

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

volume 100:6. 987

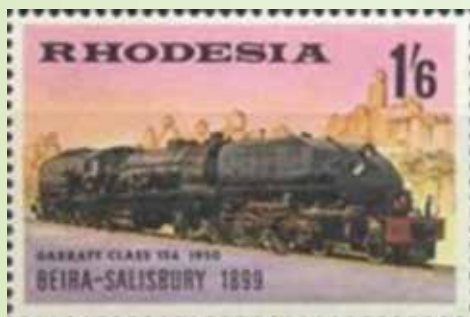
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Commercial cover from London to W.L. Walker, who had enlisted in 'Lumsden's Horse' - the cover was (inaccurately) endorsed 'Left for Transvaal', on the reverse and boxed NON-RECLAMÉ. (page 149)



Postmarks / cachets used by stations to transact business for the South African Railways (page 132)



Rhodesian Identity
As Seen Through Philately
(page 141)



Natal Railway Official Stamps
first issued in 1905
(page 155)

*Seasons Greetings. Be safe, be happy and keep in touch.
Best wishes for a splendid New Year*



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The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
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Awards:

- Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012,
- Large Vermeil Cape Town International 2022

REGULARS

- 129 Contents and Closing dates for future issues
- 130 PFSA - Federation News by C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA.
- 131 Letters to the Editorial Board
- 132 Phun with Postmarks

FEATURES

- 133 CENSORED! from the archive of the late Jan Bakker RDPSA
- 134 Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties: Orange Free State Centenary, 1954
by André du Plessis RDPSA.
- 135 South African Scout Philately : A Listing 1936 - 2007
(Part 3: Special Cards and Covers)
by Gary Pienaar.
- 138 The Early Postal History of Basutoland
by Andrew Briscoe RDPSA FRPSL
- 141 Rhodesian identity as seen through Philately (Part 2)
by Dr Bruce B Berry.
- 147 O.V.S. Commando Brief
by Clinton Hale.
- 148 Future Event:
URUGUAY 2025 World Stamp Exhibition
- 149 Lumsden's Horse - The Only Colonial Contingent from India
Raised in 1900 to Fight in the Anglo-Boer War
by Richard Stroud RDPSA.
- 153 Oilfilat24 Regional Exhibition
by Dr Leon Jacobson.
- 154 Earliest Uses of the 1½d Bantam Issue in August 1942
by Keith P Klugman RDPSA, FRPSL.
- 155 Natal: Official Railway Stamps
by Cedric Roché RDPSA.

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- 140 Doreen Royan & Associates
- 156 Abacus Auctions
- 157 Spink Ltd

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- Volume. 101 : 1 988 - The **FEBRUARY** 2025 issue
13 JANUARY 2025



FEDERATION NEWS

from the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA - André du Plessis RDPSA 083 399 1755.
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



In 2025, Afrikaans will commemorate its centenary as an Official Language in South Africa.

On 8 May 1925, the Official Languages Act of the Union of SA, Act No 8 of 1925, was passed at a joint sitting of the House of Assembly and the Senate. By this Act, Dutch was replaced as the Official Language by Afrikaans. In terms of the law, both Afrikaans and English would forthwith enjoy equal status and rights.

Early 1925 the Union of South Africa Government decided to institute a three-month experimental Air Mail service between Cape Town and Durban from 2 March 1925. Four Air Post/Lugpos stamps were printed by the Cape Times Ltd. in Cape Town and issued on 26 February 1925.

Interestingly these stamps were the first to be printed and issued with Afrikaans inscriptions *SuidAfrika* and *Lugpos*. *SUIDAFRIKA*, spelled without a hyphen, replaced the High Dutch ZUID AFRIKA. From 1930 Suid-Afrika was spelled with a hyphen.

Stamp Exhibitions.

In 2025 three National stamp exhibitions will be held under the auspices of the PFSA.

The Afrikaans Filateliese Vereniging van Pretoria will host a **Regional Exhibition** at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria. This is planned in cooperation with the Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurverenigings (Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Associations) and will take place from **8 to 11 May 2025**. The exhibition will feature two sections: one with exhibits written up in Afrikaans or English, on any topic about Afrikaans, and the other showcasing the existing philatelic classes. A no rules or context philately class will invite and motivate collectors to share unique displays that don't fit the traditional categories.

Contact: Louwrence Erasmus - louwrence@erasmus.org.za
André du Plessis RDPSA - pfsastamps@gmail.com

The **National Exhibition** will be hosted from **2 to 6 September 2025** by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging. The venue be the Paarl Golf Club, 848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl. The Society will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2025. The hosting of the National forms part of these celebrations. The theme of the Exhibitions will be the Afrikaans language and also the Afrikaans Language Monument which is 50 years old in 1975.

Contact: Gawie Hugo - gawiehugo@gmail.com
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The **South Africa Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX)**, a one-frame Exhibition, is celebrating 10 years with a revamped logo. As usual the Exhibition will be in June with announcement of results in July 2025. Narrow Theme Exhibits (1-2 frames) will be accepted.

Contact: Emil Minnaar RDPSA - emil@minnaar.org
Joof van der Merwe RDPSA - josuav528@gmail.com

The PFSA is supporting two **International Exhibits** in 2025:

- Uruguay in Punta Dell Este from 17 to 22 February 2025. Entries have closed and the SA Commissioner is Vernon Mitchell: vjm@telkomsa.net
- Philakorea 2025 from 17 to 21 September 2025 in Seoul. Entries should reach the SA Commissioner by 25 January 2025. The commissioner for the event is Gary Pienaar - Gary.Pienaar@tigerbrands.com

A feast of Stamps Exhibitions. So, come on collectors, hurry up and get going, we are waiting for your entries!

PFSA Policy on International Exhibitions: The PFSA's current approach is to support two Exhibitions (one FIP and one FIAP) per year. Federation offers a subsidy of 50% of the frame fees to a South African exhibitor in good standing with a Philatelic Society affiliated to the PFSA. This subsidy is for FIP or FIAP accredited international exhibitions supported by the Federation. A subsidy can be obtained for at most one exhibit in any calendar year. Exhibitors should apply for the subsidy through the appointed Commissioners.

Members might recall the urgent invite to participate in **EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025**. I do apologise for the short notice. This is a FEPA patronage exhibition with FIP recognition and the PFSA did not receive an invitation to support the exhibition as we are not affiliated to FEPA. After enquiries to the Organising Committee, they informed that they would accept entries from South Africa, but we could not accrue enough frames to conform to their conditions.

From all of us to all of you - Seasons Greetings. Be safe, be happy and keep in touch. Best wishes for a splendid New Year. 🇿🇦

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.

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The PFSA encourages participation in both this journal - *The SA Philatelist*, as well as the electronic newsletter, *'Keeping in Touch'*. Regular and new readers who will ensure that the social media activities and publications continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. Contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, 083 399 1755. <https://www.stampssa.africa> email > pfsastamps@gmail.com

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Correspondence to *THE SA PHILATELIST* should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest will be considered for publication.

A Dedication to a Respected Philatelist

This book is dedicated to
Marge Viljoen
 Following in her mother's footsteps she fully enjoyed her philatelic hobby always bringing & sharing relevant philatelic items to society meetings and who passed on during the compilation of this volume.
 Rest in peace.



A full book review in the next issue of *The SAP*



Flights by the first Union Airways service?

The post card illustrated was posted at Port Elizabeth on 20 February 1933 and was received at Port Alfred the following day. The sender has written on the reverse that it was to be flown by the first Union Airways service to call at Port Alfred. I have never seen a reference to this call in any of the literature I hold, nor has Port Alfred been included in any Union Airways timetable I have seen.



Front and rear of postcard

The previous owner of the card found the call was reported in the *Eastern Province Herald* newspaper of 16 February 1933, in which it was announced that the Port Alfred Airport had been registered as first class and an operating licence granted and that Allister Miller, CEO of Union Airways, had informed the council that Port Alfred would then be a regular call on the Coast Service route.

I wonder if any reader has (a) seen another item of mail carried on this flight and (b) knows whether or not further calls were made by Union Airways at Port Alfred?

Peter Wingent <pwingent@googlemail.com>

Held under the auspices of the PFSA National Stamp Exhibitions 2025

The Afrikaans Filateliese Vereniging van Pretoria will host a **Regional Exhibition** at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.
8 to 11 May 2025

Planned in cooperation with the *Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurverenigings* (Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Associations).

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Contact: Louwrence Erasmus - louwrence@erasmus.org.za
 André du Plessis RDPSA - pfsastamps@gmail.com



1st International Virtual
 Aero- & Astrophilatelic
 Exhibition
15 - 23 February 2025

Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



With which postmarks can we have phun?

Usually we think of post office postmarks or even station postmarks under jurisdiction of the South African post office for studying postmarks. However, there is a group of postmarks / cachets used by stations to transact business for the South African Railways or even for Rail Letter Post which is never considered. The scope of this column is to focus on the railmarks / cachets used by the precursors and successors of the South African Railways. In the Putzel Encyclopaedia Vol. 1 p50 (1986) a detailed review is given. Hagen and Naylor (1985) "Railway stamps of South Africa" and (1998) "Railway postal history of South Africa" provide a valuable introduction. Uwe Albert and Peter Vogenbeck published two volumes in about 1990 which contain comprehensive information on railway markings in GSWA / SWA.

Hagen and Naylor (1985) provide the genealogy of railway administrations operated in southern Africa. Prior to Union various companies provided service in the provinces and neighbouring entities. These included Cape, ZAR including Imperial Military Railways, ORC and Natal amongst others. After Union the South African Railways provided service, and in 1981 the name was changed to South African Transport Services as it was being operated as a logistics company. Hagen and Naylor (1998) provided an introduction to railway markings, but a comprehensive listing was not made. A small group of rail mark enthusiasts decided to compile a listing of all the markings of an estimated 1000 manned railway stations. This column intends to whet the reader's appetite to participate in this challenging study. Volunteers can drop me an e-mail.

Figure 1 shows a range of postmarks and shows how the style of postal markings changed over time since the first markings. Obviously the technology limited the style and materials of the markings.



Fig.1: Range of rail markings over time.

Besides the markings associated with stations, Hagen and Naylor (1985) list 11 Road Motor Service (RMS) offices. These markings, such as Hermanus shown in Fig.2, are scarce. Interestingly the reference does not list Bremersdorp, Swaziland. This RMS was first listed by van der Molen. 'Swaziland philately up to 1968' (2013). At the time of publication only one example had been recorded.

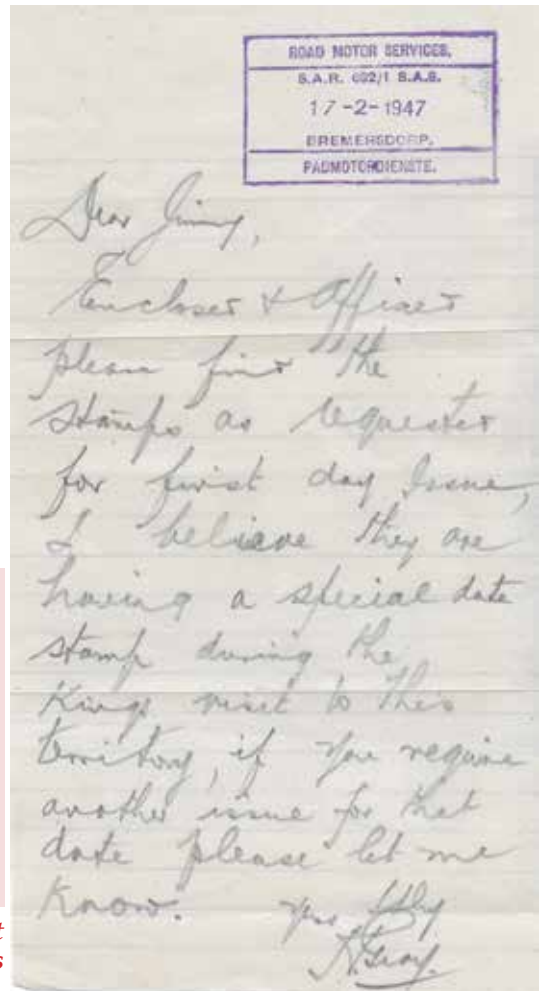
Recently an interesting example was discovered. Mr Jimmy Skinner, a well-known philatelist from Bloemfontein had arranged that Mr Gray, who was based in Swaziland, send him a FDC with the Royal Visit issue. The cover was registered and date stamped with the Bremersdorp postal cancellation (Fig.3). A wonderful surprise was that a letter Mr Gray wrote to describe the logistics was still in the envelope. The major find is a Road Motor Service cachet dated the letter 17-2-1947 (Fig.4). Subsequent to these two markings a third item has recently come to light. The range of usage is now 1947 to 1954. Scans of railway markings /cachets are welcomed to complete the listing which is being compiled. Interestingly Mr Gray mentioned that a special date stamp would be considered when the King would visit the territory. Evidently this did not materialise as discussed by van der Molen (2013) p.274.



Fig.2: Road Motor Service Letter Post originated from Hermanus.



Fig. 3: Registered FDC sent to Mr Skinner from Bremersdorp.



AT RIGHT - Fig.4: Correspondence between Messrs Gray and Skinner with RMS date.

Poskantoor datumstempels vir gebruik in die poskantoor of stasies is 'n welbekende studieveld. Stempels wat deur die spoorweë vir spoor besigheid of op spoorbriewepos is egter minder bekend. Hagen en Naylor (1985, 1998) het 'n belangrike inleiding saamgestel oor hierdie spoorstempels. 'n Groep stempelentoesiaste is besig met opdatering van die stempels soos wat in Fig.1 gewys word. In die proses het ons gevind dat stempels wat deur die padmotordiens gebruik is nogal skaars is. Daar is ook 'n interessante stempel op brief uit Bremersdorp ontdek wat insig gee oor die gebruik van hierdie stempels. Ons vermoed dat daar ongeveer 1000 bemande stasies vir spoordiens gebruik is, en ons moedig lesers aan om hierdie stempels met ons te deel.

After 91 Phun columns Alex will be taking a sabbatical for a short period. He will still be active and welcomes contributions or queries that will be incorporated into future columns.

CENSORED! from the archive of the late Jan Bakker RDPSA

This postcard was sent from the Netherlands to South Africa immediately prior to the end of World War II. The card, which had been returned to the sender, carries a censor cachet 'Examined by Censor Service 4026', but what is more unusual is that this cachet ties in a label pasted over the South African address, thus preventing delivery. The label reads, very faintly, 'This card contains information it is forbidden to publish in the interests of the State'. Any label like that would naturally arouse curiosity. What information was being offered?

The writer, Mijnheer van der Aker, was evidently a severe critic of the German occupying forces and from its content this wasn't the first postcard to his brother that had been returned.

His comments are about the general conditions of occupation, the confiscation of radios, the need to use clandestine sets to get news; the arrest and deportation to concentration camps of citizens and the need to sleep in basements for safety, presumably as the war front came closer. As his brother was a clergyman, he describes the increasing level of vigorous denunciation from church pulpits of the actions of the occupying forces, to the extent that preachers were being arrested and imprisoned for their outbursts.

He is particularly vociferous about the Dutch National Socialist movement whose members were frequent collaborators with the Germans and much hated by the Dutch people. Their actions were considered a betrayal of their fellows and the country.



It is presumed that the censors of mail would not be German for reasons of language, and were probably from this organisation, hence almost guaranteeing censorship and the confiscation of the card. One cannot but admire Mijnheer vd Aker. The card was written on 23rd April 1945.

Although he probably appreciated that hostilities could be drawing to a close, he was still in an enemy-occupied country and publicly giving scathing critical comment and describing the misdemeanors of the occupying forces, knowing that his card would be read and that he could be arrested. He even gives his home address! He wasn't to know that the ceasefire would be declared some two weeks after his card, so he fortunately avoided that inconvenience. An unusual item 'returned to sender'!

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMP VARIETIES

by Andre du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



ORANGE FREE STATE CENTENARY, 1954

(UHB Index 30, Stamp numbers 121 and 122)

Bilingually inscribed stamps with values of 2d. and 4½d. appeared on 23 February 1954 to mark the centenary of the founding of the Orange Free State. The design was by H. Kumst, and measured 37,5 x 21,5 mm.

It consisted of the Orange Free State coat of arms with a quill pen and a scroll bearing the date 1854-1954, symbolising the signing of the Bloemfontein Convention on 23 February 1854. For the first time the word POSSEEL was replaced by POSGELD on a commemorative stamp.

Perforation gauged 15 x 14. The sheets of 120 stamps were divided into two panes, each 10 rows x 6, by a horizontal gutter, the depth of a stamp, between the 10th and 11th rows. There were four marginal arrows in the colour of the interior design at the centre of the margin, or gutter, at the top or bottom of each pane, and red four-figure sheet numbers on their right margins.

The numbers of the interior cylinders: 2d. No. 1 and 4½d. No. 11, were printed on both margins at the beginning and end of the 1st, 9th, 11th and 19th rows, whilst that of the common exterior, No. 104, was at the ends of the 2nd, 10th, 12th and 20th rows.

There was superficially no difference between the panes, which gave rise to a transposition of the cylinders in the 2d. value only.

As there was also a transposition in the cutting of the transposed cylinder version - but not the normal one - into panes, there were only three different 2d. stamp sheets.

The 'Scratched Screen' flaws again made their appearance on the exterior cylinder.

UHB 121 to 122



Sepia and Orange Red. UHB 121 (SG 149) (SASCC 148)



Purple and Grey. UHB 122 (SG 150) (SASCC 149)


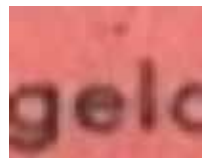
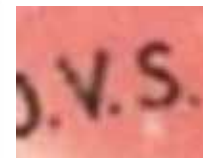



SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook (UHB - 1986)

The V6 screen scratches are very faint, and I could not find them on some positional stamps!







UHB 121 - 2d.

Cylinders no. 1 (Interior) and 104 (Exterior)

		
Red mark near top left corner (ex-Row 1 or 11/4) UHB 121 - V1	Two tiny brown dots over 'E' of POSGELD (ex-Row 2 or 12/2) UHB 121 - V2	White spot under 'S' of O.V.S. (ex-Row 2 or 12/3) UHB 121 - V3
		
Red dot on lower edge of left-hand flag (ex-Row 10 or 20/3) UHB 121 - V4	White screen scratch across top left corner (ex-Row 20 and 10/2) UHB 121 - V5	White screen scratch left of top part of left-hand flag (ex-Row 20 or 10/3) UHB 121 - V6

UHB 122 - 4½d.

Cylinders no. 11 (Interior) and 104 (Exterior)

		
White spot over 'E' of POSTAGE (ex-Row 1/2) UHB 122 - V1	Grey mark near top left corner (ex-Row 1/4) UHB 122 - V2	Horizontal grey line from quill to right frame (ex-Row 1/6) UHB 122 - V3
		
Grey dot on lower edge of left-hand flag (ex-Row 10/3) UHB 122 - V4	White screen scratch across top left corner (ex-Row 20/2) UHB 122 - V5	White screen scratch left of top part of left-hand flag (ex-Row 20/3) UHB 122 - V6

Reference:

- *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961: Handbook catalogue, Definitive Edition, 1986, SJ Hagger: pp 192.*

SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT PHILATELY : A LISTING 1936 - 2007

(Part 3: Special Cards and Covers)

by Gary Pienaar, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg



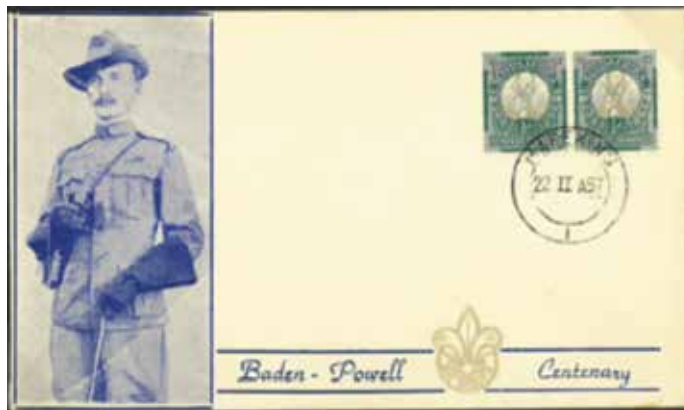
This is a continuation of an article which appeared in previous editions of *The SA Philatelist*, covering the commemorative stamps issued by the South African Post Office to mark the 75th Anniversary of Scouting in 1982 and the Centenary of Scouting in 2007 (June edition) and a listing of the commemorative postmarks used for special Camps, Jamborees and other Scouting events (October edition).

It illustrates some of the Semi-Official Cards and Covers, prepared and issued by Scouts South Africa, to coincide with and commemorate special events taking place within the country. The term 'semi-official' is used to distinguish these issues from the official commemorative issues and covers issued by the South African Post Office. While every effort has been made to provide as complete a list as possible, there may be issues that the author is unaware of.

Baden-Powell Centenary, 22 February 1957

Lt-Gen, Sir R.S.S. Baden-Powell was born in 1857 and attained great popularity in England through his defence of the railway town of Mafeking during the Anglo-Boer War. He also organised the South African Constabulary and founded the Boy Scouts organisation in 1907. To commemorate the centenary of his birth, the South African Boy Scouts Association issued a commemorative cover for use in Mafeking. Application was made for a special date-stamp but this was refused. This cover (Fig.1) was postmarked with the normal Mafeking date-stamp with the date 22 II A57.

It was reported that about 1000 to 1500 covers were printed, besides some of private origin. It is also interesting to note that some of these covers (Fig.2) were postmarked with a Bechuanaland Protectorate date-stamp which was in use at the time in the Mafeking post office. The same cover was also franked with Bechuanaland stamps. Fig.1.



South African National Jamborees

The first South African National Scout Jamboree was held in East London from 8 to 16 January 1936. The Jamboree was opened by the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, during his official visit to Southern Africa from 28 December 1935 to 5 May 1936.

A second National Jamboree was held in Chase Valley, Pietermaritzburg from 3 to 13 January 1964 (Fig.3). Approximately 500 Scouts from all over the Republic and a small contingent from South West Africa attended the event. The opening ceremony was held on the afternoon of Saturday 4 January, where Mr. G.J.R. Bulman the Mayor of Pietermaritzburg declared the Jamboree officially open. Also present was an international guest, Dr N.C. Constantoulis, the organiser of the 1963 World Scout Jamboree held at Marathon, Greece. After a lengthy hiatus, a third National Jamboree 'SANJAMB '85' was organised by the Natal & Kwazulu Area, at Albert Falls Dam near Howick, from 11 to 18 December 1985.

To commemorate this event, 200 numbered standard covers bearing the Jamboree Badge were issued. The rhino, the symbol of the Natal Parks Board, was incorporated into the Sanjamb logo. In addition, 50 special signed covers (Fig.4) were also issued. Both covers were postmarked using the normal Pietermaritzburg double-circle canceller, with the date 12 XII A85 appearing in the middle.

The next National Jamboree SANJAMB '89 was held at Midmar Dam, near Howick.

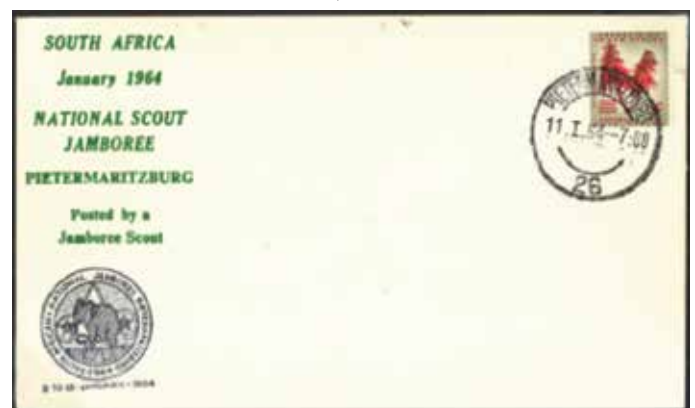


Fig.3: Souvenir cover issued at the Jamboree. The normal Pietermaritzburg double-circle date-stamp was used to cancel the cover dated 11 January 1964.

Fig.2.

Examples of the different covers, Fig.1: (top) with Union stamps and a Mafeking postmark, while Fig.2: (bottom) with a Bechuanaland 1d stamp, protectorate date-stamp cancel, and a purple commemorative cachet. Both postmarked on 22 February 1957.

'SANJAMB '89' was attended by approximately 2000 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The Jamboree, which took place from 14 to 21 December, was officially opened by the well-known

international conservationist and speaker, Dr Ian Player. Once again, 200 numbered standard covers were issued to commemorate the event. A further 100 special covers signed by Graham Barkus, Camp Director; Garnet de la Hunt, Chief Scout; Heather Brandon, Chief Commissioner Girl Guides and Mervyn Smith, Area Commissioner were also on sale. All covers were postmarked using the normal Pietermaritzburg double-circle canceller, with the date 14 XII A89 appearing in the middle.



Fig.6: Private commemorative cover cancelled with Bedworth Park Post Office, dated 16 December 1997.

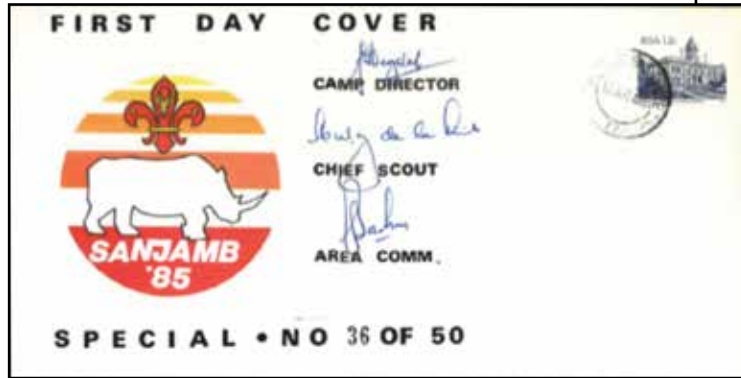


Fig.4: Special Jamboree commemorative cover, signed by Doug Drysdale, Camp Director; Garnet de la Hunt, Chief Scout of South Africa and Graham Barkus, Area Commissioner. Number 36 of 50 issued.

'SANJAMB '93', the fifth National Jamboree and the second to be held at the Thurlow Peninsula site at Midmar Dam, attracted some 1500 Scouts and Guides. It took place from 14 to 21 December. International visitors from Australia, England, France and the United States of America, along with Scouts from Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe also participated in the event.

The Post Office issued a special date-stamp (discussed in a previous article) and commemorative cover for the occasion. A few of these covers (Fig.5) were signed by Garnet de la Hunt, Chief Scout of South Africa and Graham Barkus, Camp Director.

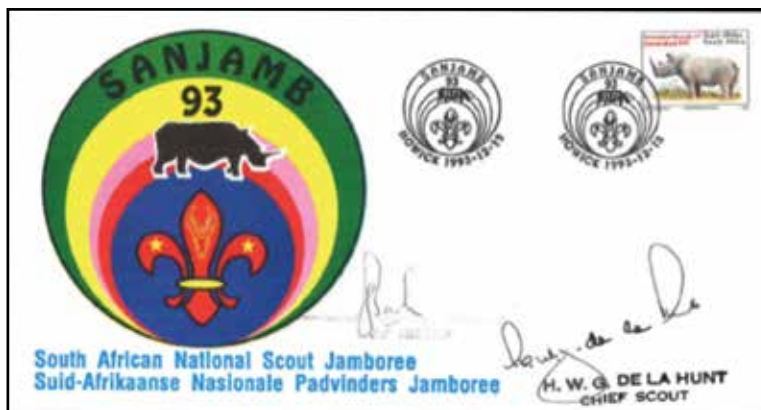


Fig. 5: Official commemorative cover with the date-stamp cancel issued by the Post Office and signed by Chief Scout Garnet de la Hunt and Camp Director Graham Barkus.

After three successful jamborees held in Kwazulu-Natal, the decision was taken to move the event to another province. Hosted and organised by the Gauteng Area, Sanjamb '97 was held at the Vaal Dam from 12 to 21 December 1997, also celebrating 90 years of Scouting. A private commemorative cover (Fig.6) was issued for the event, which was cancelled at the Bedworth Park Post Office, in Vereeniging, the closest major town to the Vaal Dam.

The Senior Scout Adventure

The Senior Scout Adventure is one of the premier events on the South African Scouting calendar. Hosted by the Western Cape Region, the Adventure was first held in 1970 and has since been hosted every two years. Initially held in the Cederberg, then moved to the Winterhoek mountains near Porterville, followed by three held in the Witzenberg near Ceres, the Adventure has returned to its traditional home in the Cederberg Wilderness Area since 1986.

The Adventure also received special postal recognition on three occasions. A commemorative cover (Fig.7) was issued for the first event, held from 29 December to 9 January 1971, but the Post Office did not provide any special postal facilities. Covers handed in at the camp were marked with a circular cachet in violet ink. The Clanwilliam Post Office was the clearing centre and used the normal Clanwilliam double-circle date-stamp for postmarking. About 1000 covers were printed, of which 600 were sold immediately.

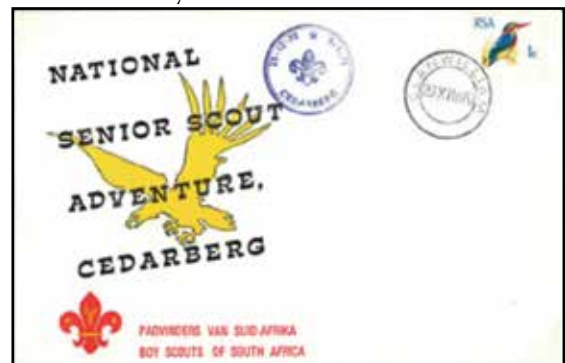


Fig.7: Cover with circular cachet and the normal Clanwilliam post office date-stamp, cancelled on the opening day of the event, 29 December 1970.

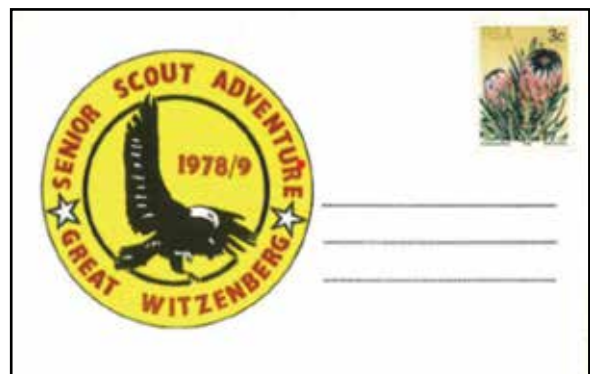
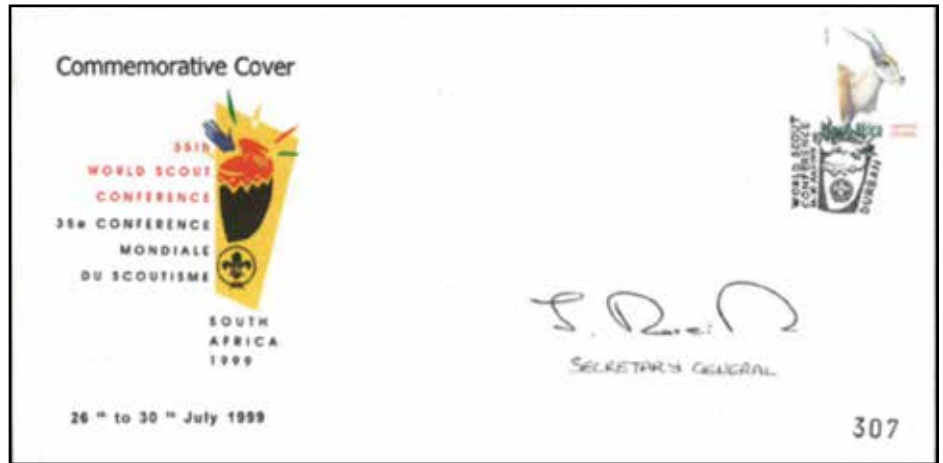


Fig.8: Example of an unused postcard, provided for the 4th Senior Scout Adventure, held in the Great Witzenberg mountains.

Fig.9: (at right) Official commemorative cover, numbered 307 and signed by Dr. Jacques Moreillon, the Secretary General of WOSM. One of 20 covers bearing this signature.



A special cover and postcard (Fig.8) was also provided for the 4th Adventure, held in the Great Witzenberg mountains near Ceres, from 28 December to 8 January 1979. Finally, a special commemorative postmark (described in a previous article) was issued by the Post Office for the 11th Adventure, held in the Cederberg from 12 to 22 December 1994.

35th World Scout Conference – South Africa

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organisation, which administers the world-wide Scout Movement. It is composed of three principle parts – the World Scout Conference, the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau.

The Conference is the ‘general assembly’ of Scouting, with representatives of all recognised National Scout Associations (NSOs). Conferences are held every three years. South Africa was selected to host the 35th Conference, which was held at the International Convention centre in Durban from 26 to 30 July 1999. The Post Office issued a special date-stamp canceller, to mark the occasion, which was applied to 1000 commemorative covers.

Limited numbers were signed by prominent leaders in World Scouting. 100 were signed by Nkwenkwe Nkomo, Chief Scout of South Africa and 20 each by Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General WOSM (Fig.9), Francisco S. Roman, outgoing Chairman of the World Scout Committee, Garnet de la Hunt, newly appointed Chairman of the World Scout Committee, and Winston Adams, South African Conference Director.

Conclusion

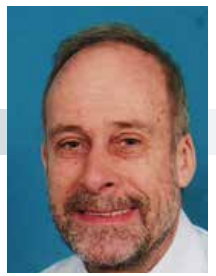
While not all the special covers and cards could be illustrated in this article, Table 1 provides a useful updated checklist of all the Scouting related philatelic material issued in South Africa.

The author would welcome any feedback or information on any items that may have been missed from this inventory.

Table 1: CHECKLIST - SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUT PHILATELY 1936 - 2007

No	Event	Special Cancel	Special Cover	Stamp & FDC
1.	1936 SA National Jamboree, East London	Y	Y	
2.	1948 Natal Jamborally, Underberg	Y		
3.	1948 Transvaal Jamborally, Pretoria	Y	Y	
4.	1957 Baden Powell Centenary, 193Mafeking		Y	
5.	1964 SA National Jamboree, Pietermaritzburg		Y	
6.	1964 B.P. Jamborally, Mafeking		Y	
7.	1966 Republic Festival Jamboree, Pretoria		Y	
8.	1969 50th Anniversary Gilwell Reunion		Y	
9.	1970 Camporee Natal, Pinetown	Y	Y	
10.	1971 National Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg		Y	
11.	1971 Boy Scouts Join-in-Jamborally, Cape Town		Y	
12.	1971 Youth Day Participation, Cape Town	Y	Y	
13.	1973 South Africa Rover Scout Indaba, Cape Town		Y	
14.	1979 National Senior Scout Adventure, Witzenburg		Y	
15.	1980 Transvaal Area Jamborally, Vaal River		Y	
16.	1982 75th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement, Bophuthatswana	Y		Y
17.	1982 75th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement, RSA	Y		Y
18.	1982 Three Stars Jamborally, Ladysmith		Y	
19.	1982 75th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement, Transkei	Y		Y
20.	1982 75th Anniversary, Gilwell Reunion, Bophuthatswana	Y	Y	
21.	1984 Transvaal Area Jamborally		Y	
22.	1985 Mafeking Centenary Scout Camporee	Y	Y	
23.	1985 National Pow Wow, Central Area Kimberly		Y	
24.	1985 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘85”		Y	
25.	1986 Northern Transvaal Scout Challenge		Y	
26.	1986 National Pow Wow, Northern Transvaal		Y	
27.	1989 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘89”		Y	
28.	1993 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘93”	Y	Y	
29.	1994 11th National Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg	Y	Y	
30.	1997 Inauguration of the Mpumalanga Area	Y	Y	
31.	1997 South African National Scout Jamboree “SANJAMB ‘97”		Y	
32.	1999 35th World Scout Conference, Durban	Y	Y	
33.	1999 Mafeking Connect	Y		
34.	2007 Centenary of Scouting	Y		Y
	Total Items	16	28	4





The Early Postal History of Basutoland

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA, FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The early postal history of this land can be divided into three periods:

- a) The Chiefs' posts
- b) The pre-stamp period from 1833 to 1868
- c) The period of the Protectorate from 1868 to 1910

The Chiefs' Posts

Aubrey Scott records that long before the setting up of an official postal service, the Basotho had their own well organised communication system, in terms of which carefully trained messengers were stationed at each Chief's court. It is believed that this message conveyance system saved the Basotho from being expelled from their lands by invading Boers. Whether these messages were transmitted by word of mouth or by some form of writing is not clear.

The Pre-Stamp Period from 1833 to 1868

During this period, there was no organised postal service available, and letters were carried on an *ad hoc* basis, as occasion demanded. In 1833 the first missionaries of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society - Thomas Arbousset, Eugene Casalis and Constant Gosselin - settled at Morija.

As more missionaries arrived, the need to communicate with the outside world and among themselves increased. The receipt and despatch of mails in these early years was very inefficient. Casalis in his *My life in Basutoland* describes the position thus: *"But at that time the nearest post office was at Graaff Reinet, in the Cape Colony, that is to say nearly 300 miles from us. Almost a year rolled away before we received the first letters written by our parents immediately after our departure from France. To get these and others that followed sent to us it was necessary to confide them to white or black travellers, who always faithfully delivered them, but who never put themselves about with reference to time"*

Scott records only twenty Basutoland letters posted between 1835 and 1862, of which eighteen are incoming. During the 1840s a Post Office was opened at Colesberg and at Aliwal North in 1858, which reduced the distance the post had to be hand carried. From that time on, most of the mail went through Aliwal North and postal items from this early period are rare.

The Period of the Protectorate from 1868 to 1910

When Basutoland was declared a British Protectorate in 1868 the need for an organised form of postal services became necessary to serve the police and administrative staff established in Maseru. Scott records that on 1 December 1868, Commandant James Henry Bowker wrote as follows to the Governor of the Cape Colony:

"I have the honour to report for your Excellency's information that the mounted police mentioned in Mr Brand's letter at the drift on the Orange River near where your Excellency crossed in April last and that the detachment was placed there by Sir

Walter Currie on his return from Koro about the end of April, for purpose of keeping open the postal communication between this camp (Maseru) and the Colony."

As far as can be established, this service was intended for the official mail only and it was not until the opening of a postal agency at Maseru on the 1 January 1872 that the general public were catered for. Even then the agency appeared to be only a receiving and forwarding office as stamps were not available for several months and even when supplied there is no evidence that a canceller was made available. It is generally assumed that practically all external mail from Maseru at this period was cancelled at Aliwal North. A cover supposedly from Basutoland during this period can only be identified as part of Basutoland's postal history if it contains the original letter giving such evidence.



Fig.1: 1844 (26 May) entire letter from the French missionary, Eugene Casalis, in Basutoland headed 'Thaba Bossiu' and addressed to his mother in France "care of Rev Dr Philips, Church Square, Cape Town". (courtesy of Spink & Sons).



Fig.2: 1859 (16 Jan.) Incoming envelope from Montpellier addressed to 'Rev'd F Daumas, care of John Syme, Cape Town', re-addressed to Bloemfontein and then to Daumas. (courtesy of Spink & Sons).

Scott records that the Government Land Agent based in Maseru on 3 January 1872 wrote to the Governor of the Cape Colony as follows:

"I have the honour to draw the attention of his Excellency the Governor to the advisability of having a duly authorised

post office official in the Territory. The amount paid for postage on letters sent from this Territory to the Colony and elsewhere is very considerable, and the correspondence from the different seats of Magistracy, mission stations, trading stations and police stations is daily in the increasing. Very many of the natives are able to correspond with their friends in the Colony and elsewhere and if they could readily obtain postage stamps. I have no doubt they would gladly avail themselves of them. At present residents of the territory have to send to Aliwal North, a distance of 150 miles, to get postage stamps or otherwise to send their letters by private hands. If therefore a post office official is appointed, I would suggest that he be supplied with postage stamps on the same terms as other postmasters, and that he account for them quarterly to the Civil Commissioner of Aliwal North.

Should the above suggestion find favour, then in order to start the thing fairly and get it into working order, I beg to recommend that Mr. H.E.R. Bright, my clerk, be appointed Post Office Agent at Maseru, with a salary of £6 per annum and a percentage for selling stamps, and with an allowance of £3 a year for stationery, which is very scarce and dear up here. He will require a paper, etc., to make up the packets for the different stations."

This proposal was accepted in a letter from the Governor of the Cape Colony dated 25 January, 1872.

Cape of Good Hope stamps were used during this period. The earliest recorded date for a Maseru cancellation is 15 December 1878, although it is suggested that the Maseru Post Office was in a position to cancel mail by 1876 or perhaps a year or two earlier.

Circular dates stamps became available in Cape Colony in 1864 but it was not until sometimes later, probably in 1878, that they were introduced to post offices in Basutoland. In the early years a Barred Oval Numeral

Fig.3: (at left) The 1879 Contract between Arone Magoya and the Government for conveyance of mail once a week each way between Aliwal North and Maseru. (courtesy of Spink & Son).

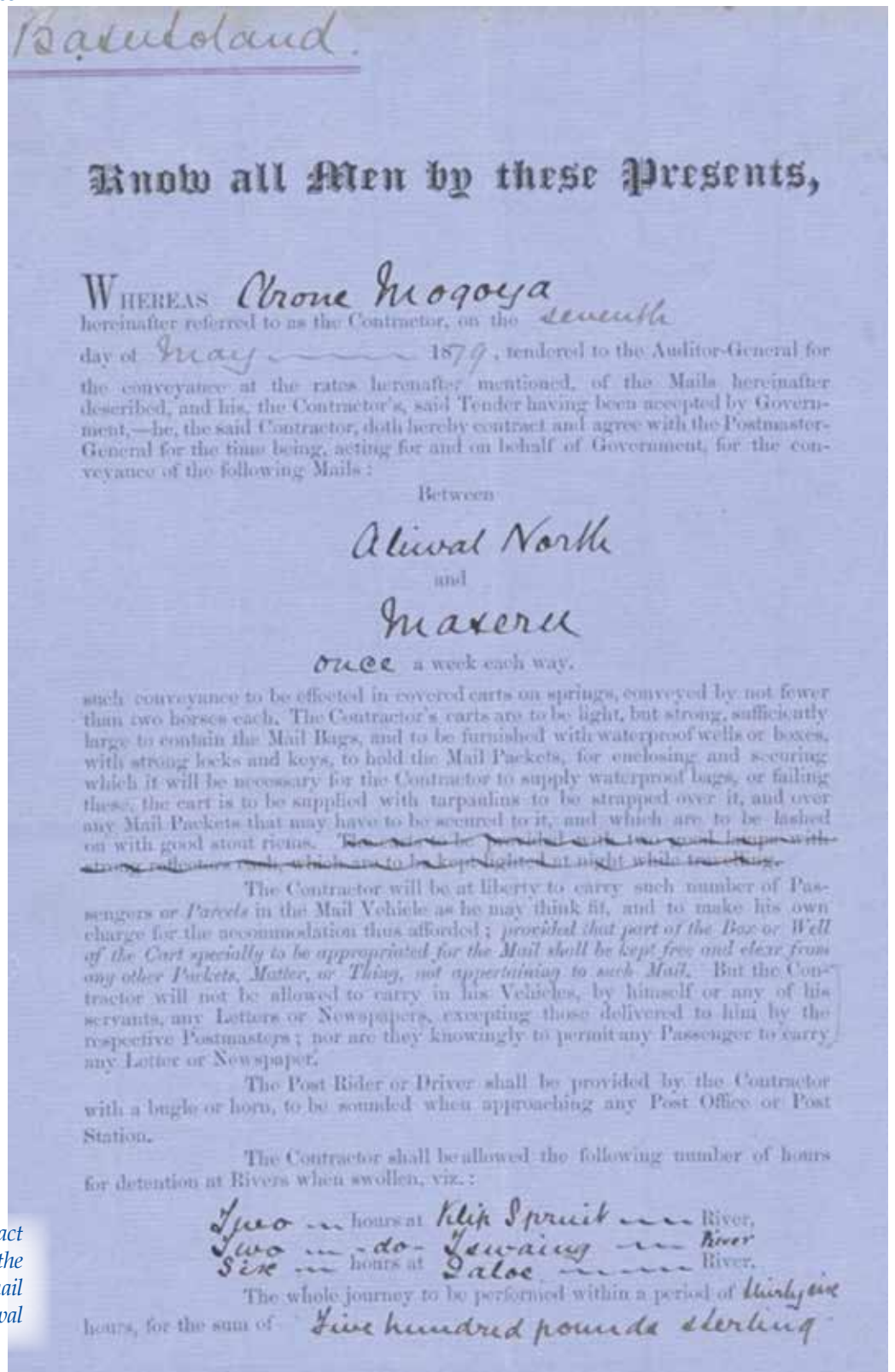




Fig.4: An 1884 envelope to Jerusalem, franked with Cape 1/2d., 1d. (7) cancelled by eight strikes of the extremely rare killer cancellation of thin bars in star shape, backstamped 'ALI WAL NORTH/B/SP 5/84', Cape Town Sept. 16, London Oct. 6 and Jerusalem Oct. 25 arrival. It is believed that the sender was a missionary stationed at Hermon and it is likely that the cover entered the post at Mafeteng, or possibly Morija. (courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

Cancel (BONC) was applied to the stamp and a circular date stamp applied alongside. At a later date only a date stamp was used which cancelled the stamp and bore the name of the relevant Post Office where it was applied.



Fig.5: An 1899 envelope to England franked at U.P.U. rate by Cape 1/2d and 1d. pair cancelled by 688 BONC with fine TEYATEYANENG/99/MY 4 c.d.s. alongside, Maseru transit and Southampton Packet Letter May 26 arrival. (courtesy of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions).

Acknowledgements: • Casalis, E., *My Life in Basutoland*, The Religious Tract Society, London, 1889.

• Scott, A.H., *The Cancellations and Postal Markings of Basutoland/Lesotho Post Offices & their Historical Background*, Collectors Mail Auction (Pty) Ltd, 1980

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RHODESIAN IDENTITY AS SEEN THROUGH PHILATELY

by Dr Bruce B Berry, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society



PART TWO:

It was during the research for my doctoral thesis on Rhodesian identity and its expression through symbols that the role of stamps in the expression and evolution of this identity came to my attention. Stamps convey important visual messages about a country, its world view and the image it wishes to portray to both its citizens and a wider international audience. In this regard Rhodesia was no different. The role of philately in the iconography of Rhodesia was the focus of a paper which I presented at the Biennial Conference of the Historical Association of South Africa (HASA) held at Rhodes University (Makhanda) between 27 - 29 June 2023. Permission has been granted for *The SA Philatelist* to print the following extracts.

The 1970 definitive (Fig.11) was primarily issued to cater for decimalisation which took place on 17 February 1970. It had as its focus a three-fold theme of land, water and air, in which tourism, agriculture and industry were also to be featured. The stamps were intended to portray the country as a model of stability, progress and economic development and were issued a fortnight before the declaration of a republic. Consequently, the cameo of the Sovereign was omitted. This was the first time, apart from certain commemoratives, that the portrait of the Sovereign had not been shown on Rhodesian stamps since 1910.

The British Government informed the UPU of its decision and requested that it ask its members not to recognise Rhodesian stamps. The latter admitted *"it has no way of enforcing this ... apart from informing all members of the British action ..."*. The Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey followed Britain's example and surcharged Rhodesian mail and India also refused to accept Rhodesian postage stamps as being valid. Rather than surcharge mail, many countries had suspended all postal relations following the imposition of UN sanctions and postal items to such countries were either not accepted at the office of origin or returned endorsed 'No Service'.



Fig.11: Second Definitive (First Decimal) Issue with the controversial \$2 flag stamp.

The British Minister of Posts and Telecommunications announced in the House of Commons that the new Rhodesian 'decimal' stamps would be regarded as 'illegal' and not valid for the prepayment of mail. As with the case in 1966, mail bearing these stamps would be regarded as underpaid and surcharged accordingly. The British Government was explicit in that while the other post-UDI stamps had been 'tolerated', with the exception of the Independence commemorative and subsequent Independence Overprints, the 1970 stamps were different. The stamps did not feature a portrait of the Queen, were priced in the new decimal currency and most provocatively, the highest value showed the 'illegal regime's new flag'. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) concluded that the stamp issue *"is obviously timed to draw attention to the assumption of republican status"* and the 'regime's timing is defiant'. The matter was debated in the House of Lords on 26 March 1970 and the surcharge became effective on 08 April 1970.

Following the general lack of support, the British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formally announced the abolition of the British policy of surcharging mail from Rhodesia at the Conservative Party Congress on 09 October 1970.

The (British) Sovereign is the most popular theme (excluding as a cameo) appearing on 41% of all Rhodesian stamps issued. When stamps including a cameo of the Sovereign are included, the Sovereign appears on 55% of all the stamps issued between 1892 and 1980. This is a reflection of Rhodesia's deep affinity and loyalty to the monarchy and to the Sovereign in particular. The European settlers derived a sense of attachment to the wider British world by a common allegiance to the Crown which remained central to Rhodesian identity throughout the colonial period. Thus it was the Crown, and through it the Monarchy, that was regarded as the symbol of unity, the apex of shared loyalty and citizenship that bound the Empire and wider British world together. The last Rhodesian issue to bear a portrait of the Sovereign was issued in 1967.



Fig.12: Stamps featuring the Victoria Falls.

Stamps showing the environment, landscape, natural resources, and flora and fauna are the second most popular theme to be depicted on Rhodesian stamps. The first commemorative stamps were issued to mark the opening of the Victoria Falls bridge over the Zambezi River by Professor Darwin which took place on 12 September 1905, the 15th anniversary of the European occupation of Mashonaland. Unsurprisingly, the main feature on all six values comprising this specific issue featured the Victoria Falls (Fig.12). The same design was used for the 2d and 3d stamps in the Southern Rhodesia 1932 definitive issue, which now showed the country's name. As the country's major tourist attraction, one of the natural wonders of the world and now a World Heritage Site, it is not surprising that the Victoria Falls should be the single most popular natural feature to be depicted on the country's stamps, being the main feature on 27 stamps in total.

The country's wildlife was also a prominent feature to be depicted on its stamps with a Sable antelope, the national animal, and a lion being depicted in the first Southern Rhodesia definitive. A buffalo, kudu and tigerfish feature in the 1964 and 1966 definitives and an image of a hippopotamus, taken from a colour photograph, is the image on the 12½c 1970 definitive. Antelopes (kudu, eland, roan antelope, reedbuck and bushbuck) comprise the five lowest values of the Third Definitive issued on 14 August 1974. Large mammals (rhinoceros, lion, warthog, giraffe and zebra) were depicted on the five middle values of the Fourth, and last, Definitive issued on 16 August 1978 (Fig.13).



Fig.13: Examples of Wildlife depicted on Rhodesian stamps.

Every year the National Resources Board held a 'Conservation Week' with the aim to instil and promote an awareness of the country's natural resources. In 1967 the theme was flora and fauna which was the feature of a commemorative issue. A rhinoceros and an elephant were depicted along with a wild gladiolus and a baobab tree. A subsequent commemorative issued in 1976 entitled Vulnerable Species of Wild Life had a similar focus (Fig.14).



Fig.14: Vulnerable Species of Wild Life commemorative issue.

A popular thematic collection amongst philatelists is collecting stamps depicting birds. With some five hundred bird species

found in Rhodesia, it is not surprising that this popular theme should also feature on the country's stamps.

Two commemorative issues were devoted solely to birds (Fig.15). The six birds depicted in the first issue in 1971 were based on photographs. The illustrations in the second issue in 1977 were based on the paintings of a well-known local artist. A guinea fowl was depicted on the 10/- 1964 and 1966 definitive and the bateleur eagle on the 25c 1970 definitive were the other birds to be shown on Rhodesian stamps. Birds thus feature on 2% of Rhodesian stamps.



Fig.15: Birds of Rhodesia (1971 and 1977 issues).

Other fauna to feature on the country's stamps were butterflies which were illustrated on the top five values of the 1974 definitive issue.

In addition to wildlife, various aspects of the country's flora were also shown on its stamps (Fig.16). An issue was devoted to Trees of Rhodesia (Fig.17) and aloes were featured on a commemorative issued on 16 July 1975 to mark 'Aloe 75', the first International Aloe and Succulent Congress to be held in the country. An aloe was also shown on the 1964 and 1966 definitives, together with an Ansellia orchid.

The middle values of the 1974 definitive depicted wildflowers, together with the flame lily, gladiolus and baobab mentioned earlier. The flame lily, the national flower, appears on seven stamps, all of them being in a definitive issue. Flora and fauna are found on 12.5% of Rhodesian stamps and are the most popular theme (81%) within the Land and environment category, followed by natural features (such as waterfalls, etc.).

Commemorative stamps issued to mark historical events and anniversaries is a common philatelic practice and Rhodesia



Fig.16: Examples of Rhodesia's flora on stamps.



Fig.17: Trees of Rhodesia (1976).

was no exception. As was to be expected, the first Rhodesian commemorative in this category was issued to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. This was the first occasion in which an omnibus issue of stamps was made throughout the British Empire with 62 territories printing stamps to commemorate the event. In all, a total of 249 commemorative stamps were issued on or near the date of the anniversary, including Southern Rhodesia's on the actual date, 6 May 1935. The design was selected personally by the King, who was a keen philatelist and showed a "... full portrait of His Majesty with the famous Victoria Falls in the background" (as can be seen in Fig.7 repeated here).



Fig.7.

The commemorative issue to mark the Golden Jubilee of the BSAC in 1940 was the first to depict scenes other than the Victoria Falls. The aim of the designs was to express the spirit of the Jubilee and show the progress which had taken place in the country during the 50 years since the beginning of Company rule. A close-up portrait of Cecil John Rhodes, responsible for the establishment of the Company and considered at the time to be 'The Founder' of the colony, featured on the 1 1/2d, the most popular denomination. Despite being revered by White Rhodesians and central to their identity, this was the only issue where Rhodes appeared as the main feature on a Rhodesian stamp although images of his grave and statue do appear in subsequent definitives.



Fig.18: Stamps featuring Cecil John Rhodes.

A set of five stamps was issued to mark the centenary of the birth of Cecil Rhodes. The theme of the issue was on the progress made in terms of economic and social development in the country. Each design has an historic element within a frame and a modern equivalent in the vignette. Rhodes himself features only as a cameo on the 2d stamp making it one of only two stamps to show his image (Fig.18).

The BSAC Jubilee issue is also significant in that the 3d stamp shows Rhodes 'making peace' with the Matabele Chiefs in 1896. The negotiated peace formally ended the initial uprisings against the settlers and marked the "effective colonisation" of the indigenous inhabitants. Furthermore, this stamp is the only one to refer to any form of violence in the history of the country as all subsequent issues are silent on the conflicts which befell Rhodesia save for the 1947 'Victory Issue' after World War II (Fig.8b). As already mentioned, the latter featured members of the Royal Family and was issued during a period of loyalty to Britain and the Empire.

Significant international anniversaries were also commemorated through Rhodesian stamps. In common with other members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Southern Rhodesia issued commemorative stamps to mark its 75th anniversary and conformed to the omnibus design adopted by other British colonies. The centenary of the UPU was also honoured by a commemorative issue a quarter of a century later. The country has been a member since 1900. Stamps were also issued to mark the centenaries of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1973 and of the invention of the Telephone in 1976. The former featured the emblem of the WMO which is based on that of the United Nations, while the latter featured a portrait of Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone (Fig.19).

Stamps showing the economic progress and development in the country are the next most popular category, becoming a popular theme during and following the Federal period when Southern Rhodesia, together with



Fig.19: WMO and Telephone Centenary.

Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, came together to form the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1953-1963) (Table 1). Most commentators agree that the economic benefits of the Federation are its most important legacy, most notably the building of the Kariba hydro-electric power project on the Zambezi River, which at the time of its completion created the largest man-made lake in the world. A commemorative was issued in May 1960 to mark the opening of the Kariba hydro-electric power station. The 5/- stamp commemorated the Royal Opening of the scheme by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and included cameos of both the Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth II. This was the first time that a stamp featured effigies of two British Queens who were alive at the same time.

During the Federal decade the road network was expanded, the first major railway extension since the end of Company rule was completed, a new international airport was built near Salisbury, radio coverage was expanded, and television was introduced. The tobacco auctions had become the largest in the world and there was also significant investment in mining,

particularly copper. Unsurprisingly, agriculture is the most popular economic sector featuring on 30 stamps, followed by transportation (on 20 stamps), mining (on 12 stamps) and finally commerce (on 4 stamps).

Testament to the growing importance of the mining industry is the commemorative issued to mark the hosting of the Seventh Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress in 1961. This was followed in 1963 with an issue to mark the World Tobacco Congresses held in Rhodesia which depicted tobacco-growing and the tobacco auction floors. Tobacco is depicted on the 1/- 1959 Federal definitive and also on a stamp in both the 1964 and 1966 post-Federal definitives highlighting the economic significance of this crop.



Fig.20: Examples of stamps featuring modes of transport.

Thematic collections are popular amongst philatelists, with stamps featuring trains and aircraft being amongst the most popular. Stamps depicting these modes of transport were the focus of three commemorative issues to mark the 20th Anniversary of Central African Airways, the 70th Anniversary of the Opening of the Beira to Salisbury Railway and the last Rhodesian commemorative to mark the 75th Anniversary of Powered Flight. Aircraft were also the main feature on the stamps issued to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the London-Rhodesia Airmail service (Fig.20).

The importance of transport in the history and economic development of the country was also highlighted in a commemorative issue featuring the Bridges. The bridges depicted offer an interesting commentary on the country's development and show the improvements made from the early low-level bridges to the single-arch, 330-metre-long Birchenough Bridge. The latter follows the design of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and at the time of its completion, it was the highest of its type in Africa and the third largest suspension bridge in the world. Birchenough Bridge was also depicted on the 2/- stamp in the 1953 definitive and the Chirundu Bridge across the Zambezi River is depicted on the 2/- in the second Federal definitive. The iconic Victoria Falls Bridge is shown on one of the stamps issued to mark the BSAC Golden Jubilee (Fig.21).

The categories of Arts and Culture, Special Events, Public Awareness, Famous People, Science and Technology and Social Services account for the remaining 14%. Issued to mark the 10th anniversary of the Rhodes National Gallery in July 1967, a commemorative set of four stamps featuring items

from the gallery depicting the old masters and modern works in the fields of painting and sculpture was issued. The stamps were in large format in order to do justice to the works of art portrayed (Fig.22). Paintings of Rhodesian landscapes by three well known artists were the focus of a commemorative issued a decade later (Fig.23).



Fig.21: Bridges on Rhodesian stamps.

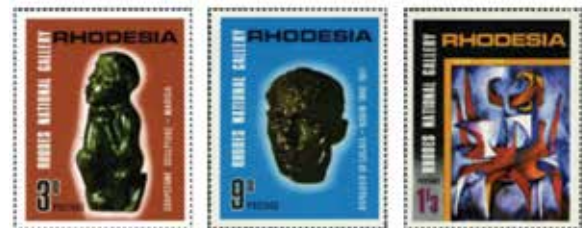


Fig.22: National Gallery Issue (1967)

The 'Famous Rhodesians' series issued between 1967 and 1975 featured Leander Starr Jameson, Alfred Beit, William Henry Milton, Mother Patrick, Frederick Courtney Selous, Robert Moffat, David Livingstone, George Pauling and Thomas Baines (Fig.24).

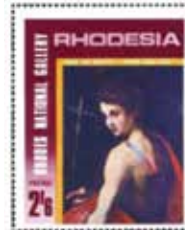


Fig.23: Stamps showing Rhodesia Through Artists Eyes (1977).



Fig.24: The Famous Rhodesians series

Interestingly, although all are treated as 'Rhodesians', none were born in the country. They are commemorated for their

contributions to the colonisation of the country. Livingstone had featured previously on a stamp to mark the centenary of his 'discovery' of the Victoria Falls in 1955. Other than the commemorative issue in 1953 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, that featuring Mother Patrick is the only other Rhodesian stamp to honour a woman.

Other famous personalities depicted on Rhodesian stamps are also not Rhodesian. These were the war-time British leader, Sir Winston Churchill; Sir Rowland Hill, the originator of the postage stamp on a commemorative stamp marking the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa which was held in the country in 1966; and as mentioned previously, the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell. The statue of Sir Charles Coghlan, campaigner for Responsible Government, and later first Premier, is shown on the 6d of the BSAC Jubilee commemorative and the Fairbridge Memorial, in honour of Kingsley Fairbridge, the proponent of establishing farm schools in the colonies for disadvantaged English children, is the main feature on the 2½d stamp in the second Federal definitive. Finally, the equestrian figure of Allan Wilson, taken from the frieze of the Shangani Memorial, appears on the 1/6 stamp commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Occupation of Matabeleland (Fig.25). Wilson was the leader of the Shangani Patrol who were all killed by Matabele impis after being sent in pursuit of the King Lobengula following his retreat from Bulawayo at the end of the Matabele Rebellion in 1893. The fate of the Patrol soon became part of the nation's folklore, legend and inspiration due to their courage and refusal to surrender.



Fig.25: Other Famous figures on Rhodesian stamps.

It is interesting to note that all these figures are white males. Apart from the Sovereign and members of the British Royal Family, no living individuals are depicted on any Rhodesian stamp.

Stamps in the Science and Technology, Social Services and the Public Awareness categories feature on only 22 stamps, comprising just over 2% of all Rhodesian stamps. A Rhodesian Air Force helicopter is shown on the \$1 definitive on an air rescue mission while both stamps in the Science and Technology category relate to developments in the field of wireless and radar (Fig.26).



Fig.26: Stamps in the Social Services, Science and Technology categories

Finally, there were 19 stamps in the Public Awareness category, 16 of which were issued during the Rhodesian period after 1965. As has been mentioned earlier, these dealt with issues such as nature and water conservation and vulnerable species of wildlife. 1972 was named 'Pollution Year' and four stamps were issued to highlight the dangers of various aspects of pollution based on designs which had been submitted by members of the public (Fig.27). The last set of stamps in this category were issued in 1975 to highlight Occupational Safety. Each stamp indicated the precautions that should be taken in respect of various hazards that occur in industrial occupations (Fig.28).



Fig.27: Anti-Pollution (1972).



Fig.28: Occupational Safety (1975).

CONCLUSION

An analysis of Rhodesian stamps provides an insight to the country's shifting identity. The first issues by the BSAC were limited to the portrayal of the Company Arms and it was not until 1909 that they were overprinted with 'Rhodesia', the first indication of a growing sense of identity and place by the white settlers. The issues immediately thereafter show the Victoria Falls, the country's most well-known natural feature (and later most popular tourist attraction).

Following the attainment of Responsible Government, the portrayal of the British Sovereign becomes the dominant feature and it is only in 1940, some 50 years after the initial colonisation of the country, that the first commemorative issue dealing with a local theme is issued. Of the 10 commemoratives issued between 1923 and the beginning of the Federation in 1953, six deal with local anniversaries and events, three with British and one being the first to mark an international anniversary. There is a coming of age from a purely philatelic point of view with the last, and somewhat short-lived, Southern Rhodesia definitive prior to the Federation with each stamp depicting a local motif. Southern Rhodesia did not follow the British 'omibus' standard stamp design for royal events but rather issued its own design as can be seen in the 1935 Jubilee, 1937 and 1953 Coronation commemoratives.

The first stamps issued during the Federal decade continue in the colonial tradition with the first definitive featuring the portrait of the then newly Crowned Queen Elizabeth II. This was followed by a pictorial definitive in 1959, with a cameo of the Queen on each stamp. Only seven commemoratives were issued during this period. They reflect an emphasis on economic achievement and the events which reflected this. A commemorative to mark the 10th anniversary of the Federation, illustrating once again the economic developments which had taken place, was designed and ordered but was not issued due to the impending demise of the Federation which occurred at the end of 1963.

The post-Federal issues have a distinctly more local emphasis and are a reflection of the political developments which resulted in the declaration of UDI and the assertion of a more local, i.e.

Rhodesian, identity. Through its stamps, Rhodesian history and landscape were now commemorated as never before.

Thus, it was through their stamps that Rhodesians told the world who they were. The primary themes communicated through post-UDI stamps were that the country was a functioning state capable of taking on international statehood. Taken together, these themes projected Rhodesia as an oasis of law and order in a hostile and chaotic continent with an economic environment which emphasised private enterprise and economic development. Thus, as found elsewhere in the world, the images depicted on Rhodesian postage stamps reflected on who held power in the country and emphasise the economic progress that had taken place since European colonisation.

Other than the 'Independence' issue and subsequent overprints, notably absent is any stamp to commemorate the declaration of the republic or to mark the 5th or 10th anniversaries of the declaration of UDI. These, and other significant political milestones, are recorded on privately produced commercial covers which carry a Rhodesian stamp and are date-stamped to commemorate the event (Fig.29).



Fig.29: Examples of Privately Produced Covers marking major political events

Apart from the flag illustrated on the \$2 stamp in the 1970 definitive, the only other national symbols depicted on post-UDI Rhodesian stamps were the Coat of Arms on the issue to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Responsible Government in 1973 and the Flame Lily once again in 1974.

The Zimbabwe Bird, which featured on the crest of the Coat of Arms, and named as the country's national emblem in March 1970, does not appear as the primary feature on any Rhodesian postage stamp although it was the main feature on the stamps for postage due (Fig.30).

Individual, named Africans were not depicted on any Rhodesian stamp and women, other than those in the British Royal Family, are also remarkably absent. The philatelic history is silent on the 'Bush War' and other military campaigns. Surprisingly too is the lack of any issues related to sport, which was often attributed to as being one of the main features of the "Rhodesian way of life". The only competitive event to be depicted was a commemorative to mark the hosting of the 15th World Ploughing Contest which was held in the country in 1968. Like the intended Federal 10th anniversary issue, a 'Zimbabwe Rhodesia' definitive to indicate the new government and name change in 1979 was designed and printed but was also not issued. Unlike in 1909 and 1966, there were no overprints and thus the name Zimbabwe Rhodesia never appeared on any stamp.



Fig.30: Postage Due featuring the Zimbabwe Bird



Fig.31: Great Zimbabwe on Rhodesian stamps (1953 and 1970)

Finally, Great Zimbabwe only appears on two Rhodesian stamps (Fig.31). This was more a reflection of the unique historical significance (and tourist potential) of the complex rather than any affirmation of its cultural importance or symbolism amongst the Black population.

Rhodesian stamps mirror the political evolution of the country and consequent emergence of initially a distinctive British character, followed later by a more dominant local Rhodesian identity.

The settlers were predominantly of British origin who identified strongly with Britain and

the Empire as demonstrated by a reverence to the Monarch, who appeared on many of its stamps during the colonial period. After UDI and the formal political break from Britain, the country underwent a process of identity formation, the visible manifestation of which can be seen in the changes to the country's national symbols and in the concerted effort of reflecting local images, heroes and events on its stamps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

All stamp images are taken from the Rhodesian Study Circle website. The covers shown in Fig.29 are from the author's collection.



O.V.S. Commando Brief

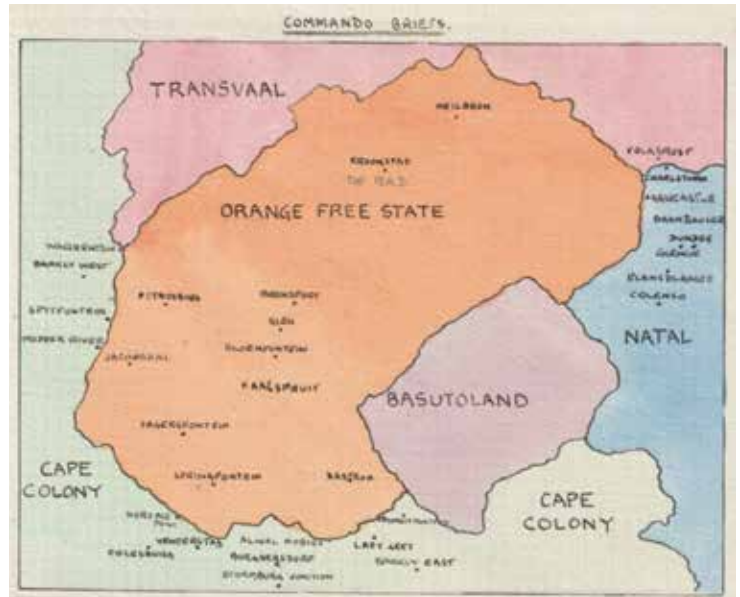
by Clinton Hale, Cape Philatelics. capephil@icon.co.za



Much has been written about this issue. It has been referred to as a 'local', a 'label' and a stamp, but as yet no official document authorising its printing or use has been recorded.

It is known that Mr. A.F. Hochapfel, a Free State chemist was appointed as Field Postmaster of the forces serving under General Delarey and Chief Commando Wessels when Commandos crossed the frontier into the Cape Colony on the evening of 14 October 1899. Initially all letters had to be initialled by officers, who later refused as numbers increased, to sit for hours initialling the letters. Stamps were therefore ordered to be printed by Acting Commando-General Barend and came into use on 15 October 1899. Mr Hochapfel was in charge of the manufacturing and distribution of these 'military franking stamps'.

They were printed in sheets of 20 (4 vertical x 5 horizontal) on yellow gummed paper, perforated 12. It has been suggested they were printed in 4 panes of 20, making a sheet of 80, but this has not been proven. The 1st row of the form contains 5 impressions for this typesetting, each plateable as follows:



Map showing towns from where Commando Briefs have been sent.



Aliwal North (C.G.H.)	Jan.13 - Feb.10
Barkly East (C.G.H.)	Feb.16
Barkly West (C.G.H.)	Nov.2 - Jan.10
Brandfort	Jan.31
Burgersdorp (C.G.H.)	Jan.24 - Jan.29
Bloemfontein	Nov.15 - Mar.31
Charlestown (Natal)	Feb.9
Colenso (Natal)	Jan.20 - Feb.24
Colsburg (C.G.H.)	Feb.2 - Feb.24
Dundee (Natal)	Feb.15
Dannhauser (Natal)	?
Elandslaagte (Natal)	?
Glen	Jan.30
Kaalspruit	Nov.1 - Dec.13
Norvals Pont (C.G.H.)	Nov.24 - Dec.5
Newcastle (Natal)	Feb.15
De Bad	Dec.7
Glencoe (Natal)	?
Heilbron	Mar.8
Jacobsdal	Nov.1 - Dec.4
Jagersfontein (9)	?
Kroonstad	Mar.16 - Mar.31
Lady Grey (C.G.H.)	Dec.21 - Feb.6

- i. White streak between top left square and first vertical ornament, first 'O' of Commando broken at top left, all stops normal;
- ii. Short vertical stroke in first 'M' of Commando, damaged stops after 'O' and 'V', 5th ornament damaged outer line;
- iii. Blotch on 6th ornament, damaged stop after 'V', damaged 'N' of Franko;
- iv. Breaks in outer line of first ornament at left, dent in first 'O' of Commando, n broken ornament 4th on bottom, missing line of shading top right corner ornament, stops normal;
- v. Flat top to 'C' of Commando, damaged second ornament at left, damaged stop after 'O'.

It would appear they were printed four times as each vertical column has the same impressions. Copies in a pale washed out yellow, are probably from exposure to light or dampness, but copies in a darker yellow, closer to orange exist. It was initially believed that 10 000 stamps were printed, i.e. 500 sheets, but this would seem to be far too few as this number was spread

Modder River (C.G.H.)	Oct.20 - Nov.14	Springfontein Road	Nov.7 - Mar.1
Palmeitfontein (C.G.H.)	Nov.7 - Nov.11	Venterstad	Feb.17
Petruerburg	Dec.17 - Feb.7	Volksrust	Feb.11
Spytfontein (C.G.H.)	Oct.21 - Nov.14	Warrenton	Feb.8
Stormberg Junction (C)	Feb.4 - Feb.19	Zastron	Feb.26

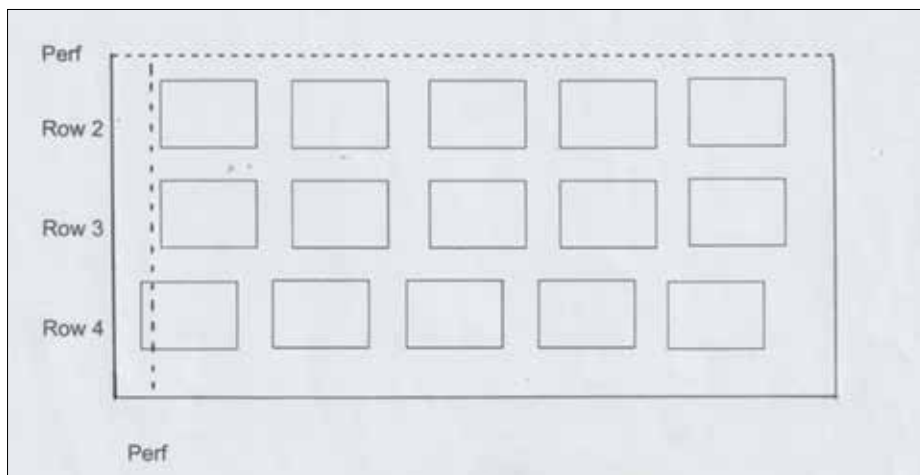
Towns and specific dates as indicated on the above map.

over 6 months from 20 Oct 1900 to 27 March 1901, which means only 50 a day on all fronts.

They are found used as far North as Heilbron, East as far as Glencoe, South as far as Stormberg and West as far as Barkly West. It can be assumed that they were officially 'condoned' as no covers have any postage due marking, or any indication that they were not carrying an official stamp, and most covers having been correctly backstamped at the town of destination. See Map below showing places where postmarks are known on Commando Brief Stamps and list attached showing known dates of use.



Mr. J. Price in an article in the *OFS Philatelic magazine* October 1955, states that the printers were Messrs. Curling & Co., a printing establishment in Douglas Street, Bloemfontein, which now has long ceased to exist. He stated that this information was given to him by the Secretary of the Trustees of the 'Curling' estate. He also stated that they handed him an imperforate part sheet of the Commando labels, which was found among the documents of the estate. Below is the diagram of this imperforate part sheet, showing rows 2, 3 & 4 with row 4 misaligned.



The block was inspected at the time and the opinion was that it was considered to be of 'proof status' which was kept for reference. Apparently when starting to perforate the sheets, it was stopped as row 4 was too misaligned.

I have fortunately been able to purchase the missing top row from this sheet a few years ago, not realising at the time its significance, even though I presumed it to be genuine and something unusual and interesting (see illustration). A few years later I purchased a remainder study of the OFS Police and Military stamps, which included some reference material.



This included an original typed letter, dated 20/8/1960 written by Mr. John W Hodgson to Mr Fenn in which he congratulates Mr. Fenn on his exhibit at Unipex and notes having seen the imperforate Commando-brief labels block in his exhibit. The reason for the letter was to 'put the record straight' regarding its existence. This block was found amongst the effects of his late Mother, having been given to her by Mr Curling, who was an old friend of the family. He passed it on to Mr Price, whom he knew, who gave him no indication of it being unusual or rare, and gave him the 1949 UPU sets of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland in exchange. He passed it on to Mr. Price in 1952/3 shortly after his Mother's death. Mr. Price did not get it from the Curling Estate as he claimed, as Mr Curling died in the 1920s and it would be extremely irregular for the estate to keep any item for over 20 years, before disposing of it.

All the mint copies we have in existence today, with the exception of these two imperforate blocks, are believed to come from the lot captured in General Piet Cronje camp when he surrendered in early 1900.

No significant varieties have been found, other than a few copies having extra vertical perforation through the left of the stamp (see illustration). Is this as a result of the misalignment of row 4 on the initial imperforate sheet, that might only been corrected after initially printing some sheets?

FUTURE EVENTS

URUGUAY 2025 World Stamp Exhibition

South African National Commissioner
Vernon Mitchell email: vjm@telkomsa.net

A Specialised World Stamp Exhibition under FIP patronage, organised by the Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia (FUF) for the bicentenary of Uruguay's independence, sponsored by the Uruguayan Postal Service, and supported by the Philatelic Circle of Montevideo. The exhibition will be held at the Atchugarry Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA) in Punta Del Este, departamento de Maldonado, Uruguay, in two sessions: the first from **17 to 19 February 2025** and the second from **20 to 22 February 2023**. Approximately 1000 frames will be available for exhibits in Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately and Open Philately. One-frame exhibits and Philatelic Literature will also be accepted.



NATIONAL STAMP SHOW-2025

2 to 6 September 2025

The 2025 South African National Stamp Show will be hosted by the Paarlse Filateliste Vereniging, Paarl.
Venue: Paarl Golf-club,
848 Wemmershoek Rd, Boschenmeer
Golf Estate, Paarl.

All arrangements will be announced
in due time.

Contact: André du Plessis RDPSA
pfsastamps@gmail.com

or Gawie Hugo - gawiehugo@gmail.com

LUMSDEN'S HORSE

The Only Colonial Contingent from India Raised in 1900 to Fight in the Anglo-Boer War

by Richard Stroud RDPSA



From October 1899, the start of the Anglo-Boer War, units of the British Army in India were sent to South Africa to reinforce the Army there, particularly in the Ladysmith salient. The senders of mail from these units invariably annotated their letters *Indian Contingent* or similar, and this tended to be recognised officially. However, it must be stressed that these units were regiments of the British Army based in India and not units raised from the residents of India. The British Government's policy was to ensure that no non-European unit should be involved in the fighting in South Africa.



Fig.1: Lt-Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden

Lt-Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden (Fig.1) was in Australia when he heard of the reverses of 'Black Week' in late 1899 in South Africa. He immediately cabled his friend Sir Patrick Playfair in Calcutta, asking him to make the Government an offer of half a lakh of rupees (£3333) and his personal services in raising a Corps of *European Mounted Infantry* for the War. The Viceroy, Lord Curzon, recommended this to London and, by the time that Lumsden had reached Calcutta, the War Office had accepted the offer and appointed Lumsden to the command by the following Order:

"Her Majesty's Government having accepted the offer of the Government of India to provide a force of Mounted Volunteers for service in South Africa, two companies of Mounted Infantry, to be called the Indian Mounted Infantry Corps (Lumsden's Horse) will be raised immediately at Calcutta under the command of Lieut-Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden, of the Volunteer Force of India, Supernumerary List, Assam Valley Light Horse."

The two companies ('A' and 'B') of Lumsden's Horse comprised 251 men, of whom there were 13 officers (Fig.2), plus 42 private followers. They included tea and coffee planters, indigo growers, jute merchants, engineers and administrators. A local fund for equipment realised £227,251 (including £6898 from a Ladies' Ball, patroness Lady Curzon), plus many donations in kind.



Fig.2: The Officers of Lumsden's Horse

Standing (rear): Lt. Sidey, Lt Pugh, Capt. Clifford, Lt Crane, Lt Neville, Capt Rutherford.
Sitting (centre): Capt Chamney, Major Showers, Col Lumsden, Capt Taylor, Capt Beresford.
Sitting (front): Capt Noblett and Vet-Capt Stevenson.

'A' Company, commanded by Captain J.H. Brownlow Beresford, consisted of four Sections and Transport, and embarked on the *Lindula* (Transport 28) at Kidderpore Docks, Calcutta, on 26 February 1900 (Fig.3) with a great amount of ceremony. It disembarked at Cape Town and, after a week in Maitland Camp, went by train to Bloemfontein, to await 'B' Company.



Fig.3: The embarkation of 'A' Company from Kidderpore Docks, 26 February 1900

'B' Company, commanded by Captain L.H. Noblett, consisted of four Sections, a Maxim Gun detachment and Transport, and embarked on the *Ujina* (Transport 33) at Kidderpore Docks, on 3 March 1900, but ceremonial was minimal. It disembarked at East London and immediately entrained for Queenstown. From there, it marched to Bethulie and joined 'A' Company in mid-April 1900, both companies being attached to the 8th Mounted Infantry.

Lumsden's Horse saw its first action at Houtnek in the OFS on 30 April 1900, while it was employed as advance guards and as scouts. No 2 Section, 'B' Company, was chosen for the scouting, with a sub-section of Troopers Franks, Were, Powis and Preston ahead. They were ambushed by the Boers; Trooper Franks being shot in the back from his horse. His comrades tried to recover him, but he died later that night. One officer and four men were killed at Houtnek with six

wounded. The action was described in a letter card (Fig.4) posted in Kroonstad by Trooper Harry Baden Powis "Scouting takes the cake – the devils [the Boers] allow you to get within two hundred [yards] and then give you a lively time as you retire. The first man shot in Lumsden's Horse was shot by my side while out scouting together." [Powis returned to India on the *Atlantian*, arriving Bombay on 28 December 1900. His occupation in India was as a tutor at Simla.]



Fig.4: GB 1d postal-stationery letter card, written by Trooper Harry Baden Powis of No 2 Section, B Company at Kroonstad 13/5/00 and postmarked SC ARMY P.O. 43 MY 22 00 (an early usage), to Calcutta. Transits of Durban 3 JU 1900 and Tuticorin 26 JU 00. Arrival 30 JU 00.

From Kroonstad, Lumsden's Horse pushed onwards as part of Field Marshal Lord Roberts' advance to Pretoria, One officer - Lieutenant Herbert Owain Pugh (see Fig.2), who had been a Jute Broker in Calcutta – commanded Section No 2 of 'B' Company and was to have a distinguished and varied career while in South Africa. During an attack on Germiston, 29 May 1900, a Boer gun mounted on a railway truck was giving trouble round a bend of the railway and into a deep cutting. Orders were given for Lt Pugh and four men to escort some Royal Engineers with explosives and block or blow up the line, while under fire from two Boer pickets. Lt Pugh was able to enter the cutting and rolled boulders on to the line. For this successful action, he was awarded the DSO. Pretoria was taken on 5 June 1900. From then until 29 July, Lumsden's Horse was allocated to Lines of Communication duty along the railway line around Pretoria and Johannesburg, with 'B' Company in charge of the railway between Johannesburg and Irene, and 'A' Company from Irene to Pretoria. It was from this period that Lt Pugh wrote a long letter to his sister (Fig.5).

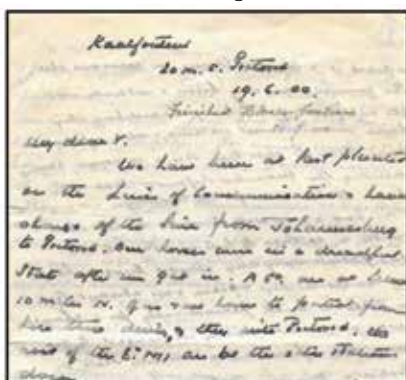


Fig.5: A long letter from Lt H.O. Pugh to his sister. Message headed Kaalfontein, 20 m(iles) (south) Pretoria 19.6.00 and Finished Bloemfontein 19.7.00

In his letter, Lt Pugh writes: "We have been at last planted on the Lines of Communication and charge of the line from Johannesburg to Pretoria. Our horses were in a dreadful state after we got in. 'A' Co. are at Irene, 10 miles N. of us and we have to patrol from here [to] there daily, and they into Pretoria. The rest of the 8th M.I. are to be [at] the other stations down [the railway]".

"We had no fighting till we got to Nine Mile Spruit and even then, they [the Boers] only held this last ridge of koppies. They sat on their ridges and blazed away till our big guns had silenced the one gun left in the Fort. Towards evening, the infantry came up on our left. The Gordons and the 5th M.I. occupied their koppies and camped for the night within 2000 yards of the town [Pretoria]".

A late item of mail from the Lines of Communication period is shown in Fig.6. It is from Trooper Thomas Brinsley Nicholson, of No 2 Section, 'B' Company. A coffee planter from Yercand, India, Nicholson was later commissioned into the West Indian Regiment.



Fig.6: On Active Service cover (on the stationery of Lumsden's Horse), endorsed by T.B. Nicholson, Lumsden's Horse, S. African Field Force, 21/7/00, to Madras. Postmarked ARMY P.O. 55 JY 25 00 (Pretoria, an early use). Taxed as unpaid but deleted in India. Transit of Tuticorin 5 SE 00 and arrival 7 SE 00.

After Pretoria, Lt Pugh was appointed Assistant District Commissioner and ex officio Justice of the Peace for Heilbron. The formal Government Notice No 18 of his appointment was dated July 6th 1900 and published in the ORC Government Gazette No 3 of 13 July 1900. The town having been evacuated, he was appointed Intelligence Officer to the 8th Mounted Infantry but later was able to go to Heilbron to take up his appointment (Fig.7).

In his letter spanning 19 June 1900 to 19 July 1900 to his sister (Fig.5), Lt Pugh continued: "My Commissionership is not very fair and not permanent, £15 a month over one's regimental pay, out of which has to be found rations for oneself and horses. They say very few Commissioners or Asst Commissioners will be kept on when the civil authorities take over the country, but I should think the ones who do should get good billets. My District is Heilbron and is mostly at present in the hands of De Wet so, until he is rounded up, they won't let us go up. "



Fig.7: Cover from HEILBRON JA 4 01 to Llanbadarn Fawr, Wales, endorsed from H O Pugh Lt, A D Com, Heilbron. On the reverse, transit of Bloemfontein JA 6 01 and arrival JA 25 01.

Lumsden's Horse was transferred to General Mahon's command at the end of July 1900, from which time they marched to Rustenburg and up to Warmbaths in pursuit of Generaal de Wet. In early August, Trooper Frederick Vivian Clerk of No 1 Section, 'B' Company, wrote to a relative in Somerset, England (Fig.8). His occupation in India was as an engineer on the Assam-Bengal Railway. Trooper Clerk was hospitalised at Germiston by November. He was not amongst the men of Lumsden's Horse who embarked on the *Atlantian* on 5 December 1900 to return to India.



Fig.8: Stampless cover, endorsed by F.V. Clerk, Lumsden's Horse, Transvaal, to Miss F. Clerk, Pilton, Somerset. Postmarked DCFPO code 17 datestamp for AU 8 00 (Army Post Office 25, Johannesburg area). London PAID transit of 3 SP 00. Arrival of Shepton Mallet SP 4 00.

[The addressee was Miss Frances (Fanny) Jane Campbell Clerk, aged 47 in 1900, a lady of independent means, born in Ostacamynd, India. She had two servants – Gertrude Mary Lintern and Emily Louise Rogers. Miss Frances' family was a major benefactor to the people of Pilton.]

Towards the end of 1900, the period of one year for which men had volunteered for service in the various colonial contingents, Lumsden's Horse being one, was due to expire. Accordingly, arrangements were made to repatriate the contingents to their home countries. Those men who wished to stay in South Africa could continue in military service with other units including the South African Constabulary (SAC) or the Johannesburg Police, referred to as the Mounted Police (JMP).

On 22 November 1900, Captain Chamney (now Major) with convalescents and a number of men of the corps embarked at Cape Town for India on the *Catalonia*. There were also 600 Boer POWs on board, some of whom developed measles. Because of this, Major Chamney and his men had to transfer, at Durban, to the *Sinclair* for Calcutta, calling at Galle, Ceylon. Colonel Lumsden, with the remainder of the corps, embarked at Cape Town on the *Atlantian* on 5 December, arriving at Bombay on 28 December. On leaving and on arrival, both sections of the Corps were given a rousing send off or welcome.

Driver Edmund John Power (later promoted to Sergeant by Colonel Lumsden) of 'A' Company Transport wrote regularly to a Miss Ethel Power in London. His occupation in India was as a travelling agent with Phelps & Co of Calcutta. The author has two covers from the correspondence, one on Lumsden's Horse stationery and endorsed on active service with Lumsden's Horse, to Miss Power postmarked with a GB QV 1d lilac cancelled ARMY P.O. 55 of Pretoria. This was possibly posted when Lumsden's Horse was on Lines of Communication duty. The other cover (Fig.9) was posted just prior to Driver Power's embarkation on the *Atlantian* for India.



Fig.9: Cover to Miss Ethel Power, London, from Sergeant E.J. Power, with a GB QV 1d lilac cancelled DURBAN DE 10 1900 NATAL and manuscript Durban 8/12/00.

Lumsden's Horse was officially disbanded on 4 January 1901, but many from the corps stayed on in various military units or with the police.

Sergeant Walter Larkins Walker of No 3 Section, 'A' Company, who had been a tea planter in Assam, India, continued his service but with the Johannesburg Mounted Police from December 1900. He met a sad end, being killed by a bullet entering his temple while defending the Chimes West Mine, Benoni, near Boksburg on 26 December 1900. The police post there was manned by 16 men from the Railway Pioneer Regiment and nine men ex-Lumsden's Horse, the latter under Sgt Walker. The attacking Boer force numbered 300. There was a cattle/sheep laager at the mine with 1400 head of cattle. None was taken in the attack. Walker was buried with full military honours on 27 December. His name appears on the commemorative plaque in St Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta.

A letter posted to him (Fig.10) from London in March

1900 was never received by him. A remarkable effort by the postal authorities to locate him with such an open forwarding endorsement!



Fig.10: Commercial cover from London MR 12 00 to W.L. Walker, Budla Beta Tea Estate, Doom Doona, Assam, arrival 8 AP 00. Mr Walker had enlisted in Lumsden's Horse and the cover was (inaccurately) endorsed Left for Transvaal. Censored at Durban 25.6.00 and held, arriving at Pretoria 7 AUG 00. RLO Pretoria 4 DEC 1900 on the reverse and boxed NON-RECLAMÉ.

Another member of Lumsdens' Horse who subsequently joined the Johannesburg Mounted Police in December 1900 was Trooper Bertie Rhys Lloyd-Jones of No 3 Section, 'A' Company, who had been in the Survey Department, Lahore. He was on duty at the Chimes West Mine, Benoni, near Boksburg, when a large party of Boers attacked on 26 December 1900, during which he suffered a broken arm and Sgt Walker was killed. Fig.11 shows a cover from him endorsed JMP, Johannesburg.



Fig.11: Cover, posted in the civil post office, endorsed from Tpr B R Lloyd-Jones, JMP, Johannesburg, to Mrs H. Lloyd-Jones, Lahore, with GB KEVII 1d cancelled JOHANNESBURG 20 FEB 02. Backstamps of Army Post Office Elandsfontein FE 21 02, Durban FE 23 1902, Tuticorin and Lahore 26 MA 02.

Lt H.O. Pugh DSO was granted the rank of Honorary Lieutenant in the Army, dated 12 January 1901. Government Notice No 11 of 1901 in the ORC Government Gazette announced that had "resigned the appointment of Assistant District Commissioner Heilbron with effect from 22 January 1901, having been transferred to the South African Constabulary". In the SAC, Lt Pugh had several postings, to Vrede, Harrismith and Ladybrand, with occasional journeys to the Cape. In November 1901, he seems to have been sent down to the

Cape area and was returning to Pretoria, being at Edenburg in the OFS, when he wrote to his Mother in Calcutta (Fig.12). He stated: "We are on our way up and are taking a very long time about it. McCarter gets out at Bloemfontein with 70 men and I take the next up to Pretoria. We won't get in till this evening so I expect we will go on tomorrow morning.

Last night we were attacked near Arundel and came thro' a very warm fire for 3 miles but had no casualties".



Fig.12: Lettercard endorsed from H.O. Pugh Lt SAC to his mother in Calcutta. The message is headed Nr Edenburg 1.12.01 but was not posted until his arrival at Bloemfontein the following day. Censor mark NPR of Major N.P. Richards. Backstamps of East London DE 6 01 and of Calcutta 5 JA 02 and 6 JA 02.

A later cover from Lt Pugh to his sister postmarked HARRISMITH AU 30 02 to London (arrival SP 27 02) still contains the original letter, a sketch of his blockhouse (Fig.13) and four photographs (Fig.14 shows two). The letter details the difficulties he had journeying to Harrismith from Vrede (his previous posting) which he put in the form of a list, his game-shooting forays and his lifestyle, an excerpt being:

"In the morning I found one of my mules too weak to pull. I was bringing in a pony with mange for treatment and in-spanned it. It eventually got entangled with the harness right under the wheels. We got it out and the cart started. My puppy Sam then fell out of the cart, being saved from being squashed by luckily falling into an ant-bear hole. About three miles on, the weak mule lay down and died".

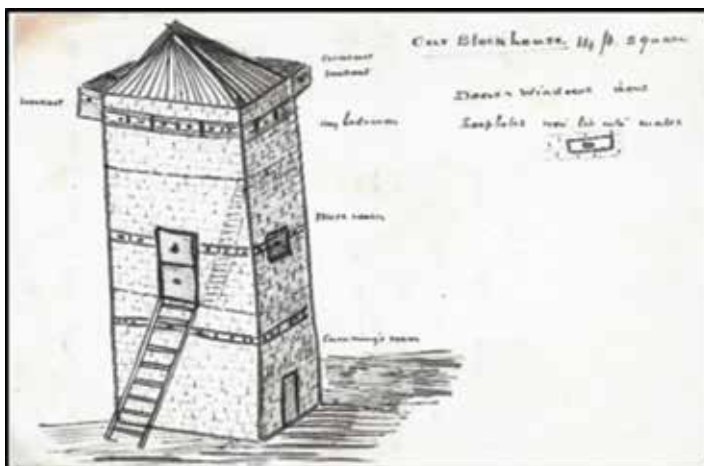


Fig.13: Sketch by Lt Pugh of his Blockhouse (14 feet square) at Harrismith.

The Times of London of 9 May 1915 reported the passing of Colonel Lumsden. "The Times regrets to announce that Colonel Dugald McTavish Lumsden CB, who raised and commanded in the South Africa War the corps of Anglo-Indian mounted Infantry which bore his name, died on Monday at

his residence in Whitehall Court, aged 64. He had been in declining health for some time past and towards the end of April underwent a serious operation”



Fig.14. Inside the Harrismith Blockhouse

Left: Mess Room. Lt Pugh at right with Lt Foulkes, also of the SAC. Bottles of wine on the table!

A Commemorative Tablet in St Paul’s Cathedral, Calcutta, was “placed in this Cathedral by Lord Curzon, Viceroy, Honorary

Colonel of Lumsden’s Horse, in honour of those members of the First Corps of British Volunteers from India who have fought and died for the Empire”.

It lists the seven men lost by death in action and the two who died from sickness. Those who died from death in action include the two mentioned in this article - Sergeant Walter Larkins Walker (killed at Benoni) and Trooper Arthur Fred Franks (killed at Houtnek).

Reference Sources

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Further Sources

- *Lumsden’s Horse Agin the Boers.* J.H. Burn-Murdoch, pub Barnicott & Pearce, Taunton. 1901.
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EXHIBITION NEWS

Oilfilat24 REGIONAL EXHIBITION

by Leon Jacobson.

The Sasolburg Philatelic Society held a regional exhibit, Oilfilat24, in the Sasolburg Public Library - 28 October to 1 November. There were four traditional and seven open/thematic exhibits. Two exhibits were submitted by philatelists from the East Rand Philatelic Society, the rest by Sasolburg members. Judging was by André du Plessis and Louwrence Erasmus. The local press in Sasolburg and Parys provided coverage. Handouts of stamps and covers were distributed to youngsters who showed an interest.

The public found the thematic displays of particular interest especially the display by Jan de Man on *the Bateleur*, the 2024 bird of the year. This is important. Traditional philately does play a role but in order to attract the general public and especially school kids, the displays needed to be ‘content’ friendly. In other words, thematic and open themes telling a story using stamps and postal history that can resonate with the viewer and draw them in. Not surprisingly, many youngsters did not know what a stamp was or why it was used.

To sum up, it was a rewarding exercise that attracted much attention and resulted in potential new members as well as general queries from older people. A number of lessons were learned. Regionals could play an important role in creating and expanding more interest in our hobby and should, if possible, have a theme. The retired community is a potential source of new members. The location of the exhibition is important for attracting passing viewers and the local press should be brought in for wider notifications by means of interviews.

Our thanks go to Federation, the judges who gave up their time to visit us, the Sasolburg Library, the press and our members who worked hard to make it a success.

NAME	TITLE	SCORE	MEDAL
Trevor Harris	Bees by the swarm	60	-
Andre Nel	An overview of Philatelic Exhibitions	64	Silver
Koos de la Rey	Ons groen erfenis	51	Bronze
Leon Jacobson	Birds of Namibia	43	-
Johan van Wyk	The Gumbley Legacy and its application in SA	75	Large Vermeil
Johan van Wyk	Official Wonders of the world	57	-
Johan van Wyk	Philatelic presentation of selected southern African countries affected by colonialism during the 1880s to mid-1900s showing stamps issued by the postal services of Germany and Britain with secondary printing done by local firms in the SA colonies	57	-
Jan de Man	Bird of the Year 2024: Bateleur	29	-
Phydias Chrysochou	A study of 2½c value of the 1st definitive series of RSA	70	Vermeil
Trefon Katakuzinos	SA adhesive parcel post labels for the period 1935 - 1968	80	-
Leon Jacobson	1961 ½c Kingfisher: Groups I and II	74	-

Awards: Grand Prix: Trefon Katakuzinos. Frustration Trophy: Johan van Wyk. A very narrow subject covered fully in 1 to 3 frames receives no medals, only a score from 1 to 100.



Louwrence Erasmus (above) congratulating Leon Jacobson on the success of the Regional Exhibition and being handed his award At right - Louwrence reporting back on the awards ceremony .



Feedback from the judges



Visitors examining the exhibits.



Phydias and Louwrence discussing a finer point.



Earliest Uses of the 1½d Bantam Issue in August 1942

by Keith P Klugman RDPSA, FRPSL



In his recent article on this issue (Scheepers, 2024), Danie Scheepers points out that only 1% of the airman bantam 1½d issue comprised the first printing in August 1942 and that the second printing occurred some time in September of that year. Little has been written though on the earliest recorded dates for this issue on cover beyond a statement in the August issue of *The SA Philatelist* announcing the issue (Fig.1) and a follow-up in the September issue stating that some post offices received these stamps before the middle of August 1942.



Fig.1. Announcement of bantam stamp issue in SAP August 1942.

I have been seeking August dates of this issue to identify those post offices that received this rare first printing and at least three are shown here – doubtless some others exist. The earliest August date I have recorded on cover is the 6th August from Cape Town (Fig.2).



Fig.2. Earliest recorded date of this issue from Cape Town with pencil notation confirming the first day of use.

This cover franked at 6d is overpaid by just ½d as the local rate of postage was 1½d plus 4d registration = 5½d. It is clearly philatelic though given the first day notation in pencil.

The earliest recorded cover from Johannesburg the author has seen is 14 August and it is a large block on a censored cover to the USA (Fig.3).

This large cover may be philatelic given the retained marginal notations but it is just ½d overpaid for a quadruple rate surface postage cover (3d for the first ounce and 1½d per ounce thereafter = 7½d plus 4d for registration).

Another August 1942 cover dated eight days later on 22nd has the same franking to California (Fig.4). The double roulette is interrupted to a single roulette between the top left two stamps.



Fig.3. Censored cover bearing block of eight bantams from Johannesburg on 14 August 1942 to New Jersey, USA.



Fig.4. Same franking as Fig.3 but likely commercial use posted 8 days later on 22 August 1942.

The final examples of these rare stamps on cover from August 1942 are from a collector at Unified, a post office in Florida in the Transvaal, who is well known for producing first day covers of the large war issues during this period. The author has seen two such covers (Fig.5) though more likely exist, dated 15 August 1942 and locally addressed.



Fig.5. Two local earliest use covers bearing different marginal pairs cancelled 15 August 1942 at Unified.

Readers may be able to broaden the census of August 1942 dates for this issue.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Danie Scheepers RDPSA for useful discussions and to Hugh Amooore RDPSA for postal rate information.

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NATAL - RAILWAY OFFICIAL STAMPS

by Cedric Roché RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society



Natal: First issue 1905 - Overprinted official

In 1900s Natal postage stamps valued from 1/2 penny to 1 shilling were overprinted 'official' by de la Rue in black block type letters for use by all Government Departments except the Post Office. Towards the end of 1905, the stamps were withdrawn from all departments except the Railway which ceased to use these Stamps in December 1907.



Normal Reversed



Front



Rear

Inverted



Front



Rear

Inverted Reversed



Front



Rear

Second issue 1907 - 1910 Overprinted official and perforated NGR

About 1907 the Natal government needle perforated the stamps with three letters 'NGR' in one line the stamps for use by the railway department. In this manner the surplus of the previous issue was so treated. The issue was withdrawn in December 1907.



Orange River Colony:

The Natal Government Railways administered the Van Reenen - Kroonstad line.

Normal



Front



Rear

After 31 May 1910 all stamps of the former colonies could be used in the union of South Africa.

Cape:

Normal



Front



Rear

Transvaal:

Normal



Front



Rear

There were 4 types of the NGR perforation that occurred as a block of stamps were taken and folded before being perforated. See the table below for illustration, note that the last two are quite scarce.

DEFINITION	WHEN VIEWED FROM FRONT OF STAMP	WHEN VIEWED FROM BACK OF STAMP
NORMAL	NGR	ЯNR
NORMAL REVERSED	ЯNR	NGR
INVERTED	NRN	NRN
INVERTED REVERSED	NRN	NRN

Normal



Front



Rear

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