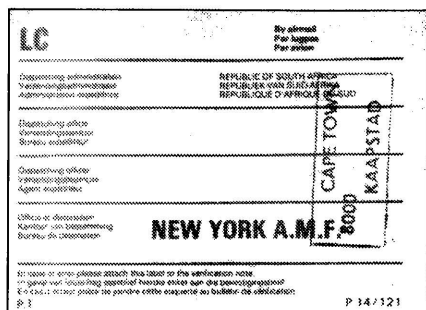
A tax mark query

A letter has been received from Bernard Doherty of P O Box 18, Waratah, New South Wales, 2298, Australia, concerning the T mark in the illustration herewith. It appears on a letter posted at Mobile Post Office No. 6 (Durban) on 6 April 1945, and addressed to Johannesburg. The tax was received with two 2d Bantam postage due stamps, which were cancelled with a double circle Johan-



nesburg datestamp on 9 April 1945. Bernard would like to know which of the offices, Mobile No. 6, Durban or Johannesburg, used the tax hand stamp?

He would also like to know the significance of the two Xs? Bernard says his overall interest is in South African postage dues and their usage. If any reader is able to help him, please write directly to him.



Bundle labels

Items of this nature included in previous issues of the feature have shown examples used between offices inside South Africa. The item illustrated accompanies air mail from Cape Town to New York.

The label is of white paper with blue printing. The Cape Town rubber stamp impression is in red ink. The label measures 104 by 74 mm. (Chris Opperman)



Graaff-Reinet publicity mark

In the April 1996 issue of this feature (p51) there was illustrated a rubber stamp impression applied by some residents of Graaff-Reinet to their mail to indicate that the items were posted at the town, and an explanation was given for this usage.

The item apparently had its origin with the Graaff-Reinet Publicity Association, which seems to be very active. The latest item, with a design similar to the previous one, invites people to visit the Gem (of the Karoo). (Teddy Whitlock)

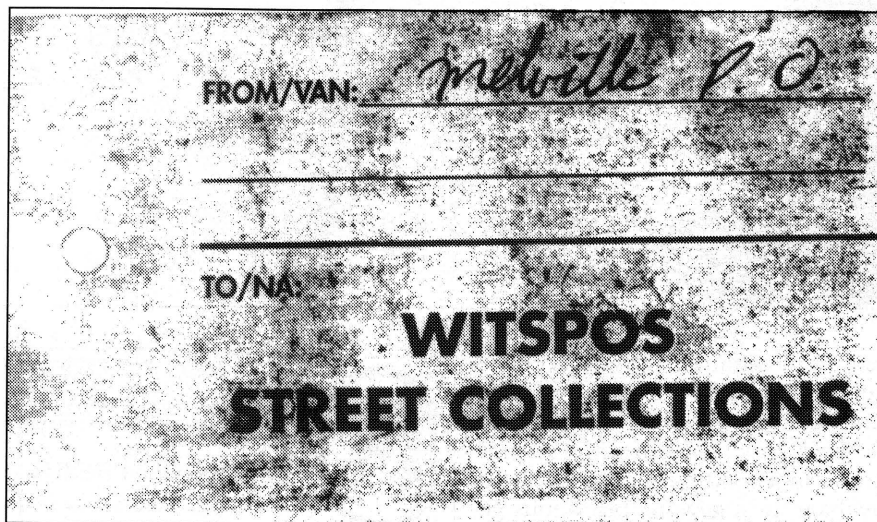
The SA Philatelist February 1997

Mailbag labels

The mailbag label with a difference illustrated here, was found in 1996 in the post office box centre of the Auckland Park post office. Melville post office is close to Auckland Park, but it

is not known how the label came to be where it was found. It measures 129 by 76 mm.

The card is rectangular, is orange in colour and the printing is in black. There is no strengthening of the hole on the left side of the label.

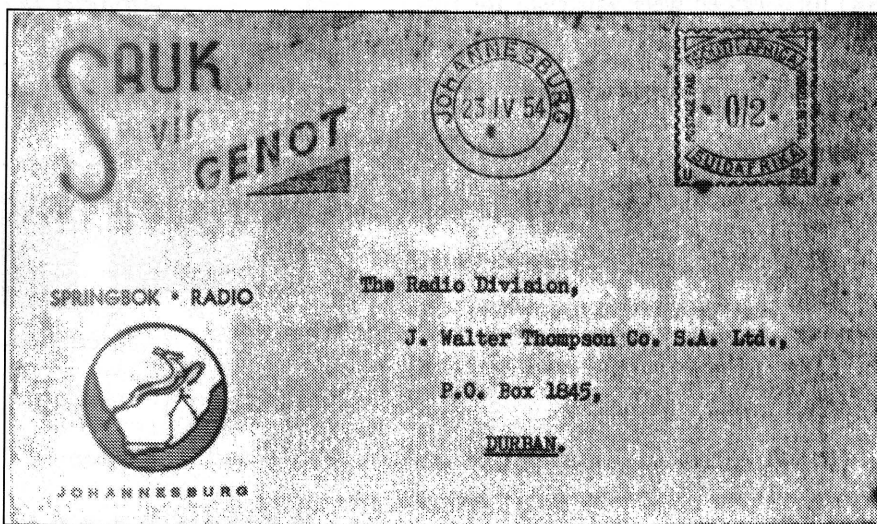


Die pos van die korporasies

Die illustrasie is van 'n koevert van die Suid-Afrikaanse Uitsaaikorporasie.

Hier is nog 'n tema om te versamel.

Dit is nou items wat van verskillende semi-staatsorganisasies soos die SAUK, YSKOR, SASOL, en die spoorweë en hawens afkomstig is. Hulle bied 'n wye veld vir enkele of gesamentlike versameling.



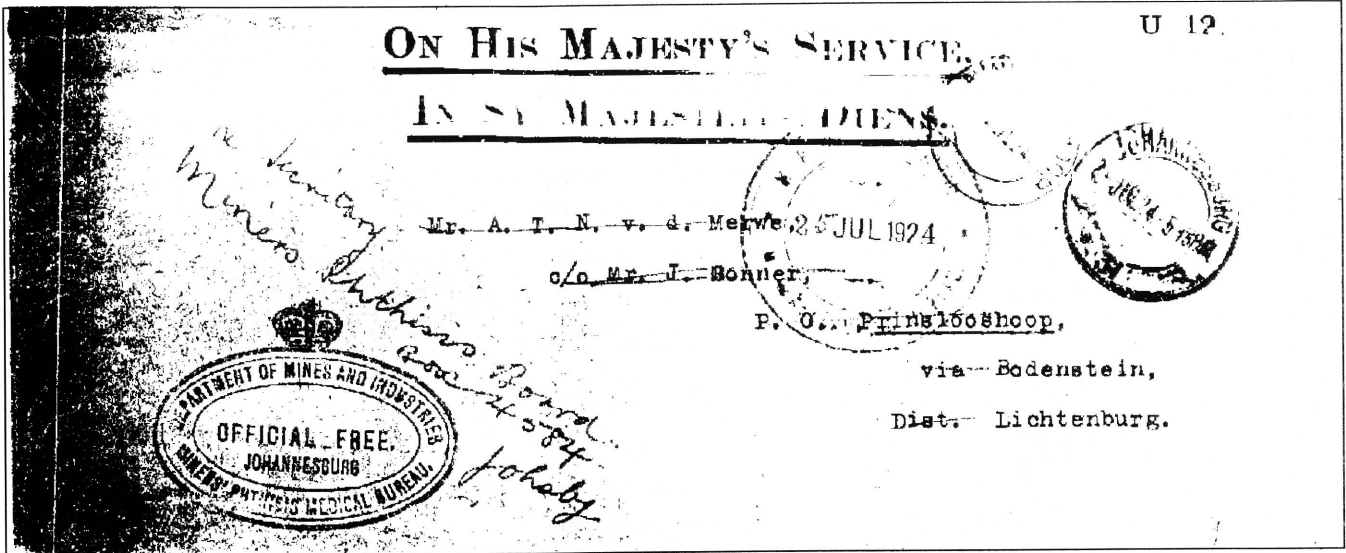
Uit die ou doos . . .

. . . kom 'n item met 'n skaars stempel. Die koevert is op 2 Julie 1924 in Johannesburg ge-pos en dit het op 4 Julie op Prinslooshoop aangekom (rugstempel). Die geadresseerde het blykbaar die gebied verlaat, want die brief is op 23 Julie weer op Prinslooshoop aan die sender teruggestuur. Die sender het die brief op 25 Julie te-

rug ontvang.

In sy *The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies* sê Ralph Putzel dat Prinslooshoop (met as hoofkantoor Welverdiend, Lichtenburg) op 19 Maart 1923 as 'n posagentskap oopgemaak is. Dit het in 1924 'n pos- en telegraafagentskap geword, en is op 22 Julie 1929 as sulks gesluit.

Ook aan die ouerige kant is die



item van Putfontein met sy R rubberstempel afdruk. Die item is op 31 Desember 1962 ge-pos. Ten spyte van die waarskuwing dat die brief vir registrasie ingehandig moet word, is dit blykbaar in 'n gewone briewe-bus ge-pos. Vandaar die handgeskrewe "POOC TAX 5" (POOC = Posted Out Of Course). Daar is geen aanduiding dat die boete gehef is nie.

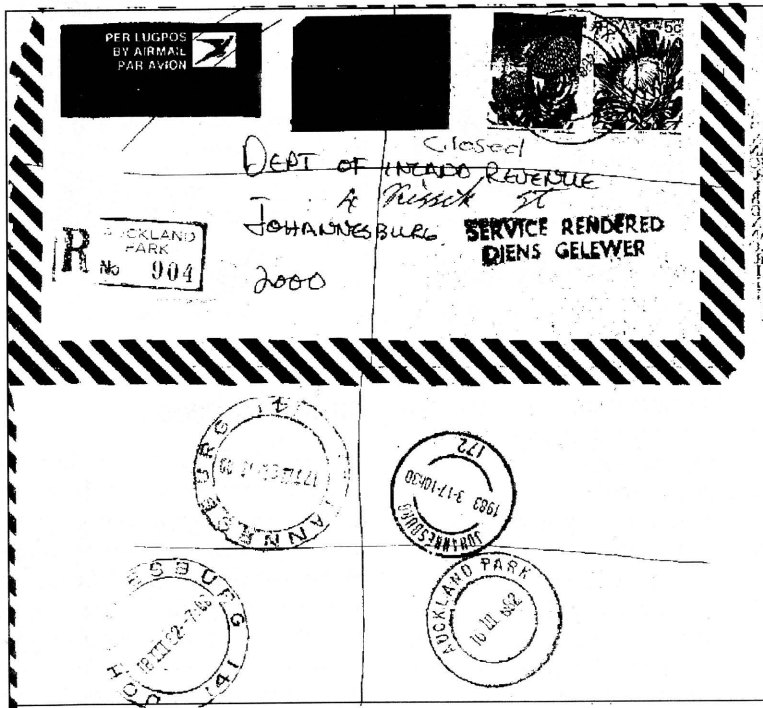
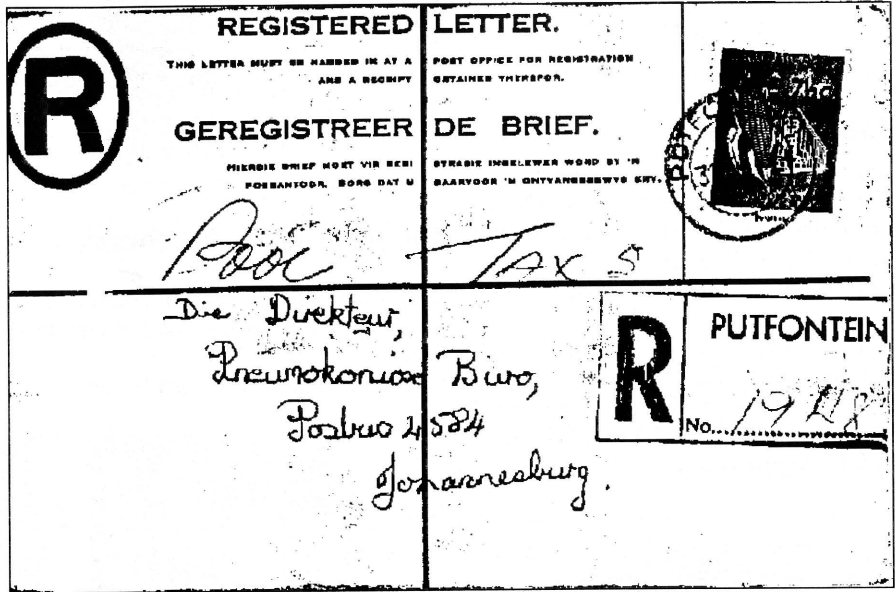
Putzel dui twee kantore met die naam Putfontein aan. Die eerste was Putfontein in die Kaap met hoofkantoor Aberdeen, Klipplaat, wat van 1883 tot 1904 en weer van 1911 tot 1921 gefunksioneer het.

Die tweede Putfontein is in Gauteng (Transvaal) en het Modderbee, Benoni, as hoofkantoor. Dit is in 1923 geopen. Ons illustrasie is van hierdie kantoor afkomstig.

Die Poskantoor se rubberstempels

Behalwe die rubberstempel SERVICE RENDERED DIENS GELEWER soos in meegaande illustrasie, ontstaan daar ook 'n aantal vroe die betrokke item. Die brief is op 16 Maart 1982 by die voorstedelike Auckland Park poskantoor in Johannesburg ingehandig vir registrasie en spoedpos versending. Die brief is aan die Departement van Binnelandse Inkomste in die middestad van Johannesburg geadresseer.

Die volgende dag, 17 Maart, kry die brief stempelafdrukke van Johannesburg se nommer 141 en 172 handstempels. In die 172 stempel was die jaartal van die datum verkeerd as 1983 verstel. Dit wil voorkom asof die adres op die kovert vir Johannesburg se personeel nie voldoen-



de was nie. Iemand het bokant die ge-
 adresseerde se naam "Closed" ge-
 skryf.

Blykbaar het iemand anders pro-
 beer om 'n vollediger adres te verkry
 want die straat en nommer "4 Rissik
 St" van die geadresseerde is in 'n
 verskillende handskrif aangebring.
 Die proses om 'n volledige adres te
 probeer vasstel het blykbaar 'n dag in
 beslag geneem want nog 'n 141 stem-
 pel afdruk is op 18 Maart op die koer-
 vert aangebring.

Nou wonder 'n mens of die SER-
 VICE RENDERED DIENS GELE-
 WER stempelafdruk op hierdie pro-
 ses van behoorlike adres vasstelling
 betrekking het, en of dit iets anders
 aandui.

Nog 'n rubberstempel afdruk wat
 nog nie in hierdie rubriek verskyn het
 nie, is van Kimberley afkomstig. Dit
 het op 'n groot koevert voorgekom
 wat nie voldoende seëls op gehad
 het nie. (David Allison)

**BYOND DELIVERY AREA.
 BUITE AFLEWERINGS GEBIED.**

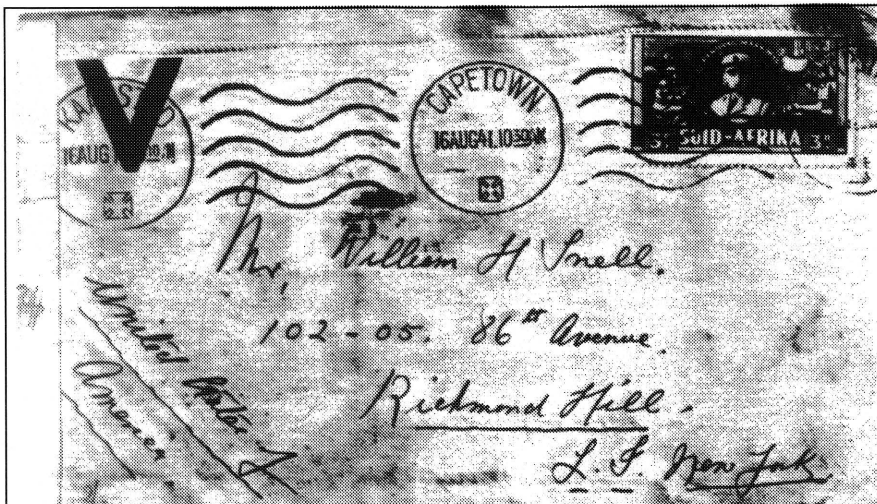
Die item met die BUIE AFLE-
 WERINGS GEBIED (sic) stempel-
 afdruk dui blykbaar op 'n sorteerfout
 wat iewers begaan is. Hoe anders sal
 'n brief buite die betrokke punt se
 werksgebied val? Die betrokke brief is
 in Oktober 1986 deur die Johannes-
 burgse Stadstesouriersafdeling uitge-
 stuur. 'n Handstempel afdruk van
 Plettenbergbaai verskyn op die rug-
 kant van die koevert.

More V for Victory

In the May/June 1991 issue of this
 feature (p 87) there appeared an item
 dating from the Second World War
 period. That item had a big letter V
 stamped on it, and it was speculated
 that it was connected with the war-
 time slogan "V for Victory".

Harry Hayes of Haxby, York, in
 the UK subsequently wrote to say
 that there were many such marks made
 on envelopes during the war, and
 that it was a private way of showing
 faith in ultimate victory.

It would seem that the act of put-
 ting a big V on envelopes mailed in
 South Africa was more prevalent than
 one would think. It was even placed
 on items sent overseas, as our item
 from Cape Town to New York



shows. The example was drawn in
 dark blue ink. (David Allison)

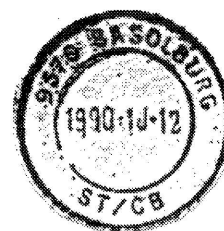


Sirkulasietak datumstempels

Die illustrasie wys 'n handstempel af-
 druk van die sirkulasietak van die
 Hammanskraal poskantoor. Ham-
 manskraal is sowat 40 kilometer
 noord van Pretoria. Die stempel af-
 drukke is waarskynlik op die betrokke
 item aangebring tydens die sorteer-
 proses om die seëls te rojeer omdat
 die brief waarskynlik Hammanskraal
 se masjienrojeerder misgeloop het
 voordat dit in die sorteerproses be-
 land het.

Die stempel is egter buitengewoon
 omdat dit die volle woord CIRCUL-
 ATION het. Gewoonlik verskyn net
 die letters CB/ST (Circulation bran-
 ch/Sirkulasietak) in stempels. (Hen-
 nie Matthee)

'n Voorbeeld van laasgenoemde is
 die een van Sasolburg wat hierby ver-
 skyn.



Wat van hierdie buitelanders?

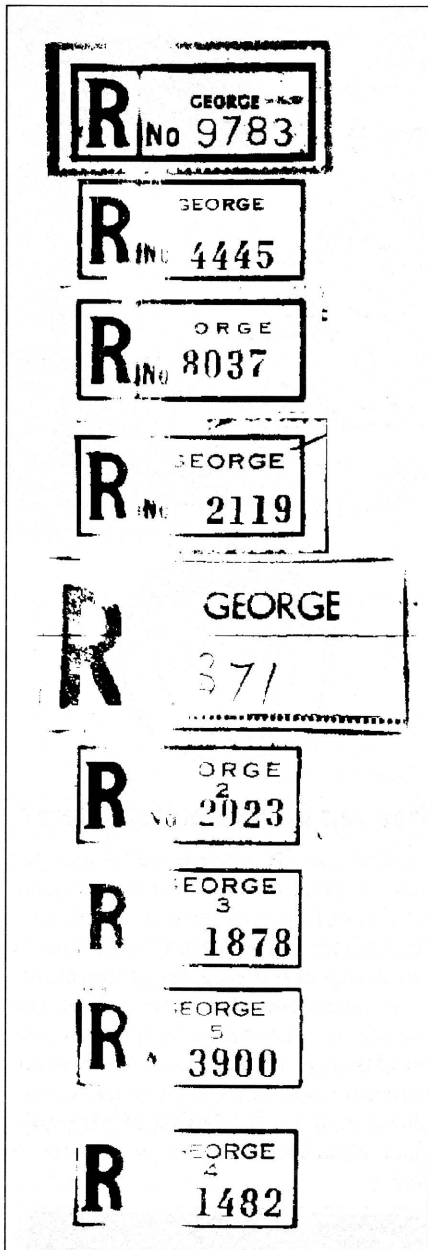
Ek dink ons Redakteur sal toelaat dat
 daar so af en toe 'n interessantheidjie
 uit die buiteland ingesluit word. Die
 Australiese lugposetiket hierby het 'n
 boodskap aan die agter- of gomkant.

'n Mens wonder egter of dit die
 moeite en die onkoste werd is om
 boodskappe te laat druk op daardie
 kant van 'n etiket waarna mense feit-
 lik nooit kyk nie? (John Hodgson)
 (Die Redakteur: En as jy lek om te
 plak?)



R labels from George

The R labels illustrated here were all
 used at George between 1959 and

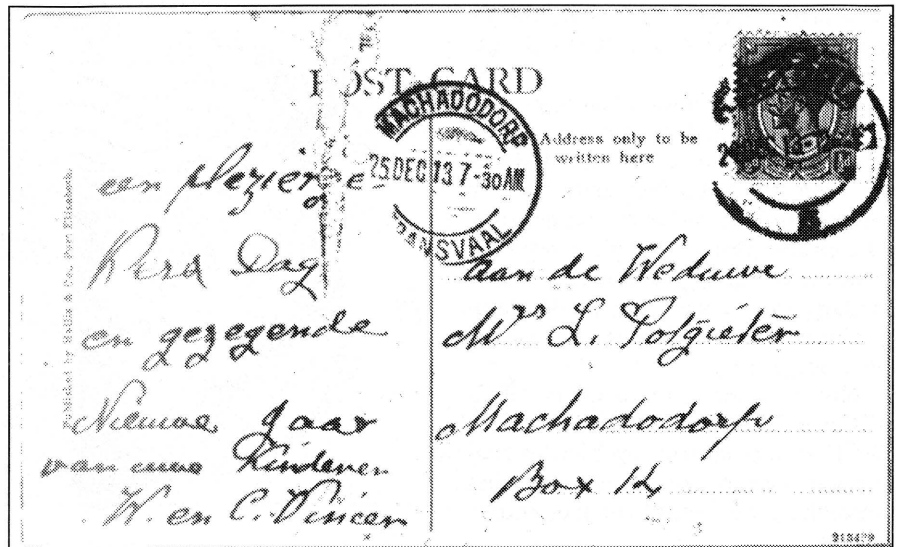


1978. They are listed in chronological sequence. Label no. 9783 was used on 23 April 1959; no. 4445 on 10 February 1964; no. 8037 on 4 January 1966; no. 2119 on 15 January 1972; no. 371 (rubber stamp) on 1 March 1972; no. 2023 on 7 March 1978; no. 1878 on 15 May 1978; no. 3900 on 5 August 1978; and no. 1482 on 5 September 1978.

Nine different items in the space of 19 years! How many more are there to possibly search for? (Chris Opperman)

Wie werk op Kersdag?

Indien daar op datumstempels staat-gemaak kan word, het die pospersoneel op Machadodorp in 1913 op Kersdag gewerk. Die illustrasie wys 'n poskaart wat op 24 Desember 1913



omstreeks 12. in Pretoria afgestempel is met Kerswense daarop. Dit is die volgende oggend omstreeks 7-30 op Machadodorp van 'n ontvangstempel voorsien.

As daar van die veronderstelling uitgegaan word dat die datumstempels korrek is, wonder 'n mens of so 'n posstuk vandag ook sy bestemming in minder as 24 uur sal bereik?

By 'n vorige geleentheid in hierdie rubriek (Augustus 1993, p120) is besonderhede verstrek van 'n telegram wat op Nuwejaarsdag op Graaff-Reinet hanteer is. Dit wil voorkom of sekere werk wel vroeër jare op Kersdag en Nuwejaarsdag by poskantore ver- rig is. (Hennie Matthee)



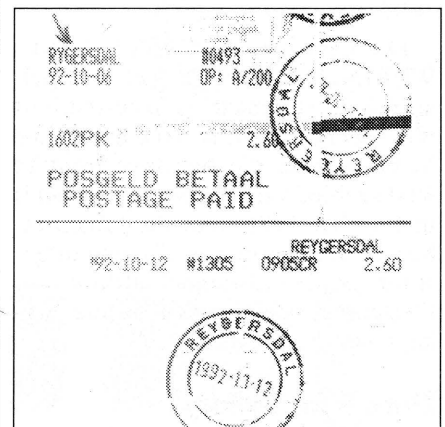
Hubs and spokes

The Post Office began switching to the "Hub and Spoke" method of mail distribution on 19 September 1994. Each post office in South Africa is linked to one of 26 hub offices. Each hub sorts mail for the rest of the 25 hubs and for only its own spokes (post offices resorting under it). The Witwatersrand has three hubs. They are Germiston, Krugersdorp and Witspos.

The illustration shows a FAST-

MAIL item with a handstamp impression of the Krugersdorp Hub and a rubber stamp impression from the same office.

It would appear that the item of mail was placed in a pillar box instead of being mailed at a post office counter. The English version of the rubber stamp wording could be improved grammatically to read IRREGULARLY POSTED.



Reygersdal brokkies

Reygersdal poskantoor is in die Wes-Kaap Poskantoorstreek geleë en sy naafkantoor is Capemail. Die een illustrasie wys 'n verkeerde verstelling van die poskantoor se naam in toonbankregister nommer #0493 op 6 Oktober 1992. Die verkeerde spelling verskyn op 'n kwitansie wat deur die register gedruk is.

Ses dae later, so wil dit voorkom, het Reygersdal se register nommer #1305 nie kwitansies gedruk nie. Dit lyk of die posstuk, soos met 'n telefoonrekening gedoen word, in die register geplaas is, en die register het die kwitansie besonderhede direk op die koevert gedruk.

The SA Philatelist February 1997

The SA Philatelist: Looking Back

60 years ago February 1937

Our live Post Office

Recent developments in Johannesburg are illustrative of the fact that our post office is wide awake to the advantages of providing good service to the public.

A service started on November 30 has been brought to our notice by Mr J Robertson. A postal official meets long-distance trains on their arrival at the station to collect telegrams, letters etc. from passengers.

Ordinary letters are just popped into the nearest pillar box or taken to the central office, but registered mail is receipted on the spot, the letters being endorsed "Railway Platform Post Office" and postmarked with a Johannesburg/2 postmark.

(*News item*)

30 years ago February 1967

Letter from North America

There is a plan afoot here in these

United States to issue a semi-postal stamp. If it should come to pass, it would be the first such adhesive of its kind released by this nation.

The idea behind the stamp is to finance the United States Olympic team and its participation in the 1968 Games to be held in Mexico. Mrs Edith Green of Oregon, a member of the current House of Representatives, has introduced a Bill (H.R. 17068) to authorise the issuance and sale of such a stamp.

(*Charles A Kenny, AIJP, APS*)

60 years ago March 1937

Union notes

By agreement between the Postmaster-General and the Government Printer it has recently been decided that *The SA Philatelist* shall be notified by the latter of all changes, new issues, quantities of reprints etc., whenever such are made, or any alterations effected to existing designs.

We are very pleased that official re-

cognition is thus given to philately, and we are certain that the information which should be forthcoming will be much appreciated by our readers and, more particularly, by Union collectors.

(*Editorial*)

30 jaar gelede Maart 1967

Industrie-seël

Toe was die bespiegeling oor 'n 15c seël nie verniet nie. Dit slaan mens dronk dat ons nuwe seëls alewig in geheimsinnigheid gehul moet word.

Daar is klaarblyklik lankal oor 'n 15c seël vir die Republiek besluit. Tog hoor ons eers daarvan wanneer die mosterd so byna nie meer nodig is nie.

Waarom so iets altyd geheim hou? Waarom kon dit nie lankal wêreldkundig gemaak word dat 'n nuwe 15c gaan uitgereik word nie? So 'n seël moes lankal vir lugpos na Europa gekom het.

(*Iets vir Almal*)

News and notes/Aktualiteit

That 40c Bible stamp

THERE have apparently been rumours that 700 sheets – yes sheets! – of the 40c Bible stamp, not issued on 19 November 1987 in an intended set of four, were recently irregularly removed from the Postmaster-General's safe.

The figure of 700 comes from *Die Posduif*, the newsletter of the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (January 1997, Vol 43, No 1, Whole No 411). A letter from Philatelic Services to the Secretary of the Philatelic Federation (22 November 1996) puts the rumoured figure at "20, 30 or even 200 sheets".

These rumours should be laid to rest immediately by the audited safe register (PAK 45) made available by Philatelic Services. It shows that on 3 November 1987 there were 562 stamps of all four values present in the safe. (Hardly enough to make up 700 sheets of anything.)

On 13 November 1987, according to the register, the 40c value stocks were reduced to nil, and presumably destroyed.

It will be recalled that the South African Jewish community objected to the design of the stamp on religious grounds, and it was therefore not issued. Stocks did, however, find their way to some smaller post offices prematurely, and were sold. Blocks of four are known, as well as full sets of all four values on FDC, and 40c maximum cards.

Interestingly enough, a local catalogue lists the material at substantial prices, estimating that in excess of 1 500 copies of the stamp could be available in one form or another. The Gibbons "Red", however, merely mentions it as "not issued".

Teddy bear debacle

IT was in fact no picnic at all for teddy bears. Readers will recall the New



Zealand children's health set depicted in the New Issues column in *The SA Philatelist*, August 1996, p122. The lower value showed a baby strapped into the back seat of a car, with his faithful bear similarly restrained next to him.

For some unfathomable reason, someone decided that this meant that the baby was facing forward, which is not the recommended safest position, and the issue was hastily amended before release by removing the bear. (How this turns the baby around remains a mystery to the Editor, who maintains, in the interests of the rights of teddy bears, that both baby

and bear were facing backwards in the first place.)

The inevitable happened of course, which is that about 1 000 of the stamps in the original design managed to get themselves sold. New Zealand Post managed to recover about 500 of these, leaving 500 in circulation, of which a substantial amount had been purchased by the Auckland Savings Bank in Royal Oak.

A part sheet of 70 (the full sheets consisted of 100 stamps) and 87 singles were put on auction in aid of the Auckland Starship Children's Hospital by SG New Zealand on 9 November 1996.

These so-called teddy bear errors were knocked down at an average price of NZ\$917 each.

This proves that teddy bears actually occupy a front seat when it comes to fund-raising efforts.

Various news reports

Nog 'n poging om groter belangstelling te kweek

EEN van die jongste pogings om versamelaars buite die suiwer filatelie in die stokperdjie te laat belangstel, was verlede jaar se eerste Swiss Stamp Open, waaroor in Neue Zürcher Zeitung op 23 Augustus 1996 berig is.

Die sogenaamde Ope Klas (sien ook p28 van hierdie uitgawe) laat versamelaars toe om by hul onderwerp, benewens posseëls, omslae en stempele ook voorwerpe te voeg soos lapelwapens, foonkaarte, munte, dokumente, foto's, sketse, planne, poskaarte – selfs vlugkaartjies en sertifikate.

Hierdie Swiss Stamp Open het van 29 Augustus tot 1 September 1996 in Winterthur plaasgevind.

British group studies exhibition material

PHILATELIC exhibitions and their related material are the subjects to which the Exhibition Study Group, based in England, devotes its time. At its last annual general meeting, held during the course of the group's convention at Wembley on 28 and 29 September 1996, it had 86 members, predominantly based in the UK.

Members' displays vary from the International Aerial Navigation Exhibition in Frankfurt in 1909 and the San Francisco Exhibitions of 1915 and 1939-40 to the publicity officer, Alan D Sabey's "British Empire Exhibition stamps and postal statione-

ry", which gained a high award at a recent Stampex.

Its latest publication is the *Price Guide to the Postcards of the British Empire Exhibition*, at £7,50, inclusive of postage.

Membership costs £13,00 per annum outside the UK, and details can be had from the group's secretary, Bill Tonkin of 23 Bramley Way, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9NT.

News release

Escaping the way lines

AT Port Elizabeth it has been found, according to the exchange superintendent of the Port Elizabeth PS, that placing a stamp with its righthand edge 5 cm to the left of the righthand edge of the envelope, instead of in the usual top righthand corner, the machine canceller in use there gives a lovely datestamp smack on the stamp, while the disfiguring wavy lines fall in the blank space.

Success would depend, of course, on which type of machine canceller is in use at any given mail processing point.

Newsletter, Dec '96/Jan '97

Fifty years of flight celebrated in Namibia

THE first official airmail datestamp since 1981 was used in Namibia to commemorate "Fifty years of flight". Only 500 sets of five cards to mark the event (numbered from 61 to 65) were issued by Commemorative Covers of Windhoek.

Cover 61 tells the story of "South West Air Transport" from 1946 to 1958, no 62 marks the beginning of Suidwes Lugdiens in 1959, and no 63 commemorates the change of name to Namib Air in 1978.

Nos 64 and 65 respectively com-



memorate Namib Air's first two trans-continental flights, the first to Frankfurt in 1990, and the next one to Heathrow, London.

The set, at R42,00 plus R8,00 to cover registered airmail charges, is available from Commemorative Covers, PO Box 9298, Eros/Windhoek, Namibia.

News release

Christie's auction dates

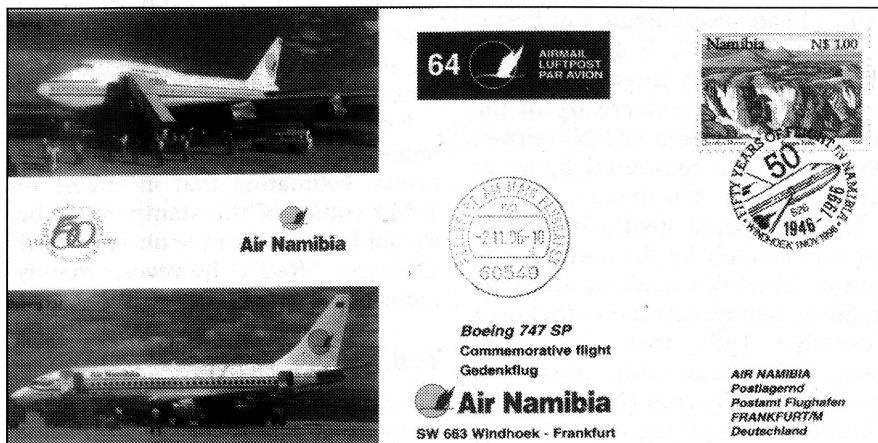
THE auction dates which Christie's, Manson & Woods have set from June to October 1997 are 11 June, Great Britain; 14 July, British Empire; 15 and 16 July, Foreign; and 14 and 15 October, British Empire (all in London).

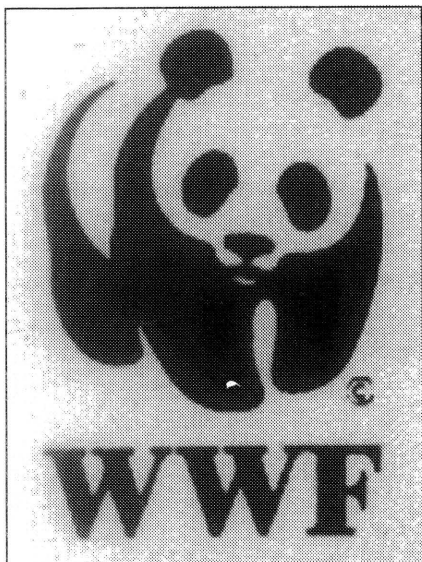
News release

WWF has 200th issue

DESCRIBED as the world's largest thematic stamp series, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) celebrated its 200th issue with the Beisa Ox from Eritrea.

All the fund's authorised issues carry its well known panda emblem, and some 796 different stamps have thus far been issued by 200 countries. The total number of stamps printed thus far is estimated at 800 million.





In the past 13 years, the stamps have earned the WWF almost SFr 16 million in royalties to fund its conservation efforts, but it is warning against unauthorised issues, emanating in the main from far Eastern European countries. These, according to the WWF, face action to protect its copyright and panda trademark.

Stamp catalogues listing such unauthorised issues face similar action.

News release

Philatelic writers honoured

TWO awards have been announced by the Philatelic Writers Society in England (see also *The SA Philatelist* April 1996 p53 and June 1996 p89).

The Nugent Clougher Award for research benefiting postal history went to Harold S Wilson for his *The Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain and Ireland, their history and postmarks*. It was published by the Railway Philatelic Group.

Dr Velizar M Kardosch was given

the Ronnie Spafford Award for works of a general nature for his *The Principality of Serbia, Postal History and Postage Stamps 1830-1822*, published by Reggiani Varese, Italy.

There were 43 entries for the 1996 awards.

News release

The shop on the I.net

A few months after the first release of its CD-ROM featuring the stamps of France and Monaco, the French catalogue publisher Yvert & Tellier has set up a shop on the Internet.

The French/English Web server can be reached at http://www.Yvert_et_Tellier.fr. Products for sale are presented fully illustrated, and goods are delivered within 48 hours in France, and within one or two weeks abroad.

There is also an e-mail address: mail@Yvert_et_Tellier.fr.

Yvert & Tellier's latest creation, the *Official Phonocard Guide* (France and Overseas Territories, Andorra, Monaco), is now in its fourth edition. It reviews more than 3 500 cards on 336 pages (as opposed to 288 pages of the previous edition) and costs Fr 98,00.

News release

Elektroniese vordering van ons tydskrif

DIE eerste maal dat daar van 'n rekenaardrukstuk op 'n laserdrukker gebruik gemaak is in *The SA Philatelist* was met Jan C Evertse se vertaling van NY Roos-'t Hart se artikel "Die VOC – 'n beroemde seevaartgeskiedenis" (Mei/Junie 1991, p 70).

Op daardie stadium is daar andersins van 'n fotosetstelsel gebruik gemaak – weliswaar deur 'n rekenaar genereer – maar artikels moes nog

steeds ingetik word. Teen Oktober 1995, p132, het die eerste artikel verskyn wat direk van 'n rekenaarskyf af in die setstelsel ingelees is. Dit was David Sinclair se "SA pre-paid envelopes charted". Die produksie was egter steeds nog: negatiewe wat van opgeplakte drukstukke gemaak is.

Die eerste uitgawe van die tydskrif wat volledig op rekenaar geproduseer is, en waarvan drukstukke net gemaak is vir die doeleindes van proeflees, was dié van Desember 1995.

Dit het beteken dat die finale negatief met die teks en illustrasies op die rekenaar self saamgestel is. Daar was geen drukstukke meer wat gefotografeer moes word om 'n negatief te skep nie.

Bydraes wat van skywe – slap of styf – ingelees is, het met die tyd toegeneem, en dieselfde prosedures wat in *The SA Philatelist* van Oktober 1995, p146 en Desember 1995, p175 uiteengesit is, bly steeds van krag.

Die jongste vordering is dat die Redakteur nou ook e-pos kan ontvang, wat uitermate geskik is vir die oordra van artikels. Die adres is grutter@burger.naspers.co.za.

Natuurlik was, en is daar steeds, elektroniese duiweltsies wat rondhardloop. So byvoorbeeld was hierdie einste e-posbus onlangs 'n rukkies lank verstopt.

Die standhoudendste duiwel is egter die elektroniese oordrag van illustrasies. Dit moet steeds verkieslik nog in oorspronklike formaat, dit wil sê op die een of ander vorm van papier, met slakkepos vir die Redakteur aangestuurd word.

Die TIF formaat van geskandeerde illustrasies blyk genoeg probleme te gee om dit, op die oomblik altans, nie die moeite werd te maak nie.

Seëruil gevra/Exchange wanted

Brazil: Marcio Cesar, Caixa Postal 1131, Cep: 74001-970 Goiânia-Go describes himself as a serious collector and member of the Brazil Philatelic Club. He would like to initiate exchange of current issues of his country for those in Southern Africa, being interested in complete new issues, souvenir sheets, FDCs and maximum cards.

Ghana: Zuruka Awuzu, PO Box As280, Asawasi, Kumasi, is 21 years old, and collects postcards, pho-

necards and banknotes. He is looking for exchange partners.

Ghana: Ice Ishaw, PO Box As286, Kumasi A/R, wants to exchange stamps, picture post cards and currency. His hobbies include basket ball, football and skating.

Ghana: Anso Macanala, PO Box 2426, Kumasi, is 20 years old, and among other things collects postcards. (He will also exchange T-shirts and traditional clothing.)

Indonesia: Untung Rahardjo, PO

Box 4162, Jakarta, Mampang 12041, will be visiting South Africa as commissioner for Ilsapex 98. Meanwhile, he would like to establish exchange contacts.

United States of America: Randall J Dicks, 840 Old Washington Road, McMurray, Pennsylvania 15317, is a member of the American Philatelic Society, and is interested in stamps of Southern Africa. He is an attorney, has visited here, and would like to exchange stamps and correspondence.

Op die velrand/In the margin

Still catching up on 1996: The constitution stamps

ACCORDING to a report by Francis Eustace in the Newsletter of the Maritzburg Philatelic Society (of September 1996), one of his colleagues at Postnet, Kershnie, first noticed the Constitution stamps (See *The SA Philatelist*, October 1996, p167) at 16:45 on 7 August 1996, affixed to some letters.

The next day he rang Philatelic Services about the "issue", but had no satisfactory reply. By telephone he began sleuthing around Pietermaritzburg, and found that the Cumberland post office (code 3235) had

supplies. He bought, in fact, all of some 90 sheets in supply.

There was a short-lived attempt to recall these stamps which, as the previous report in this journal has pointed out, had apparently already been erroneously distributed to some 400 post offices.

If one is a "First Day Fiend", this leads to the \$64 000 question: The stamps were available on 7 August 1996. Who has a cover bearing at least one of them, postmarked on that date?

Eustace himself had covers and sheets postmarked on 8 August 1996, the day subsequent to discovery, and registered covers processed

at Cumberland on 12 August 1996, the now "official" date of issue.

This last date is obviously as spurious as the now "official, official" date of issue of the subsequent FDC, "postmarked" 1 August 1996.

Picture postcard centenary

ON 22 November 1996 a souvenir set of ten reproductions of early South African picture postcards and a booklet were put on sale by Philatelic Services to celebrate the centenary of the South African picture postcard. One of the reproductions was featured on the cover of *The SA Philatelist*, December 1996.

It is understood that initially the cards were to be postally valid, but that in view of current over-stock of such postal stationery, this is not the case. They remain, however, attractive non-philatelic collectables.

The news release issued in connection with the promotion of the cards is partly in error in stating that the 1d Cape Colony cards issued on 1 March 1878 "were produced overseas and they met with only limited success".

This first Southern African postcard issue was, in fact, the only one of the Cape of Good Hope produced locally, by Saul Solomon & Co, subsequent Cape issues being produced by Thomas De La Rue. The limited success of this Solomon card is factual: the printing was shoddy, and the card stock much too thin to be appropriate.

The set and booklet are available from Philatelic Services at R15,00.

Stamps of stars in Namibia's sky

THE set of constellations produced by Nampost, designed by Koos van Ellinkhuizen and issued on 12 September 1996, was shown in *The SA Philatelist*, December 1996, p204.

Descriptions have now been received.

The standard rate stamp (45c) depicts Scorpio, one of the most conspicuous constellations in the southern sky. It appears in Namibia in April on the south-eastern horizon, and disappears head-first at the end of October in the south-west.

Sagittarius, the Archer, is the subject of the 90c stamp. At sunset it is at the zenith where the band of the Mil-

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ky Way forms its impressive curve from the Southern Cross, which sets in the south-west through Sagittarius on the north-western horizon.

Even today the Southern Cross, depicted on the N\$1,00 value, is used as a compass by millions of people in the southern hemisphere. It is – if one knows how! – an accurate determinant of the celestial pole. (Just extend the longitudinal axis 4½ times, and drop a perpendicular line to the horizon, which is where true south lies.)

Orion (the Hunter) is depicted on the N\$1,30 value. It rises in a reclining position due east over Namibia, climbs the meridian in a northward curve, and settles with the three belt stars parallel to the western horizon. (This constellation is also an indicator of true south, by the way, but the Editor has forgotten the formula.)

100 jaar van motors in Suid-Afrika

OP 4 Januarie 1897 het selfs die President van die ZAR, Paul Kruger, die 1,5 pk twee-sitplek Benz Velo wat die sakeman John Percy Hess ingevoer het op die Berea Sportterrein in Pretoria gaan bewonder.

Hierdie eeufees is gedenk met 'n standaardtarief posseël wat op 4 Januarie 1997 verskyn het. Dit is ontwerp deur Dennis A Bagnall. Daar is ook 'n EDK met 'n lyntekening van die motor uitgereik.

News release



Pastoral pottery

ON 18 October 1996 Namibia issued four stamps, designed by Sheila Nowers, depicting pastoral pottery. (For illustrations, see *The SA Philatelist*, December 1996, p204.)

Pottery was first introduced to Namibia about 2 000 years ago as farming spread southward from the interior of Africa. The pots were used primarily for storage, but several have been found containing cosmetic haematite.

Pastoral pots were invariably bag-shaped, with a wide mouth and characteristic pointed base.

Namibia in '97

SUBJECT to unforeseen circumstances, Namibia is planning the following issues in the course of 1997:

6 February: Ancient ruins (4 stamps)

12 February: Hong Kong International Exhibition (1 souvenir sheet)

1 April: Waxbill birds booklet (contains 10 stamps)

8 April: Heinrich von Stephan (1 stamp)

15 May: Jackass Penguin, WWF (4 stamps, 1 minisheet)

12 June: Small wild cat species (4 stamps, 1 souvenir sheet)

8 August: Basket manufacturing (4 stamps, 1 souvenir sheet)

12 September: Animal Health and Veterinary Services (1 stamp)

10 October: Trees of Namibia (4 stamps and maxicards)

27 November: John Muafangejo (1 stamp).

Several previous issues are still in stock and there are various reprints, aerogrammes and booklets available. Philately Services of Nampost can be reached at Private Bag 13336, Windhoek, ☎+264 (61) 201-3097, and fax 25-947.

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Federation flashes/Federasieflitse

Management deals quickly with several issues

THE practice of awarding Large Gold as well as Gold medals at national exhibitions has now been extended to Vermeil and Silver levels as well. This follows a motion passed at the 58th Congress of the Federation at Bloemfontein on 11 October 1996, requesting an amendment of the by-laws to that effect, which was done at the meeting of the Federation's Management Committee on 22 November 1996.

Following the motion at congress that an exhibition class for FDCs be instituted, the committee amended the relevant bylaw under "Picture Postcards" to include FDCs, prescribing the appointment of a specialist jury for each class.

Awards and certificates made in these two classes shall state clearly in which of them they were made, and be listed separately.

The proposal, made at congress, that a frame be reserved at national exhibitions for the Roll of Honour and its signatories (see *The SA Philatelist*, December 1966, p199) was accepted for implementation.

Another congress proposal was that the institution of a "Frugal Philately" class be considered. It was agreed to at first promote this idea at club level to gauge support before recommending it as a separate exhibition class.

Committee minutes

Jeugfilatelie

DAAR is bevestig tydens die Bestuurskomitee van die Federasie se vergadering op 22 November 1996 dat die Benoni Junass 97 Stamp Fair van 11 tot 13 Julie 1997 gehou sal word. (Sien *The SA Philatelist*, Desember 1996, p200).

Junass 98 sal deur die Highway Youth Club onderneem word, en Junass 99 vind by Centurion plaas.

Komiteenotule

Stamp issuing policy under the spotlight

JUST about 40 percent of societies affiliated to the Federation had by the end of October 1996 replied to the Federation's questionnaire under the heading "What is an ideal stamp issuing policy for South Africa in terms of number of stamps and other items

per year?"

The high percentage of responses can be regarded as an authoritative reflection of collectors' feelings.

Commemorative issues: 68 percent specified between 12 and 24 stamps, and 32 per cent stated quantities of between 25 and 50.

Closely linked to this was the question of how many issues, as opposed to number of stamps: 11 per cent wanted no more than four issues, 33 per cent favoured six, and 28 per cent each wanted no more than eight or 12 issues.

Miniature sheets: 47 per cent voted for no more than two, 42 per cent wanted one, and 5 percent preferred three to four.

Other philatelic products which were canvassed were:

Booklets: 63 per cent wanted one or two booklets and, where two are issued, one should be for the local and the other for the overseas postage rate. Up to four booklets were favoured by 11 per cent, and 26 per cent were negative.

Sheetlets: More than 68 per cent rejected sheetlets, the rest wanting one or two.

Postal stationery (including postcards and aerogrammes): Negative or no responses were received from 53 per cent of societies. The functional use and advertising value of cards and aerogrammes were confirmed by 43 per cent.

Standard rates as opposed to stated face values: 84 per cent of responses were positive in respect of standard rates.

Federation secretary's report

Update on FIP

Peter van der Molen Chairman, FIP Committee

A tremendous response of 18 applications for Israel 98 is reported by the commissioner, David Stern RDPSA, which includes four for Youth Philately.

The application date has been extended to early March 1997, and the commissioner can be contacted at work at (011) 784-8312.

After Ilsapex 98, the next international to be supported by the Federation will be Ibra 99 in Nuremberg, Germany, from 27 April to 4 May 1999, for which Joh Groenewald RDPSA is the commissioner. Bulletin

no 1 has just been issued, giving the closing date for applications as 30 June 1998, with acceptance known by end September 1998.

Space is available for more than 2 000 frames accommodating three rows of four sheets. Allocations will be made, however, in the usual FIP terms of 80 and 128 sheets: five and eight frames of the 16 sheets each.

For a world stamp exhibition under FIP patronage (all classes are catered for) there is the interesting innovation of an "open class" (Class 10) with a special jury and separate awards. (See also page 24 of this issue). This allows the introduction of marginal subjects, like vignettes, picture postcards, numismatic items, telephone cards, documents, pictures, photographs, drawings or newspaper clippings. Philatelic elements must, however, form at least 30 per cent of the exhibit.

(Peter van der Molen can be contacted at (011) 914-3303, ext 205.)

Events in the Northern Cape and Free State

Richard Oliver VP, Northern Cape/Free State

ALTHOUGH the last three months of 1996 have flashed by, they have been filled to overflowing with philatelic events in the Free State/Northern Cape. National Stamp Week took a back seat in most of the region this year, while all eyes were focused on Bloemfontein and the national exhibition.

Enough has been said and written about Bloem 150. The results speak for themselves. Suffice it to say that a big word of thanks and congratulations must go to Jan Van Beukering and his team for the efficient way they tackled the job. Their enthusiasm and friendliness have set new standards for philatelic exhibitions which will be hard to beat. To those who did not get a chance to be in Bloemfontein, diarise 1999. You won't be disappointed.

The Free State was again in the spotlight, with the Oilfilat mini exhibition in Sasolburg from 11 to 16 November. Although on a much smaller scale than Bloem 150 (only 116 frames), Jules Danneels and his team did a sterling job in catering for the up and coming exhibitors.

Altogether 35 exhibits were entered by eight clubs, namely Sasolburg,

The SA Philatelist Februarv 1997

Boksburg, Kimberley, Vereeniging, Goldfields, Germiston, Nigel and Alberton. Thanks to the jury under the leadership of Jill Redmond for giving up their time to judge the exhibits and talk to the exhibitors at the closing function.

The main results were 1 Gold, 2 Vermeil and 5 Silver. Congratulations to I. Laubscher for his fine studies of the Union Bantam Series (Gold) and the Van Riebeeck ships series (Vermeil).

Congratulations to all the other winners. Although the emphasis of most exhibits was on stamps and not on postal history, some fine collections were seen. Hopefully, with lots of encouragement and some further improvement we will be seeing some of these exhibits at national level before very long.

Competition for the Bert Meyburg Trophy at the Orange Free State Phi-

latelic Society year-end function on 22 November 1996, was strong. Among the ten exhibits there were 1 Large Gold, 2 Golds, 1 Vermeil and 2 Silvers. Congratulations to Prof and Mrs Raath for coming out tops with their exhibit of "Postal History of Boer Prisoners of War".

This year promises to be just as busy, as it is the intention of the Goldfields Philatelic Society to hold a regional exhibition in Welkom to celebrate to 50th anniversary of the Goldfields. This should be something to look forward to.

What to do with TBVC

FOLLOWING an enquiry from the management consultant at Philatelic Services, Oz Joshua, the management committee formulated the Federation's views on dealing with the remainders of TBVC stamps.

It is opposed to cancelling-to-order

the remainders, and to any kind of dumping. Philatelic Services are welcome to dispose of the stamps at face value, with a cut-off date given.

In the interests of promoting collecting, the Federation supports the free disposal of mint, low-value mixed packs (no sets) to junior collectors or other interested parties, provided such hand-outs are in strictly limited quantities.

The Federation believes that in any event interest will be limited, and recommends that the bulk of the stamps be destroyed, and that early and full details of the quantities and methods of disposal of the remainders be made.

Unserviced FDCs, it is suggested, could be made available free as stationery to philatelic societies. This could possibly promote some interest in TVBC issues, and would be a service to stamp clubs.

Onderonsies/Society news

THEMATIC STAMP CLUB OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

November: The main object of the Thematic Stamp Club of Southern Africa is to promote thematic philately. With this in mind, the first of hopefully an annual competition for the Anne Essek Trophy was held at the Athenaeum, Cape Town, on 12 November 1996.

The late Anne Essek was an enthusiastic member of the Thematic Club, and it was to encourage and perpetuate the same enthusiasm amongst thematic collectors that the idea of an annual competition open to other societies was mooted. As a trial run, thematic collectors from the Cape Peninsula and nearby Boland areas were invited to participate and Fish Hoek, Pinelands, Bellville and the Royal responded, as well as three of our own members.

There were 11 exhibits in all:

Walt Disney Characters & Feature Films, Antarctic & Sub-Antarctic Animals, *Denizens of the Deep*, *Rock and Cave Art*, *The Birds of Southern Africa*, *Woman, her many Faces and many Graces*, *A Literary Tale*, World Meteorological Organization, *Nederland en Die Huis van Oranje*, *Birds of Prey* and *The Big Five of Africa*

The exhibits were judged by Wilhelm Grütter RDPSA who had just returned from serving on the panel of jurors at Bloemfontein 150. The winning exhibit was *The Big Five of Africa*, an entry by David Dowie Dunn of the Royal Philatelic

Society of Cape Town. Runners-up were *Denizens of the Deep* (Charles Hudson) and *Rock and Cave Art* (Maria Echardt) both from our own club.

The success of the competition was encouraging and it is hoped that it will become an annual event open to even wider participation.

Clem Baker

EAST LONDON PS

November: The society held its final meeting of the year on 28 November, and as usual at our last meeting, business was kept to a minimum as our end of the year party was to be held at the conclusion. However before the eating and drinking could start there were a few items to be dealt with.

The monthly competition for the last meeting competed for the President's Cup. Competitors had to show at least 30 pages relating to subjects other than Topical or Thematical. There was one entry which was judged by our able judge John Morris, assisted by Dave McWilliams, which regrettably failed to achieve the number of points required to win this prestige trophy.

The monthly 3 page competition was entitled *My Life* and was won by John Morris, with a very interesting entry showing stamps and postmarks depicting his life from birth to the present – and that's a few years!

The new issues and acquisitions material was once again well presented by

Mark Finnigan in his usual efficient manner. This month's slide show dealt with what appears on the back of stamps and was enjoyed by all present.

The ELPS makes full use of the Audio Visual slide shows, and we would strongly recommend to societies not already making use of this facility to try a few shows next year.

We then all enjoyed the eats, wine, and fruit juice, but most of all each others' company, and were rather sad when the caretaker started giving us those time to go home looks.

Arthur Bush, President FELPS

NIGEL STAMP CLUB

October 1996: The club held its AGM this month and the standing committee was re-elected *en bloc* with Charles Rogers as chairman, Lesley Leesmann as secretary and John Seaward as treasurer.

Charles gave a report to the members on his impression of the Congress and National Exhibition at Bloemfontein. He highlighted the success of the juniors with their respective displays.

Roy Gilbert of the Springs Club was the invited guest, and he impressed the members with his comprehensive collection of GB Machins. This was really something to see.

November 1996: It has become a tradition at this, the last meeting of the year, to have fun – philatelically speaking, of course! The theme this year was "Something old, something new, something borro-

wed, something blue". It was heartening to have most of the members contribute to the theme, and it was also interesting to see how widely stamps were used to illustrate the theme.

The club was happy to welcome as visitors Alan Rose and his wife Sally, Jill Redmond and her husband Rowland and Hannes Greeff, Alwyn Nel and Thabo Matsaba, all from Philatelic Services. These visitors were included in the three teams for the Philatelic Phun (sic) Quiz which caused a bit of fun as well as head scratching.

Roberto and Charles displayed their Silver/Bronze award-winning entries at Sasolburg; Roberto with *Europa* and Charles with his *The Food of Love*.

Roberto Favo, Ivo Celestino and their families brought the evening to a close with beautiful renditions of some favourite Christmas carols. They even got the members and guests to sing along!

Charles Rogers

MARITZBURG PS

October: Only 18 members attended the Annual Bourse plus two guests – John Ellis who collects pre-decimal UK, the phosphor bands and inverted watermarks, and Jan de Goede – and a warm welcome for our "bird-man" newspaper columnist on birds, Gordon Bennett.

Roger Porter who received the Stampcor Award at Bloemfontein for the best Pre-Union exhibit was congratulated on his success. He also showed *Zululand to 1910*, which caused a problem because Zululand actually ceased to exist in 1897, for this he received a Gold.

He said the Bloemfontein national exhibition and congress were the best organised he had ever attended.

He highlighted the banquet which was held at Onze Rust, a farm just outside Bloemfontein, home of Justice M T Steyn, which had been in the Steyn family for over 150 years. Roger showed his

autographed cover signed by the ex-Administrator of SWA himself!

Alex Duigan was awarded a Bronze for his *Communication thro' the Postal System in Peace and War*. Well done to our two national exhibitors.

Robin Castle put up a thematic entry, but there being no other competitor it could not be considered.

Unfortunately the annual bourse was disappointingly badly attended with only three vendors yielding R12,90 in commission for the club – however, those who were present had a thoroughly enjoyable evening which ended well after normal time for some!

Riaan Nel won the R30 swindle.

Peter Southwood

THE SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY

September: Our September meeting was poorly attended. It was the annual Israel II competitive evening for newer collectors and/or latter year collections.

There was only one exhibitor – Moira Bleazard – who showed one frame entitled *The Hebrew Language and Writing*. This was a top class exhibit that showed the Hebrew language, the Torah, old manuscripts, the Hebrew Press, modern Hebrew, women writers, children's books, and spoken Hebrew amongst other topics.

John Bleazard passed around a S A Rugby catalogue that he had prepared.

October: The October meeting was well attended by 11 members and our guest for the evening was Colin Fraser of Christie's New York office. We wish to thank our member George Cafetzoglou for organising this great evening.

Colin, a very interesting and informative gentleman, presented a slide show giving us an insight into the history of Christie's from its inception by the founder, Mr James Christie in St James, London in 1766. He explained how the market is appraised, the auction process being

a public record of the selling prices achieved of articles being sold.

He also explained how the auctions works and how Christie's disposed of world famous material. Colin also told us about the Mauerbach Auctions which consists of Nazi loot of Jewish treasures during WWII, being now sold for the benefit of the Jewish community of Austria.

Christie's are doing this sale free of charge as a gesture of goodwill.

November: Our November meeting was a visit from our friends and neighbours – the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg.

First of all the prize winners at Bloemfontein 150 were congratulated, and our own David Stern was congratulated on being asked to sign the Roll of Honour – an honour long overdue and richly deserved.

We had the following exhibitors: Dr Ian Matheson showed 75 pages from his British Honduras collection, including various covers with postmarks and airmail cancellations. His knowledge of his subject is simply unbelievable and shows years of study. The doctor also told us of his visits to the area and how the postal service works.

Dr Achi Frank showed parts of his collection of Canada, which included Die Proofs, Mint, Used on Cover, extremely rare items, and so forth. His knowledge of his exhibit was remarkable. It was top class, assembled over many years.

All of us who were there enjoyed a most interesting evening.

December: The December meeting was to be "Bring along a visitor plus the 3 favourite pages and 3 the most disliked pages you have". Unfortunately we only had 1 exhibitor, the Rabbi Shalom Zaiden, who brought along 4 pages of covers of famous synagogues. We had however a good attendance of 12 members present.

This concluded a very active year of philatelic activities.

Willie Mann

Vir die boekrak/For the bookshelf

Volume Five is here

The Postmarks of South Africa and former States and Colonies, Vol. 5, Ke-Ly; by Ralph Putzel RDPSA.

312 pp, ill., published by the author (1996), available from PO Box 3885, 7966 Tokai (Cape), hard cover R345,00, soft cover R245,00.

THE Odyssey this times takes us from Kearsney in Natal to Lyttelton Rail in the Transvaal. Unlike the pre-

vious volume, where Johannesburg dominated, there is no one post office which can be said to have "taken over".

And, as far as Johannesburg is concerned, let it quickly be said that two pages of addenda concerning this office precede the Kearsney entry. A brave man indeed, is Ralph Putzel, tackling this monstrous job in full consciousness that, in effect, it is impossible to ever arrive at completion.

The most interesting features in

Ke-Ly are the older post offices, and in this particular instance Kimberley and King William's Town, which both start their postmarking history with the Cape strike which Goldblatt has dubbed the Dated Town Oval.

Kimberley, of course, could have you fooled, for it starts its history with Diamondfields, initially used at Klipdrift. It is to sort out quirks and quiddities such as this which makes this on-going work so important.

It is particularly gratifying to see listed under Kimberley's special post-

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marks both of the strikes used in 1892 at the time of the South African & International Exhibition which was held there. Kimberley is also one of the few offices in South Africa which offers evidence of the separate treatment of Black people, with its Kimberley Location marks.

It would obviously be invidious to attempt comments on the many other post offices represented, but one general remark must be made, particularly as this reviewer is as guilty as the rest of us. His own office, Kloof Street, once upon a time used a canceller with an additional "Telegraph Office", and this is known on postal material.

It is not given however, for the simple reason that nobody (*mea culpa*) bothered to draw the author's attention to it. It should really not be too much trouble to anybody to let Ralph Putzel know about such things.

His plans for the next volume are to complete M, which he thinks will be the biggest letter of the series. It will contain complete sections for such subjects as Maritime Marks, Mobile Post Offices and Military Post Offices in three wars. This includes British Army Post Offices in the Anglo-Boer War.

It should not be too much to ask that experts in these fields share their knowledge with the author

● The first four volumes in the series are still available at the compendium price of R940 for the hardcover version, R678 for the soft cover.

WG

Deurtastende Nederlandse werk oor lugvaart

Luchtpostverbindingen vanuit Nederland met de Unie van Zuid-Afrika/Republiek van Zuid-Afrika, dele 1 en 2; deur LMA Crandell.

129 pp (elke deel 129 pp, een kant gefotostateer), ill., uitgegee deur die skrywer (1990), beskikbaar van Seinestraat 18, 1966 VG, Heemskerk, sagteband, albei dele VSA\$ 25,00 + \$12,00 posgeld.

LIEWER laat as nooit, het hierdie uiters intrigerende en deeglike werk onder die aandag gekom tydens die skrywer se besoek hier verlede jaar in die kader van Bloemfontein 150, waar hy op die jurie gedien het.

Die eerste deel handel net oor die sogenaamde Dingaansvlucht van die

KLM, wat plaasgevind het tydens die feesvieringe rondom die Voortrekker Eeufees.

Nie alleen die veental omslae wat beskikbaar geword het nie, maar die skepping en behandeling van elkeen word uitvoerig uiteengesit, daarbenewens ook omvangryke inligting – dikwels toegelig met die reproduksie van tydgenootlike persknipsels – oor die geskiedkundige gebeure en persoonlikhede.

Die reëlings vir posbehandeling was, gesien wat deesdae gebeur, uitermate omslagtig. Versamelaars kon vele keuses uitoefen, wat op die ou end die Nederlandse pospersoneel onder ongekende druk geplaas het. Daar is gevolglik byna 'n duisternis van variasies op die tema van vlugkoevertes wat voortgevloei het, en 'n mens kan jou nouliks 'n deeglike verslag daarvoor voorstel as hierdie een nie.

Die tweede deel gaan onder die subtitel "Overige KLM Vluchten", en dek die tydperk 1938 tot 1989. Dit is nie minder deeglik nie, en net so oorsigtelik geskryf as die eerste deel.

Die werk het verskyn in 'n oplaag van net 250 eksemplare, en is eenvoudig 'n noodsaaklikheid vir almal wat in hierdie gespesialiseerde onderwerp belangstel.

WG

Franking meters made easy

An introduction to South African franking meter marks; by Andries van der Walt.

44 pp, ill., published by The Postmark & Postal History Society of Southern Africa (Occasional Paper No 12, 1996), enquiries to PO Box 29012, Sunnyside 0132, South Africa.

ONE is grateful that this society has resumed its publication programme, for its contribution to specialist fields has always been commendable.

In this case, however, the author states quite clearly that this is not a specialist work, but a straightforward introduction, and it is one which everyone can enjoy, even if up to now their only acquaintance with similar machines has been a parking meter.

With neat and legible lay-out and clear illustrations one is taken through the historical background, and, in what forms the bulk of the publication, a thorough typology of franking meter marks, as well as various uses.

The work is an eminent service to philately, as it makes accessible a field

which is as yet inexpensive to collect, and which is thoroughly covered from the chapter "Collecting meter marks" onwards, which takes one right up to "Exhibiting franking meter marks".

If anyone is looking for a stimulus in what is obviously a rewarding field, they need look no further.

WG

Switzerland made easy

Switzerland Catalogue; edited by HL Katcher.

181 pp, ill., published by The Amateur Collector Ltd (1996), available from PO Box 242, London N2 0YZ, ringbound US\$22,50 if paid by credit card.

THAT an English firm should be quoting its prices in US dollars – and that applies to those in the catalogue as well – must be a sign of the times. It is common, at least in some hotels in Cape Town with an international clientele.

This is a straightforward listing, using Zumstein catalogue numbers, and is almost comparable to the Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps*, particularly in the more recent sections.

But it does have certain further refinements, such as listing flights with special postmarks, or Swiss stamps produced for international offices.

Among the latter it is interesting to note, for example, that Switzerland overprinted stamps for the now long defunct League of Nations as early as 1922 – a subject which could be a promising collection. (Used, one hastens to add. The mint prices are on the daunting side.)

Among the more fascinating "back of the book" issues listed are Hotel Post and Hotel Stamps, Soldier's Stamps, and Frank Stamps.

WG

Some recent publications

British Isles: *Collect Channel Islands & Isle of Man Stamps* has appeared in the 1996 edition, which fills 240 pages for all the stamps of the various issuing authorities from 1941 up to Christmas 1995. Sales figures for Guernsey and Alderney, as well as Jersey, have been extended, and prices have been more extensively revised than for some time. While some of the wartime occupation issues have come down in price, for example the Jersey 2d in the 1943 "Views" set

jumps from £4,00 to £7,00. Many sets issued in the early 1990s also show some appreciation. (Stanley Gibbons, £7,95).

GB Concise: Additional information on watermark and perforation varieties has been included in the 1996 edition of the *Great Britain Concise Catalogue*. Errors of missing colour, phosphor and embossing are also listed, and prices, in particular for issues before 1935, have been thoroughly revised. The embossed and surface printed Queen Victoria stamps have risen considerably, the 1880 2s brown, for

example, now listed at £500,00 mint and £150 used. Booklet prices too, and the first NVI booklets from 1989 onwards, show some major increases. (Stanley Gibbons, £12,95)

Four Kings: This is the tenth edition of the *GB Specialised Vol 2*, covering the issues of the reigns of King Edward VII to George VI. The previous edition was in 1993, and the current one contains 448 pages. New information includes revisions to the Edward VII 1/2d and 1d values, further George V essays and improvements to the booklet listing, the addition of

perforation types to George V, and George VI cylinder block listings and further plate numbers and cylinder flaws. Proof material continues to rise in price, with some of the Downey Head essays having doubled. (Stanley Gibbons, £22,95)

Foreign Catalogues: The fifth editions of Part 7, *Germany* (previous issue 1992), and Part 19, *Middle East* have appeared. The former has 380 pages, the latter a hefty 688, which was last issued in 1990. (Stanley Gibbons, £19,95 (Germany), £24,95 (Middle East))

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This index for 1996 appears as a supplement in the centre of the February 1997 issue, for easy removal, and is separately paginated from i to iv. The index for 1995 appeared as a supplement in the February 1996 issue, between pages 16 and 17, also separately paginated from i to iv.

The October 1996 issue, No 5 (818) contained as a separate supplement, sponsored by the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa, the monograph *The Branch Post Offices of Natal, 1852 to 1864*, by John Dickson (24 pages in all).

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