

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST

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- Algoapex 2002 and SAPF 64th congress reports
- Robben Island's four centuries of postal history
- Ink-jet postmarking in South Africa
- Cyberphilately: 'You've only got 500 days left...'
- VOC se 400ste verjaardag stil verby

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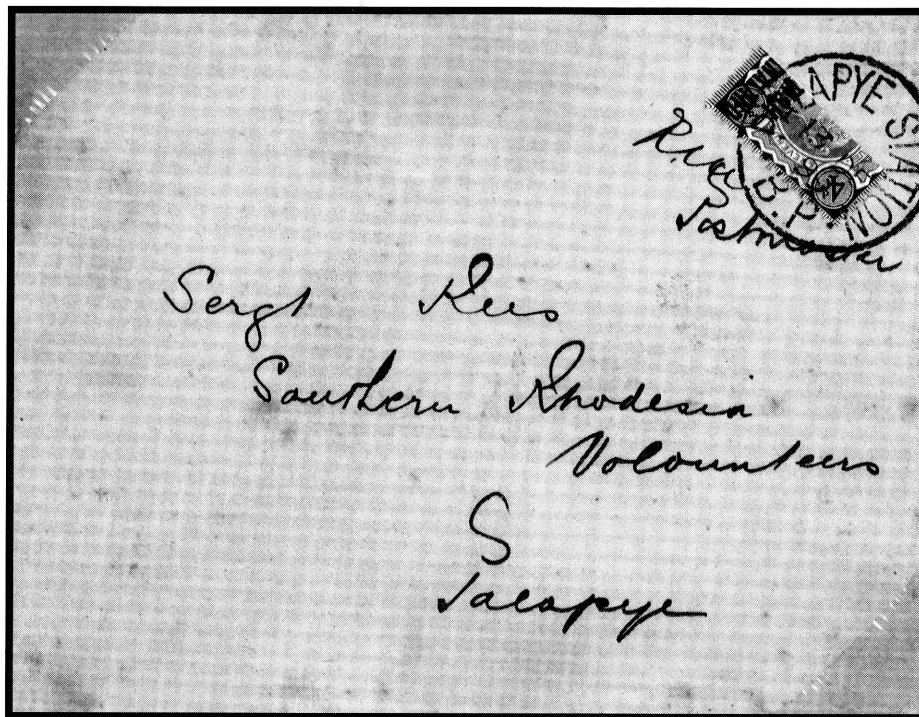
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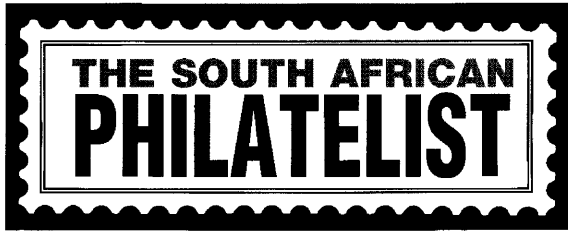
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SA Philatelic Dealers' Association/SA Filateliese Handelaarsvereniging: For the latest membership list send SAE/vir jongste ledelys stuur gefrankeerde kovert: Box/Posbus 918, Halfway House, 1685.

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In my view/Soos ek dit sien

Die Redakteur/The Editor

It is probably an inherent part of human nature that, when we think things are starting to go wrong, we get depressed. We give up all hope, and in the process we are no longer able to face the future in a positive way. We may also think that the problems that we have with our hobby are unique.

Not true – I know of other hobbies or pastimes that experience the same or even worse problems than ours.

The 64th annual congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa has come and gone. And during this congress the positives and the negatives were highlighted. Yes, we have major problems. But the fact that clubs' and societies' membership has decreased does not necessarily mean there are fewer collectors or that the future of the hobby may be in jeopardy.

Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves as collectors, the future is one that we can face with determination. It's not a problem; it's a challenge. Perhaps the one positive we have is that we should stop emphasising our problems and rather concentrate on the solutions.

Die feit dat die georganiseerde filatelie in dié land in a krisis verkeer, is geen rede waarom ons as versamelaars mismoedig hoef te word nie. Ja, dit is so dat die ledegetalle van klubs en verenigings afgeneem het, maar dis nie te sê dat daar skielik minder versamelaars in die land is nie.

Feit is dat ons die toekoms en die groei van ons stokperdjie as 'n uitdaging moet sien. As ons dit doen, sal ons vind daar is meer oplossings as probleme. Ons moet verby die negatiewe kyk.

As ons dit doen sal ons geen rede hê om mismoedig te wees nie en sal ons die toekoms met nuwe ywer aanpak. Die versamel van seëls hier en elders is nog ver van dood. Miskien sluimer dit effens, maar ons kan deur positiewe denke en optrede, dit weer nuwe lewe gee.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa



More on the 'rarest stamp issue'

A Leeftang, Veulenkamp 78, 2623 XG Delft, Holland, writes: I was surprised that there was no response by collectors anywhere to the marvellous article by Prof O de Jager and Dr H Kamffer on *The Rarest Stamp "Issue" of the Union of South Africa* (SA Philatelist 846, p 65-70). Except for Mr Hagger of course with a few remarks in SAP 848, but no new material was reported.

I enclose copies of some stamps in my *Experimental Vending Machines* collection:

- 6 x one-penny KEVII Kaap de Goede Hoop, guillotined top and bottom
- 1 x six-pence KEVII Transvaal, guillotined top and bottom
- 1 x half-penny KEVII Kaap de Goede Hoop "Cigarette-Duty", guillotined top and bottom
- 1 x 6-pence KEVII Kaap de Goede Hoop, slit along the long sides.



The one-penny Cape stamps in my collection are found with dates from 17 November 1911 until 12 January 1912 and a stray copy of 20 March 1912. This seems to fit with the dates I have of the one-penny Transvaal stamps: 15 January 1912 until 3 June 1912.

All the one-penny Cape and Transvaal stamps are postmarked in Cape Town.

My earliest date for a stamp from the experimental vending machines is, however, a Cape half-penny with 31 October 1911 and my latest is a Transvaal half-penny with 8 June 1912.

The other three stamps (I have no duplicates of those three) are shown because there is possibly much more to learn about this experimental period. The

six-pence Transvaal has likely the Cape Town 3 postmark (no date decipherable) and the six-pence Cape has the Cape Town oval registered mark (Putzel 367) with a (19)05 date. The quality of the "Cigarette Duty" is poor.

The six-pence Cape doesn't of course belong to this group (1911-1913), but I have included the stamp because it is cut in such a way that it could be a forerunner of the coil era.

I would appreciate the opinions of Prof de Jager and Dr Kamffer.

bramleeflang@hotmail.com

Eric Etkin recovering

P D Wills, Director: Argyll Etkin Ltd, London, writes: As you may know, Eric Etkin suffered a stroke in June this year and he would be very grateful if you would publish this message: "I would like to thank all my philatelic friends who kindly wrote to me during my illness. I am making good progress, having regained my speech, and the prognosis is that I will be walking by Christmas."

Delayed flights

Bryan E Stokoe FRPSL, 3 St Mary's Square, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 5HJ, writes: In your October 2002 issue the letter from Pauw Steyl, of George, came up with the answer to a problem I've been trying to solve for nearly two years (*Mossel Bay deviation*, p 127). Now I have three more related problems which I hope your readers may help solve – especially an old Peterborough, England, acquaintance of mine who now lives in Pietersburg, South Africa:

- AN210 - 1935: Why was the airliner Atalanta delayed at Pietersburg for nearly 24 hours?
- AS254 - 1935: Why was the airliner Almathea diverted to Worcester and delayed there for about 24 hours?

- AN267 - 1935: Again we have Almathea being diverted, this time to Brandt, and again why was the necessary?

Exchanges sought

Miriam Congedo writes from Italy: I am looking for material about turtles and tortoises – mint stamps, souvenir sheets, meter stamps, special cancellations etc. Also the postal history of Schilpadfontein (Transvaal). I am willing to exchange for topical Italian material – mint stamps, topical postmarks etc. Please contact me at miriam.con@email.it.

Ladislav Szegő writes from Hungary: I found your address on the internet and decided to ask your help. I am now retired and so have more time for my hobby, stamp collecting. I would like to get exchange partners all over the world.

I collect used-single-nice stamps. I will reply to everyone and send as many stamps as I get, at once. My address is:

Ladislav Szegő
XIV. Ond vezér road 19. I. 3.
1144 Budapest, Hungary.

Miroslav Legat writes: Being a serious philatelist, I am interested in exchanges with philatelists in your country. I can offer any mint stamps in complete sets, FDCs, etc of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Czechoslovakia.

My e-mail address is:
m-legat@hotmail.com

Hilmar Goldschmidt writes from Leipzig, Germany: I am interested in stamped covers only by real post. I you can help me, please get in touch. My address is:

Hilmar Goldschmidt, Gaußstrasse 26,
D-04179 Leipzig, Germany.
E-mail: hilmar.goldschmidt@freenet.de

ROWLAND REDMOND, a familiar figure and friend to all of us involved in organised philately in South Africa, passed away during November this year at the age of 75. Although not a collector himself, Rowland never failed to attend all philatelic gatherings or functions in support of his wife of 28 years, Jill Redmond RDPSA, administrative secretary of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

As the proverbial 'backroom boy' he helped in his quiet, unassuming way with administrative and other matters without ever actually intruding in the work done by Jill. He took over the financial running of Junass (the umbrella body for youth philately in South Africa) many years ago and filled the role of treasurer for two national shows on the East Rand in 1990 and again in 1994. His latest project was the stock and sales records of the Federation's publications.

We salute you, Rowland; and our sincerest condolences go out to Jill.

– Danny Swart

Hong Kong 2004 Stamp Expo

The Editor received an interesting communication from the organisers of the Hong Kong 2004 Stamp Expo. The exhibition is to be held from 30 January to 3 February in the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre in Wanchai.

The theme of the exhibition is "Tourism". The organisers expect up to 250 000 visitors (220 000 visitors were recorded in 2001). The fringe programme includes a philatelic symposium, youth corner and a guided tour service to exhibits displayed. In 2001 11 000 people attended the youth corner.

It is being held under the patronage of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately and it is the 17th Asian International Stamp Exhibition to be presented.

More information can be obtained on the exhibition website www.hongkong-poswtstamps.com.

The number of expected visitors of 250 000 makes one think, doesn't it?

Stanley Gibbons Monthly

The October 2002 issue on the *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* devotes a large section of the magazine to the celebration of the publication's 75th anniversary. Interesting is that in 1890 a Birmingham stamp dealer, Charles James Phillips, bought the business of Edward Stanley Gibbons. The various journals published by the two different companies at the time were amalgamated to form the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* which, according to the article, is believed to be the world's first house journal. In 1905 a new title was launched alongside the journal – *The Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. The *Weekly's* circulation soon outstripped that of the *Journal* and reached between 13 000 and 14 000 copies by 1908.

But its success also proved its undo-

ing and it was closed on 24 December 1910. The *Journal* re-appeared in January 1911. During the war years from 1914 to 1918 publication was suspended and it did not appear for five years. In September 1919 the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular* made its appearance.

In October 1923 the *Monthly Journal* was resurrected. Despite its popularity with a circulation of 7 000, the magazine made its last appearance in September 1927. The first *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* was published in October 1927.

The name of the journal changed once more in June 1970 when the name "Gibbons" was dropped and it was just called *Stamp Monthly*. The name "Gibbons" returned unannounced in June 1977, the same year that saw the magazine celebrate its 50th anniversary. And it has not changed since.

Prof Harry E Reef

Years ago Prof Harry E Reef, professor in neurology at the Medical School of the University of the Witwatersrand was an active stamp collector in South Africa. In case some people have wondered what has happened to Prof Reef, he is now retired and lives in Perth, Western Australia.

In the latest edition of *Topical Time*, September/October 2002, Whole Number 315, the official journal of the American Topical Association, Dr Reef, as he is now known, is the author of a very interesting article *History of the Calendar*.

Interesting reading!

They're all battling

Don't think it's only the South African Post Office Ltd that is fighting for its economic survival, or that privatisation is the ultimate solution. If we look at the situation in Great Britain where the post office (or Royal Mail

as it is once again called) was privatised many years ago, we will be surprised, or perhaps not, to learn that it made a loss of £1,1 billion. The British Post Office is currently looking at various ways of returning to profitability.

But then, in spite of its massive loss, it is spending some £5 million on advertising its philatelic products for 2002/2003. One of the aims of this advertising campaign is to promote the use among members of the public of special and commemorative issues on letters and other postal material. What we would not give to have even just a small slice of that budget!

Part of the recovery plan includes some 17 000 additional job cuts on top of the 13 000 earlier.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the United States Postal Services are also in deep financial trouble, but they have another problem. In hundreds of post offices in America, the postmaster is paid \$70 000 per year, but as a result of the role of labour unions, they are not in a position to get rid of postmasters where post offices are no longer that busy.

And did you know that no stamps issued since 1861 by the USPS have been demonetised?

Slogan programme changed

The Post Office has given details of a change to the 2002 slogan programme. The original programme provided for the slogans "Use the Post Office's international mail service - your worldwide connection", "For quicker delivery, use Fastmail" and "Self-seal, postage-included envelopes - Available at post offices" to be used in that sequence in the three weeks from 16 September to 6 October.

These slogans were replaced for the period concerned by one reading "World Post Day - 9 October 2002".

Bedazzled by World Cup issue

In a recent TV interview, Barry Richards, one of the greatest batsmen ever to grace our cricket pitches, said that in order for cricket to remain competitive as a spectator sport, the governing body, the International Cricket Council, would have to take a serious look at introducing changes in the way the game is being played – especially as regards five-day tests.

In the interview, Richards referred to the Kerry Packer circus of some years ago and said Packer set the tone for the development of the one-day limited overs competitions. The one-day game with its brightly coloured clothing, night games, limited overs etc had become the main-

stay of cricket, he said.

Looking at the first of the three issues for the World Cup to be played in South Africa from January until the end March in South Africa next year, it seems as if the United Cricket Board has taken a leaf out of Richards's book. The stamps depict an African zebra, dressed it in colourful clothing and made an all-round cricketer out of the animal.

The media release on the issue states: "Designed by Gavin Reddy from the agency TBWA, the mascot known as Dazzler is a caricature of an African zebra found in large groups in many parts of Southern Africa. The name Dazzler is derived from the collective noun for a group of "dazzle" zebra. The mascot represents the colour, vigour and texture of

the vibrant African environment and provides a special sense of culture with the friendly, visible image of fun and light-hearted cricket". Indeed!

If I did not have this typical advertising buff at my disposal I would never have been able to guess what a zebra and cricket had in common. Now I know. The ICC World Cup is going to be a lot of fun and light-hearted. I would have thought the idea is that it is a World Cup and that the teams competing would take the competition seriously!

One can only hope that the teams will play "dazzling" and entertaining cricket with that special sense of culture. And that the 2003 ICC World Cup will not turn out to be one big joke!

'Let's make the miracle happen!'

Aggressive campaigns to promote stamp collecting amongst all communities, new value-added products and collectibles, and improved relations with organised philately in South Africa – these are among the Post Office Philatelic Services' plans for the new year.

Reporting to the Philatelic Federation's annual congress, Johan van Wyk, acting senior manager of Philatelic Services, outlined a strategic plan which would play a leading part in "that miracle" (of infusing new growth in stamp collecting).

Van Wyk gave the following overview:

Highlights of the past year

- The launch of the Anglo-Boer/South African miniature sheets on 31 May at the Australian High Commission brought to a close the series of stamps issued to commemorate this historic event.

- A stamp was launched on 25 June 2002 to commemorate the establishment of the African Union in Durban. The actual launch was well attended by parliamentarians and a framed set of the stamp was presented to Deputy President Jacob Zuma.

- The biggest highlight of the year was Philatelic Services' involvement with the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. It started with the initial planning for the issue of the first set of stamps, then the actual involvement with the very large Post Office team to get everything in place, the issue of the second set of stamps and the Summit itself, with post offices at the Sandton library and the Ubuntu Village. For everybody involved, this was an experience that they would not forget in a hurry.

- The dust had not quite settled after the Summit when we launched the first of three sets of stamps on 23 September in anticipation of the Cricket World Cup in 2003. Logistically a larger event than the Summit, actions are starting to fall into place to also make this a memorable occasion for the Post Office.

- A double-page spread in the Sowetan of 25 September 2002 introduced stamp collecting to communities that might have previously been excluded from this interesting hobby.

- We attended philatelic exhibitions at the SAPDA exhibition in Rosebank and the Pretoria show. These exhibitions were held very close to the World Summit and had the Philatelic Services team running on all

cylinders.

- Four Post Office trucks were used to market postage stamps in the larger cities in the country.

Still to come this year

The following stamps will be issued before the end of this year –

- World Post Day
- Steve Biko
- Algoapex 2002 and Junass
- The last two sets of cricket stamps
- The Year of the Goat
- Christmas stamps
- Aids
- A miniature sheet for the solar eclipse on 4 December

Problems

We have had a number of technical problems this year and we are aggressively addressing these problems. Issues that are receiving urgent attention include the late issue of stamps, the appointment of staff to critical vacancies and a study to print stamps again in South Africa. I ask the forbearance of congress members as we have set ourselves a target date of the end of the year to solve these problems.

The road forward

In the June 2002 edition of *The South African Philatelist*, the editor suggested that the hobby of stamp collecting was in a crisis and that it would only survive and

grow – by some sort of miracle – if philatelists were prepared to play a role in making it happen. The strategic business plan being prepared by Philatelic Services and the execution of the proposed actions aim to play a leading part in that miracle.

The opportunities for Philatelic Services in South Africa and the rest of the continent are incredible. Plans that are on the table, but that will only be introduced in the second quarter of 2003, include –

- increased representation by Philatelic Services in Post Office regional offices;
- additional focus on the educational, historical and artistic values of stamps;
- aggressive marketing and communications campaigns to increase the awareness of stamps and stamp collecting amongst all communities;
- new value-added products and collectibles;
- improving relationships with other postal administrations; and
- increased attendance of relevant educational, historical and artistic organisations.

Arrangements for the appointment of the Stamp Advisory Committee are in an advanced stage and will be announced shortly.

Message from

Herbie Schaffler

newly elected president of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa



Firstly, I would like to thank delegates at the 64th annual congress in Port Elizabeth for their confidence in proposing me as president for the year 2002/2003. I shall endeavour to serve the philatelic community to the best of my ability and to promote philately in all its facets. I would like to thank the outgoing president, Richard Johnson, for the hard work and dedication which he put into Federation during his year in office, in addition to serving on the organising committee for the Algoapex Philatelic Exhibition in Port Elizabeth during October 2002. He had a difficult year with a number of problems, which he handled with enthusiasm, commitment, vigour and fairness. He was required to attend an abnormally high number of Federation general and management meetings at which the issues were addressed.

The Philatelic Federation now has a

revised constitution, approved at a general meeting in August 2002. Peter van der Molen RDPSA, chairman of the management committee, and his team members are to be congratulated on the hard work, long hours, patience and perseverance put in on a voluntary basis for guiding the changes through a rather lengthy process. I believe that the amended constitution is a vast improvement and will pave the way into the future for philately and stamp col-

Congress gives motions the thumbs up

The 64th congress of the Philatelic Federation this year had to deal with three motions. Two of these motions were pre-sanctioned by the management committee to serve before congress and one came from the floor.

The first motion dealt with standing committees and the position of the chairpersons of such committees. At Congress in 2001 a motioned was carried that allowed special interest groups like thematics, postal history, aerophilately, etc to form standing committees. The chairpersons of these groups would then, according to the 2001 motion, each have a seat on the Management Committee.

Dr Alan Rose, a vice-president of the Federation, proposed the motion to revoke the previous decision. It was not clear why this motion was necessary at all because the new constitution adopted by management during September 2002 does not allow chairpersons of standing committees to serve on the Management Committee.

The motion as put by Dr Rose was, nevertheless, tabled by the President, Richard Johnson. Strong opposition came from Captain Robert Harm, representing Thematics, and the Federation's archivist, the Rev Cassie Carstens. The motion as put by Dr Rose was carried by a majority vote.

The second motion asked congress to appoint an ad hoc committee to assist with promoting philately. The motion, proposed by Andries van der Walt, was tabled

in his absence since he was unable to attend. There was a concern from the Management Committee that a special committee to assist in promoting the hobby might turn into a 'Trojan Horse'. Eventually the new public relations and promotions chairperson, Pat Flanagan, agreed that he would discuss the contents with Andries van der Walt.

The last motion came from the floor. When the treasurer, Howard Green, presented his report it transpired that the books of Federation was stolen from the car of the auditor. He explained that the financial statement presented to Congress was a reconstruction based on available vouchers.

Capt Robert Harm queried the increase in payments according to the statements. The secretary, Jill Redmond, left the meeting at this stage. Harm explained that he would like the reason behind the increases to be explained to Congress.

The treasurer explained that both the secretary and the editor of *The SA Philatelist* received payments way below what was market related. Lappe Laubscher, representing the Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria, then proposed that the Management Committee should be asked to look at payments with the view to bring them in line with market rates. This proposal was supported by Peter van der Molen, chairman of the Management Committee, and was carried by the Congress.



Richard Johnson RDPSA receives the SA Post Office Shield from Mrs Elizabeth Strachan, widow of the late Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society chairman T J Strachan. The award was for the best exhibit: SA philately, entitled "Cape of Good Hope: Postal History of the Eastern Frontier", exhibited by Messrs C and R Johnson.

lecting in South Africa.

Two constitution changes are worth noting. Firstly, there are five affiliation categories, namely local societies (headquartered in South Africa), junior societies, external societies (not headquartered in South Africa), the Postal Administration and the South African Dealers' Association. Of particular relevance is that specialist societies, study groups, stamp circles and the like now enjoy the same status as normal philatelic societies and stamp clubs.

Secondly, non-home membership of societies and the accompanying affiliation fee as a non-home member are no longer applicable. Each philatelist will be required to select a home society and will affiliate and receive *The SA Philatelist* via that society. Should a philatelist choose to join a second society as an "ordinary" member, no additional affiliation fees will be payable

to Federation.

The Algoapex National Stamp Exhibition and Junass 2002 in the Tsitsikamma Conference Centre in Broadwalk, Port Elizabeth during October 2002 were an astounding success. It is doubtful whether a more beautiful venue in such a magnificent setting will be found elsewhere in the country. The organisation of the exhibitions was outstanding and in the main the exhibits were top class. Congratulations to the organisers and to the trophy and medal winners.

As usual SAPDA dealers were represented in force, including a number from overseas. The 64th congress was well attended with adequate participation by delegates. Congratulations go to Jonas Michelson RDPSA, honorary life president of Federation, on his 50th congress attendance, and to John Sandilands and Wikus

van Heerden on being invited to sign the Roll of Honour. The Palmares Banquet was a splendid affair, well attended, and with a most eloquent guest speaker.

The National Exhibition in 2003 is to revert back to Gauteng to be held at Melrose Arch during October. It will be under the auspices of the Witwatersrand Philatelic Society with Patrick Flanagan as chairman of the organising committee. Patrick has already outlined a few of his novel ideas for the exhibition, which promised to be a splendid affair. It is hoped that a one-frame class will be introduced. In keeping with international standards in most countries, perhaps we need to consider the introduction of 16-page frames. New frames would of course be required.

Although there are many extremely active and keen philatelists in South Africa, as is evident from the over-subscription at



Congress Awards

Articles in SA Philatelist, Jun 2001 – April 2002

June 2001:

1. Prof O C de Jager and Dr H J G Kamffer RDPSA: *The Rarest Stamp 'Issue' of the Union of South Africa*

2. Prof O C de Jager: *The Sunday Fee for Overseas Mail from Durban and Pietermaritzburg*

August 2001 to February 2002:

1. Mark Piper: *Cuban Mails in Angola 1975-1991* (series of four articles)

2. Leo Crandel: *Die Briefkaarte van de Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* (series of four articles)

October 2001:

Joh Groenewald RDPSA: *When the French fought on the Boer side*

December 2001:

Prof Rory Ryan: *Observations on the Provisionals of British Bechuanaland*

February 2002:

Wobbe Vegter: *Cyberphilately: How it all began*

April 2002:

1. Pat Carter: *Sixth Definitive Series of the Republic of South Africa*

2. Brian Trotter and Tony Chilton: *The Stamp Booklets of Natal*

Regular contributors to SA Philatelist

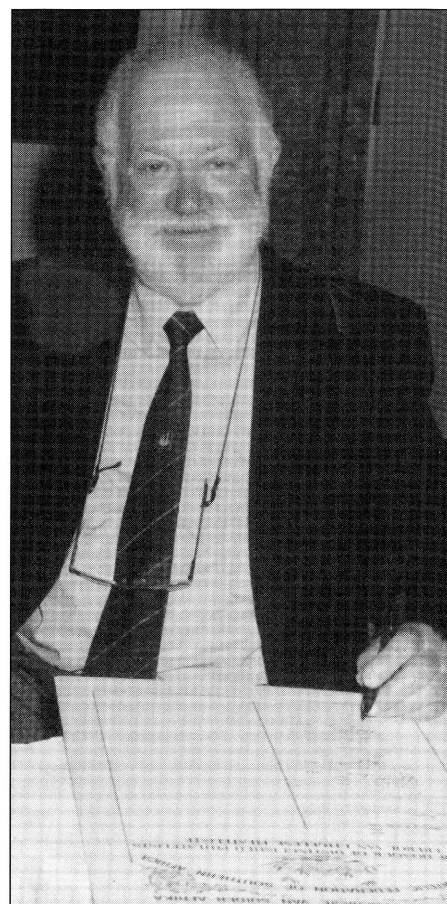
1. Neville Gomm
2. Ds J Cassie Carstens
3. Posthumously: Richard Knight for his series *Beginners Corner*

Other publications

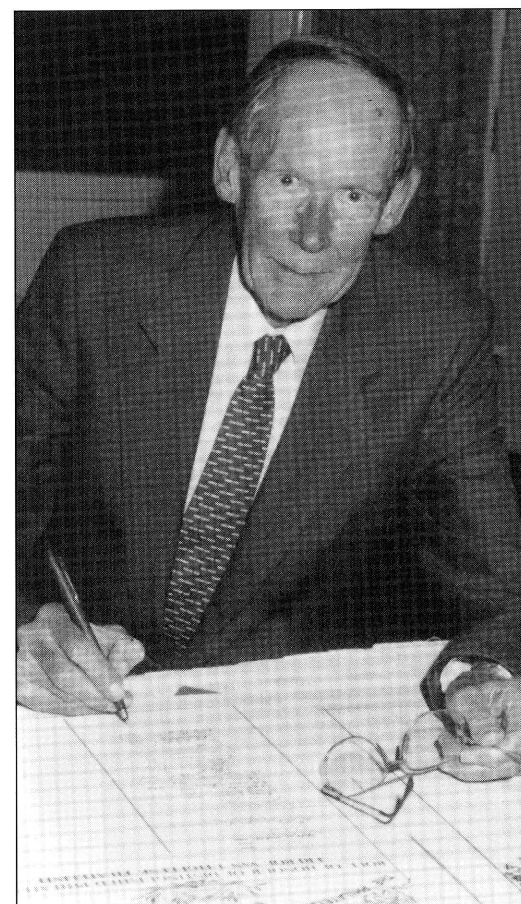
1. Tom Mullins: *The Stampless Air Mail Letter Cards & Air Letters used by SA Troops 1941-1945*; monograph published by the Philatelic Federation as a supplement to *The SA Philatelist*, 77/2, April 2001
2. Brian Trotter and Neville Midwood: *Revenues of Southern Africa: Part 1, The Bechuanalands*, published May 2002 (presented to members of the Bechuanalands & Botswana Society free with *Runner Post*, Issue 55, May 2002.

Federation plaques

1. W A (Bill) Meintjies for his work with youth in the Pretoria area
2. Ds Cassie Carstens for his on-going service to philately in Southern Africa especially for youth and thematics
3. Gawie van der Walt for his on-going service to philately over a broad field especially as past president for outside territories and as awards custodian
4. Henry Berneaud for his long years of service to philately in the Western Cape (over 50 years).



Wikus van Heerden signs the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa. His OFS/ORC collection and his very specialised study of OFS Revenues has brought him a number of gold and large gold medals at local and international exhibitions.



John Sandilands can now also write RDPSA after his name, having signed the Roll of Honour. He is best known for his postal history studies of the Anglo Boer War which have brought him a number of top awards at national and international level.

Sandilands and Van Heerden invited to sign Roll of Honour

TWO of the country's foremost philatelists, John Sandilands and Wikus van Heerden, were invited to sign the Roll of Honour of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa (RDPSA) at Algoapex in Port Elizabeth. They were John Sandilands, president of the Postmark and Postal History Society of Southern Africa, from Pretoria, and Wikus van Heerden, member of the OFS Study Circle.

It was probably not by design that both signatories practised as architects.

John Sandilands has been chairman of the Postmark and Postal History Society for the past ten years. He is best known for his postal history studies of the Anglo Boer War which have brought him a number of top awards at national and international level.

Most noteworthy among these were the Anglo Boer War Trophy and the Postmaster General's grand prix award in Bloemfontein in 1995. He has also exhibited overseas.

His contributions to *The SA Philatelist* and the *Anglo Boer War Philatelist* as well as his excellent research, was recognised at the 2001 Congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa when he was presented with the Manfred Weinstein medallion.

He has also served on a number of

national juries.

Wikus van Heerden is a relative "new-comer" to philately as he only started collecting seriously when he was in his forties. His collecting interest was sparked off when he purchased a collection of Orange Free State stamps.

His OFS/ORC collection and his very specialised study of OFS Revenues has brought him a number of gold and large gold medals at local and international exhibitions. He has been a member of the OFS Study Circle since 1972 and contributes regularly to its journal, and a book on the revenues is due for publication.

He has also served as a member of various juries at national exhibitions and as member of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Federation.

Skinner Cup

Richard Stroud of the United Kingdom and member of the Anglo Boer War Philatelic Society and the OFS Study Circle was presented with the Skinner Cup, the second highest award that can be given by the Philatelic Federation.

Richard is a champion of Southern African philately in the United Kingdom. He edits the Anglo Boer War Society's journal and has been secretary of the OFS Study Circle since 1978. He was the author of *Ceylon/The camps for Boer Prisoners of War 1900 to 1902/Their Postal History* published by the ABWPS in 1989.

W E Lea Cup presented to Emil Minnaar for meritorious service to philately in South Africa, especially as Chairman of the Audio Visual Committee over many years and his more recent application to developing the Federations website and computer systems.

J Harvey Pirie Memorial Award for Literature was awarded to John Dickson and Keith Hanman for their publication "The Postal Stationary of Natal".

Manfred Weinstein Medallion – Tim Bartshe (USA)

Transvaal Study Circle Gold Award went to Prof Okkie de Jager and Dr H J G Kamffer RDPSA for their article on the "Fleischack Versameling" in *The SA Philatelist*, April 2002.

▶▶▶▶ Algoapex, generally members at societies are growing older and numbers are reducing. Up and coming juniors are required to replace them. Jill Redmond RDPSA and youth leaders give up many hours of their free time to assist juniors. According to Jill:

"There is not a shortage of interest amongst juniors. There is a shortage of adults willing to give up a day or two per month to run or help run a youth stamp club." Most disappointing is that there is not a single youth club in Johannesburg. The closest extremely active club is in Nigel, ably run by Lesley Leesman and Charles Rogers. This is an area of philately that needs particular attention if the hobby is to survive, and it will survive.

The "new look" *SA Philatelist*, the official mouthpiece of the Federation, is alive and strong. The consultant editor, Andries van der Walt, is to be complimented on the

standard being introduced into the magazine. It contains a mix of articles, not only for the specialist philatelist, but also for the ordinary stamp collector in terms of thematics and popular subjects. Despite personal appeals by the editor, very few philatelists and members of societies volunteer contributions for the magazine. Remember, this is *your* magazine. Please contribute! Perhaps the time is right to re-look at the economics of a wider distribution of the magazine or selling the magazine at leading bookstores?

Philatelic Services, under the wing of the acting senior manager, Johan van Wyk, had a busy year with a number of highlights, including issuing of the Anglo-Boer War miniature sheets, the African Union, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the first set of World Cricket stamps and others. Of concern and being

addressed is the late issuing of stamps. Philatelic Services plan to introduce a number of opportunities and initiatives, which unfortunately will not be in place until the 2nd quarter of 2003.

Printing of stamps in South Africa once again is being considered. Also to be addressed on an urgent basis is the approval of the Stamp Advisory Committee and the stamp programme for 2003.

On the international philatelic front, South African philatelists performed well in Philakorea 2002 in Seoul and we wish our juniors well in the España 2002 International Youth Exhibition in Salamanca later this month.

Particularly active in philately is *Thematic South Africa (TSA)*, an initiative to promote thematic philately, ably run by Robert Harm, Gerrie Conradie and Rev Cassie Carstens. Thematic philately is cer-

tainly catching on in South Africa as it offers a myriad of collecting possibilities at prices substantially less than those for classical stamps. During the past year, TSA sponsored a number of mini thematic exhibitions, mainly at shopping and other centres in the Pretoria area. The highlight of the year was ClubTheme 2002 held in Kimberley. Arrangements are already in place for ClubTheme 2003 in Polokwane (Pietersburg). TSA is to be complimented on their monthly mini-publication, *ThemNews*, promoting thematic philately, the art of philately.

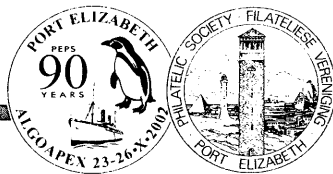
Rev Cassie Carstens is the Federation archivist to address the effective safe-keeping of the archival material of the Federation and its affiliated societies. The first bulletin was issued in July 2002. I would request that societies take heed of Cassie's requests as already so much

philatelic archival material has gone astray and is lost forever.

Effective communication with members of societies is and has always been an area of concern. The role of the regional vice-presidents is absolutely vital in this regard. It is through these channels that Federation management reaches society members and society members can reach Federation management. Minutes of Federation management meetings are now being circulated to all societies for information. Perhaps they should also be published in the *SA Philatelist*.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that the hobby of philately and stamp collecting remains the most popular hobby in the world and it is up to each and everyone of you to promote the hobby and most of all enjoy every minute of it.

– Herbie Schaffler



Jury Report

Firstly I would like to thank the Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society as organisers of Algoapex for the superb venue and facilities that they made available for the jury and for the smooth organisation of the show as a whole. Our thanks to the sponsors: The South African Post Office, Spink of London and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa for making the exhibition possible.

My thanks also to all the members of my jury who gave of their time to judge the exhibits and for once again being available to share their knowledge with the broader philatelic community. We are especially grateful to the overseas members of the jury – Tim Bartshe (USA), David Parsons (UK) and Gary Brown (Australia) for sharing their talents with us and helping to expand our judging experience.

I am pleased to report that our apprentice jurors all fared well and I am

happy to recommend to the Judging and Ethics Committee that they be accorded full accreditation in their fields:

David Dowie-Dunn
Patrick Flanagan
Brian Fenemore
Louis Kingma
Friedhelm Beck

In accordance with the current guidelines for the continuing re-accreditation of jurors the following jury members exhibited in the Court of Honour. Their exhibits have been deemed, by their peers and the Judging and Ethics Committee, to be of a standard that allows for their accreditation to be extended for a further five-year period.

Emil Bührmann
Coen Slagt RDPSA
Anne Marie Wigmore
Henk de Lange

We were happy to be able to award 7 Large Gold and 13 Gold medals for com-

petitive entries to the exhibition and feel that the general standard of the exhibits at Algoapex was high. Literature entries were of a particularly good quality, whilst the overall level of the Thematic class was disappointing.

The following exhibits were moved from their original classes:

- Frames 66-68 moved from Postal History to Open class
- Frames 139-144 moved from Postal History to Traditional
- Frames 225-228 moved from Thematic to Open Class

In closing I would like congratulate the PE Philatelic Society on a friendly and successful show in their 90th anniversary year and most of all thank the exhibitors for taking part and sharing their exhibits with us.

– David Crocker RDPSA
Jury chairman

LIST OF AWARDS

FLOATING TROPHIES

The President's Trophy (Grand Prix):

South African Airmails

Polakow, Mr N E

SA Post Office Shield (best exhibit SA philately):

Cape of Good Hope: Postal History of the Eastern Frontier

Johnson, Messrs C & R

SA Stamp Study Circle Award (best SA exhibit after 1910):

The Union 2d Rotogravure Pictorial Stamps 1931-1952

Tonking, Mr M J H

Anglo-Boer War Society Cup (best Anglo-Boer War exhibit):

The Boer Invasion of the Northern Cape, Sieges and Relief

du Plessis, Mr B L

DG Crocker Cup (best postal history exhibit):

Mozambique - Postal History Prior to Airmail

Wakely-Smith, Mr S R

Robert Goldblatt Thematic Cup (best thematic exhibit):

Females Exposed

Olinger, Mr H

Potch 78 Award (best exhibit Post-WWII):

Germany: Allied Occupation, Anglo-American Zone, Bi-Zone

Zinke, Mr R E

FAK Trophy (best with write-up in Afrikaans):

Suid-Afrika en die Tweede Wêreldoorlog

Laubscher, Mnr H P

CED Enoch Trophy (best philatelic research):

Some Postal Rates, Charges & Fees in the Union Period

Amoore, Mr H T

Vrijstaat Award (best Orange Free State exhibit):

OFF Briefkaarte

Van Heerden, Mr W

Stampcor Trophy (best Pre-Union exhibit):

Cape of Good Hope: Gems of the Handstruck Period

Johnson, Messrs C & R

Jonas Michelson Literature Award (best literature):

The Postal Stationery of Natal

Dickson, J & Hanman, K

Rose Marie Crocker Bowl (best SWA exhibit):

SWA Postmarks and Postal History

Raehs, Mr C

Terence Radue Award (best foreign exhibit):

Mozambique - Postal History Prior to Airmail

Wakely-Smith, Mr S R

Dawie Uys Memorial Award (best aerophilately exhibit):

British & Associated Airmails 1936-1946

Redmond, Mrs J D RDPSA

The Society of Israel Philatelic Award (best Israel / Holy Land exhibit):

Not awarded

The East Rand Philatelic Society Floating Trophy (best First-time exhibit):

Suider-Afrika se Ornitolgiese Skatte

Buys, Mnr C

The SAPRG Archie Atkinson Trophy

(best picture postcard exhibit of Southern Africa):

An Early Southern African Maritime Matrix

Flack, Mr G V H

The Total Stampex 95 Trophy

(best exhibit from an area outside SA with at least a vermeil):

Belgian Congo - a Postal History 1872-1960

Swart, Mr D T RDPSA

The Picture Postcard Thematic Cup (best postcard exhibit not Southern Africa):

The Congo: an example of Africa's distinctive dynamism

van Zeyl, Mr P

David de Villiers Display Trophy (best presented competitive exhibit at the show):

The Boer Invasion of the Northern Cape, Sieges & Relief

du Plessis, Mr B L

NON-FLOATING TROPHIES

Royal Medallion (best British Commonwealth exhibit):

Tasmania - The Sideface Issue 1870 - 1907

Manning, Mr B

Rhodesia Award (best Rhodesian Exhibit):

Northern Rhodesia 1924-64

Polakow, Mr N E

ZAR 100 Award (foreign exhibit of sufficiently high standard):

Belgian Congo - a Postal History 1872-1960

Swart, Mr D T RDPSA

Rand 77 Award (at the discretion of the Jury):

Revenue Stamps of the Transvaal 1900-14

Trotter, Mr B J

Die AFV Eretoekenning (at the discretion of the Jury):

Anglo Boer War POW Camps in India

Zerbst, Dr N J

The Ilsapex '98 Award (at the discretion of the Jury):

The Postal Stationery of Basutoland

van der Molen, Mr P W RDPSA

The East London Philatelic Society Trophy

(best thematic exhibit from the Eastern Cape):

Shells: an illustrated guide to a timeless, fascinating world

Colquhoun, Mrs G E

The Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society Prize

(best country exhibit from the Eastern Cape):

Cape of Good Hope: Gems of the Handstruck Period

Johnson, Messrs C & R

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

LARGE GOLD

Johnson, Messrs C & R

Cape of Good Hope: Gems of the Handstruck Period

Johnson, Messrs C & R

Cape of Good Hope: Postal History of the Eastern Frontier

Raehs, Mr C

SWA Postmarks and Postal History

64th congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

Swart, Mr D T RDPSA
Wakely-Smith, Mr S R
Polakow, Mr N E
du Plessis, Mr B L

Belgian Congo - a Postal History 1872-1960
Moçambique - Postal History Prior to Airmail
South African Airmails
The Boer Invasion of the Northern Cape, Sieges and Relief

GOLD

Tonking, Mr M J H
Cox, Mr A T
Manning, Mr B
Polakow, Mr N E
Amoore, Mr H T
Zerbst, Dr N J
Thompson, Mr H G

The Union 2d Rotogravure Pictorial Stamps 1931-1952
Swaziland
Tasmania - The Sideface Issue 1870 - 1907
Northern Rhodesia 1924-64
Some Postal Rates, Charges & Fees in the Union Period
Anglo Boer War POW Camps in India
South West African Postal History 1914 to 1939 -
Implementation and Improvisation during a period of change
Revenue Stamps of the Transvaal 1900-14
The Postal Stationery of Basutoland
Die Draak Steek met Poskaarte in die Anglo-Boereoorlog 1900-1902
An Early Southern African Maritime Matrix
The Postal Stationery of Natal
The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope 1792-1910

Trotter, Mr B J
v d Molen, Mr P W RDPSA
du Plessis, Mr B L
Flack Mr G V H
Dickson, J & Hanman, K
Frescura, Dr F

LARGE VERMEIL

de Villiers, P & Herselman, J C
Wolmarans, Dr D J

The Introduction of the Hyphen to the Roto Pictorials
The Unhyphenated 1d Ship Rotogravure Stamps of the Union of
South Africa - sheet, coil & booklet format
Southern Nigeria
Kelantan
Germany: Allied Occupation, Anglo-American Zone, Bi-Zone
Early Postal Markings on Prestamp Mail between Holland,
France & Great Britain 1706-1852
British & Associated Airmails 1936-1946
Movers and Shakers of the Millennium
Out of Africa QEII
Op die Bermudas beland - Ds J A van Blerk
Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol 1, The Postage Stamps
Revenues of Southern Africa Part 1 - The Bechuanalands

Cronje, Dr J D E
Matheson, Dr I A
Zinke, Mr R E
Bakker, Mr J A

Redmond, Mrs J D RDPSA
Bromser, Mr & Mrs C & S
Smith, Mr J R
Wessels, Mev M C
Bartshe & Hisey, Messrs RT
B Trotter & N Midwood

VERMEIL

Welling, Mnr CF
Minnaar, Mr E J
Colquhoun, Mrs G E
Porter, Mr R N
van den Hurk, Mr G J RDPSA
Bakker, Mr J A

Transvaal
Bavaria
Postmarks of Port Elizabeth
Postal Stationery of Natal: a Postal History
South Africa at War 1975-1990
Early postal markings on Prestamp Mail between
Holland & Belgium 1677-1839
Germany - The Postal Rates during the Inflation Period
from 1919-1923
Aspects of Airmail Development in and between the
UK and South Africa
Keetmanshoop - a Stroll through its Postal History
Suid-Afrika en die Tweede Wereldoorlog
A Depicted Synopsis of Deltiological Jargon
The Congo: an example of Africa's distinctive dynamism
Port Elizabeth in Bygone Days
Three Postcard Journeys
Postmarks of South Africa Vol 8 (O,P,Q)
The Active Service Letter Cards, Airmail Letter Cards and
Airletters used in South Africa, South West Africa and the
High Commission Territories during 1939 to 1945
Postmarks of South Africa Vol 9 (R & S)
Philatelic Federation of South Africa Web Site

Kussing, Mr H E

Kilroe, Mr J G

Bantz, Dr H U
Laubscher, Mnr H P
Bush, Mr A A
van Zeyl, Mr P
Colquhoun, Mrs G E
Walker, Mr M J
Visser, Prof A T & Putzel, R
Mullins, Judge T M

Visser, Prof A T & Putzel, R
Janse van Vuuren, Mrs R

LARGE SILVER

Schmidt, Mr R
Duncan, Mr A E
Koyd, Mr M A
Retief, Dr D J
Woolford, Mr J V
Cordes, Mr C
von Grutter, Mr G V
Gardiner, Mr S E
Botha, Mev H H
Buys, Mnr C
Olinger, Mr H
Doherty, Mr B
Howard, Mr R M
van Heerden, Mr W

A Study of the Sixth Definitive Series 1993-2000
Forerunners of Papua New Guinea
Rhodesia: Mardon Definitives 1966-1969
Togo - Stamps and Postal History
Rhodesia to 1924
Czechoslovakian Stamps issued in 1920
German South West Africa
Forerunner Postal History of Basutoland
O Die Donkie
Suid-Afrika se Ornitologiese Skatte
Females Exposed
Union of South Africa Postal Cards 1927-1953
Revenue Stamps & Documents of the Rhodesias
OFS Briefkaarte

• Continued on next page



Neville Polakow, chairman of the organising committee for Algoapex 2002, receives the President's Trophy (Grand Prix) for his exhibit "South African Airmails" from Mrs Elizabeth Strachan.



The David de Villiers Display Trophy for the best-presented competitive exhibit at the show went to Mr B L du Plessis for his exhibit on "The Boer Invasion of the Northern Cape, the Sieges and their Relief".



Thompson, Mr H G
van Zeyl, Mr P
Hanson, Mr J D
Stroud, Mr J R
Stroud, Mr J R

South West African Airmails in the 1930s
The Voortrekker Monument Issues: exploring the soul of a nation
Postcards of the Channel Islands
The Orange Free State Bulletin (Year 2001)
The Anglo-Boer Philatelist (Year 2001)

SILVER

Genge, Ms E A
Kajee, Mr I
Miles, Mr L
Spitzer, Mr T R
Chemanaï, Mr J A
Colquhoun, Mr G E
Napier, Mr D
Crawford, Mrs M
Polakow, Mr N E

Printer's Dilemma – The 1937 Coronation Issues
South West Africa
Bechuanaland
The German Reich 1919-1945
The Interprovincial Periods: 161910-31121937
Shells: an illustrated guide to a timeless and fascinating world
The Pioneer Flights of Africa
The Life of Lily Neizel (1900-1910)
Aero Letter No 90 (May 2002)

SILVER BRONZE

Cheminaï, Mr J A
van Rensburg, Mr F
de Jager, Prof O C
Miles, Mr D L
Rogers, Mr C M
Sinclair, Mr D J
Morton, Mr D G

Railway Posts of the Orange River Colony
Rhino Standardised Mail Stamp Booklets of the RSA
Late Fees of the Union of South Africa
Cape of Good Hope Bar Numerals & Postmarks before 1911
Timeless Egypt
Fastmail Envelopes of the Republic of South Africa
Airmails of Rhodesia & Nyasaland

BRONZE

Barit, Dr L
Gutman, Mr S
Osthoff, Prof G
Briscoe, Mrs A R
Bromfield, Mrs J
du Toit, Mej M
McWilliams, Mr D H
Reddi, Dr V B
Janse van Vuuren, Mrs R

Decimalisation 1961 and the Protectorates
The Forgeries of the Suez Canal
Deutsche Bundespost 1950-1964
A Miscellany of Orchids
Discovering South Africa
Water op Land
Through the eye of a Sea Fish
Ghandi on Stamps
Bellville Philatelic Society Web Site

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Rogers, Mr A
Botha, Mr D

Machin Heads
The History of Tennis

Medal Class

VERMEIL

Kawalsky, D (Penny Black)
with felicitations (research)
Paulson, G (Nigel)
Setter, AJ (Nigel)
Setter, AJ (Nigel)
Setter, L (Nigel)
Verwey, R (Penny Black)
Wilson, N (Benoni)

SILVER

Barit, A (YACCY)
Barit, S (YACCY)
Elk, G (Penny Black)
with felicitations (presentation)
Enslin, L (Nigel)
Fluke, S (Nigel)
Garland, S (St Mary's)
Hall, S (Penny Black)
Haylett, S (Penny Black)
Janeke, A (Centurion)
Monti, J (Penny Black)
Oberholzer, GP (Nigel)
with felicitations (research)
Opperman, J (Nigel)
Osthoff, M (OFS)
Walter, K (Nigel)
Walter, K (Nigel)

SILVER BRONZE

Barit, C (YACCY)
Barit, G (YACCY)
Britz, N (Penny Black)
Enslin, L (Nigel)
Enslin, G (Nigel)
Enslin, G (Nigel)
Enslin, K (Nigel)
Gleeson, D (OFS)
Hatlen, G (Penny Black)
Janeke, A (Centurion)
Leesman, G (Nigel)
Parsons, T (PEPS)
Setter, L (Nigel)
Simons, K (Penny Black)

BRONZE

Li, J (Penny Black)
Taylor, J (Pietermaritzburg)

Star Class

FOUR STARS

Gleeson, E (OFS)

THREE STARS

Mark, D (Penny Black)
Roberts, W (Penny Black)

CLUB CLASS

1. Nigel Junior Stamp Club
2. Centurion Stamp Mates
3. Goudveldse Filatelievereniging

Literature Class

IT IS NOT that common an occurrence to make comment on a competitive class at a national show, but your attention should be drawn to this year's Literature Class entry. Without recourse to the medal levels achieved (individual awards will be found in the published Algoapex results) this year's entries were particularly attractive and warranted special mention in the Chairman of the Jury's report.

All the book entries may be seen as making significant contributions to the development of the philately of Southern Africa: *The Postal Stationery of Natal* by JN Dickson and KD Hanman; *The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope 1792-1910* by Dr F Frescura; *Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol 1, The Postage Stamps* by RT Bartshe and RW Hisey; plus *The Active Service Letter Cards, Airmail Letter Cards & Airletters used in South Africa, South West Africa and the High Commission Territories during 1939 to 1945* by Judge TM Mullins – are all milestone works in their respective fields.

Of no less import are the latest volumes of the Putzel / Visser South Africa Postmark series and a striking new work, *Revenues of Southern Africa, Part 1 - The Bechuanalands* by BJ Trotter and N Midwood. The continued high standards of the journals *The Anglo Boer War Philatelist* (Anglo Boer War Philatelic Society) and *The Orange Free State Bulletin* (Orange Free State Study Circle) were recognised, as was the *Aeroletter No.90 - 2002* (Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa) in the important role they play in linking collectors around the world and disseminating knowledge.

Watch out for specific reviews of these admirable works in this publication – add them to your philatelic "wish list" – knowledge is power! Finally, look out for the two websites entered in the "electronic media" section: Philatelic Federation of South Africa <http://www.philatelysa.co.za> and Bellville Philatelic Society <http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com>

– Michael Wigmore RDPSA

REVENUE STAMPS/DOCUMENTS

Wanted by collector for cash or exchange

- Rhodesias
- Southern Africa

Also Required are:

- Rhodesia railway parcel stamps

Please send details to:

Sandy Jardine

Tel: 082 801 9388

P.O.Box 167498

Brackendowns

E-mail: adajardine@hotmail.com

1454

South Africa

Help the young ones!

Jill Redmond

Chair: Youth Committee chair and secretary of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

This is our 21st annual report, the first one being given by George van den Hurk at Port Elizabeth on 11 May 1982, although Harry Birkhead previously gave a report to the General Purposes Committee in March 1982.

Looking at the major objectives, we have now had a regular newsletter, "Stamping Around/Seëls Rondomtalie" since March 1987, the current editor, David Wigston, taking over in 1989 and still maintaining a wonderful standard. After



having various Youth Leader seminars over the years, we have now had an annual Youth Leader Forum for three years. An exchange packet system has never been inaugurated due to the lack of a willing body to run the scheme. However, Ursula White does a sterling job in running the Mr Yaccy Junior Postal Stamp Club which she started in 1988.

Educational programmes at nationals are still a wish although JUNASS 2000 held a successful "Kids' Korner" and a number of workshops have been held.

The annual Junior National Stamp Show, inaugurated in 1984, was a bonus since the original intention was to have the show every second or third year! For the third time, JUNASS is being held at the same time as the senior national exhibition and I am sure that the junior exhibits will be as delightful as ever.

Philatelic Services have been wonderful supporters of JUNASS since 2000 and their youth officer, Dineo Poo, regularly sells starter packs to schools. We could wish that we received input from that source in the way of new clubs. There are lots of young enthusiasts out there – we just need to know about them – and maybe they need to know about StampMates! The vice-presidents could possibly help to spread the word about all the benefits StampMates have to offer.

The Wits Philatelic Society held their third annual youth meeting in September and the youngsters covered themselves in glory with their charming exhibits. The winner was Lance Setter of Nigel with his exhibit on "Water – a life-giving source" and Wits kindly gave gifts to every exhibitor. The Royal PS of Cape Town also hold an equally successful annual youth evening, organised by David Sinclair, our Cape representative.

On the international scene, exhibits by Ilze de Kock and David Conradie were sent to Korea, Ilze gaining a Silver-bronze medal and David a Vermeil (highest international junior award is a Large Vermeil).

España 2002, a world youth exhibition, will be held in Salamanca 17 to 23 November for which nine South African exhibits have been accepted – we wish them every success. A new FIP junior judging sheet for thematics has recently been proposed and, if accepted, will be used in Salamanca. Basically, the form has been simplified with the four main criteria being Treatment, Knowledge, Material and Presentation, the marking depending upon the age of the exhibitor.

To assist young exhibitors, and also seniors if they so wish, we are in the midst of ordering exhibition sheets which should cost about R1 each, depending on how many we order. We are still attempting to find an inexpensive source for plastic protectors. We hope to issue a new pamphlet during the next year.

The number of clubs remains fairly static at 21 but we are hoping to gain a new Western Cape club in the near future. Folks, it's not an enormous task running a junior stamp club: we have the Guidelines on where to start and how to carry on, including lots of activities plus the quarterly newsletter distributed to every junior member. If you have no junior stamp club nearby, please contemplate spending a couple of hours a month on creating an enthusiastic and happy band of young collectors.

Finally, many thanks to those enthusiastic and dedicated Youth Leaders that we do have who ensure that the hobby is still alive and well and who encourage our youngsters to show their charming exhibits. Also, to my committee members, the late Rowland Redmond, Ursula and Alan White, David Wigston, Gerrie Conradie and David Sinclair – many, many thanks for all your great support during the year.

JUNASS 2002 Trophies & awards

SAM LEGATOR GRAND PRIX: Best exhibit of the show

D Kawalsky – *RSA 6th Definitives* (Penny Black)

DANIE SCHEEPERS TROPHY: Best exhibit 19 – 21 years Not awarded

STAMP MATES: Best exhibit 16 – 18 years

N Wilson – *Man on the Moon* (Benoni Junior Stamp Club)

FANIE VERMAAK SILVER GRAND PRIX: Best exhibit 13 – 15 years

R Verwey – *Great Britain 1834–1952* (Penny Black)

FANIE VERMAAK BRONZE GRAND PRIX: Best exhibit 10 – 12 years

AJ Setter – *Hungry Herbivores* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

WIGMORE TROPHY: Best exhibit 9 years and under

L Enslin – *3-2-1 Blast Off* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

CONRADIE TROPHY: Best traditional exhibit

S Haylett – *The Penny Ship Stamp* (Penny Black)

SETEMPE 2000 TROPHY: Best thematic exhibit

AJ Setter – *Captivating Carnivores* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

EAST LONDON PHILAT SOCIETY AWARD: Best South African exhibit

A Janeke – *Meerdoelige ontwerpte Unie-seëls* (Centurion Seëlsmaats)

AERO PHILATELY SOCIETY AWARD: Best Aero Philatelic exhibit Not awarded

DEREK BROWN CENTURION SHIELD: Best exhibit – First time exhibitor

G Elk – *Ecosystems of the Namib* (Penny Black)

HERMAN STEYN TROPHY: Best research shown

G Paulsen – *To Fly or not to Fly* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

DAVID STERN SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELY CUP: Best exhibit & cash award

Nigel Junior Stamp Club

RAPPORTRYERSKORPUS WIERDAPARK TROFEE: Best exhibit in Afrikaans

K Walter – *My Vakansie in Namibië* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

RATCLIFFE CUP: Awarded at the discretion of the jury for outstanding merit

L Setter – *Water, a life-giving source* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

SWA STAMP STUDY GROUP CASH AWARD: Best SWA / Namibia exhibit

2nd Prize: K Walter – *My Vakansie in Namibië* (Nigel Junior Stamp Club)

GB SOCIETY CASH AWARD: Best GB exhibit

1st Prize: R Verwey – *Great Britain 1834–1952* (Penny Black)

2nd Prize: S Barit – *Errors on the stamps of Great Britain* (YACCY)

ALAN HOUGHTON CASH AWARDS: Most promising thematic exhibit

S Hall – *Errors on Stamps* (penny Black)

SA website gets three stars

THE South African Philatelic Federation's website was awarded a 3-star rating in the 2002 international FIP philatelic website evaluation. The awards are for the best site, top 5%, 3-star and 2-star.

Commenting on the award, Reanie Janse van Rensburg, webmaster of www.philatelysa.co.za, paid tribute to Emil Minnaar for the original design of the site "and, of course, everybody that kept me on my toes with input – positive and negative!"

There were 31 entries received for the evaluation of their sites, a smaller number than previously, from 17 countries.

Exploring the world of Czeslaw Slania's engravings

(www.slaniastamps.school.dk) was adjudged to be the best philatelic website entered. The award for the best official website went to the Canadian Postal Archives

(www.archives.ca/08/080608_e.htmh).

Amphilex

AMPHILEX, the last international exhibition scheduled to be held in Europe for some time, was unusual in a number of respects. It was open for only five days, from 30 August to 3 September 2002, and then only from 10:00 to 17:00. It was, however, extensive, being spread over three large halls of the Rai Exhibition Centre in Amsterdam, and was certainly well patronised.

One hall was devoted exclusively to dealers and post offices, another almost exclusively to the exhibits and the third, designed principally to entertain the younger generation, included a wide variety of displays and hands-on exhibits, including a demonstration of engraving and printing techniques by Enschedé, a few totally unrelated exhibits and entertainment by assorted stilt-walkers, pirates, etc.

Another unusual feature was that exhibits had to conform to a 12-sheet (4 x 3) format, which necessitated (or should have) some re-organisation of exhibits conforming to the more traditional 16-sheet frame format.

The exhibits featuring the stamps and postal history of the Netherlands were, as might be expected, outstanding. This emphasis on the Netherlands in particular and Europe in general resulted in some imbalance. For example, the traditional class for "overseas except the former Dutch colonies" comprised only seven exhibits, almost half of which had Dutch connotations, e.g. Alan Drysdall's Transvaal (Large Gold

Medal), Antonio Bertolaja's Cape rectangulars (Large Gold Medal and special prize), and an unusual exhibit of triangular stamps that included the earlier issues of Cape Colony (Large Silver Medal).

The most popular of the invited exhibits was undoubtedly the selection from the collection of HM Queen Elizabeth II displayed in the Court of Honour. It was also unusual in that the countries and territories represented had all at one time had close associations with the Netherlands. Cape Colony, Transvaal, Orange Free State, New Republic and Stellaland were obvious candidates, the Gold Coast, Mauritius, Ceylon, Van Dieman's Land, Tasmania, New Zealand and British Guiana less so.

The Mauritius 'post office' 1d on cover and the unused 2d inevitably attracted a great deal of attention, but dedicated aficionados recognised that the two unused blocks of four in the Transvaal frame showing the 6d and 1s tête-bêche varieties printed by Viljoen, and the unique unused block of six of the 1877 provisional 4d on 6d in the OFS frame were even greater, if less glamorous, rarities. (This was probably the first occasion on which selections from the OFS, Stellaland and New Republic sections of the collection have been shown in public.)

The other exhibits in the Court of Honour were more obviously related to the postal history of the Netherlands, with magnificent displays of early Netherlands and VOC mail, and the postal history and early stamp issues of the Dutch East Indies.

Despite some criticisms the exhibition

itself, the attendance and the queues for new issues and special postmarks certainly proved that philately is thriving in the Netherlands.

— Alan Drysdall

Philakorea 2002

THE PHILAKOREA 2002 exhibition was considered generally to have been extremely successful. The standard of the exhibits appeared to be high as evidenced by the award of some 35 large Gold medals. Each of the three Grands Prix went to oriental exhibits or exhibitors.

The following results were obtained by the South African contingent:

Dr Achi Frank - Canada - *The Large and Small Queen Issues*. Large vermeil
Peter van de Molen - Swaziland *Definitive Issues 1889 - 1968*. Large vermeil
Patrick Flanagan - S.Rhodesia - *Admiral & F Marshal Definitives*. Large vermeil
David Conradie (Jr) - *King George VII Issues of SA & SWA*. Vermeil
Ilse de Kock (Jr) - *A Feathered Fantasy*. Silver bronze

Two other exhibitors with strong South African connections deserve mention: Brian Trotter received a Large Gold and Special Prize for his *Revenue Stamps of South Africa 1910 - 1930*, and Dr Colin and Pamela Fraser received a Gold for their *British Central Africa 1891 - 1907*.

— Chris Mobsby



SAPDA/SAFHA

South African Philatelic Dealers Association
Suid-Afrikaanse Filateliehandelaarsassosiasie
Box 918, Halfway House, 1685
Website = [www:sapda.co.za](http://www.sapda.co.za)



CORPORATE PLANNING

The Association's management wishes to give members' clients and "stakeholders" (the Philatelic Foundation, Philatelic Services and the Philatelic Federation of SA) a clearer perspective on SAPDA's activities. The most recent corporate planning findings can be summarised as follows:

- ❖ **Enhancement of local fairs:** A 2nd Rosebank Show has been instituted; and the potential of the Melrose Arch Sunday fair is about to be tested. The promotion of "regional" shows with dealer attendance, eg Windhoek in 2003, is also receiving attention.
- ❖ **Website development:** A basic website is in place and is being upgraded in conjunction with the Philatelic Federation of SA.
- ❖ **Coordination with "stakeholders":** Structures are in place and dealer representation has been effected to ensure that joint planning can take place.
- ❖ **Postal theft:** Some information on important problem post offices and procedures to limit difficulties have informally been circulated.
- ❖ **Upholding the Code of Ethics:** The resolution of disputes has demanded much management attention; consideration is being given to the publication of all disputes and findings in the "SAPDA Newsletter".
- ❖ **Organisational capacity for dealer shows:** Past high standards were maintained against the background of an increased number of fairs.

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For further information and copies of the catalogue for our forthcoming sale, contact us at the address below or speak to our Johannesburg and Gauteng area representative:
Herbie Schaffler, Tel: (011) 672 7747 Cell: 082 722 7604 Email: haschaff@iafrica.com

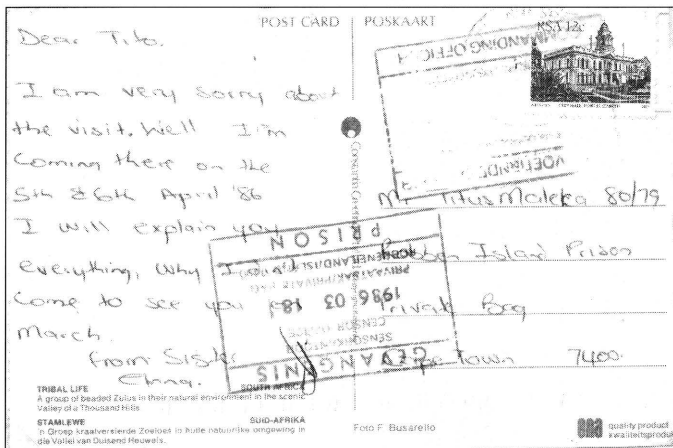


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ROBBEN ISLAND'S

four centuries of postal history

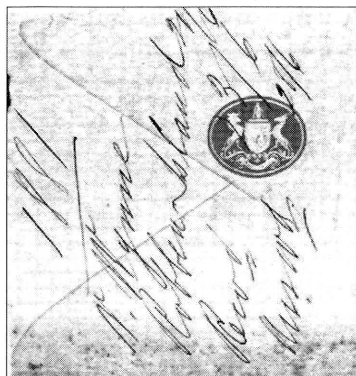


A postcard with Mr Maleka's prison number – 80/97 – and two cachets, an initialled Censor Office cachet and uninitialled Commanding Officer cachet.



Above: 1881 - This cover was sent by Dr Wynne, surgeon-in-charge of the infirmary at the time. Letters on public business between civil, naval and military departments were not subject to postage if marked "On her Majesty's Service" and bearing the signature of the officer on duty or authorised person. This envelope was authorised by Dr Wynne above the pre-printed endorsement "General Infirmary, Robben Island" thus authorising "Official Free Postage". The cover was cancelled on arrival in Cape Town.

Right: Endorsement on the reverse side of Dr Wynne's cover.



Ralph Philipps

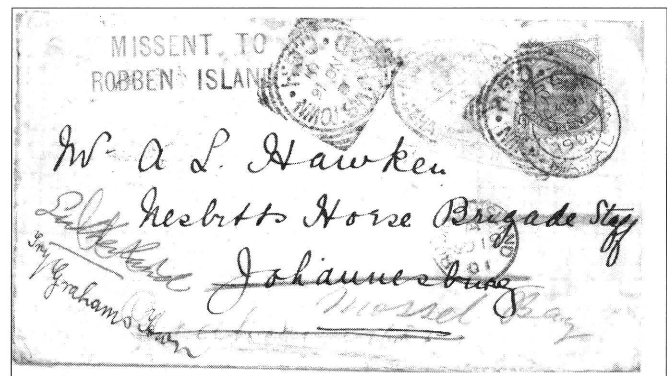
Witwatersrand Philatelic Society and Tasmania Philatelic Society

ROBBEN ISLAND was originally an outcrop of rock in Table Bay, formed millions of years ago by geological process. At certain times in the distant past, changing sea levels meant that it was periodically part of the mainland.

About 12 000 years ago the island was finally cut off by rising seas and it has remained largely unchanged since. It is oblong in shape, situated in Table Bay, 6 km off the South African coast and is just over 3 km long and 1,5 km wide.

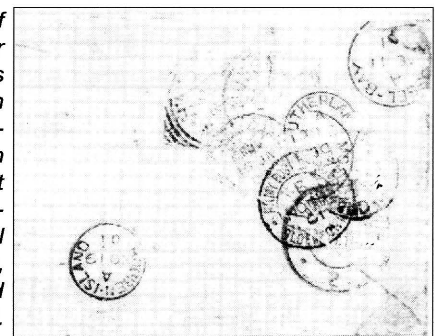
Archaeological diggings are still to provide the answer as to when and how indigenous people used Robben Island in centuries past. It is known, however, that Autshumato, leader of a small Khoikho clan, settled on the island with his people for about eight years in the 1630's. Written records suggest that Europeans first set foot on Robben Island for water, food and grazing in 1488, when early explorers started sailing around the Cape in search of the sea route to India and other parts of the world still unknown to them at the time.

It was at this point that the first postal system started devel-



This cover, posted from Durban to Johannesburg, has been readdressed many times in an attempt to find Mr Hawker of Nesbitt's Horse Brigade Staff. The "Missent to Robben Island" cachet is one of the few known covers to exist, one of which is illustrated in Goldblatt's "Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope". A Johannesburg press censor's marking in use during the Anglo-Boer War is illustrated on the cover.

The reverse side of the Hawker cover partly illustrates its travels – from Durban to Johannesburg and then on to the Army Post Office in Bloemfontein, to Mossel Bay, Grahamstown, Robben Island and Sutherland.



oping when the early explorers rounding the Cape placed letters under inscribed stones (referred to as "post office stones") for passing ships. The earliest recorded post office stone was dated 1607 and the last recorded stone was 1662.

The first recorded letters can be dated back to 1611 when nine Flemish shipwrecked sailors handed over some letters they had found, to Mr Cocks, Skiff to John Saris, commander of the *Clove*.

In 1652 the Dutch East India Company decided to establish a permanent settlement at the Cape, starting the colonisation of South Africa. From 1652-1795 the Dutch used Robben Island as a supply base and a prison. Company servants and slaves who broke the harsh laws of the time, as well as local Khoikhoi and Asian exiles that the Dutch regarded as political troublemakers were sent here.

It was during this period that a **Hottentot** by the name of **Harry**, who had been sent to Batavia by Jan Van Riebeck (the first Dutch governor of the Cape), to be educated, took up residency on the Island and in 1662 was appointed the **first unofficial postman**. One of his responsibilities was to receive and deliver letters to passing ships, thus creating a postal system.

After the British assumed control of the Cape in 1795 the island continued to be used as a prison. Many African leaders opposing the rapid colonial expansion of the nineteenth century were sent there, including Stuurman, Makana, Maqoma, Sandile, Langelibalele and Ruyter. The island was also used as a whaling station and place of isolation for sick people.

With the establishment of the infirmary in 1846, missionaries started arriving and **created more frequent post and in 1863 a Mr Reid was appointed as the island's first official postman**. He held this post for nine years until 1872.

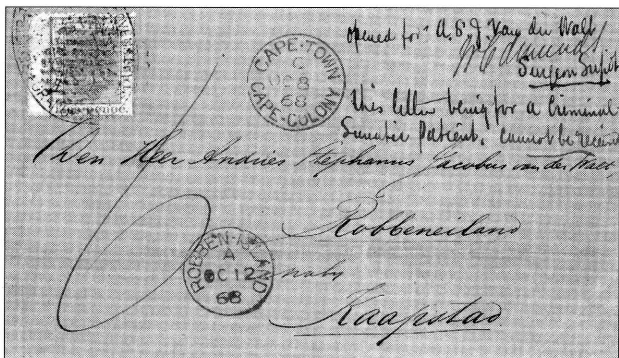
Philatelically this period is illustrated with a letter written by captain Richard Wolfe (commandant of Robben Island) dated 8 February 1839; and several covers addressed to hospital attendants and lunatics. In 1846 three hospitals were established; for lepers, the chronically sick, the poor and the mentally disturbed.

By 1900 the island population numbered some 1500 people.

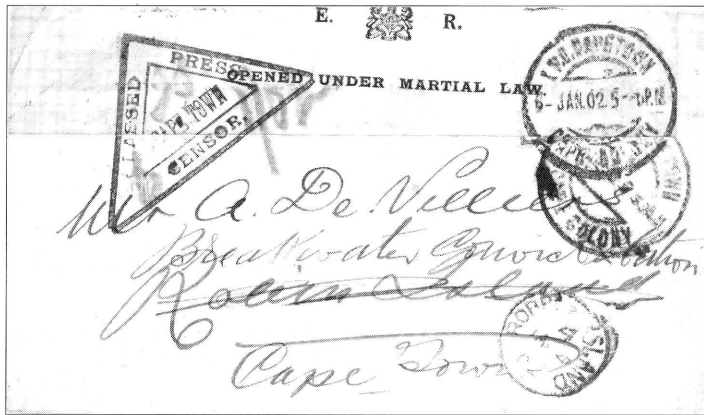
The next defined historical period relating to the island was the outbreak of the **Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902**, which is philatelically recorded with a censored cover.

The leper hospital finally closed in 1931. Except for the Church of the Good Shepherd, the leper hospital buildings were burnt down and Robben Island was more or less abandoned. Only the lighthouse keeper and his family stayed. But, at the start of the World War II in 1939, Robben Island was fortified to protect Table Bay. Several thousand soldiers were sent there, which included black members of the Cape

• To next page



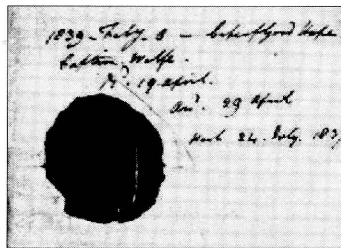
An 1868 cover front sent from Bloemfontein to Robben Island with a Judicial Court Orange Free State hand-stamp cancellation – one of the earliest known OFS stamped covers.



The Anglo-Boer War period, January 1902: A Cape Town censored cover franked by 1d (covered by a Martial Law label), The cover was posted from Cape Town to a Mr A de Villiers, Robin (sic) Island. Date-stamped (DDS2) on arrival and re-addressed in red manuscript to "Breakwater Convict Station, Cape Town".



Above: A pre-stamped letter sent from Robben Island, 8 February 1839. Envelopes in the modern sense had not yet been invented; all letters were folded into themselves and then sealed. Hence the charges were based on the format which showed the actual size of the page. The letter is rated 1/- in black manuscript with a boxed "INDIA LETTER DEAL" handstamp. The rate of 1/- would have been paid by the recipient.



Left: The reverse side shows the arrival date-stamp of 19 April and is sealed in red wax by the personal seal of Captain Wolfe.



Cancellation showing portion of the REGISTRATEUR DEN HOOGGER-HOOVEN hand stamp – the official Orange Free State Judicial Court canceller.

The "KENNETH GRIFFITH"
COLLECTION OF
The Stamps and Postal History of
THE ANGLO-BOER WAR
(1899-1902)

* * * * *

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Corps, women, naval and artillery specialists which was unusual for the time.

Robben Island remained a naval training base until 1959, when the apartheid government decided to build a maximum-security prison. More than 3 000 political prisoners were sent to the island in the next three decades. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on the island for 18 years. It was this apartheid prison which gave Robben Island its international notoriety. The struggles of its inhabitants turned the island, into the universal symbol of freedom which it is today.

The struggle of these political prisoners is philatelically shown, with the infrequency of mail and censorship.

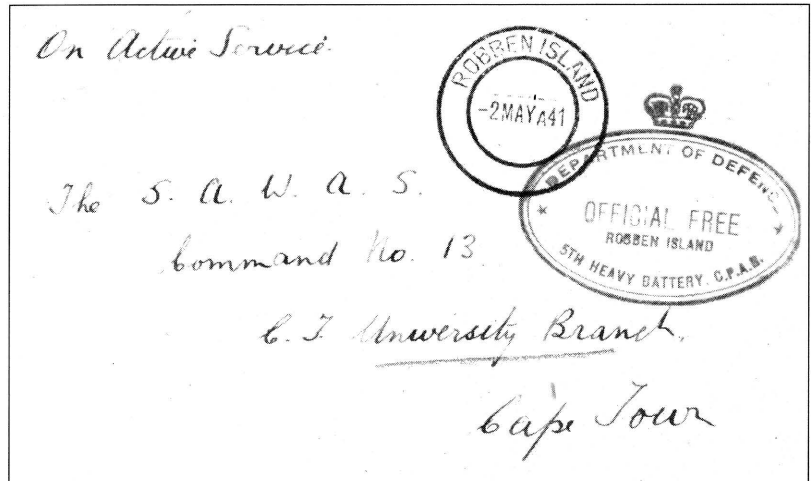
The last political prisoners were released from Robben Island in 1991. With democracy in 1994, came calls for the closure of the prison. In 1996 the last criminal prisoners were removed and the prison was closed.

The first cabinet of democratic South Africa decided in September 1996 that the Island should be redeveloped into a national museum. In 2000 Robben Island was declared a World Heritage Site and became a cultural showcase for South African democracy.

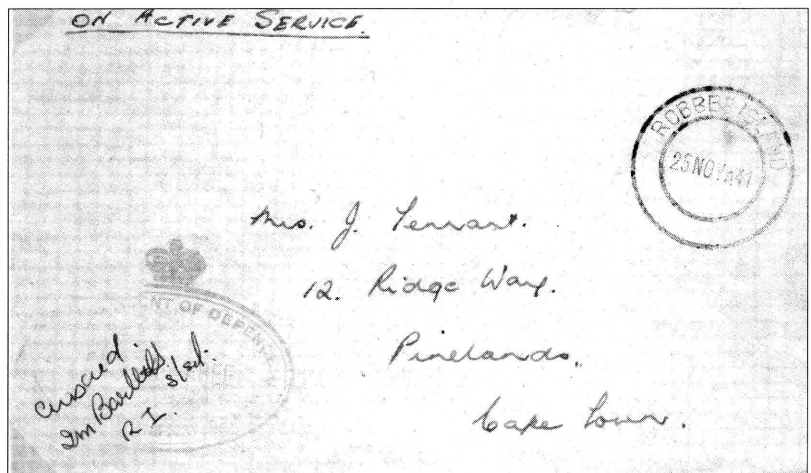
Robben Island has always fallen under the jurisdiction of South Africa, thus initially using interprovincial stamps mainly those of the Cape of Good Hope, but on the odd occasion, other provincial stamps were used.

These provincial stamps were later replaced with South African stamps. **Initially outgoing mail** was deciphered by its allocated **barred oval numeral canceller BONC No 158**, and later by its own Robben Island inscribed canceller.

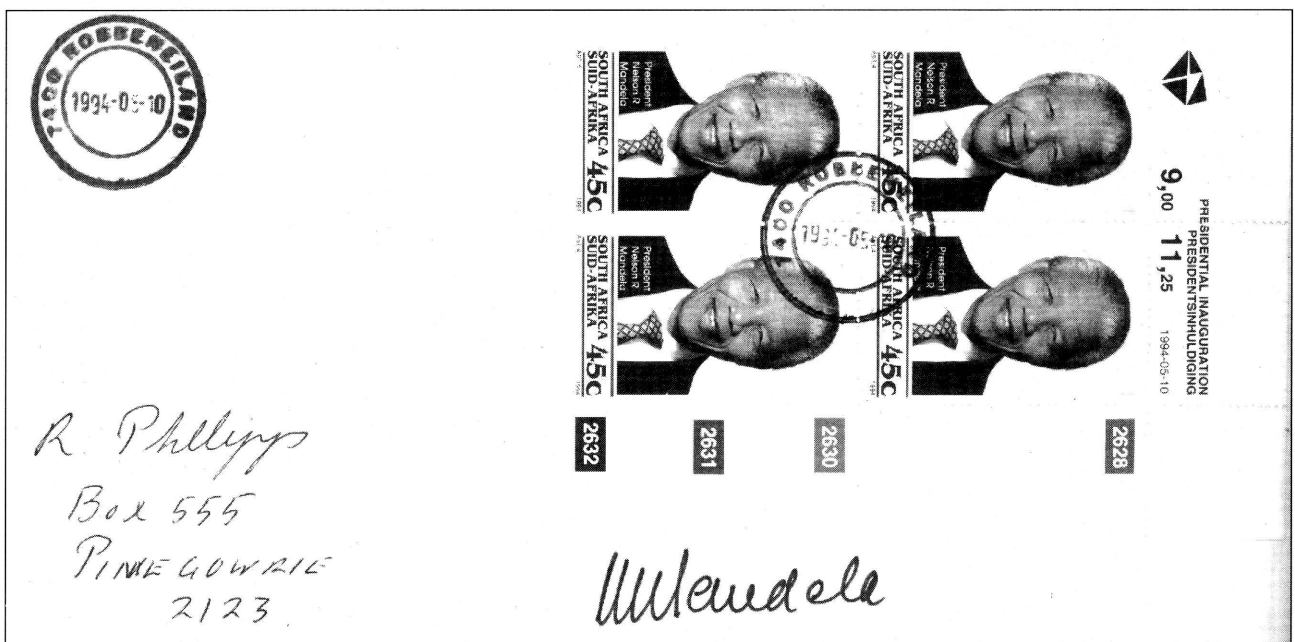
sribbons@global.co.za



2 May 1941 – “On Active Service” cover addressed to the South African Women’s Auxilliary Service Command No 13, with a crowned oval Department of Defence cachet. Cover not censored.



25 November 1941 – “On Active Service” cover with a crowned oval Department of Defence cachet. Hand censored and signed by the Sergeant.



Nelson Mandela was sworn in as South Africa’s first black president. This signed envelope was signed on the day of the ceremony. The double-circle postmark shows Robben Island’s present-day postal code of 7400.

The Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria (*Afrikaans Philatelic Society of Pretoria*) now boasts its own website. This site is one of the methods of getting into contact with other stamp collectors, while introducing ourselves to the rest of the world.

Although our Society is made up of Afrikaans-speaking people, we place this article in English to enable our readers abroad to be informed about our society. Our members are fluent in both Afrikaans and English as well as in German, Dutch and French.

TUIS

Home: An abbreviated history of the 51-year-old society is set out as well as a list of our honorary members.

KONTAK

Contact: Times of meetings, present members of the management and a route map to venues. All relevant addresses and phone numbers are listed.

Library: the main community library in Centurion administers the AFP's extensive library. Over the years we received a lot of donations and many of our books are considered as irreplaceable and is not on loan. A complete catalogue is available as well as the hours during which the library is open for reference purposes.

DOELWITTE

Aims: The constitution is accessible to everyone.

JAARPROGRAM

Annual programme: Dates of meetings as well as a rough guideline of the events as planned in advance.

LIDMAATSKAP

Membership: Membership fees per year are indicated and of importance is the application form that can be downloaded.

JUNIORS

Juniors: Centurion Stamp Mates is under the auspice of the AFP. They have an own web page and available on it is the necessary information regarding membership, activities and contacts.

LEDE

Members: We hope to make this the most relevant part of our web site. Members may use this site to submit personal detail (voluntarily) including their fields of interest. We trust that other stamp collectors will make use of our site.

Philatelic review of the Centenary Commemoration of the Anglo-Boer War

Lappe Laubscher

Pretoria Philatelic Society

FROM a micro-historical perspective, the Anglo-Boer War was the most tragic single event in the history of the Afrikaans-speaking section of the South African population. From a broader perspective, it was the last of a long list of wars waged by Great Britain for imperial gain.

The event is still a minefield for historians. Many of the issues surrounding this war are today, a century later, still as emotive as it was then. Among them, two stand out, namely the involvement of black people in the war and alleged war crimes committed on both sides.

At the outset the Anglo-Boer War Centenary Committee announced that the beginning of the war would be commemorated in Bloemfontein, while the end of the war would be commemorated in Pretoria. In the end, only the beginning of the war was commemorated in Bloemfontein. In Pretoria the commemoration was largely ignored by the powers that be.

Against this background the South African Post Office issued six Anglo-Boer War related stamps plus a miniature sheet between 11 October 1999 and sometime in 2002. To this must also be added a special commemorative booklet issued in July 2002.

Then there was also a series of 16 special datestamps that commemorated various important events during the war, four commemorative datestamps and three special requested datestamps. The last three datestamps were all related to special philatelic exhibitions.

Only two personalities were depicted on the 16 special datestamps. They were Col R S Baden-Powell on British side and General J C Smuts on Boer side. In vain you look for personalities like Christiaan de Wet, Louis Botha or Koos de la Rey on Boer side, or Lord Roberts or Lord Kitchener on the British side on the datestamps. It would be interesting to know who decided to depict Baden-Powell on a South African datestamp.

I mention this against the background of the Post Office's decision to use two of the 16 special datestamps to depict black involvement in the war. The Post Office also decided halfway through the series of commemorative datestamps to change the name of the war. The eleven datestamps before 31 August 2000 refer to this

war by its internationally accepted name - the Anglo-Boer War. The last five cancellers call the war the Anglo-Boer/S.A. War.

Not a single datestamp depicts the notorious concentration camps. One cannot but be mildly surprised that the emotive and controversial issue of black involvement in the war was used on two datestamps, but the concentration camps were completely ignored.

The 12-page booklet issued by the Post Office during July 2002 shows all 16 special datestamps used during the war. It also contains the six stamps and the miniature sheet used to commemorate the war. Unfortunately it only shows three of the four commemorative datestamps.

While the booklet is a handy record of almost everything the post office issued to commemorate the Anglo-Boer War, its contents leaves much to be desired. On the first page the unnamed author gives an unconvincing explanation why the Post Office (South African Government) decided to change the name of the war to the Anglo Boer/South African War.

On page two the text refers to the centenary of the signing of the Peace of Vereeniging in the future tense. (The booklet only became available in July 2002 - almost six weeks after the event.) On the same page the coat-of-arms of the two Boer Republics is referred to as "shields".

On page 12 the famous and coveted Victoria Cross decoration is described in a caption as the Queen's South African Medal. The QSA was a campaign medal, while the Victoria Cross is Britain's highest decoration for gallantry shown in the face of the enemy. The caption to the Boer *Dekoratie Voor Trouwe Dienst* describes this decoration as the Anglo-Boer War Medal! All a bit messy - and unnecessarily so.

In retrospect, one gets the feeling that the whole commemoration of the Anglo-Boer War was something that *had* to be done, but something that very few had much enthusiasm for.

From a philatelic point of view the highlight of the commemoration was undoubtedly the ABOPhil exhibition so ably organised by the late André Bezuidenhout RDPSA with the assistance of Joh Groenewald RDPSA in Bloemfontein during October 1999. Material on view at that exhibition will not be seen again soon in South Africa - possibly never again.

Anglo-Boer/SA War SPECIAL cancels



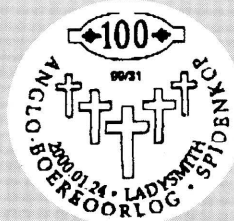
1. Kraaipan:
First military
contact –
12 October
1899



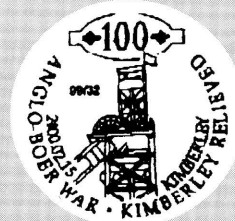
2. Derdepoort:
Black involvement –
25 November 1899.



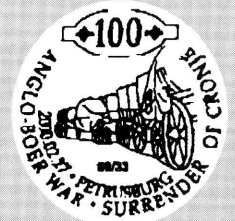
3. Stormberg/ Magers-
fontein: Black week –
15 December 1899



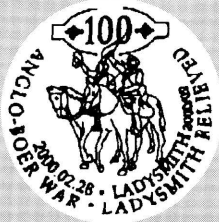
4. Spioenkop: Bloodiest
battle of the war –
24 January 1900



5. Relief of
Kimberley –
15 February 1900



6. Surrender of Cronjé
at Paardeberg –
27 February 1900



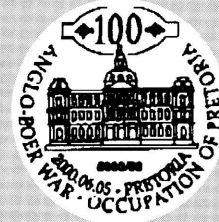
7. Relief of
Ladysmith –
28 February 1900



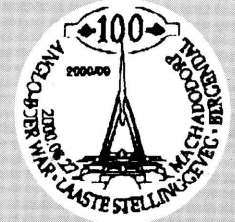
8. British occupa-
tion of Bloemfontein
– 13 March 1900



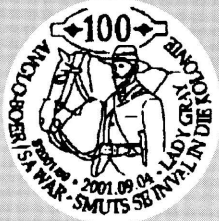
9. Mafeking relieved
– 17 May 1900



10. British occupa-
tion of Pretoria –
5 June 1900



11. Last set-piece
battle: Bergendal –
27 August 1900



12. Gen J C Smuts
invades Cape Colony
– 4 Sept 1900



13. Battle of
Bakenlaagte –
30 October 1901



14. Battle of Groenkop
(Tweefontein) –
25 Dec 1901

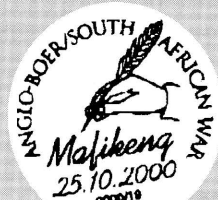


15. Victory on horse-
back: Sannieshof –
7 March 1902

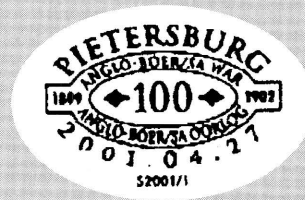


16. Black involve-
ment: Vryheid –
6 May 1902

Commemorative cancels



Specially requested cancels



Cyberphilately: The Y2K world scare

'You've only got 500 days left...'

Wobbe Vegter

Bellville Philatelic Society

DURING THE 1990s the acronym "Y2K" became a common expression, especially in the computer industry. It also became a term of ill foreboding, of potential gloom and doom, the more so where the general public had little understanding about what Y2K stood for, what it meant and what caused it. Naturally, the philatelic world also paid some attention to this phenomenon. This article serves to explain the Y2K problem and the philatelic happenings around Y2K.

What caused Y2K?

Today's personal computers (PCs) tend to have a memory capacity in the range 32 – 128 Mb, with its upper range increasing each year (1 Mb = 1 megabyte, which means 1 000 000 bytes). In other words, modern PCs have an internal memory (also called RAM) for storing information of up to 128 million characters.

But in the 1950s and early 60s, computers had a very limited memory capacity. It was not uncommon in those days that a large corporate computer had a memory of only 4 000 bytes.

At that time, one of its input media (the method used to get information into the computer) was the punched card which had a limit of 80 characters (although versions of punchcard existed that could hold a different number of characters). Storage capacity was therefore very limited at the time, both in the computer as well as in its prime input medium. To record as much information as possible in the minimum number of bytes / characters, dates were recorded in only six characters: YYMMDD.

It was only during the 1990s that the information technology (IT) industry came to realise that this would create enormous problems with the new millennium coming. When the year was (19)99, adding 1 to it would give the incorrect result of (19)00. It seemed that disaster loomed and a light

form of mass hysteria developed. The "year 2000 date problem" quickly assumed its own acronym of Y2K (Y = year, and K = kilo = 1000).

The Y2K bug was a straightforward computer program error – one of gigantic proportions. The IT industry worldwide had to change and correct millions of computer programs which had been written in the preceding decades. Each program had to be checked individually to establish if it was Y2K-compliant (i.e. would it work correctly in the new millennium as well) or not. Billions of dollars had to be spent (and have been spent indeed) to rectify the problem. Appliances and machines which used microchips or microprocessors, like cars, airplanes, lifts, bank vaults, video machines, etc. could possibly stop working when the clock struck midnight, with potentially catastrophic results.

The whole Y2K issue became a mini industry on its own, with seminars, conferences, theories and explanations and the hype soon became the subject of talks by prophets of doom, Y2K-consultants, advisors and talk shows. It also caused the world to hold its collective breath upon the dawn of the new millennium.

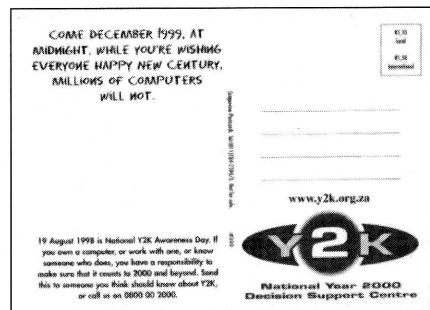
People began stockpiling food items, and some predicted that the world would descend into the digital dark ages. Some wondered: would life as we knew it be able to carry on?

But when the new millennium arrived, all lights stayed on, all planes stayed in the air, all telephones hummed and the computers continued computing. Bar some minor hiccups, the majority of programs had been fixed properly and life carried on as normal. The Y2K bug had been killed.

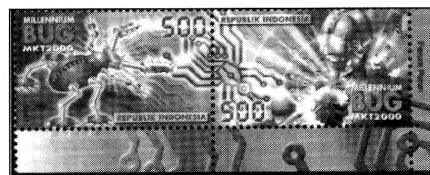
Cyberphilately

Cyberphilatelically speaking, Y2K was an interesting event. Although the new millennium itself was commemorated by many postal authorities, only a few stamp issues were dedicated to the Y2K problem itself.

Locally, one of the earliest releases (although not a stamp) was a postal card



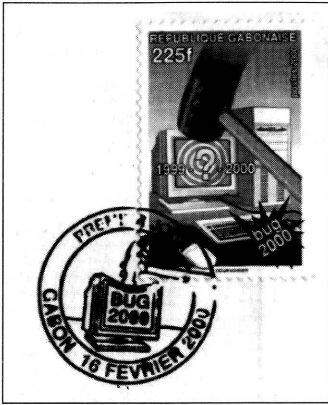
from the South African National Year 2000 Decision Support Centre, a government-funded organisation to raise the public's awareness about Y2K and the organisation's campaign to eradicate the bug. This card was issued on 19 August 1998, which was South Africa's National Y2K Awareness Day. The front of the card carried the ominous warning: "You've only got 500 days left...".



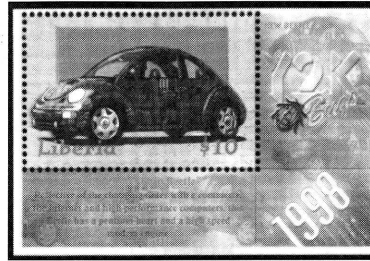
The first set of stamps dedicated to Y2K was issued on 2 May 1999 (Scott 1847) by Indonesia in the form of a set-ten-ant pair. Both stamps show a different "bug", one shows a robot-like creature, and one bug looks like having been built from an integrated circuit design. Other countries which depicted the Y2K bug on their stamps was St Kitts which issued two stamps on 29 December 1999 (Sc 470-471) showing a bug-like creature destroying a PC on the one stamp and a world in mourning on the other stamp. Clearly St Kitts was expecting the worst.



Gabon issued a stamp on 16 February 2000 (Sc 985) showing how the Y2K bug had been killed. Apparently in their case a very large hammer had been used. The fact that a PC might not survive such aggressive treatment clearly did not matter.



Liberia did it slightly differently and issued a set of Beetle (as in VW) stamps in 2000, with the term "Y2K" in the margin of each one-stamp souvenir sheetlet, thereby



laying the connotation VW = Beetle = bug = Y2K. The Beetle on the sheetlet illustrated is described as having "a pentium heart and a high-speed modem engine". Obviously a bit more than just a groovy car.

Several countries have used Y2K-related cancellation slogans or pictorial cancels in the run up to the new millenni-

um and two of these have been shown here, one from Romania and one from the United States.

Many postal authorities, including South Africa, found it necessary to change the 2-digit year in their datestamps to a 4-digit year and a number of excellent articles on this subject regarding local datestamps have been published in *The SA Philatelist*.

An enormous effort was spent by the IT industry in the late nineties to change the faulty programs, resulting in a smooth transition into the new millennium. In fact, the transition gave so few problems that many people began to wonder what it was all about. Had it all been a massive hoax? Or was it because the new millennium only began in 2001?

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SWA's 4d triangular stamps 1926-27

An article in *The SA Philatelist* of September 1931 recorded that a total of 3 000 000 stamps were overprinted for South West Africa (now Namibia). It was reported in the February 1926 issue of this magazine that the stamps were first sold at Windhoek.

There was also interest in South Africa regarding these stamps and a philatelist wanted to know more and wrote a letter asking for information. This letter was handed to the printer who answered all the questions. The philatelist filed this letter neatly with his collection which was sold 30 years later.

The buyer found the letter and gave it to *The SA Philatelist*, where the letter was published. Despite the fact that this has all been published, we are not aware of any reaction to these interesting articles. We assume that most readers overlooked it at that time. What follows, therefore, is another article on the subject, enhanced with details from other issues of *The SA Philatelist*.

W J Quik

FVZA, Netherlands

THE UNION GOVERNMENT issued a printing order for 3 000 000 imperforate stamps (12 500 sheets at 240 stamps). No specific design was available. A reproduction of the old Cape triangular stamp had to be used with the inscription adapted.

Bradbury Wilkinson & Co printed these stamps by rotogravure in sheets of 240 stamps.

The printing forme consisted of two plates of 120 stamps (10 x 12) each, one with stamps inscribed in Afrikaans and the other with English lettering. The stamps were printed with a fugitive ink, showing great colour variations from dark blue-grey to light greenish-grey.

After the printing was completed, 400 sheets were sent to South Africa with the sheets equally distributed between the Afrikaans and the English text. Another 48 000 stamps were sent to the High Commissioner's Office in London in sheets and envelopes as listed:

125 sheets x 120 stamps Afrikaans = 15 000 stamps
 125 sheets x 120 stamps English = 15 000 stamps
 75 sheets x 60 stamps Afrikaans = 4 500 stamps
 75 sheets x 60 stamps English = 4 500 stamps
 75 envelopes x 60 stamps Afrikaans = 4 500 stamps
 75 envelopes x 60 stamps English = 4 500 stamps.

150 000 Stamps (625 sheets x 240) of this SA order were overprinted for SWA.

The printer separated the stamps for SA as well as those for SWA by machine.

The cutting was done simultaneously on five to ten sheets, but never more than ten. The loose stamps were packed into envelopes of 60 stamps either in AFRIKAANS or ENGLISH. The packs had a four-line text: "60 / 4d / POSSEËL / Suidwes-Afrika" or "60 / 4d / POSTAGE / South West Africa". The stamps with the small white margin can be found only as single stamps, except for the sheets described above.

This print order was dispatched in two

batches. The first consignment, about a third of the printing order of 48 000 stamps, of which 24 000 were either in Afrikaans or English, was sent in four parcels with 200 packets of 60 stamps each to SWA. Two parcels contained the stamps with the Afrikaans text and two those with the English text. The balance of the printing order arrived in SWA in March 1926.

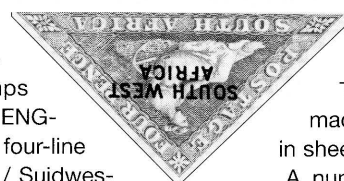
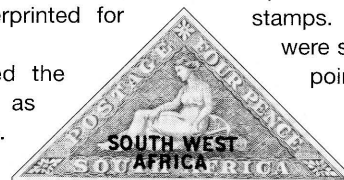
According to Dr M L Lewitt, who regularly reported new issues to *The SA Philatelist*, the stamps were not offered for sale in Windhoek before 27 January 1926.

A proof printing was made from the one-line English overprint in August 1926 and the stamps with the small white margins were issued at the end of April 1927. From official information ex Windhoek (SAP) it is reported that only the English overprint was received and no Afrikaans stamps. The 4d triangular stamps were sold out at Windhoek at this point in time.

We can establish from the issue sequence in *The SA Philatelist* that in October 1927 the stamps with wide margins around the stamp design were issued.

These were not cut by machine and can thus be found in sheets.

A number of these sheets were perforated by the printers John Meinert of Windhoek in November 1927. This printer was known as an expert in his field, but the perforation of the sheets gave apparently a lot of problems as many perforation variations are known.



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South African Sports Association

(Formed 1968)

All communications to: Hon. Secretary, 20 Shell Street,
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1st Jan., 1968

Major-General H.B. Klopper,
Chairman,
S.A. Olympic & National Games Association,
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Saturdays are sporting days in South Africa. "Sport" has long had a wider connotation in this country ... for philatelic sport*, see

PAUL VAN ZEYL T/A RAND STAMPS @

- ◆ First Saturday of a month: Denis Adami Hall, Queenswood, Pretoria
- ◆ Second Saturday: Ernest Ullman Centre, Morningside, Sandton (note "swop" with West Rand venue)
- ◆ Third Saturday: MOTH Hall, Florida, West Rand
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- ◆ Last Sunday: High St, Melrose Arch, (just west of Corlett Drive off-ramp), Johannesburg on even months, ie February/April/June/August/October/December

With best wishes and Seasonal Greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Annus Brutus.

Hennis Brutus,
Hon. Secretary, S.A.S.A.



*The totality of philately = stamps; postal history & postmarks;
postal stationery; documents (see above!) and literature

A(nother) well-travelled cover

Chris Board

Transvaal Study Circle

THE PICTURES of the front and back of this "ugly duckling" do not really do justice to this unwanted missive. Let me describe the features:

Envelope:

A "flimsy" airmail envelope headed "CITY COUNCIL OF NAIROBI" addressed and re-addressed as follows:

- Mr E E Barker, c/o Lloyds Bank, London, England - typed.
- Mr E E Barker, c/o Mr J R Banker, Worthing - manuscript.
- Mr E E Barker, P O Box, Nairobi - manuscript.
- Mr E E Barker, Aysgarth, Sandown, Isle of Wight - manuscript.

All the re-addresses are in different hands, but the word "Additional" next to the stamp is in the same hand as the Nairobi address.

Postal markings:

Obverse:

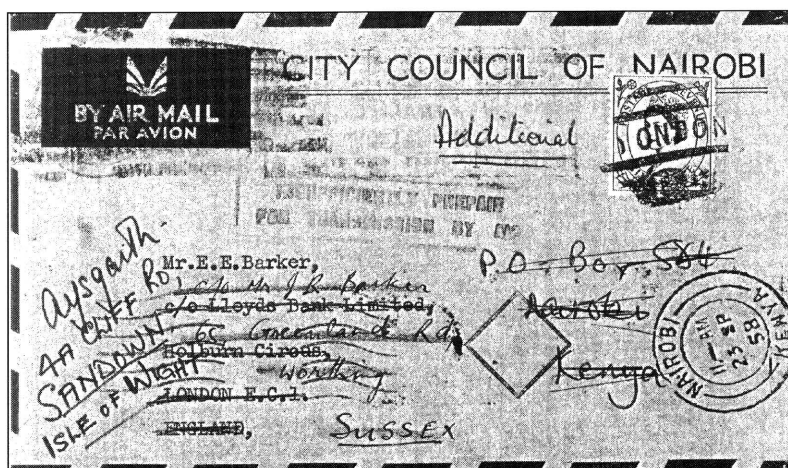
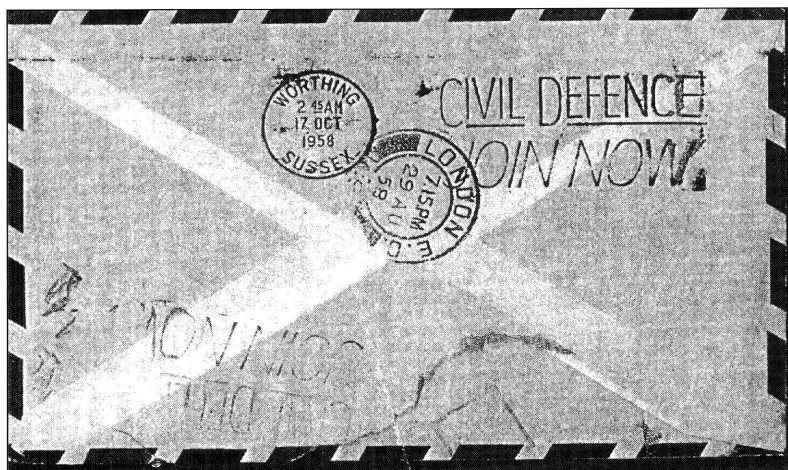
- The airmail etiquette has multiple deletions in red ink which appear to have been by the boxed "INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID FOR TRANSMISSION BY AIR" hand stamp. Unfortunately, this obliterates a large part of a misplaced circular machine mark, also in red - one guesses this may be a "neopost" type prepaid machine stamp applied in Nairobi.
- Seven wavy lines and a diamond, being part of a (Worthing) machine cancel.
- Nairobi 23SP58 hand stamp.
- "Blind" London "black barred" hand stamp, cancelling the GB 6d stamp.

Reverse:

- London EC3 29AU58 hand stamps.
- Worthing 17 Oct 1958 "CIVIL DEFENCE/JOIN NOW" machine cancel.
- Part of misplaced pale inverted "CIVIL DEFENCE/JOIN NOW" with a diamond, machine cancel.

Conclusion

The letter left Nairobi on an unknown date and travelled by surface mail to London. The bank re-addressed the envelope to Nairobi and added a 6d stamp — the back stamp attests that it re-entered the mail system on 29 August 1958. The stamp was cancelled at the time at the London International Sorting Office.



cancelled at the time at the London International Sorting Office.

The letter reached Nairobi by surface mail and was re-addressed to Worthing. The Nairobi hand stamp of 23 September 1958 was probably applied on the envelope's re-entry into the mail system.

The letter reached Worthing and was re-addressed to Sandown — the clear Worthing machine cancelled of 17 October 1958 was probably applied on its re-entry into the system on its way to Sandown, Isle of Wight.

KEITH RODMAN STAMPS

send for FREE Price List

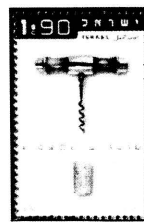
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VOC se 400ste verjaardag gaan stil-

Andries van der Walt

Postmark & Postal History Society

Dit was vanjaar, op 20 Maart om presies te wees, 400 jaar gelede dat die *Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie* (VOC) in 1602 gestig is. Afgesien van die feit dat die VOC in Suid-Afrika se geskiedenis 'n besondere plek beklee, word dit ook algemeen beskou as die eerste maatskappy wat internasionaal handel gedryf het.

Dit was op sy tyd inderdaad 'n koopmansryk wat sy gelyke nie geken het nie – amper soos 'n staat wat oorlog kon voer en plaaslike heersers kon aanstel. Die "Edele Compagnie", soos hy ook bekend was, het lank soos 'n keiser bo alles en almal uitgetroon.

Kort nadat dit bekend geword het dat 'n seeweg om die Kaap die Goeie Hoop na Indië gevind is, was daar 'n groot stormloop om skepe om die Kaap te stuur ten einde die gesogte speserye van Indië te kon bekom.

Danksy 'n Zeeuwse koopman, De Moucheron, wat toe reeds handelskontakte aan die ooskus van Afrika gehad het, het die VOC 'n voorsprong op sy mededingers opgebou.

Dit was nie lank nie of die VOC het al sy vernaamste mededingers, veral die Portugeese, uit die Indiese Oseaangebied en Asië verdryf en die handel oorheers. Ten einde sy handelsbelange te beskerm het die VOC vir hom 'n handelshoofkwartier in Batavia op die eiland Java gestig.

Van hier het hy begin om handel te dryf met Arabiese lande, Ceylon, Indië, Sjina en Japan. Die VOC het hom as sy belangrikste doelstelling die monopolie van handel in speserye gestel en op dié wyse was die eerste "gebied" wat die VOC in besit geneem het, die eiland Ambon. Dit het egter gou geblyk dat die inwoners van die eilande in die Indiese Oseaan nie veel erg daaraan gehad het om hul kontrakte met die Hollanders na te kom nie.

Dit het tot gevolg gehad dat die goe-

werneur-generaal, Jan Pieterszoon Coen, die Banda-eilande in die Indiese Oseaan onderwerp het aan die gesag van die VOC. Dit is van hier dat die nuwe basis, Batavia op Java, gestig is en die VOC sy bedrywighede verder kon uitbrei.

Reeds aan die beginjare van die bestaan van die VOC is daar al handel gedryf in die Arabiese lande, selfs in Mekka waar 'n fabriek opgerig is. Die eerste handelspos was in Shirir, aan die suidkus van die Arabiese Skiereiland.

In Japan het die VOC aanvanklik sy basis in Hirado gehad waar nog 'n fabriek opgerig is, maar dit is later verskuif na Nagasaki. Dié stad het spoedig Japan se enigste venster op die buite wêreld geword. Dit is hier waar die latere stigter van die VOC se handelspos aan die Kaap, Jan van Riebeeck, sy eerste ondervinding as werknemer van die VOC opgedoen het. Ook Abel Tasman, die ontdekker van Tasmanië.

In die jaar 1647 vergaen een van die VOC se beste skepe, die *Nieuw Haerlem*, in



Bo, links na regs: Tafelbaai waar die VOC 'n verversingspos in 1652 gestig het; Abel Tasman, 'n werknemer van die VOC afgebeeld op 'n seël van Australië. Tasman is die "vader" van Tasmanië; Jan van Riebeeck was slegs 33 jaar oud toe hy in die Kaap aangekom het om die verversingspos vir die VOC te stig.

Onder: Jan Pieterzoon Coen het die gebiede in die Indiese Oseaan vir die VOC verower; een van die grootste blywende nalatenskappe van die VOC was die boustyl van die talle forte wat hulle op Ceylon (nou Sri Lanka) in stede soos Galle gebou het; Maria van Riebeeck is in Malakka oorlede en begrawe; een van die VOC se handelskepe uitgebeeld op 'n seël van Australië, wat ook deur die VOC ontdek is; olifante het 'n belangrike rol in die bedrywighede van die VOC in Sri Lanka gespeel.

G'n posdiens vir 140 jr

Vanaf die stigting van die verversingspos aan die Kaap deur Jan van Riebeeck in 1652, tot die amptelike stigting van 'n poskantoor in 1791 deur die Here Sewentien van die VOC, was daar geen georganiseerde posdiens nie. Dit was ook slegs vir die amptenare van die VOC beskore dat amptelike pos met skepe van die maatskappy vervoer kon word. Ander burgers in die nedersetting moes hulle verlaat op die goedgesindheid van verbygaande skeepskapteins om hul pos vervoer te kry (volledige beskrywing in Goldblatt (1984) en Rosenthal (1969)).

Vroeë posstukke vertoon die VOC-stempel, maar daar is meningsverskil tussen skrywers en versamelaars van die posgeskiedenis van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop of die VOC-stempel in die Kaap aangebring is, en of dit in Nederland aangebring is. Volgens Goldblatt (1984) word die stempel net aangetref op pos wat vanaf Nederland na die Kaap gestuur is en nie op pos vanaf die Kaap nie.

Die eerste handstempel wat in die Kaap in gebruik gestel is, die *Oval Medallion Post Office Letter Stamp* (Goldblatt MLS 1) is in 1806 in gebruik gestel. Dit is gevolg deur die *Ship Letter* (Goldblatt SL 1) handstempel waarvan die eerste gebruik in 1808 aangeteken is.

stil verby

Tafelbaai. Almal aan boord het egter die ramp oorleef en daarin geslaag om aan die lewe te bly deur groente te kweek van saad wat van die wrak gered is. Die oorlewendes is in Maart 1648 opgepick deur die vaartuig *Conick van Polen* wat op pad terug was na Holland.

Aan boord van dié vaartuig was die jong Jan van Riebeeck. Met hul aankoms in Holland, word daar aan die Here Sewentien, die "direksie" van die VOC, voorgestel dat 'n permanente handelspos aan die Kaap gevestig moes word. Na deeglike oorweging besluit die here om tot die stap oor te gaan en die jong Van Riebeeck word aangestel as die eerste bevelvoerder van die handelspos van die VOC in die Kaap die Goeie Hoop.

Hy was maar 33 jaar oud toe hy die aanstelling gekry het. Tien jaar later is hy deur die VOC na Malakka gestuur waar hy die taak gestel is om die stad weer vir die VOC winsgewend te maak. Dit is hier waar sy vrou, Maria, haar laaste rusplek gevind het. Dit is ook interessant dat een van hul seuns, Abraham van Riebeeck, later aangestel was as goewerneur-generaal van Indië toe dit nog in die besit van die VOC was.

Teen die aanbreek van die agtiende eeu was dit duidelik dat die invloed van die VOC en die houvas wat hy op die handel met die Ooste gehad het, stadigaan besig was om te taan. Die VOC kon nie aanhou om staande te bly teen die toenemende mededinging van die Engelse en Franse nie. Die Vierde Engelse Oorlog van 1780-1784 het finaal die mag van die VOC gebreek en die verlies wat hy aan skepe gely het, was sodanig dat hy sy deure moes sluit.

Daar was egter nog 'n ander oorsaak van die erge verval. Die gevreesde siekte, malaria, het onder die Europeërs wat hulle in die Ooste gevestig het, gemaai. Batavia het die bynaam verwerf as die "Kerkhof van die Europeërs" omdat so baie van hulle daar aan malaria gesterf het.

Die VOC het egter in die byna 200 jaar wat hy aktief dwarsdeur die hele wêreld handel gedryf het, 'n blywende nalatenskap gelaat. Dit strek baie verder as die vestiging van 'n kolonie aan die Kaap die Goeie Hoop. Oral waar mens in die wêreld gaan, sal jy voorbeelde hiervan kry.

Tasmanië is na Abel Tasman, 'n VOC-man, genoem. In 1609 vaar die VOC se Henry Hudson met die skip, *De Halve Maen*, in Noord-Amerika met 'n rivier op wat na hom vernoem sou word, die Hudsonrivier. Nieu Amsterdam, nou New York, word gestig op die oewers van die Hudsonrivier.

In Ceylon is daar vandag nog pragtige voorbeelde van die Hollanders se bouwerk. Veral die forte wat hulle in die vestingstad Galle gebou het. Kaap Hoorn, berug onder skeepvaarders aan die suidpunt van Suid-Amerika, is deur die VOC-vertegenwoordigers so gedoopt. In Sri Lanka (soos Ceylon vandag bekend staan) is daar nog tot 400 woorde in die amptelike taal, Singalees, wat van Nederlandse herkoms is. Vandag nog staan die afstammelingen van VOC amptenare in Sri Lanka bekend as "burghers", 'n benaming waarop hulle besonders trots is.

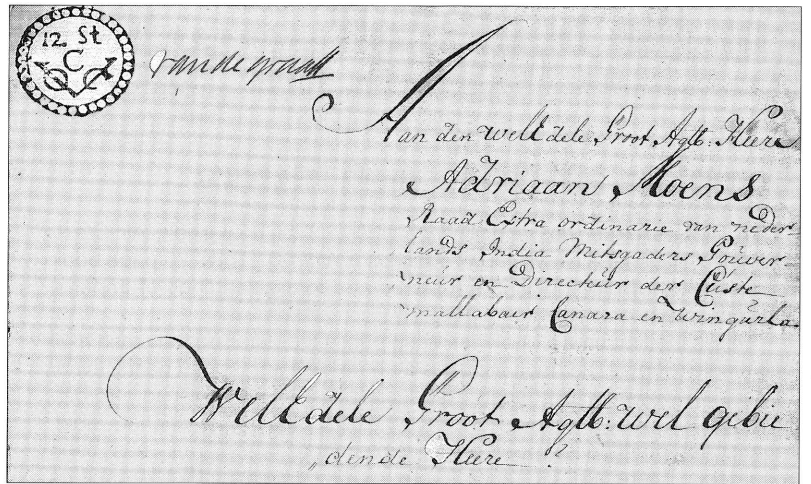
Dit is egter opvallend dat die 400ste verjaardag van die eens magtige "handelsmaatskappy" wie se invloed so ver en wyd gestrek het in Holland, Suid-Afrika en verskeie ander lande, skaars aandag getrek het en geen spesiale seëls uitgegee nie.

Bronnelys:

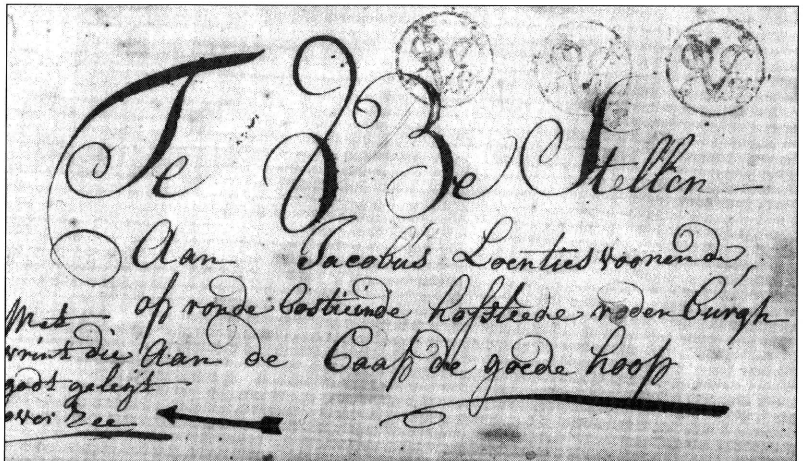
Goldblatt, R: *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, Reijger Publishers, Cape Town, 1984

Rosenthal, E and Blum, E: *Runner and Mail Coach*, Purnell, London, 1969

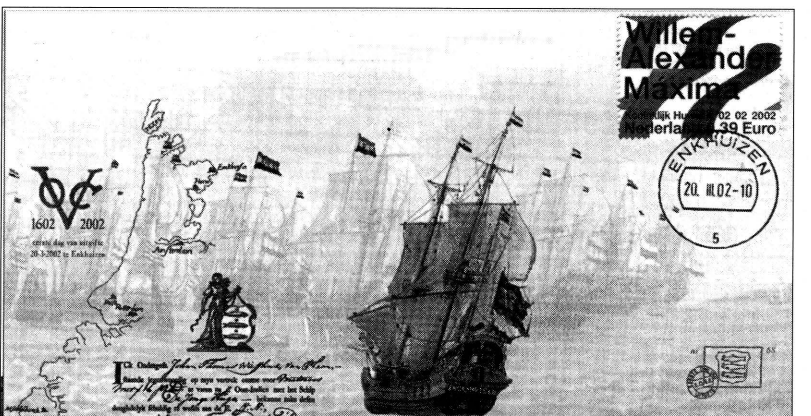
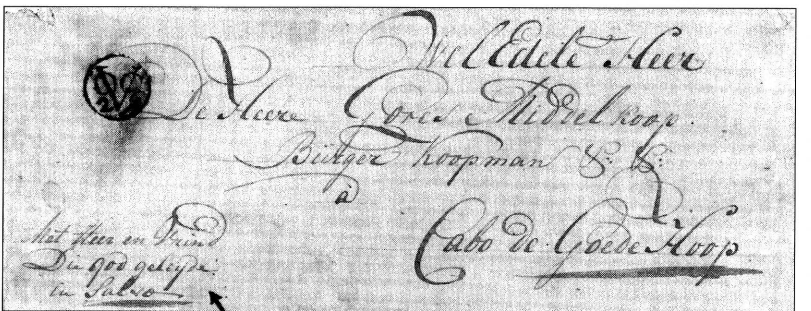
Filatelie: Vol 80, July/August, 908, Den Haag



Brief van 'n VOC-amptenaar uit Indië na Holland met 'n VOC-afstempeling.



Bo en onder: Twee briewe vanaf Holland na Kaapstad met die twee VOC-kansellaries wat gebruik is, soos hulle in Goldblatt se boek afgebeeld is.



'n Poskaart wat privaat uitgegee is om die 400ste verjaardag van die stigting van die VOC te gedenk wat saamgeval het met die hou van die Amphilex internasionale uitstalling vroeër vanjaar.

For the bookshelf.....*Vir die boekrak*

Complete air-crash mail history

The Rossiter Trust has announced an important new book, *Air Crash Mail of Imperial Airways and Predecessor Airlines*. This 225 page book lists all the known crashes, interruptions and forced landings of Imperial Airways and its predecessor airlines.

This is the first time a book has been published detailing the crash mail of a single airline. The book includes a photo or illustration of nearly every Imperial Airways and predecessors' aircraft that crashed or had a forced landing, and shows a cover and every known variety of cachet, label, manuscript marking or post office explanation, where mail has been recorded. There are 187 aircraft photos, 96 covers and 174 cachets shown, plus reproductions of newspaper clippings about Imperial Airways crashes.

The book lists 100 additional crashes and forced landings, and 46 additional cachet varieties not previously recorded by philatelic books and publications.

The same numbering system has been used as in "Recovered Mail" by Henri Nierinck, published in 1992 & 1995.

A pricing guide is included as a separate supplement.

The author plans a CD-ROM version of the book.

The author is taking advance orders for the new book, which will be available by the end of the year, and will cost UK£30,00 or US\$46,25 plus postage. Postage will be UK£2,50 – US\$3,85 surface, or UK£3,60 – US\$5,50 airmail. Order from Ken Sanford, Aerophil, 12 Chemin des Tuilots, CH-1293 Bellevue (GE), Switzerland

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Monumental work on postmarks nearing completion

The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States & Colonies

Volume 9 (R and S) by Ralph F Putzel RDPSA & Alex T Visser.

Published by A Visser (Meyerspark Pretoria) 2002.

Hardcover 0-620-29207-5; softcover 0-620-29208-3.

The latest volume of this acclaimed series commences with a fitting tribute to its primary author Ralph F Putzel RDPSA, who passed away in June this year (see obituary: *SAP*, August 2002 (whole # 853) p 100).

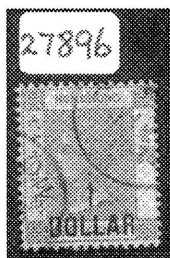
With the release of this volume, offices and agencies from Raadsaal (OFS) to Syndicate (Cape) are listed. Clear and concise notation of data have been a feature of this work from the outset and this standard is maintained under the continued editorship of Alex Visser.

As the publication of this monumental work nears its completion, its importance to this field of Southern Africa philately cannot be over-emphasised. Everyone I've ever talked to about this series of books is grateful to own them and cannot conceive taking on the task of amassing and processing this amount of data into usable form. With volume 9, the reputation grows!

– Michael Wigmore RDPSA.

DM PHILATELICS

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Ink-jet postmarking in South Africa

Neville Gomm

Postmark & Postal History Society

AS WITH other facets of South African machine postmarks, the ink-jet items are attracting little attention among collectors. There was an initial flurry of activity after ink-jet postmarking was commenced, but these days there seems to be hardly any interest. One of the reasons for this series of articles is to try to raise greater awareness of the ink jet postmarks.

At the same time, an important effort is being made to put into writing at this early (or perhaps not so early) stage, as much information as possible. The ink-jet postmarks ought to be spared the problem of other South African machine postmarks where there is a great scarcity of information about early developments.

Ink-jet postmarking was introduced on a trial basis on 9 June 1994, at the Johannesburg mail centre. Full-time ink-jet postmarking commenced on 24 January 1995.

After the ink-jet machines were introduced, there was a period during which they also printed slogans which had been introduced previously for use in the old type machines. In this first instalment of the series, the aim is to concentrate on one of the slogans used in both types of machines.

USE POSTCODES/ GEBRUIK POSKODES

This slogan was first introduced in December 1981. It had been preceded by one reading USE POSTAL CODES in English, the Afrikaans wording being the same. The earliest date of the ink-jet slogan in the Allison-Gomm collection is 17 February 1995, from Capemail. The latest Capemail date is 29 August 1996. The collection contains an item with the date 2 January 1998, but this is believed to be a date adjustment error.

The four printing heads of the two Capemail printers were all used to print the slogan. They were distinguished by the letters (A), (B), (C) and (D).



Fig 1 The Afrikaans slogan on the (A) printing head.

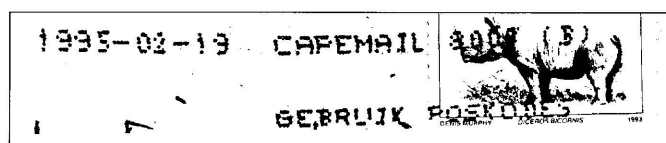


Fig 2 The Afrikaans slogan on the (B) printing head.



Fig 3 The English slogan on the (B) printing head.

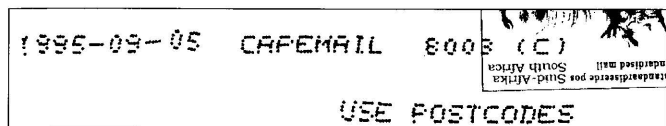


Fig 4 The English slogan on the (C) printing head.

THIS NEW SERIES of articles is based mainly on the contents of the Allison-Gomm specialist collection of South African machine postmarks. This collection is now being claimed as the most comprehensive accumulation of South African machine postmarks in the world.

The collection was commenced in 1944 by David Allison, now of Bergvliet near Cape Town. He kept extensive notes of developments until the 1970s, when the task became too time consuming.

David Allison (left) has a long philatelic career, and is an honorary life member of the Postmark & Postal History Society of Southern Africa whose newsletter he edited for several years.

In the 1980s, Neville Gomm (right) also began collecting machine postmarks. Allison and Gomm began corresponding and exchanging until the 1990s, while continuing their separate collections.

At this time, Allison decided that he wanted to reduce his philatelic commitments. As a result, he passed the major part of his machine postmarks collection to the care of Gomm.

Integration of the two collections was then commenced. This process was completed during 2002, after which it was decided to name it **the Allison-Gomm specialist collection of South African machine postmarks**. Allison is still playing an active part in building the collection.



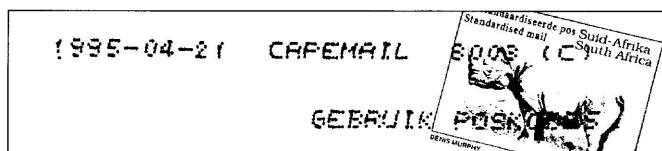


Fig 5 The Afrikaans slogan on the (C) printing head.



Fig 6 The same slogan as in Fig 5, but with a different layout.



Fig 7 The same slogan, with a date of 2 January 1998. This could be a date adjustment error because by that date the Post Office was running a predetermined programme of slogans that did not provide for GEBRUIK POSKODES on that date.



Fig 8 The English slogan on the (D) printing head.

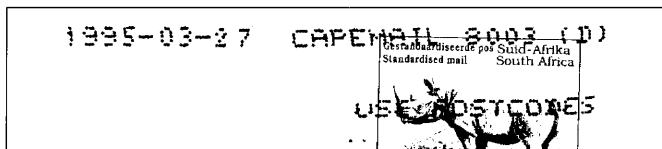


Fig 9 The same as Fig 8, but with a slightly different layout.

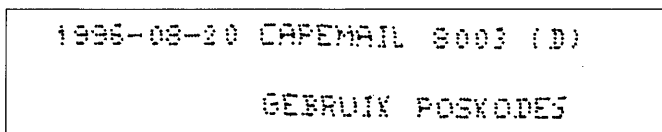


Fig 10 The Afrikaans slogan on the (D) printing head.

It may be appropriate to mention here that mail centres using ink-jet printers normally employ some method to distinguish the postmarks of the different printing heads. It could be in the form of (A), (B), etc, or in the layout of what is printed over two lines.

Another method of identification is by looking at the bottom serif of the letter I. On one head of the ink-jet machine, the left half of the serif is not printed while on the other head, the right half is not printed.

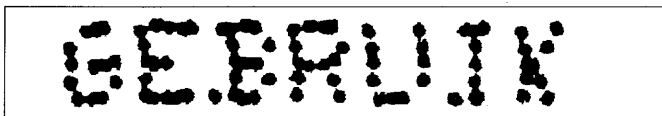


Fig 11 Enlargements of actual examples to illustrate serif identification of printing heads. Most references so far have been to "left serif" and "right serif", depending on whether the single dot is left or right of the vertical stroke of the I.

The slogan was also used in the Pretoria ink-jet machine where the one head printed in English and the other in Afrikaans. The earliest date for Pretoria is also 17 February 1995, and the latest date is 17 February 1997.

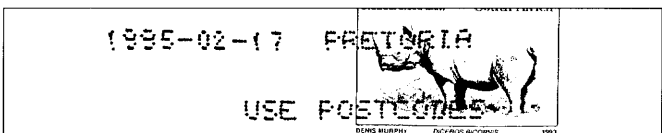


Fig 12 The English slogan began with a 6 millimetre gap between the date and the mail centre name.

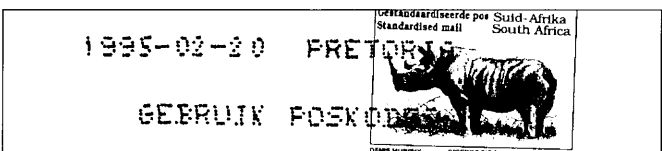


Fig 13 The Afrikaans slogan has the same layout, but the gap is 5 millimetres.

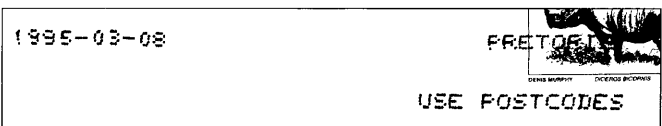


Fig 14 Here a layout change was made, the English slogan appearing with a 49 millimetre gap between the date and the mail centre name.



Fig 15 The Afrikaans slogan has the same layout, but the gap is 47 millimetres.

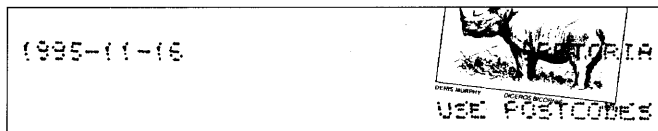


Fig 16 The English slogan with the second S of POSTCODES immediately below the A of PRETORIA.

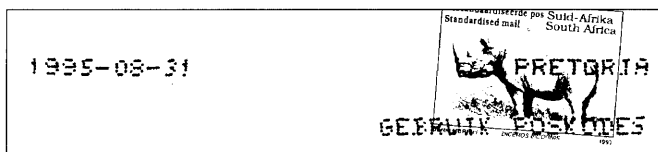


Fig 17 The same happened with the Afrikaans slogan.

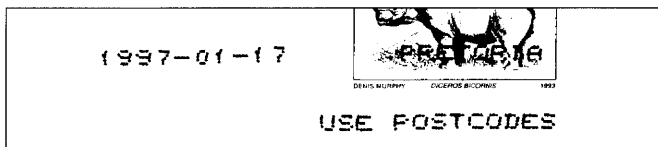


Fig 18 The English slogan with a 15 millimetre gap between the date and PRETORIA.

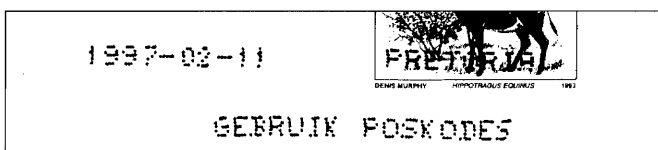


Fig 19 The Afrikaans slogan has the same layout, but the gap is 16 millimetres.

A possible reason for these layout differences is that they may have come about when the detail was set up differently for alternating periods of usage of the slogan with other slogans.

Witspos mail centre also used the slogan in ink jet form. The earliest date seen for use at Witspos is 23 October 1995, and the latest date is 24 November 1995.



Fig 20 The English slogan with POSTCODES incorrectly spelt as two words. All Witspos examples seen so far, have this mistake.

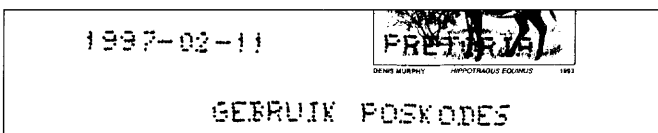


Fig 21 The Afrikaans slogan. The layout of the postmark at Witspos remained constant for the two languages throughout a short period of usage.

References

1. The Allison-Gomm specialist collection of SA machine postmarks.
2. Philatelists: David Allison, Bergvliet; John Hodgson, Plumstead; Jan Lessing, Pretoria; Frank van Rensburg, Nylstroom; Loek van Riet, Rynfield; Teddy Whitlock, Graaff-Reinet.
3. *The Post Office Stone*, journal of the Postmark & Postal History Society of Southern Africa. Vol 26 No 2 November 1994 (p13); Vol 27 No 1 July 1995 (p2); Vol 27 No 2 November 1995 (p19); Vol 28 No 2 November 1996 (p7).
4. *The SA Philatelist* April 1995 (p43); June 1995 (p66); April 1996 (p38); February 1998 (p10).

Archival chatter

Rev J Cassie Carstens *Honorary archivist for the PFSA*

SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

• **Afrikaans Johannesburg** (Nr 612) maak melding van 'n moontlike afwyking op die 20c Krimpvarkie-seël. Die papier het 'n geel skynsel en die swart ink (20% van die normale hoeveelheid) vertoon grys. Kan iemand dalk help?

• *Philately and Evolution?* The present state of our society is all the fault of philately. Philatelists were traitors to their species in the long march of evolution. While mankind strove towards perfection, the philatelist pursued imperfection. The errors of this fellowmen were the philatelist's one delight. While society aimed for the better, the philatelist hoped for the worst. Society decried poor workmanship, but the stamp collector applauded the flaw and esteemed the blemish. (Got this from Lappe Laubscher in the *Posduif of Afrikaans Pretoria*, Nr 473).

• Ever heard of Kromellenboog? And did you know there was an Australian contingent in the Boer War? Read about this in the journal of the **Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society** (Vol 45/1). Other articles are *The Half-Penny QV Jubilee Army Telegraphs Overprints* (Tony Stanford) and *The Anglo-Boer War Memorials, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich, Suffolk* (John Ineson).

• According to a news cutting presented at **Boksburg/Germiston** (No 31) half a million letters a week are lost in the UK. What will be the case in South Africa?

• "Thematic collections are no longer frowned upon by the pundits, and they are not necessarily cheap. Many contain valuable and costly material, but they can also be put together economically if you use imagination." A wise word spoken at **East Rand Philatelic** (July 2002).

• Got this quiz questions from **Edenvale** (Sep 2002): Which country was the first to issue scented stamps, and when? (Bhutan 1967, Flowers). The 1928 SA definitive 6d depicted a fruit tree -- how many fruits are shown? (22)

• How many people collect St Helena? Or Tristan da Cunha? At **Fish Hoek** (July 2002) Mrs M Crawford from Pinelands showed a most interesting exhibit of St Helena. (She must be a fan of Napoleon!)

• Quite a few years ago "perfins" were very much in the "Cinderella" region of stamp collecting, scorned by the philatelist and generally rejected as "damaged" or "uncollectable." It has changed over the

years and at last they are beginning to assume an aura of respectability as more and more people are prepared to admit to collecting them. To the existing perfin collector this is a mixed blessing, since what he once got for nothing now commands a price as demand increases, but so it goes. Read more about this in the newsletter (Oct 2002) of **Great Britain Philatelic Society of SA**.

• **Maritzburg** (Sep 2002) spent an excellent evening with dr Angus Pringle and his RSA 6th Definitive Buildings – quite an interesting topic! Certain basic rules have to be kept to find info on stamps: (1) Look at the actual picture for varieties/shades, and (2) check the printing process. Not so easy, but worthwhile!

• In the *Natal and Zululand Post* (March

Any back copies...?

We need three complete sets of *The SA Philatelist* for our archive. We do not even have one! Can you please help us with the following: 1925-1933 (volumes 1-9), 1937 (volume 13), 1945-1947 (volumes 21-23) and 1958 (volume 34) – this is only for a start to compile one set. You can send us any other extras to PO Box 52011, Wierdapark, 0149, or courier to 304 Cotie Avenue, Wierdapark, Centurion, or phone me at (012) 653-2279 so that we can make a plan. Thanks!

2002), the quarterly journal of the **Natal and Zululand Study Circle**, the following articles are worth reading: *The Union Steam Ship Company's packet service to the Cape – the second contract 1863-1868* (John Dickson), *Postmasters of Natal – Francis Spring* (John Dickson), *The Natal 1882 1d (SG99) with inverted watermark* (Peter Whitmore), *Natal train letters – some examples* (John Dickson & Peter Whitmore) and *Royal Mail Service from Natal for Cape ports and England in the early months of the Second Anglo-Boer War* (Richard Stroud).

• An Irish toast from **Nigel** (132): "Here's to you and yours and to mine and ours, and if mine and ours ever come across you and yours, I hope you and yours will do as much for mine and ours, as mine and ours have done for you and yours!" (We wish them luck with *TheNigel*, their one-frame thematic exhibition on 9 November).

• Want to know how they did it in the

Orange Free State in 1892, according to the *Wetboek van den Oranjevrijstaat 1891*? Some examples: "30. The post carts, spanned with four horses, shall be strong and roomy enough to contain the post bags, and shall be able to carry a maximum weight of 800 lbs. 32. The post driver shall be provided with a horn for the purpose of notifying the departure and arrival of the mails... 54. The kinds and colours of the postage stamps shall be determined by the State President..." Read all this, and much more, in the journal of the **OFS Study Circle**, No 186).

• In **Port Elizabeth** (Sep 2002) Herwig Kussing showed a set of 8 stamps of the 1998 standardised mail buck issue of the 6th definitive series, with a pertinent perforation shift. His daughter spotted it at the post office in Vryheid. Anne Roberts is taking over the running of the philatelic counter at the PE post office (Oct 2002).

• The centre pages in colour! That is the big surprise in *ThemNews*, the bi-monthly journal of **Thematics SA**. A handful of interesting articles complement the October issue: *What do I need to exhibit my collection? Part VI* (Gerrie Conradie), *Persoonlikhede van die Anglo-Boere-oorlog* (Petra Heath), *Conveyance of Mail Kaleidoscope* (Hein Friebus), *Stokperdjies van Rykes en Beroemdes* (Lappe Laubscher), *Rugby Thematics: Where are the boundaries?* (Gideon Nieman), *So taai soos 'n ratel* (Cassie Carstens) and *Minerals – Fossils – Mining* (Uli Bantz).

• In *The Transvaal Philatelist* (August 2002), the brilliant journal of the **Transvaal Study Circle**, you will find obituaries of Tony Chilton FRPSL, Richard Knight RDPSA FRPSL and Ralph Putzel RDPSA, plus the following articles: *The stamps printed by MJ Viljoen* (Alan Drysdall), *The pin-rouletted stamps of the First Republic* (Alan Drysdall), *The annexation of the ZAR in 1877 – some documents from the Lys archive* (Fernando Torres and Alan Drysdall) and *Shepstone's mission to the ZAR and Mr Green* (Jeff Woolgar).

• Want to know more about Revenue Stamps? Then you must read the interesting article of James MacKay in the newsletter of the **West Rand Philatelic** (Aug 2002).

• **Witwatersrand** (Sept 2002) annually presents the *Harmers Youth Challenge Cup*, a competition solely for the youngsters on the Rand. This year Nigel stole the show and made a clean sweep. What do other clubs do to promote youth philately?

CONGRESS HATH SPOKEN!

The Standing Committee for Thematics is no more. The 2002 congress of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa has decided to annul the resolution of the previous congress, thereby terminating the committee and underlining the opinion that thematics as a discipline is not for the benefit of Federation and its membership as a whole (see also congress report and message from the president – p 156/157).

Thematic philately is now in the hands of a single society – Thematics SA. They will have to formulate all policy on thematic collecting and exhibiting; they will continue to stage stamp shows where thematic collectors (amateurs) can exhibit (like ClubTheme and Prethema); they will stay in contact with other overseas thematic associations; they will try to compile a library of thematic collections and exhibits (photostats); they will advise and help exhibitors to uplift their exhibits to higher levels. All this cannot be in place overnight – it needs time and positive inputs. Will you help us, please?

If you want to become a member of Thematics SA, contact Robbie Harm at 082 925 7103 or robharm@mweb.co.za.

ALGOAPEX 2002

Congratulations to all the thematic exhibitors at Algoapex 2002 in Port Elizabeth – well done! The results were as follows:

- * Mr H Olinger (Goldfields): *Females Exposed* – Large Silver (Robert Goldblatt Thematic Cup = best Thematic Exhibit)
- * Mnr C Buys (Royal Cape Town): *Suid-Afrika se Ornitologiese Skatte* – Grootzilwer (East Rand Philatelic Society Floating Trophy = best first-time exhibit)
- * Mev HH Botha (OVS): *O Die Donkie* (Poskaart) – Grootzilwer
- * Mrs GE Colquhoun (Port Elizabeth): *Shells = an illustrated guide to a timeless and fascinating world* -- Silver
- * Mr CM Rogers (Nigel): *Timeless Egypt* – Silver-bronze
- * Mrs AR Briscoe (Port Elizabeth): *A Miscellany of Orchids* -- Bronze
- * Mrs J Bromfield (Fish Hoek): *Discovering South Africa* -- Bronze
- * Mej M du Toit (Paarl): *Water op Land* -- Brons
- * Mr DH McWilliams (East London): *Through the eye of a Sea Fish* -- Brons
- * Dr VB Reddi (East London): *Ghandi on Stamps* -- Bronze
- * Mr D Botha (Goldfields): *The History of Tennis* – Certificate of Merit

CLUBTHEME 2003

The venue is Polokwane (Pietersburg). The date is Saturday 26 April 2003. We invite each society to enter its best thematic exhibit of 2002 – minimum 2 frames, maximum 5 frames. The idea is FUN! Contact Cassie Carstens at (012) 653-2279 or algsin@mweb.co.za.

THEMATIC TOFFEE

A prominent philatelist made this statement at a recent meeting of the East Rand Philatelic Society: **Modern stamps**

THEMATICALLY *YOURS*

Rev J Cassie Carstens Chairperson: PFSA Committee Thematics

are to be avoided in thematic collections. How do we define "modern"? Is only "old" stuff allowed in thematic collections? My dear friend Petra Heath has an exhibit on *The New South Africa* – she is always on the lookout for "modern" stuff. And now – at last! – a miniature sheet of Steve Biko: it fills a BIG gap in her exhibit and complements an important part of our modern history. But according to the statement she is not allowed to use it; she will have to wait at least 25 years.... Somewhere someone is missing the point – please help me!

THEMES ON STAMPS

* Team New Zealand's defence of the **AMERICAS CUP** in 2000 was the only successful defence outside the USA in the Cup's 150-year history. Early next year they will be at it again – with full force! Has South Africa ever taken part in this international competition?

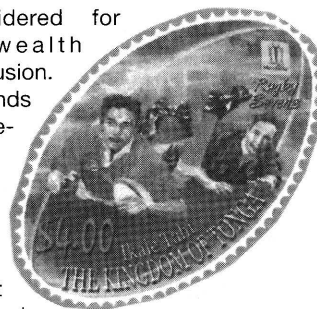


* Captain Robert Falcon Scott was one of the world's greatest ever **EXPLORERS**. A crew of 47 scientists and sailors arrived on the HMS Discovery in Antarctica in early 1902. The ship and her crew remained in Antarctica for the next two years, frozen in sea ice until she was finally released on February 14 1904. Scott's base hut still stands today, maintained by New Zealand and protected by the Antarctic Treaty – it is stocked with many of the things the expedition team left behind.

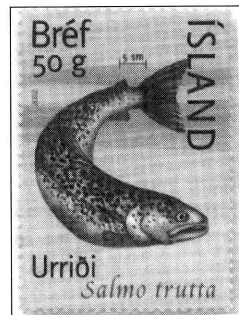


* The International Rugby Board's World **SEVENS SERIES** has lifted the profile and skill of the game and with the series consisting of 10 tournaments a year, it was only a matter of time before it was considered for Commonwealth Games inclusion.

Pacific Islands rugby, especially Tonga, Fiji and Samoa has improved markedly over the last decade and this progress has moved into the Sevens game where they are a challenge for the "heavyweights" of the competition – New Zealand, Australia, England and South Africa.



* What makes Lake Thingvallavatn (Iceland) unique in the world is that it sustains four distinct varieties of **CHARR** – planktivorous, piscivorous, benthivorous and dwarf. Benthivorous charr and dwarf are common on the rock bottom, where smolts feed. Both varieties live mainly on pond snail, but also on the larvae and pupae of lacustrine insects. The deeper shore bottom is a main habitat for stickleback and piscivorous charr. Piscivorous charr preys on stickleback and sometimes on juvenile charr. Planktivorous charr stays mainly in the main body of water where rich phytoplankton and several types of zooplankton are found.

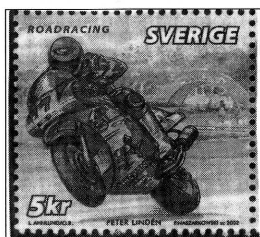


* One of New Zealand's favourite holiday destinations is a small, humble beach **HOUSE** or a holiday home. Known in the north as a "bach" and in the far south as a "crib", these holiday homes, many dating back to the 1930s, are a part of Kiwi culture. The traditional bach is simple in structure, made of the most basic of materials – such as fibrolite, corrugated iron or weatherboard – and often brightly

coloured. Although these humble abodes are not as common as the once were, for many the word "bach" conjures up warm memories of lazy days at the beach or fishing at the lake.



* Speedway, enduro, road racing, motocross and trial – over the years Sweden has amassed an impressive collection of **MOTORCYCLE** sport trophies, including several World Championship titles since the sport achieved its breakthrough in the 1950s. Championship motorcyclists from the 1950s up to today's reigning world champions, such as Tony Rickardsson and Anders Eriksson, are among those featured on this stamp issue.



* Countless **MUSICAL** performances under the baton of the conductor Eugen Jochum, born near Augsburg in 1902 – symphonies by Bruckner, Brahms or Beethoven, Bach's passions and operas – have remained in people's memories to this day. Leader in the early days of radio broadcasting in Berlin, as chief conductor in Hamburg and in Munich, he built up the Symphony Orchestra of the Bayerischer Rundfunk in the post-War period, as well as at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Bamberger Symphonikern.



* 2002 is the year in which Jersey's Caesarea **CAT** Club celebrate their 25th



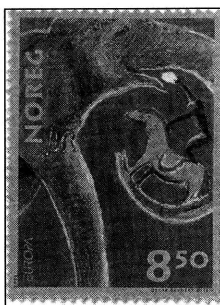
anniversary. The six cats featured on the stamps are British Dilute Tortoiseshell, Cream Persian, Blue Exotic Shorthair, Black Smoke Devon Rex, British Silver Tabby, Usual Abyssinian and British Cream & White Bi-colour.

* Five champion **HORSES** were inducted into Australia's Racing Hall of Fame in 2002. Each of the five designs depicts a different moment in a race, conveying the speed, colour, energy and atmosphere of a race meeting and reflecting the important and special place thoroughbred racing plays in the Australian national consciousness. The five horses are Wakeful (b 1896), Rising Fast (b 1949), Manikato (b 1975), Might and Power (b 1993) and today's champion Sunline (b 1995).



* A mermaid of the sea? I won't say that, but a **DUGONG** surely has charm and it utterly fascinating. The Dugong is the sole member of the family Dogongidae and is found in limited numbers from east Africa to the western Pacific. They will normally live up to 75 years with the females giving birth to a single calf about every 3-7 years. The young are suckled for 18 months and reach sexual maturity at around 10 years. The adults can reach over 3 meters in length and over 400kg in weight. The Dugong swims with its forelegs and powerful fluke having virtually lost the use of its hind limbs. The Dugong is the world's only herbivorous marine mammal, consuming around 30kg of aquatic plants, mainly sea grass, daily. They prefer warm (18°C) tropical and subtropical coastal waters.

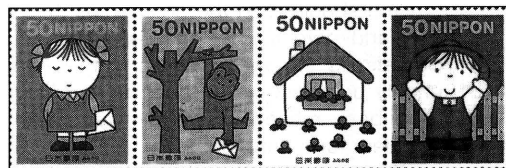
* A juggling clown on a slack line and a well-trained elephant are fitting symbols for the modern-day **CIRCUS**, and very different from the original circus of the Roman Empire, where dangerous chariot-racing and gladiatorial combat were followed by wild animals tearing Christians and other condemned persons to pieces.



* Queen Sirikit of Thailand's seventieth birthday is celebrated and commemorated by stamps depicting flowers named after her. Rosa Queen Sirikit is a hybrid tea ROSE, a cross between Colour Wonder and Golden Giant by the German Company R Kordes in 1968. The flower was named after the Queen during the royal visit to Denmark.



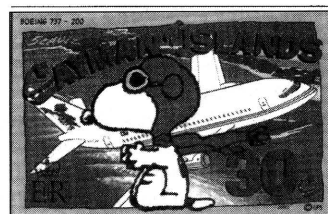
* A Dutch artist illustrating Japan's series of **LETTER WRITING DAY**. Dick Bruna lives in Holland and is a well-known illustrator of picture books. The four designs are My heart beats, Monkey and letter, Flowers and house and Looking forward to hearing from you. Quite cute!



* The **CHURCHES** in the Christmas 2002 issue highlight the whole variety of influences and artistic traditions from Maori to Gothic Revival found in churches around New Zealand. The churches are: St Werenfried's Church in Waihi Village, Tokaanu, St David's Church in Christchurch, Masterton's Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North, Wellington's Cathedral of St Paul and the Cathedral of The Blessed Sacrament in Christchurch.



* **PEANUTS!** Can you believe it? Charlie Brown, Sally, Snoopy, Woodstock, Marcie, Peppermint Patty and Linus – they are all there, on the Cayman Islands!



Preparing your exhibit:

The prospectus rules, OK?

THE PROSPECTUS issued by the Organising Committee is an important document for the exhibitor.

It sets out the rules of the exhibition, the number of frames you may apply for, the size of the frames and the number of sheets that can be accommodated (15 per frame at a South African national exhibition, 16 at an international), the closing date for applications, the frame fees to be paid and other important information for the exhibitor.

You should read the prospectus carefully and note the various requirements. Sometimes the requirements may seem unduly picky, even peculiar, but they have been refined over many years and are there for a purpose.

When you fill in the application form, fill in ALL the required information, and if you are a first-time exhibitor, make sure that you get the required endorsement from your local society.

Take time over the description of the exhibit which is to be placed in the catalogue and ensure that you give a clear and

The final of six articles for novice exhibitors by the late Richard Knight RDPSA, former chairman of the PFSA judging committee



concise description of what your exhibit will contain. Not only do the judges read this, but it helps other viewers to know what they are looking at and the more accurate your description, the more useful it will be to all concerned.

Make sure that you have enough protective covers for the exhibit – there is nothing more infuriating to the exhibitor than to get the exhibit ready (usually at the last minute) and then find that you are short of a few protective covers. Bear in mind that the protective covers are there

to protect your material from damage when being mounted and from possible loss of a stamp or cover should it come loose from its mount in transport.

Your pages should be numbered in accordance with the instructions received from the organising committee; the numbering will determine the order in which the sheets are placed in the frames.

The organising committee will provide special envelopes, one per frame, in which you place the appropriate sheets.

The rules and procedures set out in the prospectus are there to guide you – “If all else fails, read the instructions!” – but if you still have any queries or doubt as to what you should do, the prospectus will provide a contact address or telephone number. Alternatively, consult an experienced exhibitor of your acquaintance and ask for guidance.

When the time comes, despatch your exhibit to the organising committee at the address given in the prospectus – and may you win – if you're the best exhibitor!

Be happy and have loads of fun!

When one starts out to collect stamps as a hobby, one question that may cross your mind – especially if you are regularly exposed to top-quality collections or in the presence of established collectors – is: “What are the attributes of a good collector or philatelist?”

Funny thing is that if I ask myself that question, after nearly 30 years of active collecting, the only answer I have is “I don't know”. What I do know is that it's of no use to compare yourself with others or to even try and emulate them.

What I can say is that a good collector or philatelist is a creative person, somebody who is able to take any subject matter and put together a collection that is completely different from any other because you have put a little more thought and effort into it. And note, I did not say spend more money.

I can also say that you can make a collection interesting by being innovative. Be different. Do your own thing and don't worry too much about being conventional.

After all, it is your collection(s).

Know your subject. Read and study about it as much as you can. Make it your own. Don't try and copy other collectors' collections just because you think they are good, or look good.

Enjoy what you are doing. Be happy and have lots of fun. Be on the lookout for the unusual and try and think of things to do with your collection that nobody else may have done before.

Climb the ladder one step at a time. Don't be in a hurry to get everything you need as soon as possible. It may not be possible, and you may just become frustrated.

Finally, whatever you do, and how you do it, must give you satisfaction. Of course you would like to see other people also enjoy it, but that's not the most important consideration. You must enjoy what you're doing; you must see it grow and change and become something good and beautiful.

The answer to the question posed

above is probably that a good collector or philatelist is someone who is at peace with himself and his hobby, knowing that what you have put together is part of what you are and who you are.

As the Greek philosopher Plato once wrote: “A pleasant and happy life does not come from external things; Man draws from within himself, as from a spring, pleasure and joy”.

– Andries van der Walt

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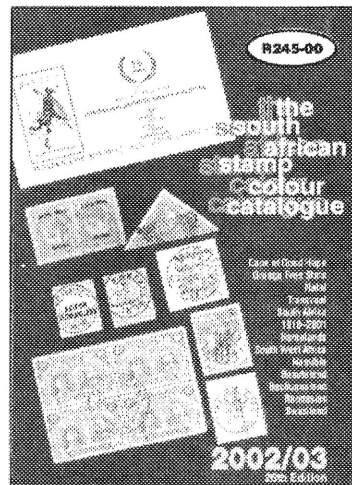
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