

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 102:2. 995

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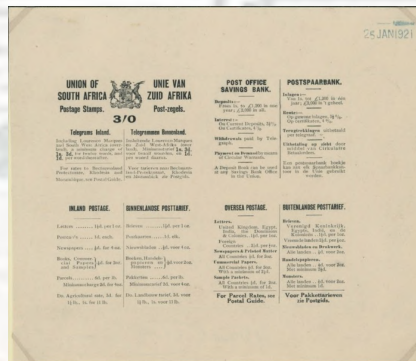


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PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE VALUE FUND

LAUNCHING THE NEW UPDATED UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA STAMPS HANDBOOK

Any organisation needs funds to deliver a VALUE proposition for its members.

Under a new management team, elected at the last Congress of the PFSA, held in Paarl in October 2025, the “Value Proposition” was recognized as a key initiative of the PFSA going forward.

Members of the PFSA are members either through direct membership, or through membership of Philatelic Societies affiliated to the PFSA. It is these members who recognise a value proposition and will both maintain their membership and encourage others to join, if there is a consensus that membership brings benefits!

Times have changed, even for the philatelic community worldwide.

“IT” is the tool that takes philately into every philatelist’s and stamp collector’s living room. Communication has never been more necessary nor more relevant and IT (Zoom, Teams etc.) is the driver. This is now well-tested and has been verified by philatelists worldwide.

All it takes is a click of a button to research a favourite subject, to engage with other collectors, to take part in auctions online and even to research journals and other philatelic books and newsletters online. Even those with a competitive gene can enter several online exhibitions.

Many collectors have embraced the new technology and the “new” way of collecting! The PFSA is fully embracing this direction.

Notwithstanding, many still wish to hold a book or journal in their hands whilst browsing contents. Unfortunately, many publications are outdated, out of print or just simply irrelevant.

The Handbook of the Union of South African Philately, a “*magnum opus*” at the time of its original publication, needs modernization. Modernizing into full-colour with updated information, a good research Index, is now an essential initiative by collaboration between the UK-based SA Collectors Society and the PFSA.

It is proposed to produce the book with high-quality colour images, durable binding and an easily searchable Index. It will be digitised in due course.

The new revised edition will be co-authored, co-edited by an eminently qualified group, including inter alia Brian Trotter RDP FRPS (Hon) RDPSA, Simon Peetoom, Rob and Lyn Lester (both SACS, UK), Pat Flanagan RDPSA FRPSL and André du Plessis RDPSA. None of the above, other than their respective contributions without compensation, has, nor will they have any commercial or other interest in the book.

The book will subscribe to all editorial laws and statutes in both RSA and in the UK.

Funding for the publication shall, following successful international trends, see funds being raised through:

- DONATIONS TO THE PFSA UNION HANDBOOK BOOK FUND (Anonymous if preferred)
- PRE-ORDERS WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

The costs are essentially the costs of printing and binding.

The Book Fund will be administered by Derek Roth, current treasurer of the PFSA. It will be independent of any other funds within the PFSA ambit. It shall be used solely to produce the book.

Payment should be made to the PFSA bank account using UHB Stamp Fund and your name as reference.

TIMELINES FOR THE FINAL PUBLICATION SEEM TO INDICATE AVAILABILITY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2027

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- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012,
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Please note: Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist* is by **25 May 2026**.

ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

For the Volume 102:3 996 - The **JUNE 2026** issue submit by **15 May 2026**

Send your contribution to sap@stampssa.africa



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FEDERATION NEWS

André du Plessis RDPSA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, [083 399 1755](tel:0833991755)
<https://www.stampssa.africa> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



Stampshow 2026: 9 to 12 September 2026, Country Club Johannesburg, **Woodmead**. Entries close on 20 July 2026, and exhibits must be delivered to the Organising Committee by 8 September 2026 at 10:00. We welcome your participation and look forward to receiving your entry. View the [Prospectus](#) and [Entry form](#).

Scanning of Exhibits: Scanned copies of exhibits will be sent to the jurors in advance to prepare them for the judging process. The organisers and jurors believe this will result in more comprehensive feedback and critique, which will benefit the exhibitor.

The Organising Committee views this as progress in the judging process, not a hindrance. While it may add responsibilities for exhibitors, it also requires more commitment from organisers and the jury, who are dedicated to supporting exhibitors in achieving their best results.

Exhibitors can arrange to send their copies at least 3 weeks before the show. It's a new venture that benefits exhibitors, jurors, feedback, exhibiting, and philately in general.

Let's welcome and support this initiative with a positive attitude. In the end, we as exhibitors, and future exhibitors will benefit from it. I believe this is a positive step in the right direction that will benefit all – exhibitors, judges and philately in general.

The 2026 jury will consist of: Louwrence Erasmus (Chairman), Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Danna Strydom RDPSA, Gary Pienaar, Anton Putter, Apprentice Clive King, and Jury Secretary Joof van der Merwe RDPSA.

Union Handbook: Work on the review of the Handbook is progressing well and the chapters on the Interprovincial stamps, Air Mails and 1913 Kings Heads are basically completed and ready for proofreading.


Please feel free to communicate any comments, suggestions and amendment/corrections of the content of the 1986 Jack Hagger RDPSA print of The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961 to André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@gmail.com

Your participation is valued and sincerely appreciated.

World Best Stamp Competition: The inaugural South African competition for stamps issued in 2025, titled "The World's Best Stamp", organised by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa under the patronage of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), has been successfully concluded.

It was actively supported by 66 countries worldwide, with 195 stamps entered. Judging by an international panel has been completed and the results and stamps entered can be viewed on the [WBS website](#) (also see page 72).

SAVPEX 2026: Entries are open and can be submitted. Please support this very successful Virtual Exhibition. [Prospectus and Entry form](#)

Philatelysa website: The SAVPEX exhibits from 2020 to 2025 have been moved from the [Stampssa](#) website to a new PFSA website [Philatelysa](#). This website is still under development and will be utilised to show online exhibits and presentations by members. 

EDITORIAL POLICY

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'*. By interacting with these publications, regular and new readers continue to support stamp collecting in South Africa. For more details contact the Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, [+27 \(0\)83 399 1755](tel:+270833991755), or on email at pfsastamps@gmail.com, or visit the website at <https://www.stampssa.africa>.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

• Affiliation fee: RSA and worldwide: R150.00 (Electronic only).

PLEASE NOTE: The PFSA affiliation fee offers, *inter-alia*, six copies of the electronic journal and electronic newsletters annually.

• Enquiries regarding subscriptions and PFSA membership can be addressed to the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA at pfsastamps@gmail.com
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Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, email: sap@stampssa.africa

Advertising Rates available from the C.O.O. André du Plessis RDPSA, email: pfsastamps@gmail.com 

Letters to the Editorial Board



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.

e-mail: sap@stampssa.africa.



Hello

I've read your interesting article about the FDCs known to exist for the London Printings of the Union Definitives issued on 1 January 1926 in the February 2026 edition of *The South African Philatelist*. The FDCs pictured are simply awesome! Thanks for sharing those pictures and the information.

I have attached photographs of the front and back of a cover that I have that I think falls into that category. The cover has a

block of four of each of the ½d and 1d stamps, and one for each language for the 4d stamps. The blocks appear untied, at first glance (as the cancellations don't cross the four corners of the block), but there are at least tiny remnants of ink on the cover in the perforations of the blocks where the canceller crossed.

Am I correct that the cancellation used means that it was cancelled at counter 19? My knowledge is rudimentary, at best, so any comments that you have would be greatly appreciated.

The cover is, unfortunately, a bit blotchy/foxed.

Kind regards

Grant Wiid
0845524068

Hi Grant

Indeed a beautiful FDC with the two blocks of 4 of two of the values which were not mentioned in the February 2026 SAP. The stamps and the reverse were all cancelled by a date stamp with numeral 19 at the bottom of the inner circle. This numeral was used at counter 19, and this date stamp has been recorded by the Putzel Postmark books as No. 268. There were about 40 counter numbers in the 1920s, and most of them were probably in use at the same time.

Usually stamps have to be tied to the cover to qualify as a FDC. As you pointed out the perforations show the ink marks on the cover. Furthermore, the cancellations on the front and reverse are all identical. There is indeed ample evidence that this FDC should qualify as FDC.

Alex Visser, RDPSA

Editor: See also pp. 45 - 47 for more on the second definitives of the Union.

Dear Sir

In the August 2025 issue of the SAP there was an article about the Academy of Science and Art stamp issued in 1969 which drew some comment in the October 2025 issue of the SAP from David Collins and Leon Jacobson. These two correspondents noted that at the bottom of the central crest there is a circular design which contains a microscope and there are two diagonal lines passing through the microscope. However on 47 of the 120 stamps in a sheet, there was only one line passing through the microscope and both correspondents noted that it was the top line. This is not the case. When there is one line, it can either be the top line or the bottom line as can be seen on the accompanying images.

Regards

John Haigh

Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society.



(a) Two lines



(b) Top line



(c) Bottom line

Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	LEVEL	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
NORDIA 2026	8 - 10 May 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	Nordia 2026
BOSTON 2026 General World Exhibition	23 - 30 May 2026	FIP Patron. FIAF Ausp. FEAP Recog.	N/A	Boston 2026
SAVPEX 2025	June 2026	PFSA	Emil Minnaar RDPSA	PFSA
SASOL 26 Mini Exhibit.	June 2026	PFSA Ausp. OILFILAT Orga.	Leon Jacobson	SASOL 26
MACAO 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	26 Jun - 1 Jul 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Emil Minnaar RDPSA	MACAO 2026
PhilLat26	26 - 29 Jun 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	PhilLat26
Bilateral Stamp Exhibition Germany-Sweden	17 - 19 Jul 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	BEPHILA 2026
BANDUNG 2026	27 - 31 Aug 2026	FIAP Patron.	N/A	BANDUNG 2026
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026	9 - 12 Sep 2026	PFSA Orga.	André du Plessis Louwrence Erasmus	PFSA
Gauteng Regional Exhibit.	24 - 26 Sep 2026	PFSA Ausp. AFP Orga.	Ronel Erasmus	TBA
SRBIJAFILA XVI National Stamp Exhibition	7 - 11 Oct 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	SRBIJAFILA XVI
STAMPEX at the BDC Trade Show	28 - 31 Oct 2026	PTS Ausp.	N/A	STAMPEX 2026
PHILATAIPEI Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	19 - 24 Nov 2026	FIP Patron. FIAP Ausp.	Josua (Joof) van der Merwe	PHILATAIPEI 2026



NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2026

9 to 12 September 2026

Venue: The Country Club Johannesburg, **Woodmead**

Entries close: 20 July 2026

Delivery of Exhibits: 8 September 2026, 12:00

Congress: 11 September 2026

[Entry form](#)

[Prospectus](#)

Contact: André du Plessis RDPSA – pfsastamps@gmail.com

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We look forward to partnering with you



Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - March and April 1926

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

Continuing the historic exploration of Southern African philately, this month features summaries from March and April 1926 of *The SA Philatelist*. It is hoped that these insights will encourage further interest in philatelic research.

In South West Africa (SWA), postage due varieties with Type VI and VIa overprints (Fig.1) were the focus. Collectors distinguished between shiny and dull ink types, noting a constant malformed 'S' on the second stamp of the second row in the bottom right-hand pane of the dull ink overprint.



The March 1926 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [1] covered the Union Pictorial and Triangular Issues.

The issue focused on the logistical and technical challenges of the Union's new pictorial series. The editorial, 'Mystery of the Triangulars', detailed the delayed arrival of the 4d triangular stamps. By mid-March, no sheets had been sold in South Africa. The journal reported that the initial sheets were recalled from London and replaced by packets of 60 loose stamps.



Fig.1: Type VI variety (left); Type VIa variety (right).

Beyond the Union, the journal recorded several developments:

Kenya and Uganda: The 12c value had become exhausted, and the plates were reportedly destroyed.

Mauritius: New Arms type stamps on Script watermark paper were introduced in denominations ranging from 2c to 20c (Fig.2).



Fig.2: 10c Mauritius.

Southern Rhodesia: A mint copy of the 1/2d value was found with a prominent unprinted white patch above the word 'Postage'.

Tanganyika Territory: An announcement had been made regarding a forthcoming set featuring the King's Head.

Malta: Provisional 2 1/2d and 3d stamps were placed on sale following the exhaustion of previous stocks.



Fig.3: Pictorial issues of the Moçambique Company.

Authoritative sources confirmed that the recalled sheets were returned to printers for rouletting. Subsequently, Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. was ordered to print three million stamps in a bright or deep-blue shade and rouletted. *The SAP* cited the inconvenience to postal clerks handling imperforate sheets as the official reason, but the journal argued that philatelists would have bought such sheets anyway.

The issue clarified technical aspects of the 4d stamp production. Earlier reports about English and Afrikaans panes on the same sheet were corrected. Each variety was printed on separate sheets of 120, with two panes of 60. New stamp booklets contained 24 penny and 12 halfpenny pictorial stamps sold at face value. These stamps, sourced from tête-bêche sheets, often had inverted watermarks, a detail of interest to variety specialists.

The 'New Issues and Varieties' section documented several notable discoveries across the British Empire and beyond. Mr J. Ritchie identified Printing 'E' of the Pretoria perforated postage dues in the 1d and 2d values. The journal listed plate peculiarities, including defective lettering in 'POSTAGE' and 'AFRICA' and instances where letters touched the frame. Mr Alex. Bronks discovered a sheet of the Pretoria 2d postage due in an imperforate state, containing the 'Postade' variety and other plate flaws.

analysis of the Waterlow & Sons printings, especially focusing on perforation varieties.

Burgess's examination of firm stocks revealed gauges of 15, 13½, and a rare 15x14 compound perforation (found only on a used 20c specimen). Perforation 12½ was introduced in September 1924 for most values. Fluctuating exchange rates affected the escudo's face value, ranging from 3s to 2½d. Collectors should understand this economic context to appreciate the relative scarcity of certain printings, which were only available when the exchange rate was high.

The SAP provided statistical data on South African Air Mail stamps printed, sold, and destroyed after withdrawal. Of the 680,040 stamps printed in four denominations (1d, 3d, 6d, and 9d), 457,730 were destroyed. The 1d and 3d stamps sold the most, generating a total sale value of £3,597 4s 8d. The government reportedly made a profit, as production costs were estimated at £75.



Fig. 4: Flight cards.

In related news, the journal illustrated 'Flight' cards from Alan Cobham's London-to-Cape Town aerial journey (Fig. 4). These cards had a special pink stamp with a violet oval cachet dated 16/11/25. Cobham returned to England by 13 March 1926.

In 1926, Stanley Gibbons Ltd celebrated its 70th anniversary. The journal detailed the firm's history, starting with Edward Stanley Gibbons' stamp dealings in 1856 while working in his father's pharmacy in Plymouth. A famous anecdote was revisited: the 1863 purchase of a sack of Cape Triangulards from sailors for £5, which contained colour errors sold in

1864 for 4s each, items that by 1926 had reached valuations of over £200. In 1890, Charles J. Phillips purchased the firm and moved it to its well-known premises at 391 Strand (Fig. 5).

Other miscellaneous 'Items of Interest' included:

- A report on the Prince of Wales postmark used on the Royal Train while halted on the Victoria Falls bridge.
- The discovery of a unique block of four of the 1d. Transvaal stamp with an Anchor watermark.
- The sale of Leon de Raay's collection of Orange Free State (OFS) and Orange River Colony (ORC) stamps to an English collector.
- A warning regarding "blue pencil" cancellations used by postal clerks on registered mail, which significantly reduced the market value of the stamps.

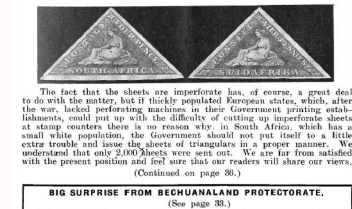


Fig. 5: 391 Strand, London, UK.

The March 1926 issue of *The South African Philatelist* showcased the meticulous nature of early 20th-century philately. It served as a vital repository of knowledge, from the PMG's official statistics to the minute plate flaws of postage dues. It captured a moment when the Union modernised its postal offerings while the hobby itself became increasingly sophisticated in its study of production methods like rouletting, perforation gauges, and watermarking. This issue remains a significant reference for the history of Southern African postal administration and the evolution of the philatelic trade.



Those Triangulards!
 AGAIN WE SAY: "SURPRISE FOLLOWS SURPRISE."
 At last a supply of complete sheets of 4d. triangulards has reached South Africa, but many collectors are still at a disadvantage if they desire pairs or blocks for their collections, for the sheets are being issued in a most unusual manner. They are not on sale in the ordinary way at counters, but those desiring complete sheets must place an order with their postmaster, who will requisition from the nearest distributing office and hand them over against cash and a receipt for the stamps when they are received. Orders for part sheets will not be entertained by the Department. English and African sheets each cost £2, and how many collectors will want complete sheets? A block is quite sufficient for most philatelists, and we cannot congratulate the Government on its latest action in the triangular matter.



BIG SURPRISE FROM BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
 (See page 38.)

The SAP front page of April 1926.

The April 1926 issue of *The South African Philatelist* [2] discussed the Triangular Controversy and administrative challenges.

By April 1926, complete sheets of the 4d triangular stamps arrived in South Africa, but their distribution caused frustration. The editorial, titled 'Those Triangulards!', explained that collectors needed to place formal orders with their postmasters, pay in advance, and provide a receipt for complete sheets.

The Department refused partial sheets, forcing collectors to buy full sheets at £2.

The journal criticised the Government's decision to issue imperforated stamps, citing difficulties cutting sheets at the counter. However, it pointed out that other European states

had faced similar challenges after the Great War and argued that South Africa's small white population did not warrant such effort, as only 2,000 sheets were sent, insufficient for demand.

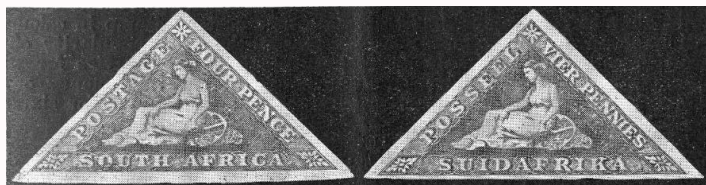


Fig.6: *Those Triangulars!*

A legal issue arose: selling unused South African stamps above face value was illegal. This put dealers in a bind. If they bought sheets to meet customer demands, they could not charge extra to cover their capital without breaking the law. So, The South African Philatelist petitioned the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs to make blocks and pairs available at all money order offices.

The triangular stamps, meant to mimic the classic Cape of Good Hope design, caused a global uproar. The international response was divided. In London, the Philatelic Magazine called the issue a 'sorry exhibition' and 'debauchery of the postal service' in a scathing critique titled 'The Cape Scandal'. The London editors claimed the stamps were a blatant attempt to exploit collectors by imitating a popular classic design.

Conversely, other international commentators were more supportive. The editor of Stamp Collecting congratulated the 'genius' who revived the triangular shape, though he criticised the 'feeble, apologetic tint' of the blue ink. In the US, opinions were mostly positive. A New York editor praised the stamps as the 'best boost stamp collecting has had officially for a long time', allowing younger collectors to satisfy their desire for a triangular stamp without relying on 'junk' issues from smaller nations. Similarly, Mr A. C. Roessler of Roessler's Stamp News said the stamps had 'set the world on fire', a phrase that became famous among South African collectors.

The journal's technical sections meticulously recorded new Union stamp varieties. In the 3rd value, Mr J. Ritchie and Mr J. B. Levy identified a retouch on the first stamp in the bottom row, where the final 'A' in 'AFRIKA' appeared thicker and whiter than usual.



Fig.7: *½d and 1d values.*

The ½d and 1d values also had many constant varieties. For instance, the ½d sheets had an open 'A' in 'AFRIKA' on the third row, and a gap in the bottom line of the 'S' in 'SUID' on the eighteenth row. A unique ½d variety was the light

grey centre springbok, unlike the standard black. In the 1d value, there was a 'J' for 'U' variety in 'REVENUE', but its exact position in the sheet was uncertain at the time.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate introduced postage due stamps unexpectedly. They overprinted contemporary Great Britain postage due labels (½d, 1d, and 2d) for use there. In Mauritius, the 10 cents value changed to red on script watermark paper. There was also agitation to change the low values to the King's Head type.

South West Africa (SWA) also saw significant activity. Mr H. Mallet-Veale discovered several unusual varieties, including misplaced overprints on postage due stamps where 'Africa' appeared above 'Zuid-West' instead of beside it. In the 1s postage value, a corner fold during printing resulted in the word 'Africa' being entirely missing from the last stamp of the sheet.

A second printing of the SWA triangular stamps was confirmed, with sheets available at the High Commissioner's Office in London. These stamps differed in shade from the first printing. Mr. R. Roberts of London identified two overprint varieties: an inverted 'S' in 'SUIDWES-AFRIKA' and a letter with the top loop missing.

The journal celebrated the thriving philatelic culture of the 1920s, congratulating Mr Percy C. Bishop on his successful presentation to the Durban Rotary Club, which was widely reported in the local press. However, it also lamented the cancellation of the proposed subsidised air mail service for the Union due to non-compliance with Government requirements, calling it the 'Air Mail Fiasco'.

Advertisements in the issue revealed the market values of the time. Mr. A. Lichtenstein of Rouxville showcased a representative list of sets, while Allen-Bolton of East Croydon offered classic Cape triangulars, including a 1d red 'Woodblock' for £8. The Southern Stamp Co. of Johannesburg announced they'd frank all parcels with triangular stamps from complete sheets, effectively offering a postage refund.

News of forthcoming pictorial values concluded the issue. The new 6d stamp, featuring an orange tree in green and yellow, was set for issue on 1 May 1926. A 2d value was confirmed, and plans were underway for a 3d stamp depicting an ox-wagon crossing a drift and a 1s denomination featuring Groote Schuur.

References

- [1] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 3 No. 2. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Mar. 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Mrt-2026.pdf>.
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Stellaland

by Andrew Briscoe RDP SA FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

The Republic of Stellaland was a short-lived Boer republic from 1882 until 1885, located in southern Bechuanaland, west of the then South African Republic (Fig.1). Stellaland was created on 26 July 1882, under the leadership of its president Gerrit Jacobus van Niekerk, a farmer from the South African Republic, and was given the name Stellaland (Star Land) in reference to a comet that was visible in the skies at the time. The town of Vryburg was founded and declared its capital. At its founding, the new country covered an area of 15,500 square kilometres and was home to an estimated population of 20,500 individuals, 3,000 of whom were of European ancestry.

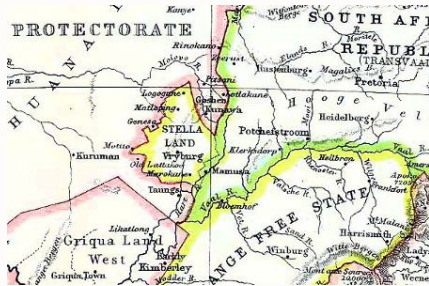


Fig.1: A map of Stellaland (origin unknown).

During its brief history, two postal contracts were signed by the Stellaland republic and the postal contractor, W.M. Geeringh, the first in September 1884, and the second in May 1885.

On 2 June 1885, a stampless cover¹ shown in Fig.2 and addressed to 'Captain Trotter, Acting Special Comdt for Stellaland', signed and dated 'J. W Harrel 2/6/85', with enclosed letter from Motito, which includes "as a great many natives proceeding from the south to the north go through Stellaland not knowing of the existence of a wagon toll or tax, I think it would be advisable that you should tell Field Cornet van Rooyen that he ought to exercise a little discrimination in cases where ignorance of the law is pleaded and allow those who wish to leave Stellaland via Takoon without enforcing payment".

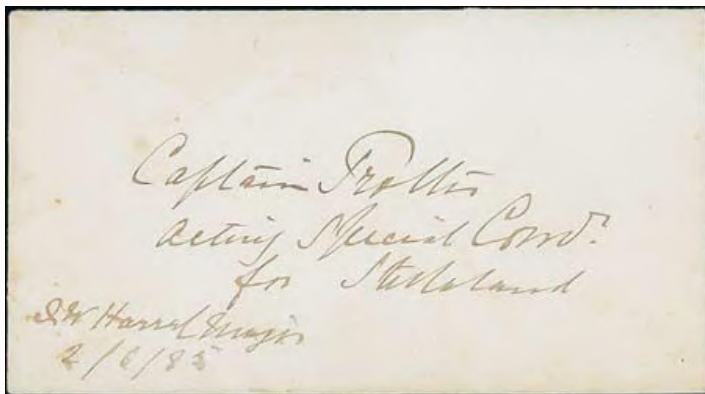


Fig.2: 1885 Official Cover Presumably Carried by Mounted Police.

The Post Contract of 23 September 1884

This contract was discovered in the Transvaal State Archives at Pretoria, and concerned carriage of the mail between Vryburg and Christiana. It was translated from the original Dutch text by the late Dr Seligmann to read as follows [1]:

1. The driver or post rider must be supplied with a bugle with which to announce the arrival and departure of the mail.
2. No articles may be transported in the post cart at the same time as the postal packages whereby a fire could be caused or any container carried that could cause damage to the mail or packages, should it break.
3. The post contractor is obliged to transport office supplies and writing materials (books, paper, etc) destined for the various government offices, handed to him by the postmaster at Vryburg or postal agent at Christiana, without the right to claim any extra payment.
4. The post contractor and his sureties are personally responsible for any damage or loss caused by any action, carelessness or negligence by him or his employees to any packets, letters or other articles entrusted to them by the postal services, and the damages and loss either to the government or to the private party, will be recovered from them.
5. The post contractor must submit himself unconditionally to the changes of timetable for the departure and arrival of the post, whether the transport should take place (required) by night or by day.
6. If within one hour after the normal time that the post should depart, the post cart has not yet arrived in front of the office, the postmaster of that office is authorised to hire a cart, horses and driver to transport the post on the account of the post contractor.
7. The post contractor is required to call at the post station on his postal route at Nickerk's Rust, Stellaland, to collect and deliver postal packages and a delay of two hours is considered adequate for this purpose.
8. The post contractor is required to transport the mail bags and mail packages over the whole post route to which this contract pertains in the same post cart. Only in exceptional necessities, for example like the breakdown of the cart, is the post contractor allowed to transfer the post bags to another cart.
9. The post contractor is responsible for the mail bags and the mail packages or any other articles forming part of the mail. If according to the postal list supplied by the

¹This is a rare official cover, likely carried by mounted police. Captain Trotter was based in Mafeking at this time. The reverse side is endorsed as received on 4 June.

postmaster of the office where the cart originally started from, it appears to the postmaster at the destination, that one or more of the articles is not present in the post cart, the postmaster shall immediately send to the government secretary a proper report.

10. The post contractor is required to carry the mail from the post office at Vryburg to the post office at Christiana once per week in 48 hours' time and back in the same period of time. The departure and arrival time at both towns will be determined by the postmaster at Vryburg.
11. The postmaster shall, in case of late arrivals of the post, accept no excuse whatsoever. This excludes delays caused by full rivers, streams, etc. which made it impossible for the post contractor to ford them without danger that the mail could be lost and these excuses will have to be the satisfaction of the postmaster, and accompanied by at least two sworn statements clearly providing the existence of such circumstances.
12. The post contractor is required, by entering into this agreement with the first signatory, Henri Van Boeschoten, government secretary, on behalf of the government of Stellaland, to appoint two well to do sureties of good name and fame, well known people, domiciled within this state and owners of unmortgaged property worth at least £500 (five hundred pounds) within the state.
13. The first signatory, Henri Van Boeschoten, Government Secretary, on behalf of the Government of Stellaland, contracts with the second signatory, Willem Marthinus Geeringh Jnr from the above date for his services properly rendered, to pay the amount of £600 (six hundred pounds) per annum in monthly payments of £50 (fifty pounds).
14. The contract for the transport of the above-mentioned post between Vryburg and Christiana is concluded for an unspecified period with the understanding that the contract can be terminated by the giving of one month's notice by one or both contracting parties.



Fig.3: 1885 Envelope to Venterstad (Courtesy Spink & Son).

Fig.3 shows an 1885 envelope addressed to Venterstad. It features uncanceled 1885 Stellaland 'Twee' stamp on 4d olive-grey paper and a Cape of Good Hope 1882-83 1d rose-red vertical pair. The envelope is tied with

an indistinct Barkly datestamp and shows Kimberley (26 October), Burgersdorp (28 October) and arrival (29 October) cancelled dates on the reverse.

The main postal route from Vryburg to the outside world ran through Christiana in the Transvaal. Most white Stellalanders came from Transvaal and maintained citizenship there and most letters would have been directed to the Transvaal in the early years. During the early years of the Stellaland Republic, the southern route through Barkly was not used because of political disagreement with the Cape. The volume of mail destined for the south or for overseas destinations would, at that stage have not justified a second route for a country with an ailing economy.

Pressure for change

On 21 March 1885, the new *Bestuur* (the early legislative body of Stellaland) informed Sir Charles Warren that the existing mail contract to Christiana costing £50 per month, was too expensive and the route considered to be unsatisfactory. They suggested that a route to Barkly via Taungs, like that followed by the military mail, would be a better proposition. Some members of the *Bestuur* even proposed that the Stellaland post should be sent by military mail. As the use of the military mail could possibly invalidate the Stellaland stamps and that only Cape stamps would be needed with a loss of revenue to the ailing economy of the country, the decision to use military transport was deferred.

On 21 March 1885, the *Bestuur* discussed the existing mail route to Christiana then being run by Mr Geeringh. Some members were in favour of immediately changing the route to run to Barkly as the existing route "did not meet the requirement of the public, that it was too expensive and it would be better if the postal route was altered in such a manner that mail carts should run between Vryburg and Taungs."

On 16 April 1885 the *Bestuur* voted that the post contractor should be given one month's notice and that the postmasters general of all the neighbouring states as well as the postmaster at Christiana be informed that in future all letters, papers etc intended to Stellaland should be sent via Barkly. This decision was not carried out and Geeringh, the mail contractor, continued going to Christiana until the end of May 1885.

The Second Geeringh Contract

On 29 May 1885 Captain Trotter notified the *Bestuur* that he had arranged that Geeringh "shall take the post every Friday evening from Vryburg to Barkly". Geeringh was prepared to take the mail at 1 shilling per pound weight. A proposal to pay the contractor £2.00 per week to convey the mail from Vryburg via Taungs to Barkly was finally accepted and Geeringh was notified that same day. This arrangement continued until 14 August 1885. At this low rate of remuneration, it is obvious that Geeringh was also using his carts for transport of passengers and carrying the mail

was actually a side-line. With the Warren expedition the demand for passenger transport to the south was growing and the Stellaland *Bestuur*'s change of routes actually suited Geering at first. The demands and deadlines connected with a postal route later outweighed the £2 per leg that was never paid on time, caused Geering to inform the *Bestuur* on 4 August 1885, a Tuesday, that he would relinquish his contract during the following week. As Friday was the day for the downward mail, Dr Seligmann calculated that the mail contractor made his last trip to Barkly on 14 August 1885 returning to Vryburg a day or three later. Geering

ceded his claim of £105 on the Stellaland Government, due to him largely for mail transport between Vryburg and Christiana, to Messrs Abt and Co. Captain Trotter advised the *Bestuur* that he had made telegraphic arrangements with Barkly for conveyance of the mails by "military weekly post". The Stellaland mails between Barkly and Vryburg were then carried by military post from the middle of August 1885.

References

- [1] K. Seligmann, "Private Notes on Stellaland." 

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Union of South Africa Stamp Varieties

by André du Plessis RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

WAR EFFORT, BANTAM SERIES, 1942 TO 1945 [1]: Part 1.

From August 1942 until October 1945, all values of the large war stamps were brought out in a much smaller size. This was done to save paper and money.

Some designs were adapted to fit the smaller size, with some elements being copied.

There were no “first date” issues as the reduced stamps were placed on sale at individual post offices as soon as supplies of the large war stamps became exhausted at such offices.

Stamps were perforated only around their perimeter, and the remaining separation carried out by rouletting.

Early rouletting of the 1½d denomination was done with a double disk, each section with cut slits 1,25mm long to a gauge of 6½ and known as double rouletting. The discs were normally synchronised, and the cuts are in a continuous line and gauge 13.

In the event that the synchronizing went wrong, the cuts are in parallel or staggered lines, and in some cases, one disc did not cut at all.

Subsequent roulette was done by a single disc, cutting slits of 1,75mm long to a gauge of 6½.

In 1945, the slogans were replaced by double parallel lines intersected by the figures “240” and “360”. These numbers indicate the number of stamps per sheet.

There were nine “slogan” or combined “figure and slogan”

which assist in distinguishing the various cylinders and printings.

A printing innovation was that on all four of the sheet margins, slogans were printed alternately in English and Afrikaans.

There were in all nine of these “Slogan” or combined “Figure and Slogan” cylinders, and with the aid of small differences between them, the various cylinder and colour combinations, which are easiest to detect on the corners of the sheets, can be distinguished.

The slogan or figure cylinders differed according to whether they paired with 240 or 360 stamp cylinders.

The actual numbers of these cylinders were not notified, so each has been allocated a number for reference purposes, and their features are described and compared in the following tables.



The stamps were redrawn by J. Prentice.






Roulette variation
6½ left and 13 right.

240 Stamp Sheets - 1½d, 2d, 6d and 1s



Type	Number	Distinguishing features	
Slogan	1	The side slogans are close to the stamps and slogans on the top and bottom margins. The slogan over the first stamp of the sheet is in English. There are no stops after the words “Certificates” at the side arrow positions.	
Slogan	2	Slogans on the side margins are further away from the stamps and those on the top and bottom margins. The slogan over the first stamp of the sheet is in Afrikaans. There are stops after the words “Certificates” at the side arrow positions.	

Type	Number	Distinguishing features	
Slogan	3	Slogans in the top and bottom margins are the same as in Cylinder No. 2, and the side margins are filled by a pattern formed of two parallel lines, followed by the figures "240", except at the ends of the 10th and 11th rows.	
Slogan	4	Like Cylinder No. 3, but with the spaces on either side of the arrow at the centre of the side margins filled in with "240" and two shorter lines.	

360 Stamp Sheets - ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d

Type	Number	Distinguishing features	
Slogan	5	There are no dots around "B" of BUY in the right corner, and there is a large blob in the bottom of the slogan tab over the 16th stamp of the top row. It is almost certainly because of this defect that this slogan cylinder No. 5 was used only for the first issue of the ½d. value.	
Slogan	6	There is a dot 1,75 mm distant below the "B" of BUY and there is no blob on the bottom of the slogan tab over the 16th stamp of the top row. Except in these two respects, it is the same as No. 5.	
Slogan	7	Like No. 6, but now with two dots to the left, one close, the other 2,75 mm away and none below "B" of BUY in the top right corner.	

360 Stamp Sheets - ½d, 1d, 3d, 4d

Type	Number	Distinguishing features	
Slogan	8	Slogans in the top and bottom margins the same as those in Cylinders Nos. 5, 6 and 7, but with a pattern formed by the figure “360” and two parallel lines filling the whole of the side margins, except for the portions at the ends of the 10th and 11th rows.	
Slogan	9	Similar to No. 8, but with the side margins completely filled and having the figure “360” and lines in reverse order. Thus there are now figures instead of lines in the top corners and vice versa in the bottom ones.	

References

- [1] S. J. Hagger, *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961, Handbook Catalogue*, Definitive Edition. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd, 1986. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hagger-Group-12-a.pdf#page=15>.

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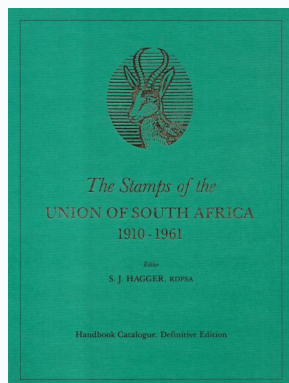
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An update and review of *The Union Handbook*, dated 1986, is underway.

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Every contribution, whether a small correction, a fresh perspective, or a detailed proposal, will help strengthen the quality and integrity of this important reference work. Your participation is valued and sincerely appreciated.



South Camp for Boer Prisoners of War at Simon's Town

by Richard Stroud RDPSA, Orange Free State Study Circle

Boer prisoners of war captured at Elandsplaagte, Natal, and other locations in the early months of the Anglo-Boer War, were initially held on naval and transport ships in Simon's Bay. The conditions under which the Boer POWs were suffering created so many complaints that a deputation visited the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony (W.P. Schreiner) to seek his help in getting the POWs transferred ashore. As a result, a decision was taken to set up on-shore camps. In early 1900, the Naval Recreation and Parade Ground, close to the Martello Tower to the south of the Naval Dockyard, Simon's Town, was selected, being flat and suitable for accommodating tents, and was close to the sea for recreation and exercise. This was to become South Camp, a temporary camp in early February, until a more permanent camp could be opened nearby at Belle Vue. The POWs at South Camp were transferred to Belle Vue Camp, although not immediately, as the influx of several thousand POWs captured at Paardeberg in late February had first to be addressed. The site then reverted to its original use as a parade ground.

South Camp opened on 4th February 1900. Fig.1 shows prisoners being transferred from the *Catalonia* on that date [1, p. 71], [2, p. 75]. The camp consisted of 56 bell tents, on wooden floors, in four rows of fourteen, with metal huts as wash houses and toilet facilities, in an area of 200 yards by 150 yards, surrounded by double wire fencing. The inner fence, of barbed wire, was about five feet high, and was separated some six feet from the outer fence of plain wire six feet high, as shown in Fig.1.

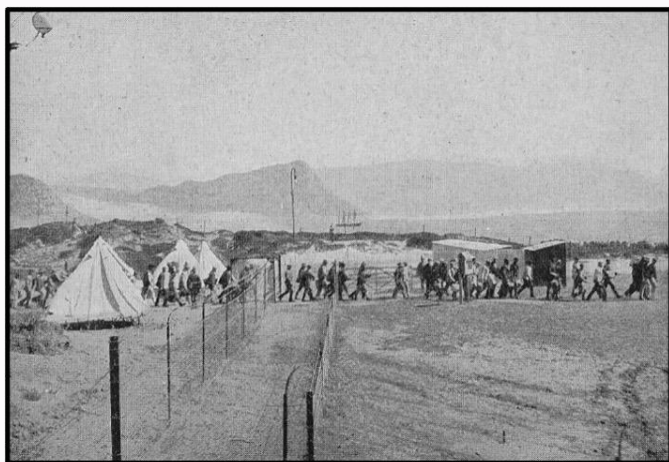


Fig.1: *The transfer of prisoners to South Camp.*

The general view of Fig.2 is of South Camp from the main road above it, the Martello Tower next to it, with the four rows of tents clearly visible [3]. The view of Fig.3 is of a

lonely sentry at an entrance to South Camp from the main road above the Camp. The tents below to the left are within South Camp, the Martello Tower just out of view; the nearby tents are probably those of the Camp guard and so not fenced. As many ships are visible in Simon's Bay in the image, it can only be over South Camp. [It cannot be over Belle Vue Camp which was about one mile south behind an intervening headland overlooking False Bay; also the decline from the main road to Boulders Beach at Belle Vue is very steep, only levelling out close to the shore [4]].



Fig.2: *General View of South Camp.*



Fig.3: *General view of South Camp from the main road above the Camp.*

Captain J.J. Proctor of the Cape Garrison Artillery was appointed commander of South Camp (see Fig.7). He was fluent in Cape Dutch, and this is possibly the reason he was seconded there. He later was commander of Green Point Camp. At the end of the War, he went to St Helena where he administered the Oath of Allegiance to the POWs.

Postal History of South Camp

Fig.4 shows a cover² addressed to a W.H. Gravett, Naval Recreation Ground, Simon's Bay. The item is postmarked Germiston 13 MRT 00, and was censored at Pretoria on 14

²Willem Hendrik Gravett of Jeppe's Town, Johannesburg, was captured, on the Little Tugela on 16th November 1899, while serving under Dereksen. POW No 3814.

MRT 00, a Boer Type 3 censor seal being applied. Its route was then via Delagoa Bay and Port Elizabeth: there are backstamp transits of Lourenço Marques 16 MAR 00 and Port Elizabeth 24 MR 00. Interestingly, there is no evidence of censoring in the Cape, possibly because of Naval Recreation Ground being part of the address and/or of non-familiarity of the existence of South Camp. The latter is doubtful, the Camp being some two months old by late March 1900.



Fig. 4: Cover to POW W.H. Gravett held at 'Naval Recreation Ground, Simon's Bay' (Andrew Whiting collection).

Fig. 5 is a cover³ from MALMESBURY FE 9 00 addressed to POW Alan Hutchinson, c/o Naval Commandant, Naval Recreation Ground, Simons Town. A Cape Town arrival is on reverse. It was censored there with the dumb circular CENSOR PRISONERS OF WAR cachet.



Fig. 5: Cover to POW Alan Hutchinson 'c/o Naval Commandant, Naval Recreation Ground, Simon's Town' (Richard Stroud collection).

Fig. 6 shows a cover⁴ addressed to 'South Camp'. It is from Potchefstroom 1 MEI 00 ZAR; is addressed to G.S. Wolfaardt, South Camp, Simon's Town, Cape Colony, and was paid at the correct 2½d rate Via Delagoa (Bay). There is a transit backstamp of Durban (1)4 MY 1900 Natal where a Type 2 seal was applied. The dumb circular censor mark was struck upon arrival at Cape Town. A manuscript 27 June 1900 probably indicates when Wolfaardt replied to the letter. Note that the date of 1 May 1900 does not indicate that South Camp was still open then: the cover may have been one of several in a correspondence which started earlier.



Fig. 6: Cover addressed to G.S. Wolfaardt, South Camp, Simon's Town (Alan Harley collection).

The commandant of South Camp is named in the cover⁵ of Fig. 7. This is addressed to Lt. W.H. Parker, Prisoners of War, c/o Captain Proctor, Simon's Town. There is a handstamp of the UNITED STATES CONSUL GENERAL, CAPE TOWN and a Cape Town postmark of AP 13 00. Lt. Parker would have been at South Camp as he was captured at Elandslaagte in October 1899.

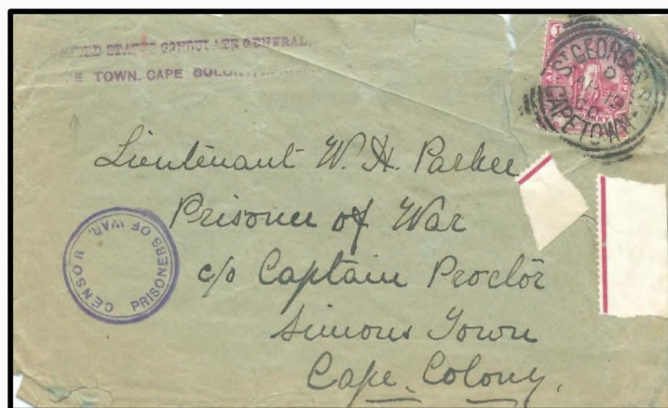


Fig. 7: Cover to a Lt W.H. Parker, Prisoners of War, c/o Captain Proctor, Simon's Town, with the handstamp of the UNITED STATES CONSUL GENERAL, CAPE TOWN (Alan Harley collection).

³Alan Reginald Hutchinson, of Johannesburg, was captured, aged 23, at Elandslaagte on 21st November 1899 while with Commandant-Generaal Piet Joubert. He was given the POW number 3857 and held on board the Catalonia, being transferred to South Camp on 4th February 1900. He was later transported to St Helena, Deadwood Camp.

⁴George Sebastian Wolvaardt [not Wolfaardt, the English variation] of Kraal Kop, District Potchefstroom was captured, aged 33, at Paardeberg on 27 February 1900, allocated POW No 2432 and subsequently sent to St Helena

⁵William Parker, of Johannesburg, was captured at Elandslaagte on 21 October 1899, allocated POW No 3544. Sent to Deadwood Camp, St Helena.

Further covers reported have been:

1. Cover^a from Stellenbosch AP 3 00 addressed to G.F. van Tonder "Proctor's Camp" Simon's Town. It has backstamps of CAPE TOWN 3 AP 00 (where censoring occurred with a strike of the dumb POW cachet), SALT RIVER, WYNBERG 4 and SIMON'S TOWN all on 4 AP 00.
2. Cover^b with 3 x1d OFS, not postmarked, but routed via Bloemfontein where it received a strike of the oval POSTMEESTER GENERAAL cachet as a censor mark. Endorsed via Delagoa Baai, it has a transit backstamp of DURBAN MR 2 00, where a Type 2 censor seal was applied. On the front is an arrival postmark of CAPE TOWN 8 MR 00. The addressee is O.J. Schalkwyk, c/o military (sic) camp, Simon's Town. The letter had to have been posted in late February or earlier to have received a Durban MR 2 00 transit. As Belle Vue Camp did not open until 28th February, this identifies the cover as being for South Camp.
3. A wrapper^c from a packet from a bookseller/stationer/artist's colourman in Cape Town, is addressed to a Dr G de la Bat, c/o Commandant Prisoners of War, Simons Town and dated 16/3/00. Initially intended to be sent via Book Post, the method of despatch was amended to Rail. This may explain the postage rate of one shilling (2 x 6d Hope Sitting) and postmarked MR 16 00. There is a dumb Censor Prisoners of War cachet below the address. It cannot be ascertained in which of the two Simon's Town camps Dr de la Bat was being held prisoner. Belle Vue had only recently then opened (on 28th February). That he seems to have had an account by mid-March indicates that Dr de la Bat was known to the supplier, and so he would have been held at South Camp. The date that he was captured – 26/11/99 – also supports South Camp.

Research End Note

In 2019, Robin Woodruff visited Simon's Town Museum and found an unpublished document which included recollections, circa 1960, of three Cape Camps by an elderly ex-POW, one being South Camp, then unknown to ABW postal historians. In a book [3], Robin found more information, including a


^aGeorge Frederik van Tonder, of Turffontein, Johannesburg, was captured, aged 20, at Elandsplaagte on 21st November 1899 while with J. Kock. He was given the POW number 4330 and initially held on board the Catalonia, being transferred to South Camp on 4th February 1900. He was later transported to St Helena, Deadwood Camp (Richard Stroud collection)

^bEx the late John Mark's collection and its current ownership is not known. Ockert Johannes Schalkwyk of Vogelvllei, District Winburg, was captured, aged 20, on 23/11/1899 at Belmont while with the Winburg Commando. POW 6389.

^cEx the late Robert Johnson's collection and its current ownership is not known. Dr Gerrit Hendrik de la Bat of Vrede was captured, aged 31, at Frere Station while with the Vrede Commando on 26/11/99. POW No 5054. A medical doctor, he was paroled on 8/6/1900

photograph of South Camp next to the Martello Tower, and a detailed hand-drawn map in Dutch purporting to show South Camp. However, the title 'South Camp' had been added later, and in English, and Alan Harley revealed that the map's topography indicated that it was of nearby Belle Vue Camp. Upon Robin's return to the UK, a search for South Camp postal history commenced, with help from Steve Hannath, resulting in reports and articles in the *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist* [5]–[7] and this current article. It is pleasing that so many South Camp items have already been identified and that this aspect of ABW postal history is now being studied. It is also worth noting that the existence of South Camp had been known locally for many years and included in local publications. Potentially more information may also be held elsewhere.

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- [1] "Notes O' War," *The Black & White Budget*, vol. III, pp. 62–73, Apr. 1900. [Online]. Available: <https://www.angloboerwar.com/images/pdf/blackandwhite19000421.pdf#page=3>.
- [2] "The Coming Relief of Mafeking," *The Black & White Budget*, vol. III, pp. 74–93, Apr. 1900. [Online]. Available: <https://www.angloboerwar.com/images/pdf/blackandwhite19000421.pdf#page=10>.
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- [4] S. Hannath, "Private correspondence."
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- [6] R. Stroud, "An Update on the POW Camps around Cape Town 1899-1900," *The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist*, vol. 66, Jun. 2023.
- [7] R. Stroud, "Further Updates on the POW Camps around Cape Town 1899-1900," *The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist*, vol. 68, Sep. 2025. 



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| 1938 | G N Gilbert (Gillie)* | 1972 | John T (Jack) Burrell* | 2004 | Des Hyland* |
| 1939 | Charles H Thornton* | 1972 | S J (Fanie) Vermaak* | 2005 | Dr Ian Matheson |
| 1939 | William L Ashmead* | 1973 | Dr Hendrik Jacobus (Henry) Raubenheimer* | 2005 | Danie Scheepers |
| 1948 | Albert Edward Basden* | 1974 | Rudi Jeidel* | 2006 | Jan Bakker* |
| 1948 | Adrian Albert Jurgens* | 1976 | Hilda Jeidel* | 2006 | Neville Polakow |
| 1948 | Percy C Bishop* | 1977 | Dr Hasso Otto Herman Frederick Reisener* | 2007 | George Cafetzoglou |
| 1948 | James Hunter Harvey Pirie* | 1979 | IR (Bob) Goldblatt* | 2008 | Emil Minnaar |
| 1948 | William M Redford* | 1980 | Joh Groenewald* | 2008 | Patrick Flanagan |
| 1948 | Archibald Hylton Sydow* | 1980 | Arie J Bakker* | 2009 | John Cheminais* |
| 1948 | J Norman Welsford* | 1981 | Archie GM Batten* | 2010 | Hugh Amooore |
| 1949 | Karl Freund* | 1982 | Natie Becker* | 2011 | Gawie van der Walt |
| 1949 | Alec Kaplan* | 1982 | Harry Birkhead* | 2011 | Herbie Schaffler |
| 1951 | George K Forbes* | 1985 | Stan P Naylor* | 2012 | Emil Bührmann |
| 1951 | Sam Legator* | 1985 | David G Crocker* | 2012 | Bob Allison (UK) |
| 1952 | Ernest Hunt* | 1986 | Harold M Criddle* | 2013 | Dr Jim Findlay |
| 1952 | Andrew Watson* | 1987 | M J (Thys) Rall* | 2013 | Rev Pauw Steyl |
| 1953 | Bertram R L Fox* | 1987 | Danny T Swart* | 2014 | Dr Neil Cronjé |
| 1954 | William N Sheffield* | 1988 | Ernest Cecil Wright* | 2014 | Herwig Kussing |
| 1955 | John H H Chamberlain* | 1988 | Richard Cave Knight* | 2015 | Mike Tonking |
| 1956 | William (Willie) Newlands* | 1988 | N C (Nico) Combrink* | 2015 | Richard Stroud (UK) |
| 1956 | Thomas B Davie* | 1988 | H R Holmes* | 2016 | Prof Alex Visser |
| 1957 | S J (Jack) Hagger* | 1989 | André Bezuidenhout* | 2016 | Paul van Zeyl* |
| 1958 | Leo Buchen* | 1989 | Mike J Nethersole (USA)* | 2017 | (no nomination) |
| | | 1990 | Coen Slagt* | 2018 | Dr Nic Zerbst* |
| | | 1990 | Robson Lowe* | 2018 | Lars Jørgenson |
| | | 1991 | Ralph F Putzel* | 2019 | Roger Porter |
| | | 1991 | George van den Hurk* | 2020 | André du Plessis |
| | | 1992 | Cedric Roché | 2020 | Dr Christopher Board |
| | | 1992 | Gunter von Schumann (Namibia) | 2021 | Dr Keith Klugman |
| | | 1993 | Dr Gerrit H Jonkers* | 2022 | (no nomination) |
| | | 1993 | Howard Green | 2023 | Dr Vic Sorour |
| | | 1994 | Wilhelm Grütter* | 2023 | Brian Trotter |
| | | 1994 | Dr JR (Achi) Frank (UK) | 2024 | Andrew Briscoe |
| | | 1995 | Dr Alan Drysdall (UK)* | 2024 | Josua van der Merwe |
| | | | | 2025 | Dr Alan Rose |
| | | | | 2025 | Dr Danna Strydom |



The 3s Emergency: Innovation and Adaptation in South Africa's King's Head Booklets

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

The postal history of the Union of South Africa is often characterized by the tension between the desire for administrative standardisation and the chaotic economic reality of the post-World War I era. Nowhere is this tension more palpable than in the production of the King's Head stamp booklets. While the series began in 1913 with relative stability, the inflation of the early 1920s forced the South African Department of Posts and Telegraphs and their printer, De La Rue, into a cycle of reactionary manufacturing. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the 3s Booklet (Types 4, 4a, 5 and 5a), focusing on the emergency measures, uprating overprints, and technical innovations that defined this tumultuous period. Drawing upon the De La Rue archives reported in [1], we reconstruct the timeline of a postal administration struggling to keep pace with its own tariff legislation.

For the philatelist, history is not merely a narrative written in textbooks; it is a physical artefact that is perforated, gummed, stapled, and often surcharged. The stamp booklet, frequently dismissed by early collectors as a mere convenience item for the public, is in fact one of the most sensitive barometers of a nation's economic health. Unlike a standard postage stamp, which can be easily adapted to new rates by simply affixing more of them to an envelope, a stamp booklet is a pre-packaged financial instrument. It has a fixed face value and a rigid internal configuration. When postal rates change overnight, the information in the stamp booklet becomes instantly obsolete.



Fig.1: Mackennal head with uncleared surround (Louwrence Erasmus Collection).

The Union of South Africa, formed in 1910, inherited a diverse postal tradition from the Cape of Good Hope, Orange Free State, Natal, and the Transvaal. The fledgling Union government sought to unify these disparities through a centralized contract with the legendary British security

printer, Thomas De La Rue & Co. The result was the King's Head booklet series, featuring the Mackennal profile of King George V, Fig.1.

While the lifecycle of these booklets (spanning from their initial tender in 1911 until their replacement in 1926) offers a fascinating glimpse into a bilingual nation building its identity, it is the specific anomaly of the 3s Booklet (Booklet 4) and its varieties that captures the historical imagination. This seemingly modest item tells a dramatic story of economic pressure, administrative agility, and the 'make-do' spirit of the early Union post.



Fig.2: Appendix sheet showing unapproved proofs of the unsevered proposed front and back covers (reduced) (Louwrence Erasmus Collection).

To understand the disruption of the 1920s, one must first appreciate the rigid standards that preceded it. The early years of the Union's booklet production were marked by a high degree of consistency, bordering on monotony. Following the tender award to De La Rue in 1912, the initial

booklets (Types 1 and 2) established a firm template, Fig.2. They were sold at a face value of 2s 6d, a convenient sum that provided the public with twenty-four 1d stamps and twelve ½d stamps. They were printed on paper featuring the Springbok watermark, a crucial symbol of the new national identity and perforated to gauge 14 [2].

Even as late as 1919, the system appeared robust. The Booklet 3 issue, Fig.3, known to collectors for its distinctive salmon-pink unglazed card covers, was prepared with De La Rue's characteristic meticulousness. The archives in London, which miraculously survived the Blitz of World War II, reveal an obsessive attention to detail during this period. For example, proofs from January 1919 show that the administration delayed production to correct a minor linguistic error in the Dutch text on the back cover, where "Betaalorders" had been incorrectly split into two words [1].

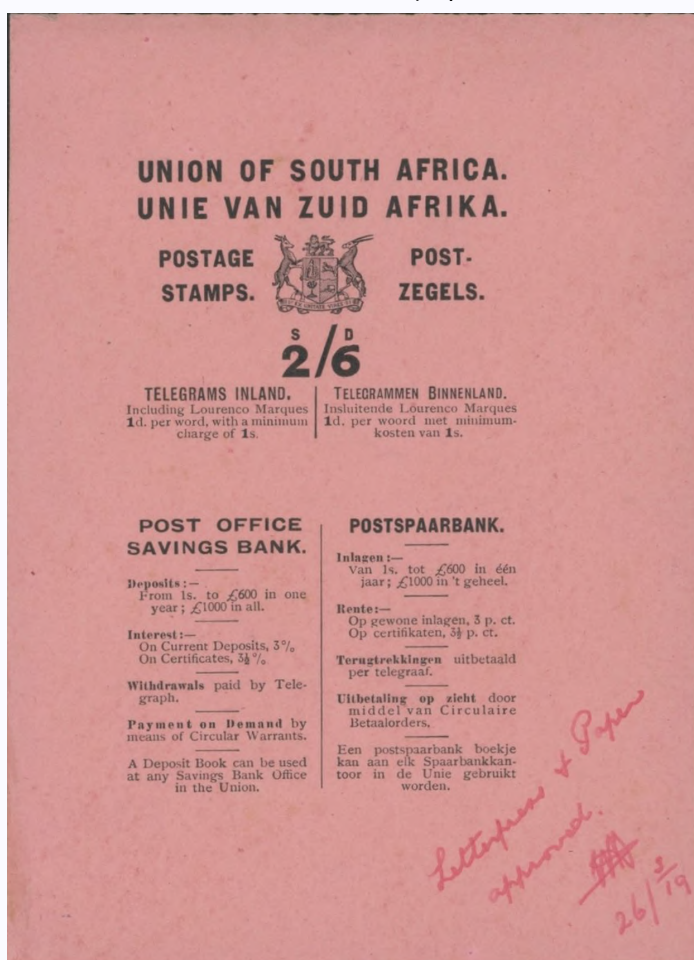


Fig.3: Booklet 3 proof approved on 26 March 1919 (reduced) (Lourence Erasmus Collection).

Under Requisition No. 184 in 1918, De La Rue delivered over one million of these standard 2s 6d booklets [1]. The postal administration operated with the confidence that the 1d letter rate was immutable. They were wrong.

The aftermath of World War I brought a global wave of inflation that did not spare the Union of South Africa. As the cost of labor, transport, and raw materials rose, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs found its operating margins squeezed. The 1d letter rate, a staple of Imperial

communication became financially unsustainable.

On 10 May 1920, the stability of the previous decade was shattered. The inland postal rate was hiked to 1½d.

This legislative change created an immediate logistical nightmare for the booklet supply chain. The standard 2s 6d booklet, filled with 1d stamps, was now mathematically inefficient for the consumer. A user wishing to post a standard letter would need to use a 1d stamp plus a ½d stamp, depleting the ½d pane much faster than the 1d pane and leaving the user with useless remainders.

The administration's initial response was a panicked stutter. Requisition 1291, originally tendered in March 1920 for a reprint of the old Type 3 booklets, was abruptly cancelled [3]. The government realized that printing more 2s 6d booklets was futile. They needed a new product that matched the new economic reality.

After the cancellation of the initial order, Requisition 1291 was reissued on 24 February 1921 with radically different specifications [1]. This marked the birth of Booklet 4, the first Union booklet to carry a face value of 3s, Fig.4.

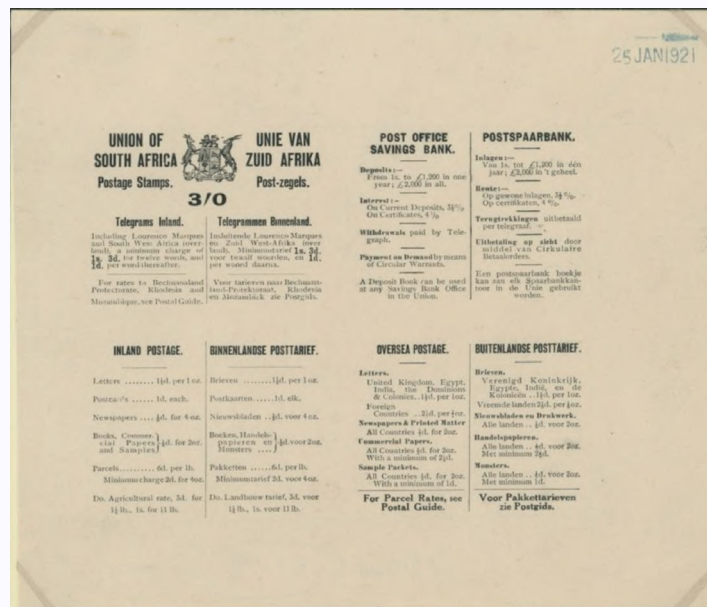


Fig.4: Booklet 4 proof dated 25 January 1925 (reduced) (Lourence Erasmus Collection).

The logic behind the 3s value was dictated by the new stamp denominations required to meet the 1½d rate. The new booklet was configured to contain: two panes of six ½d stamps, two panes of six 1d stamps, and two panes of six of the newly essential 1½d stamps.

This mix allowed the consumer to make up the various rates for postcards (1d) and letters (1½d) without excessive waste. However, the addition of the new 1½d denomination and the increased paper costs presented a new problem: the cost of manufacturing the booklet was threatening to exceed its face value.

To solve the financial equation, the South African postal authorities turned to the private sector. In February 1914, enquiries had been made about advertising, but it

was the 1921 crisis that forced the issue. De La Rue was instructed to integrate advertising interleaves to subsidise production costs [1].

The result was a landmark commercial contract with Messrs Lever Brothers of Durban. The De La Rue archives record that Lever Brothers paid £1,000 to place ten advertisements in one million booklets [1]. This was not subtle placement; the booklet became a veritable catalogue of cleaning products. Collectors today can find interleaves promoting 'Sunlight soap' ('The purest and best soap for all purposes'), 'Lifebuoy', 'Lux', 'Vim', 'Monkey Brand', and 'Royal Vinolia'. Two other companies also took-up one leaf side each with products 'Cobra Boot Polish' and 'Sanitas' Fig.5.



Fig.5: Some of the advertisements on interleaves (reduced) (Louwrence Erasmus Collection).

This integration of commerce and state philately was significant. It fundamentally changed the physical structure of the booklet. To accommodate the ads, the binding and collation processes had to be altered, adding complexity to the manufacturing line at De La Rue's Bunhill Row factory. If the transition to the 3s booklet was difficult, the release was disastrous. The postal administration had spent months designing the new booklet to satisfy the 1½d rate introduced in 1920. However, the legislative gears were turning faster than the printing presses.

Effective 1 June 1921, while the new 3s booklets were likely still being packed or shipped, the South African government raised the postal rate again, this time to 2d.

The brand-new 3s booklets, containing their celebrated 1½d stamps, were obsolete before they even went on sale. The 1½d stamp, the very reason for the booklet's redesign, was no longer sufficient for a standard letter.

De La Rue's archives document a "suspension of booklet orders" followed by a frantic directive for "urgent overprinting" [1]. The administration could not afford to destroy the stock of Requisition 1291. They had to adapt it. The primary issue was the cover text. The interior covers detailed the postal rates, which were now legally incorrect.

De La Rue issued an invoice for "Salmon-coloured unglazed covers for urgent overprinting", at a cost of £185 for 80,000 booklets, a significant premium for rush work in 1921. A surviving proof in the archives is endorsed with the manuscript note: "Stamp book covers o/ptd 2d. as shown appd May 4th. 1921" [1]. This note appears on the back of the proof shown in Fig.6.

Contrary to previous speculation that Booklet 4 was printed first [1], it can be stated that Booklet 4a was printed first and is supported by the 2 May 1921 emergency surcharge proof in my own collection, Fig.6.

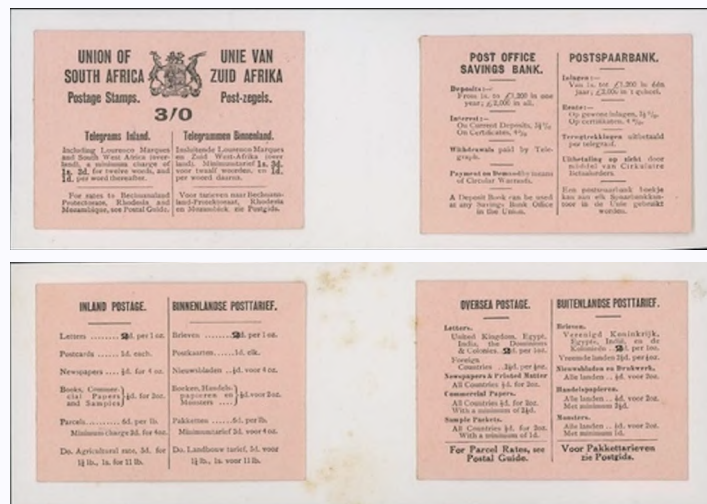


Fig.6: Emergency proof with '2' surcharge rate (reduced) (Louwrence Erasmus Collection).

Collectors must examine Type 4a booklets for these specific emergency modifications:

- **Inside Front Cover:** The text describing the letter rate was surcharged with a heavy '2' to obliterate the old 1½d price.
- **Back Cover:** Similar surcharges were applied to any text referencing the obsolete rates.

These booklets were released on 4 July 1921, a mere month after the rate hike, demonstrating an impressive speed of turnaround by De La Rue and the shipping lines.

Examine Type 4 booklets for the remaining issued 340,000:

- **Inside Front Cover:** The text describing the letter rate was surcharged with a heavy '2d' to obliterate the old 1½d price.
- **Back Cover:** Similar surcharges were applied to any text referencing the obsolete rates.

The 3s booklet (Type 4/4a) was, by necessity, a stopgap. It solved the problem of the text, but it did not solve the problem of the stamps. The public was still buying a booklet containing 1½d stamps when they needed 2d stamps.

To resolve this, the administration finally authorized the replacement of the stamp contents. The remaining 580,000 booklets from Requisition No. 1291, originally printed as 3s booklets, were modified during assembly. The 1½d panes were removed and replaced with 2d stamp panes [1].

This change in content necessitated a change in price. The

face value of the booklet changed from 3s to 3s 6d. However, the covers had already been printed with the 3s price. Once again, the printers had to resort to surcharging the covers. This created Booklet 5, released on 1 January 1922. This issue is a fascinating study in typographical nuance. Because the surcharging was done in batches, likely using different typesetting equipment, two distinct varieties emerged based on the font used to print the '3s 6d' uprating [1] Fig.7:

- Type 5: Features a rounded-edge font for the surcharge elements.
- Type 5a: Features a squared-edge font for the surcharge elements.

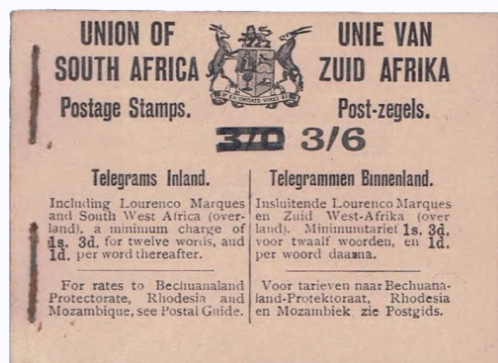


Fig.7: Booklet 5
(Lourence Erasmus Collection).



Fig.8: Booklet 5a front cover
(Lourence Erasmus Collection).

Both types retained the advertising interleaves, which were contractually obligated to appear in one million booklets, regardless of the cover price or stamp denomination [1].

Beyond the surcharges and rate changes, the 3s and 3s 6d booklets represent a major technical shift in South African philately.

For Booklets 1, 2, and 3, De La Rue had generally used standard sheets of stamps to create the booklet panes, utilising the margins for binding. However, for the 3s booklet contract (Requisition 1291), De La Rue introduced a specific 'Booklet Sheet' layout, Fig.9.

This layout was designed to maximize paper efficiency and binding speed. The sheets were printed tête-bêche (head-to-head). When the sheets were cut into panes for binding, this tête-bêche arrangement created a distinct physical characteristic that acts as a fingerprint for these issues [2]:

- Half of the booklets produced from these sheets were

stapled on the left side, resulting in stamps with an upright watermark.

- The other half were stapled on the right side, resulting in stamps with an inverted watermark.

This technical detail is vital for the specialist. A loose 1½d or 2d King's Head stamp with an inverted watermark is almost certainly a refugee from one of these booklets (Type 4 or 5). Furthermore, the 2d stamp found in Booklet 5 (issued 1922) is particularly interesting because the 2d denomination was not used in previous booklets, making the booklet-derived examples with inverted watermarks scarcer than their sheet counterparts.

The King's Head booklets of South Africa are far more than convenient compilations of stamps. They are industrial artefacts that bear the scars of their time. The transition from the 'Salmon Pink' 2s 6d booklet to the emergency 3s and 3s 6d varieties is a microscopic history of the early 1920s.

It reveals a government struggling to assert its identity (via the Springbok watermark/bilingual text) while battling the universal adversary of inflation. It highlights the reliance on British industry (De La Rue) and the innovative steps toward commercial sponsorship (Lever Brothers and others) to keep the postal service solvent.

The urgent overprinting of May 1921, executed at a cost of £185, may have seemed like a mundane comprehensive ledger entry at the time. Today, however, it provides philatelists with a thrilling narrative of unforeseen circumstance, adaptation, and survival. The 3s booklet serves as a permanent testament to the fact that even in the rigid world of security printing, necessity remains the mother of invention.



Fig.9: Portion of a 1½d tête-bêche 'Booklet Sheet' (reduced)
(Lourence Erasmus Collection).

References

- [1] B. Trotter, "The King's Head Booklets of South Africa," *The London Philatelist*, vol. 114, no. 1322, pp. 2–11, Jan. 2005.
- [2] S. Hagger, *Handbook Catalogue - Union of South African Stamps*. Philatelic Federation of South Africa, 1986.
- [3] B. Trotter, *The King's Head Stamps and Stationery of South Africa*. The Royal Philatelic Society London, May 2012. [🌐](#)

Pieter Meyer's Exciting Philately Journey Over Four Decades

It started 40 years ago!

It was a Saturday morning and I was wandering through the different flea market stalls in Krugersdorp. Suddenly I came across a Davo-Stamp Album, printed and issued in Holland.

The front page displayed the South African code of arms with the wording 'South Africa – Suid Afrika'. It contained the pre-printed pages from 1910 – 1986 and was 80% completed with mint stamps. On enquiry the flea-market seller assured me that every missing stamp was available from stamp dealers on the West Rand.

This was the most beautiful collection I have seen, as the stamps were displayed behind plastic-like pockets and I have seen pieces I did not know existed. Once completed, it would be the nicest coffee table book full of SA's history. (A subject I never had at school). Also, this was far away from my University Stellenbosch commercial studies. I paid for it and was very happy with this 'investment'. This opened a new field of interest for me.

Needless to say, up till today, my single stamp album has grown to 100+ stamp- and cover-albums whilst the original one is still 'number one' and not a coffee table album (too precious) any more !

My collections and activity around Philately has brought me endless joy and I have fascinating stories to tell, some humorous, some with an interesting angle and others with a captivating end.

Let me start with my bleak-faced English secretary in Wesbank Roodepoort, where I was employed as a corporate banker. On secretaries day, my boss, Ed Grondel, invited management for a lunch with their secretaries to the Bryanston Golf club. Obviously flowers and chocolates were part of the occasion. Colleen and myself attended and we found ourselves for pre-drinks with Ed Grondel in the lounge. It is then when the 'naughty Ed' turned to the girls and asked, "Tell me more about your bosses!" Colleen was the first to react, saying "I am so pleased I am not working for a Nerd!"

When Ed asked her to give us a description of a 'Nerd', she was quick in replying . . . "It is a guy collecting stamps". Some of the people in the group, who knew me well, burst out with laughter. Ed was well aware of my hobby, as I have in the past parted with some stamps for his son. He then replied: "Well, let me re-phrase it for you Colleen. It is a guy who visits his girlfriend for a romantic encounter on a



Pieter Meyer.

Saturday night and then takes his stamp album with him!"

Nobody corrected her, namely that I (her manager) was a stamp collector myself, however, the next morning she was standing in front of my office with a chocolate and a face that told it all. "I am so sorry sir, I really did not know, until some-one told me yesterday, after the function. I slipped." For a while, it was a mutual joke between us, especially when I slipped up on something. I would state, "Our nerds are like that!"

A few years later, I was in Oudtshoorn, pursuing an automotive engineering career. As there was not many stamp collectors in Oudtshoorn, I put an advert in the local newspaper, calling for people with stamp albums who wish to sell it, "I am a willing buyer". Billy, a Barman at the Caves Motel, phoned me. He had a fair amount of stamp albums, which he found under the floorboards of his old stone-house he was renovating. On inspecting, the albums and on surface it appeared to be quite valuable with mostly older stamps. He was selling the albums to buy a computer for his kids. I paid him.

A few weeks later, as I was working through the albums, I came across two fairly rare stamps, being a 1910 Bechuanaland 6d King Edward overprinted stamps of the Transvaal. It was a Mint and a Used stamp in perfect condition. Apparently the Post Office (mail) coach from the Cape to Mafikeng got ambushed and robbed of newly printed Bechuanaland postage/revenue stamps. As the authorities were running short on stamps a few of the Transvaal stamps was overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate".



Fig.1: 1910 Bechuanaland 6d King Edward overprinted on Transvaal.

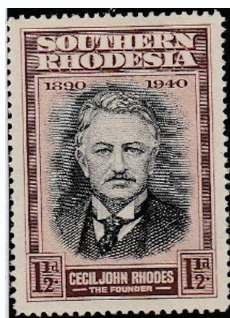
I felt like paying the barman more, which I did. I put the money in a white envelope and went to the Caves Motel Bar to see Billy. When I entered he was very suspicious and told me "The deal was done and completed!" I went up to him and told him that working through the albums, I discovered two stamps that are fairly valuable and felt to pay him more. His face was one big frown, but he took the envelope and disappeared behind the glass at the back. After a while he returned, looked at me and said . "Weet jy wat, Jy is die eerlikste skelm wat ek nog teëgekome het!!" Was that an insult or a compliment? Well he offered me a double brandy and coke on the house and thanked me.

My next story is about a scrap photo and letter album

(with a few stamps), I bought it from Ray Upton (Southern Cape Philatelic Auctions) in 2012. It previously belonged to Michael Eloff, a Prisoner of War during the Anglo Boer War, 1900 to 1902. There were 40 odd pages of letters, covers etc. to and from Diyatalawa (Ceylon) Boer Prison camp, where Michael was kept. These letters were from him to his family in the Z.A.R. and later after his farm was destroyed (Kitchener's Scorched earth policy) also between him and his wife in the Pietermaritzburg camp. He had 12 children (the youngest one 3 years old) and his sons were part of the Boer commandos. It was a thrilling, heart-breaking story of tenacity, endurance and bravery as can be expected from these Boers. Michael was the brother of Frikkie Eloff, private secretary of President Paul Krüger. He was also the son of Kmdt Sarel Eloff of the Rustenburg Commando.

I enjoyed 4 years of intensive research, even travelling from Oudtshoorn to De Poortje at Standerton to complete my 48 page exhibition under the title, 'Plakboek van 'n Krygsgevangene.'

I got a large silver medal at the Nationals of 2016 and the 'A.T.K.V. prize' for the best Afrikaans exhibit. Back home, sitting at my desk, I got a call from a Mr Jacobs from Bellville asking me if I want to sell the exhibit. He was phoning on behalf of someone else. I was very reluctant. After more calls I started to calculate a price, which was substantially more than the normal price, expecting that I will be put under pressure to accept a lower price. To my great, great surprise the next morning, the very good price I quoted, was paid into my bank account by Mr Jacobus Bekker. I found it strange, as my negotiations was with Mr Jacobs! He then informed me that the purchaser was Mr Koos Bekker, chairman of Naspers, the largest company on the JSE, He wanted it for his new (proposed) Afrikaner Museum in Stellenbosch. I was surprised, amazed and actually shocked, when learning the name of the buyer.



Cecil John Rhodes.

appeared in the early 1900's.

In short, I was fascinated by the remarkable achievements of this man during his very short career (he died at age 48 years). On his deathbed he uttered the words to Dr Leonard Jameson, "So little time left and still so much to do!"

Then there was the story of Cecil John Rhodes a character you can compare with the All Black rugby team. . . . Phenomenal and strong, but not loved by South Africans !

It was during the time that the 'Rhodes must fall' campaign which was in full swing at the University of Cape Town. Added to this I read the biography of Mr Rhodes by Howard Hensman, which

I put together a 48 page display of his life and career, filled with postage stamps issued in Rhodesia, vintage postcards of his life at De Beers, Kimberley, Groote Schuur, etc. My collection and exhibition even included an 1898, £20 bistre coloured (fiscally used) postage stamp.



1898 £20 bistre (fiscally used) perfin.

I felt that a man who donated nearly his entire estate, including Groote Schuur, Kirstenbosch, the grounds of University of Cape Town, Rhodes and various other properties to the 'people of South Africa', how can he just be wiped from the surface of the earth? (Rhodes must be removed!) This was 'Philatelic Protest', if there is something like this. I received a large silver medal.

More importantly, I also received a call a few days later from the Rhodes Foundation at Muizenburg, where the Rhodes cottage is. They wanted to buy the stamp exhibit. This time I was reluctant and refused to sell. I nevertheless made 48 colour photocopies and forwarded it to them for display at his cottage.

I have also learnt that you must never underestimate a torn, neglected schoolboy album when seeing it in a pawn shop or flea market. For instance the 1/4 Anna postage stamp in bluish green colour. It was issued in 1887 in the city Jhalawar, India. I found this gem in a local pawn shop.



1887 1/4 Anna.

Now that I am retired, I thoroughly enjoy my hobby even more, We have a wonderful club, 'Die Mosselbaai Posboom Filatelie Klub'. Although we are a country-side club, with limited exposure to valuable and new philately material, we interact nicely with neighbouring clubs, George and Stilbaai. Strong competition exists when we exhibit, but afterwards the socials are even better.

I recently put together a display on General Jan Smuts. He was a man ahead of his time. He was the first white leader to meet the ANC in 1947, however before he could take any action, lost the elections in 1948. During his funeral his body was specially move to Irene, his farm, where a black choir was singing, 'Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika' (45 years before it became our National Anthem).



Gen. JC Smuts.

At the moment I am working on an exhibition of Missionaries. Philately undoubtedly remains "The hobby of kings, and the king of hobbies!"

Show your collection to your family and friends, and consider exhibiting it at club meetings and regional, national, and international exhibitions. See this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, [Stamps SA Keeping in Touch](#), and the official PFSA website at <http://stampssa.africa> for more information.



The Stamps of Liechtenstein: Not Just Any Old Collecting Area (Part 3)

by Holger Zahnow, Independent Author

"Häsch Bödä? - Muasch tala?"

*This means: "Do you have land?
Do you have to share your inheritance?"⁶*

The marketing strategy of the relevant postal administration or postal organisation is a special chapter of every modern collecting area. With varying degrees of ingenuity, imitations and sometimes eccentric stylistic devices, attempts are made to attract attention in the sea of sensations in order to retain loyal customers and gain as many new customers as possible despite the rapidly dwindling number of collectors. Liechtensteinische Post has also long recognised the signs of the times and has been using sophisticated methods for many years to not only compete with philatelic products from other countries, but also to set its own 'scent marks' that are as exclusive as possible. In sport, the motto is "Always faster, always further, always higher!". In current philately, the motto could be "ever more spectacular, ever more unusual, ever more technical". Every collector must decide for themselves whether this is the right approach.

Inspirations of Liechtensteinische Post

Following this 'introduction' to the topic, the inspirations of Liechtensteinische Post will now be presented. To begin with, let us first recall the 'Minstrels/Medieval singers' I, II and III series based on originals from the Manessische Lieder Manuscript from 1961 to 1963. At the time, these 13 stamps with their fantastic graphic and printing designs attracted a great deal of attention far beyond the borders of the German-speaking world, and not just because of their gold printing. The fourth instalment followed in 1970 with a miniature sheet issue (Fig.1). Today, such subtle means no longer make the headlines, probably not even in stamp magazines. In keeping with the state of the art numerous other techniques were used: punched-out areas in the stamp image and stamp edge or as a special highlight for use as passe-partouts in connection with a foldable motif block, additional perforation in the stamp image, the use of thermochromic colour, which brightens up for example when touched with a finger, silk-covered paper, admixtures of stone powder from Sochi (Russia) or ground Rhine pebbles, UV varnishing, oversize in the format 180 x 382 mm for a motif block, silhouette embroidery in individual productions, in one case made from recycled PET thread, the inclusion of an augmented reality QR code and – very sensible and

unfortunately not standard – Braille (Braille for the blind).

A particularly original idea was presented with the 2021 miniature sheet issued on the occasion of '100 years of PEN International': scratch-off fields as censorship bars that distort the meaning of quotations. For instance, consider the Goethe quote with the censored text: "Wer ■■■■■ liebt und ■■■■■ irrt, der lasse sich begraben" (He who loves and errs, let him be buried). Removing the censorship bars reveals the original text: "Wer nicht mehr liebt und nicht mehr irrt, der lasse sich begraben" (Let him who no longer loves and no longer errs be buried).



Fig.1: Minstrels after the Manessische Liederhandschrift (IV): 30 Rp. Wolfram von Eschenbach, 50 Rp. Reinmar der Fiedler, 80 Rp. Hartmann von Starckenberg, and 1,20 Fr. Friedrich von Hausen.

Stamps beyond modern gimmicks

It is not intended to give the impression that Liechtenstein only issues stamps that are designed to attract attention with modern gimmicks. Stamps that utilise the proven qualities and strengths of stamp art continue to be issued. Two examples prove this. With the series 'Famous Figures from Classical Literature' (Fig.2), collectors were presented with an attractive miniature sheet. Depicted in comic pop art are Till Eulenspiegel (author unknown), Sherlock

⁶In the past, some men with marriage plans in Liechtenstein are said to have used these questions to assess the market value of the bride-to-be. Source: Grüneis, Anita: Hoi Liechtenstein, guest article on <https://www.saiten.ch/hoi-liechtenstein>, 21 June 2022, publisher: Verein Saiten, St. Gallen, Switzerland, URL: <https://www.saiten.ch>, retrieved on 01.07.2025

Holmes (Arthur Conan Doyle), Don Quijote (Miguel de Cervantes), Hamlet (William Shakespeare), Robin Hood (author unknown), Robinson Crusoe (Daniel Defoe), Baron von Münchhausen (various authors) and Quasimodo (Victor Hugo). And the series 'Performing arts in Liechtenstein' (Fig.3) refers to the colourful cultural life in this small country.



Fig.2: Famous Figures from Classical Literature.



(a) 100 Rp. Dance



(b) 140 Rp. Theatre



(c) 200 Rp. Musical



(d) 400 Rp. Minor arts

Fig.3: Performing arts in Liechtenstein.

Technology is changing the world of stamps

The '150 years of the Liechtensteinische Landesbank' issue in 2011 also heralded a new era for the Principality's stamps (Fig.4). It bears a QR code which, when scanned on a smartphone, reveals the bank's anniversary website to the user. The virtual world has been made accessible ever since. Other examples include the commemorative stamp for the 175th birthday of the composer Josef Gabriel Rheinberger from 2014 with a reality QR code and the 'Stamp 4.0 Blockchain Technology' from 2021 (Fig.5), which will be discussed in more detail later.



Fig.4: 150 years of the Liechtensteinische Landesbank.



Fig.5: Stamp 4.0: Blockchain technology.



(a) 85 Rp. Pieris rapae



(a) 100 Rp. Parnassius apollo



(a) 130 Rp. Melanargia galathea



(a) 200 Rp. Vanessa atalanta

Fig.6: Butterflies.

Liechtensteinische Post proudly claims the world's first perforated self-adhesive stamps with a slit front (Fig.6). Beyond this impressive variety of designs, it should not go unmentioned that, according to the Post Museum, the 'Butterflies' stamps from 2009 were the first stamps to be produced entirely in Liechtenstein.

Is commerce and profit taking centre stage?



Fig.7: 300th Anniversary of the Principality - Silhouette embroidery in red and gold, self-adhesive.

The purpose of postage stamps is usually to document the payment of postage. The Liechtenstein stamps include several issues that certainly do not fulfil this original purpose, e.g. a 2019 stamp commemorating the Principality's 300th anniversary with embroidery (Fig.7), real gold thread and Swarovski crystals. This edition was not freely available, but was raffled off among those who ordered it. Why is Liechtenstein Post going down this route? According to Philately Liechtenstein, it takes into account the fact that collectors like to order limited editions in addition to high-circulation issues, which of course cannot achieve high value increases. They are characterised above all by their quality and special nature or rarity. In addition, limited editions are cost-intensive to produce and the small print run also increases the price.

Technical reasons are cited as justification for raffles for rare issues whose print runs are unlikely to meet demand. In the global sales market for Liechtenstein postage stamps, it is important to give all interested parties the same opportunities, regardless of whether they are at home in Liechtenstein or on a distant continent. The new web shop and newsletters guarantee allegedly optimal communication channels between Philately Liechtenstein and its customers.

A special edition of that 'postage stamp' in question has a face value of Rappen 630 (ZAR 137), the postal price was CHF 300 (ZAR 6,538). After deducting the production costs, a significantly higher revenue was presumably achieved than with the equivalent value of the nominal value. The corresponding calculations result in around CHF 12,700

(around ZAR 276,760) for a print run of only 2019 pieces x Rappen 630; a retail price of CHF 300, on the other hand, results in CHF 605,700 (around ZAR 13,200,000), without postal transport service, because there is unlikely to be anyone who would stick such an expensive stamp with Swarovski crystals on a letter and send it on its way. When asked what the assumed additional revenue was used for (allocation to the postal budget, allocation to the philately division, use for investments, allocation for charitable purposes), Philately Liechtenstein thankfully provided detailed information. The calculation must take into account the fact that "production and marketing are much more expensive than for classic stamps" for issues of the type mentioned. Additional revenue could be invested "in new technologies and products" so that "our product range and our service for customers remain attractive or improve. We also regularly support youth/collectors and charitable projects".

Stabilising commercial success

Liechtensteinische Post AG's 'Annual Report 2019' analyses the past record result: "The reporting year was characterised by a one-off revenue effect of CHF 2.62 million [more than ZAR 57.1 million], which was achieved through the successful marketing of special stamps and coins to mark the '300 years of the Principality of Liechtenstein' anniversary". High future potential is attributed to such profitable creations: "These unique niche products demonstrate the innovative power, strengths and possibilities of philately to successfully position itself in an otherwise strongly declining collectors' market"⁷. The products mentioned in footnote 2 give rise to the assumption that the commercial success of 2019 was to be stabilised in the following years. However, this did not materialise, as the prerequisites for this were lacking. "Apart from the one-off effect of the anniversary coins (...), sales also fell due to the continuous decline in collectors and the drastically lower number of visitors from abroad [author's note: COVID-19 pandemic], who like to buy stamps as souvenirs". It goes on to say: "A stabilisation of sales is urgently needed, which is why various projects were launched last year to counteract the decline in sales"⁸.

Special editions have been on the rise since 2017. A souvenir sheet from 2017 to mark the golden wedding anniversary of Prince Hans-Adam II and Princess Marie fetched CHF 312,500 (around ZAR 6.8 million) at a retail price of CHF 250 (around ZAR 5,450) and a print run of 1,250. Its special features consisted of printing on real gold foil and an

⁷Seger, R.; Strunk, W. (editors), Liechtensteinische Post AG (ed.): Annual Report 2019, Schaan, 2020, pages 2 and 28, URL: https://post.li/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/LIPO_GB2019_web.pdf, accessed on 01.07.2025; MCHF stands for million CHF.

⁸Seger, R.; Strunk, W. (editors), Liechtensteinische Post AG (ed.): Annual Report 2020, Schaan, 2021, page 32, URL: https://post.li/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/LIPO_GB2020_web.pdf, accessed on 01.07.2025

⁹Variants of: SG MS1847/2018 (real gold foil), retail price CHF 50 (ZAR 1,090); a stamp to the 300th Anniversary of the Principality in 2019 (24-carat real gold thread and glued-on Swarovski crystals), retail price CHF 300 (around ZAR 6,540); SG MS1902/2020 (silk), retail price CHF 75 (around ZAR 1,600); SG MS1947/2021 (crypto stamp with blockchain technology, see fig.), retail price CHF 60 (around ZAR 1,300); a souvenir sheet to memorial to Princess Marie of Liechtenstein in 2022 (crypto stamp with blockchain technology), retail price CHF 80 (ZAR 1,740); a souvenir sheet "Cryptostamp 4.1"/2022 (with blockchain technology), retail price CHF 75 (around ZAR 1,600). The total of all proceeds from the aforementioned issues on complete sales: CHF 2,260,200 (more than ZAR 49 million); the production and distribution costs must of course be subtracted from this.

affixed ruby. In the years that followed, further specialities were added⁹. The question may be asked whether such issues exceeded a tolerable limit for philatelists. Marketing strategies and issuing practices that negate the original characteristics of postage stamps have existed worldwide for a very long time. Drawings among interested parties separate 'lucky' purchasers from those who come away empty-handed. Stamp collecting is a hobby, a leisure activity that should provide fun and enjoyment, not frustration and disappointment. With a lot of goodwill and the overriding, almost obsessive desire to complete one's own collection, some of these 'toads' have been swallowed, but here it could be more difficult. However, the euphoric enthusiasm surrounding such products and the successful sales seem to justify the approach, at least from the economic point of view of those responsible for the post office.

Crypto stamps and special editions

In 2021, the country's first crypto stamp was issued with the 'Stamp 4.0 Blockchain Technology - Vision' miniature sheet (Fig.5 above). This marked the start of a new chapter in the marketing strategy, as it exists in four frequencies and 3D experiences that can be generated using the AR-QR code: Castle (23,600 crypto stamps), Knight (14,000), Princess (4,300) and Prince (100). A special edition of the miniature sheet with hologram foil was also offered for CHF 60 (around ZAR 1,308; also with a face value of Rappen 520 or ZAR 113), again with different quantities: Castle (1,400 copies), Knight (1,000), Princess (700) and Prince (100). It goes without saying that the different print runs resulted in different price trends. In keeping with the spirit of the times, the 'Stamp 4.0' won the Runner-Up Prize of Post Europ's Innovation Award 2021. Further issues quickly followed: First anniversary of Princess Marie's death, Stamp 4.1 Blockchain Technology 'Equality' (Fig.8) and Stamp 4.2 Blockchain Technology 'Unity' (Fig.9). The products were sold out within a few minutes or hours according to official announcements.

Does this belong in the stamp collection?

Since December 2022, Philately Liechtenstein has been working with Liechtensteinische Post AG on a new field of activity for profitable growth. In cooperation, the self-adhesive crypto stamp series 'Fantastic animal world', limited to just a few thousand copies, is being issued, which is even valid for postage and is available in the Philately Liechtenstein online shop. The most recent examples are no. 5 'The Giraffe', no. 6 'The Rabbit', no. 7 'The Owl', no. 8 'The Koala' and no. 9 'The Dog' from this series, which went on sale via the Internet portal and were sold out within a few minutes or hours according to official announcements. It would be interesting to find out whether it was primarily stamp collectors or people with other intentions who followed the hype, as those who 'caught' the lowest-issue variant could speculate on multiplying their financial investment on resale, provided the skyrocketing book value could be realised in cash. The game of chance when buying stamps - excitement! Joy! Disappointment? Everything is conceivable.



Fig.8: Cryptostamp 4.1 - Equality.



Fig.9: Cryptostamp 4.2 - Unity.

Previously, no. 1 'The Cat' (2022, 3,000 copies in total with all four variants, Fig.10), no. 2 'The Meerkat' (2023, 3,000 copies, Fig.11), no. 3 'The Duck' (2023, 3,600 copies) and no. 4 'The Frog' (2023, 5,000 copies) were issued. The meerkat of 15 February 2023 with its four collector's items in the form of necklaces in various colours, which are linked to different circulation sizes, may serve as an example of gambling when purchasing stamps: Necklace Turquoise (1,400 pieces), Necklace Copper (900 pieces), Necklace Silver (650 pieces) and Necklace in the colours of the rainbow (50 pieces).

As the delivery comes in packaging that does not reveal the variant it contains, it must be opened in order to decode the digital motif by scanning it. Surprise! Delight! Disappointment? Anything is conceivable, as the digital

motif with the necklace in turquoise can now be purchased on the Internet for around ZAR 390 to 620, while a verifiable complete set with all four variants can cost between ZAR 40,480 and almost ZAR 60,890.



Fig.10: 2022 Fantastic animal world, no. 1 'The Cat'.



Fig.11: 2023 Fantastic animal world, no. 2 'The Meerkat'.

The Philately Liechtenstein Internet portal

With its Internet portal, Liechtensteinische Post AG operates a shop offering that leaves nothing to be desired under the motto 'Stamps are living culture'. It is so extensive that it cannot be adequately presented here and cannot replace a personal visit to the Internet. As Liechtensteinische Post AG endeavours to always be up to date, the shop also includes sections for the individual design of stamp sheets, stamp blocks and postcards as well as the topics of the future: crypto stamps and NFT (Non Fungible Token) technology products. Optimists see crypto stamps and NFT products with their virtual features as an opportunity to counteract the sharp decline in the number of stamp collectors and to interest people who love looking at displays,

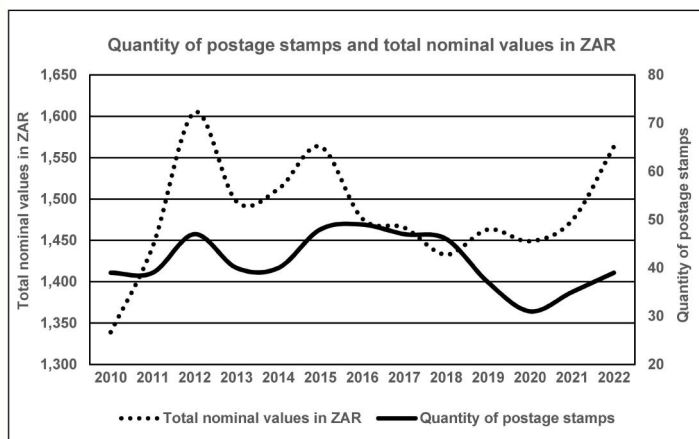
listening to sounds, following animations, competing virtually in competitions and entering their names in high-score lists, as well as using other technical gimmicks and gadgets, in collecting.

All philatelists who not only collect colourful pictures but are also interested in the background to stamp issues can download free quarterly brochures with information on new issues and novelties.

Have fun collecting!

For contact addresses, data sources and picture credits, see Part 1 in [December 2025 issue](#).

Philatelic data Liechtenstein (III)					
Issue years	Michel catalogue numbers	Quantity			Total nominal values in ZAR (rounded) ¹⁾
		Postage stamps	Miniature sheets (Blocks) ²⁾	Sheetlets with several (identical) stamps (without foil sheets etc.) ²⁾	
2010	1543 - 1579	39	2	3	1,339
2011	1580 - 1617	39	1	7	1,442
2012	1618 - 1660	47	3	10	1,605
2013	1661 - 1700	40	1	7	1,497
2014	1701 - 1741	40	2	7	1,512
2015	1742 - 1789	48	1	7	1,563
2016	1790 - 1838	49	1	8	1,476
2017	1839 - 1885	47	2	9	1,465
2018	1886 - 1931	46	1	10	1,433
2019	1932 - 1968	37	3	9	1,463
2020	1969 - 1999	31	4	6	1,449
2021	2000 - 2034	35	4	4	1,474
2022	2035 - 2072	39	6	8	1,563
Totals		537	31	95	19,283



Exchange rate: 1.00 CHF = 21.79 ZAR (22 August 2025)

¹⁾ In addition to the sum of the face values (only the individual postage stamps are taken into account, not small sheets or similar with several stamps with the same catalogue number), the price surcharges and/or the shipping costs of a delivery service are usually added to a subscription in order to be able to determine the actual total procurement costs.

²⁾ Variants of miniature/souvenir sheets with retail prices of ZAR 1,090 to 6,540 - see detailed explanations in the text - are not included here.

Sources: Data basis for the analyses: Michel Redaktion (Hrsg.): Michel Europa Katalog 2023, Bd. 1: Alpenländer, 108. Auflage, München, 2023, Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH; the author's own synopsis

Fig.12: Philatelic data Liechtenstein III.

SASOL 26 Mini Exhibition June 2026

Sasolburg Public Library

Under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

Contact:

- Leon Jacobson – lj.heritage@gmail.com
- André du Plessis – pfsastamps@gmail.com





Table Mountain, The Inspiration (Part 3)

by Gawie Hugo, Paarlse Filateliste

1d Hope Standing 1893

This was the very first stamp design inspired by Table Mountain, created by Mr Mountford. It depicts the statue by Rinaldo Rimaldi, which was added to the Crest of the Cape Colony in 1853 and features Table Mountain as the backdrop.

Since the postage was 2d, an additional 1d postage stamp, Hope Standing, was included on the 1d prepaid postal stationery envelope in Fig.1. The postmark is Alicedale No. 2 and BONC 337.



Fig.1: 1d Hope Standing 1893 surcharge on postal stationery.

The 1d stamp was issued in October 1893. The watermark is the Anchor & Cable and the perforation is 14. It was printed in rose red or carmine by De la Rue & Co. The cover is Cape of Good Hope Postal stationery, Type E2A, measuring 120 x 94mm. It features a pink Queen Victoria embossed 1d stamp.

Soldiers Rate

The cover in Fig.2 was posted to England with the postmark "ARMY Post Office 52, S.AFRICA, dd MY 12 01". It was franked with a 1d stamp, the soldiers' letter rate throughout the British Empire.

The inside of the cover is printed with "English Bank" and printed by WT & Co.

Registered Mail to Europe

Fig.3 shows a registered cover sent to Baden, Germany. The postmark is Halfmanshof, Cape Colony, dated 26 January 1889. The canceller number is 1 and the cover has a 22mm diameter. The postage was 5d and the overseas registration fee was 4d.



Fig.2: 1d Soldiers Rate.



Fig.3: Registered cover to Baden, Germany.

The Format G registered cover is printed in a greenish-grey colour with an ultramarine embossed Queen Victoria and 4d denomination on the flap, # R4B, printed 1889 by Thos. De la Rue & Co.

Additional Values Hope Standing

In October 1898 the ½d green stamp and March 1902 the 3d magenta were issued with the Cabled Anchor watermark and perforated 14.

½d Green

A postcard with two ½d stamps paying for the 1d inland rate in 1904 is shown in Fig.5. It has a departure postmark, 'Tulbagh MR 17 04', transit post marks 'Wellingtonstation MR 17 04' & 'Paarl MR 17 4' squared circle, and a 'French Hoek MR 18 04' arrival postmark.



Fig.4: ½d and 3d stamps.



Fig.5: 2 x 1/2 on cover.



Fig.6: Registered letter to Bavaria.

3d Magenta

Registered letter to Bavaria via England. Postage 5 d. 3d Magenta Hope standing plus 2d Hope seated. Postmark Grahamstown # 62 29mm oval dd MY 02 03.

Registered postal stationary cover of 1889 # R4B. Embossed Stamp QV, ultramarine, as value indicator on flap. Format G, text greenish grey. Printed by Thos de la Rue & Co.

References

- [1] *The South African Stamp Colour Catalogue, 2017-2018*, 35th ed. Johannesburg: Tracinda Publications (Pty) Ltd, 2016.

- [2] R. Goldblatt, *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope, The postal history and markings of the Cape of Good Hope and Griqualand West, 1792-1910*. Cape Town: Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd., Jan. 1984.
- [3] W. J. Quik and G. H. Jonkers, *De Postwaardestukken van Zuid-Afrika = The Postal Stationery of South Africa - Part 1: Cape of Good Hope, Natal, New Republic, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Zululand*, 3rd. Rotterdam: Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika, 1998. [📄](#)



POSTAL RATES

The 2026/2027 Postal Rates Adjustments

On 20 February 2026, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) published Government Gazette No. 54181 (Vol. 728), detailing the definitive postal rates and service fees for reserved postal services. Effective from 1 April 2026, these rates reflect the annual adjustment for the South African Post Office (SAPO).

For the philatelist and postal historian, these changes represent the latest chapter in South Africa's tariff history. As SAPO continues to evolve, these scheduled increases remind collectors of the importance of documenting contemporary usage, stationery varieties, and the transition of physical mail services.

DOMESTIC POSTAL RATES

The standard domestic rate for a small (DL) maxi letter (up to 50g) remains the primary benchmark for collectors. The rate is set to increase to R7.10.

Standard Letter Products

The following rates apply to ordinary mail in the domestic service, inclusive of VAT.

Item Type	New Rate
Small (DL) Maxi (Unsorted/Non-bulk)	R7.10
Medium (B5)	R14.25
Large (B4)	R17.40
Postcard (Client's Own - DL Maxi)	R7.10
Cylinder/Rolled items (520mm × 70mm)	R17.40
Cylinder/Rolled items (620mm × 70mm)	R30.90
Rolled Addressed Newspapers	R9.45

Postage-Included (Prepaid) Stationery

Philatelists tracking modern postal history should note the pricing for prepaid envelopes and postcards. These items represent a significant area of specialized collecting.

Item Type	New Rate
Small (C6/DL) Envelope	R7.50
Medium (B5) Envelope	R16.25
Large (C4) Envelope	R21.90
Prepaid Postcard (Post Office issue)	R7.50
Lettergram	R7.40
Registered Envelope (Prepaid Small)	R54.80

Stamp Booklets and Rolls

Large-volume users and booklet collectors are impacted by the following structures. Notable bulk discounts apply to high-volume purchases:

Item Type	New Rate
Booklet of 10 stamps	R71.00
Roll of 100 stamps	R710.00
Boxes of 50 (500 stamps)	R3,550.00 (Net R3,479.00 with 2% discount)
Rolls/Boxes of 1,000 stamps	R7,100.00 (Net R6,745.00 with 5% discount)

REGISTRATION AND VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

The security of philatelic material remains a priority. Registration fees for domestic letters are now tiered by size, and Fastmail remains an expedited option.

Registration and Insurance

The basic registration fee for domestic letters (service fee only) is R49.55. A compulsory registration fee (for items found in the mail stream containing valuables) is notably higher at R89.35.

Item Type	New Rate
Registered Small (DL) Maxi	R49.55
Registered Medium (B5)	R56.70
Registered Large (B4)	R59.85
Advice of Delivery (AR Card)	R15.35

Insurance for registered items is tiered, starting with a free tier for values up to R100, scaling up to R283.20 for items valued at R2,000. Fastmail (DL size) is priced at R11.45.

DOMESTIC PARCEL SERVICE

Items exceeding the dimensions of a Large (B4) letter or a mass of 1kg are classified under the Parcel Service. The counter-to-counter rate is fixed at R88.45 for the first kilogram, with a R11.95 increment per additional kilogram. Collectors should note that volumetric mass ($Length \times Width \times Height / 5000$) is used if it exceeds the actual mass.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

International rates distinguish between Southern African (SADC Zones A/B) and the Rest of the World (ROW).

Surface mail remains highly restricted and is discontinued for most countries except Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, and Mozambique.

Category	Air Mail (ROW)	Surface Mail (ROW)
Aerogrammes (Uniform rate)	R10.65	N/A
Postcards (Uniform rate)	R14.35	R8.73
Small Letters (up to 50g)	R16.80	R14.20
Medium Letters (up to 250g)	R56.60	R42.70
Small Parcels (per 100g)	R72.60	R37.35
International Registration Fee	R67.15	(Plus Postage)

For Small Letters to Southern Africa, the airmail rate is R12.95. The cost of an **International Reply Coupon (IRC)** is R55.80.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ANCILLARY FEES

For businesses and "back-of-the-book" collectors, the following administrative adjustments are relevant:


Item Type	New Rate
Business Reply Service (BRS) License	R503.40 (Annual)
Franking Machine License (New)	R550.20
Franking Machine License (Renewal)	R397.50
Spoiled Impression Fee	R62.70 per 100 units
Stamp Exchange Fee	5% of value (Minimum charge R7.10)

TECHNICAL NOTE FOR COLLECTORS

The maximum mass for a standard domestic letter remains 1kg, provided it fits within the B4 size limitations (353mm × 250mm × 30mm). Anything exceeding these dimensions is strictly classified as a parcel.

These 2026/27 rates indicate a continued upward trajectory in the cost of physical conveyance. We encourage members to secure examples of the new stationery and stamp booklets to ensure your national postal record remains complete.

References

[1] *Government gazette no. 54181*, 20 February 2026. 



Gauteng Philatelic Exhibition

HERITAGE 2026: A Window to the Past, a Legacy for the Future
24 to 26 September 2026

Venue: Voortrekker Hall, Pionierswerf, Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria

Contact:

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- Louwrence Erasmus – louwrence@erasmus.org.za





Results of The World's Best Stamp




by André du Plessis RDPSA, Chief Operating Officer of the PFSA



The inaugural South African competition for stamps issued in 2025, aptly named 'The World's Best Stamp', organised by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) under the patronage of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), has concluded successfully.


This initiative received active support from 66 countries worldwide, resulting in the submission of 195 stamps. An international panel completed its evaluation and the results are as follows:

CATEGORY	AWARD	COUNTRY	STAMP NAME	CATEGORY WINNER
The World Best Stamp	WBS	China	World Cultural Heritage - Beijing Central Axis: Bell and Drum Towers	
Category 1: Most Innovative Stamp Format	1st	China	Beauty of Mathematics: Möbius Strip	
	2nd	Liechtenstein	Crypto Stamp CHLI 2.0	
	3rd	Luxembourg	Deluxe embroidery stamp - Coat of arms	
Category 2: Best Souvenir Sheet	1st	Russia	500 Years of Russian Development of the Northern Sea Route	
	2nd	Czech Republic	Eliška Junková	
	3rd	Norway	Emigration To North America Bicentenary	

CATEGORY	AWARD	COUNTRY	STAMP NAME	CATEGORY WINNER
Category 3: Best Intaglio Stamp	1st	Macao	Rare Animals in China	
	2nd	France	Winston Churchill 1874 - 1965	
	3rd	Jordan	Jordan Saints	
Category 4: Best Offset Stamp	1st	Portugal	EXPO Osaka 2025	
	2nd	Ukraine	Melitopol is Ukraine	
	3rd	Faroe Islands	Northern Gannet	
Category 5: Best Mixed Printing Stamp	1st	China	World Cultural Heritage - Beijing Central Axis: Bell and Drum Towers	
	2nd	Russia	Archaeological Heritage of Russia: Gold of the Huns	
	3rd	Aland	Christmas 2025	

You can read more about the Worlds Best Stamp at <https://www.worldsbeststamp.com>. 



We would love to hear from you! If you have any thoughts or comments about any of the articles in this issue of *The SA Philatelist*, please send your comments to the Editorial Board. Just click on the email address: sap@stampssa.africa 

SAVPEX 2026

Celebrating the Eleventh South Africa Virtual Philatelic Exhibition
June 2026



30 April 2026: Receipt of Entry Form, Description and Payment.

25 May 2026: Receipt of Uploaded Exhibit.

July 2026: Announcement of Results. Exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website.

[Entry form](#)

[IREX](#)

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DUBAI 2026 World Stamp Exhibition

by Anton Putter, Commissioner of South Africa



Fig.1: Minisheet issued by UAE for Dubai 2026.



Fig.2: Impressive entrance to Dubai 2026.

The Dubai 2026 World Stamp exhibition took place from 4 – 8 February 2026 at the World Trade Centre in Dubai (Fig.2). Under the auspices of the FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie) and the FIAP (Federation of Inter-Asia Philately) the exhibition was organised by the Emirates Philatelic Association. This was the first FIP exhibition in 2026 to celebrate FIP’s centenary. Fig.1 a minisheet issued in commemoration of Dubai 2026.

Although philately in the Middle East has a rich tradition with numerous philatelic associations and clubs and many national, regional and international exhibitions that have taken place over the years, this was the first World Stamp Exhibition for the region. Dubai 2026 was specifically

classified as a FIP Patronage Specialised World Stamp Exhibition.

The Jury (including our own Hugh Amoore RDPSA RSPSL as one of the jurors) judged a total of 452 exhibits spread over more than 2000 frames. The quality of the exhibits was very high with 44 Large Gold medals and 101 Gold medals being awarded. The Grand Prix International was finally awarded to the exhibit: “Forerunners of Saudi Arabia (1916-1925): Postage stamps of the Kingdom of Hijaz, the Sultanate of Najd and the Kingdom of Hijaz & Najd” by exhibitor Tarik Alireza.

Five South African exhibitors participated and performed very well. One Large Gold and one Gold medal were earned by these exhibitors. The South African results are shown in Table 1.

The exhibition was well supported by dealers from around the world and most of the postal authorities of the region such as Emirates Post, Oman Post, Qatar Post, Jordan Post Company, Tunisian Post and India Post.

There were less Commissioner training sessions and seminars than at previous international exhibitions. One presentation on Open Class philately was given and an extensive workshop held on First Day Covers. Both the Open Class presentation and a video recording will be made available by the organisers in due course.

A glitzy Palmares evening concluded Dubai 2026. All the Large Gold and Gold award winners that were present, received their awards at the Palmares.

Finally, I want to extend my gratitude to the South African exhibitors that entrusted their exhibits to me, to the Federation for giving me the opportunity of being commissioner at Dubai 2026, and lastly to the organisers of Dubai 2026 who had the foresight to arrange Dubai 2026 at the beginning of February rather than at the beginning of March.

Exhibitor	Title	Class	Result
Buhrmann, Emil	Cape of Good Hope: The Hope Rectangular Design during the Victorian Period	Traditional	95 - Large Gold
Strydom, Danna	Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal): The Second Republic 1881-1899	Traditional	91 - Gold
Van der Merwe, Joof	A Study of the 1982 Fourth Definitive Architecture Issue of South Africa	Traditional	87 - Large Vermeil
Du Plessis, Andre	Johannesburg: A Window into the Past, 1896-1899	One Frame - Picture Post Cards	87
Viljoen, Diederik	Austria: Postage Due 1894-1935	One Frame - Traditional	78

Table 1: Results of the South African exhibitors.

Royal Mail Marks 25th Anniversary of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* With Special Stamp Issue

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: Montage from the film trilogy celebrating iconic characters.

Royal Mail, in collaboration with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products (WBDGCP), has on 11 March 2026 revealed images of a set of 12 new stamps that celebrate the 25th anniversary of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*.

The main set of eight stamps (Fig.1) features a montage from the film trilogy celebrating iconic characters from across the franchise. British actors who played the characters featured are Orlando Bloom as Legolas, Ian McKellen as Gandalf, Dominic Monaghan as Merry, Billy Boyd as Pippin, and Christopher Lee as Saruman.

The stamps also include hidden messaging – only detectable when using a UV light – showing Elvish writing in a ring

shape.

A further four stamps presented in a miniature sheet (Fig.2) pay homage to four iconic locations – from The Shire, where Frodo's journey begins, all the way to Mount Doom, where he must throw the One Ring into the fires to destroy it once and for all. Also shown are Rivendell, an Elven refuge and sanctuary, and the monumental Argonath, which marks the northern border of the kingdom of Gondor.

The Lord of the Rings title used on all 12 stamps in the set, replicates that of the iconic typeface used for the films.

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available to order from 11 March 2026 at www.royalmail.com/lordoftherings.



Fig.2: Miniature sheet, showing iconic locations from the film.

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kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

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Second Saturday every month.
German Club, 131 Holkam Road, Paulshof, Sandton.
Open: 08:00 with Auction at 10:00
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kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

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KZN: Sunbird Stamp Auction

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• **Pretoria Chapter:** Contact: Helena Snyman, [083 990 8953](tel:0839908953), helenasnyman7@gmail.com; Meeting: First Saturday monthly at 10:00—Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, Pretoria (opposite UP main gate).

• **Western Cape Chapter:** Contact: Diederik Viljoen, [082 456 6653](tel:0824566653), diederikaviljoen@gmail.com; Meeting: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Bellville-Vallei DRC hall, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

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