

AUGUST
2026

The South African Philatelist

All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1923

Volume 102:4. 997

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Review and Revision of the 'Ladysmith Siege Postcards' (page 131)



Eleventh SAVPEX
(page 141)



**Union of South Africa
Stamp Varieties**
(page 129)



**Report on the World's Best
Stamp**
(page 145)

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Please note: Publication closing dates for **FINAL** submission of Advertising Material for *The SA Philatelist* is by **25 SEPTEMBER 2026**.

ARTICLES should be submitted in the month prior:

For the Volume 102:5 998 - The **OCTOBER 2026** issue submit by **15 September 2026**

Send your contribution to sap@stampssa.africa



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Post Office
South Africa



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/>



NATIONAL STAMPSHOW 2026 - Sandton - 9 to 12 September 2026.

Venue: *The Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead, Lincoln St, Woodmead, Sandton.*



Entry is free and will be open every day from 09:00 to 18:00 (except Saturday), with plenty of secure parking.

The Organising Committee sincerely hopes to welcome many philatelic friends, visitors, dealers, and exhibitors to this annual

event. The exhibition promises to be an exciting opportunity to reconnect with friends and partners, meet fellow collectors, and make new acquaintances.

Please note the delivery and collecting times for exhibits.

Commemorative covers will be available at R15.00 each to mark the event. Be sure to take up the offer to have your purchased exhibition envelopes cancelled with a specially designed canceller by Thea Clemons, Graphic Designer at Philatelic Services.

The jury consists of Louwrence Erasmus (Chairman), Emil Bührmann RDPSA, Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, Gary Pienaar, Anton Putter, Danna Strydom RDPSA, and Clive King (apprentice). The secretary is Joof van der Merwe RDPSA. Jury feedback to exhibitors will be on Saturday at the frames from 09:00. The judges will also be happy to discuss aspects of the material on show and give advice.

Twelve local and international dealers with SAPDA credentials will offer a wide selection of material sure to appeal to collectors of all interests. Don't miss the chance to explore what is available. The SA Post Office will also be present.

On Thursday, 11 September at 11:30, Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL will present a workshop on postal due charges for mail to and from South Africa. The session will cover the rules for postage due on incoming and outgoing unpaid or underpaid mail, as well as mail posted out of course in South Africa since Union in 1910.

The Palmares will be held at the Golf Course 19th Hole meeting room on Friday 11 September at 19:00. Tickets are available from André du Plessis at andredupfs@gmail.com and will also be available during the exhibition. Please make sure to secure yours in good time.

The ever-popular stamp auction, conducted by Kenny Napier, will begin at 11:00 on Saturday, 12 September.

This year marks the PFSA's 98th anniversary and its 88th Congress, which will take place on Friday, 11 September 2026 at 09:00 at the Golf Course 19th Hole meeting room. In its early years, Congress was not held annually; in 1932, it was decided that it would meet each year. The annual schedule was interrupted during the Second World War, and no Congresses were held from 1940 to 1947.

Important Visitor Information:

- The Golf Club's dress code is smart casual, **no flip-flops**.
- The Golf Club restaurant is cashless, and all debit/credit cards are accepted.
- Identity Document or Driver's License required at the estate gate.
- Please state your reason for visit as **"Stampshow 2026"**.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our sponsors, societies, and advertisers for their generous financial support. We are especially grateful to Ian Shapiro of our main sponsor, Spink of London; JCC Woodmead for providing the venue; Victor Millard who edited the Stampshow Catalogue; and Kenny Napier and participating SAPDA dealers. Last but not least, all members who assisted in some way or another. Without all this support, a successful exhibition is just not possible!

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 8 September 2026

- 11:30 - 18:00: Set up and mounting of exhibits.
- 11:30: Delivery of exhibits to Bin Room.

Wednesday 9 September 2026

- 09:00: Exhibition opens.
- 09:00: Judging commences.
- 10:30: Official Opening.
- 11:00 - 18:00: Judging continues.
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.
- 19:00: Jury/Dealer Dinner.

Thursday 10 September 2026

- 09:00: Exhibition opens.
- 11:30 Workshop: *Exploring postal due charges on mail from and to South Africa*, Hugh Amoore RDPSA FRPSL.
- 15:30: SA Philatelic Foundation Meeting. *(By invitation only)*
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.

Friday 11 September 2026

- 09:00: Exhibition opens.
- 09:00: PFSA 88th Congress.
- 18:00: Exhibition closes.
- 19:00: Palmares.

Saturday 12 September 2026

- 08:00: Exhibition opens.
- 09:00: Jury critique.
- 11:00: Auction.
- 14:00: Exhibition closes; Demounting and collecting of exhibits from Bin Room.

Sunday 13 September 2026

- 08:00 - 13:00: Take down frames.

SEE YOU THERE!



Letters to the Editorial Board



e-mail: sap@stampssa.africa.

Inkjet Slogans

I am trying to sort out a collection of SA Inkjet Slogans.

However, information about these is hard to find. I found quite a bit of information in *The SA Philatelist* between 1994 and 2003. Particularly articles written by Neville Gomm of the *Postmark and Postal History Society*. (The society does not seem to exist anymore).

I have tried to look at further issues of *The SA Philatelist* but it is very time consuming - and there is no index.

WANTED: Any list/s of the SA Inkjet printings that were in

the Setempe (or other) publication for 1994 to 1998; 2000; 2009 to 2011 - and any after that. Any information about inkjet slogans that was not in *The SA Philatelist* between 1994 and 2004. Also when did the Inkjet Slogans discontinue?

If anyone has any information would they please contact me: sandystampnews@gmail.com

Thank you
Regards
Sandy

Re: Stamp Colour Measurement

I very much enjoyed [the] colour shades article in the [June 2026] edition of the *The SA Philatelist*, as this very much mirrors the path I have taken for colour comparison, leading me to develop free software called *ChromaMate*.

A brief introduction to the software can be found here: [Click here ...](#)

I would be interested in any comments you may have.

Regards Clive
Pretoria Boys High 1970

Translated from Afrikaans:

I think you will be interested in this if you do not know about the app yet, or maybe have not watched the video already:

Here is the link for the video:" [Click here ...](#)

Best wishes
Charnie
New-Zealand



The SA Philatelist, a recipient of nine international awards for its high standards and diverse content, is seeking contributions from its passionate readers to continue its legacy of excellence.

Whether you have a collection you would like to write about (with editorial assistance available), possess philatelic knowledge that could help on the Editorial Board, or have a keen eye for language editing, your unique expertise is invaluable. We invite you to volunteer and share your knowledge and skills, helping to shape this esteemed publication for the benefit of the entire philatelic community.

Become part of the team and send an email today by clicking: sap@stampssa.africa



Exhibition Calendar

EXHIBITION	DATE	LEVEL	COMMISSIONER / CONTACT	LINK
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 RDPSA Louwrence Erasmus	PFSA
Gauteng Regional Exhibition	24 - 26 Sep. 2026	PFSA Ausp. AFP Orga.	Ronel Erasmus	ERFENIS 2026 HERITAGE
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 RDPSA	PHILATAIPEI 2026
MONACOPHIL 2026	3 - 5 Dec. 2026	FEPA Recog.	N/A	MONACOPHIL 2026
3rd International Virtual Aerophilately & Astrophilately Exhibition	14-21 Feb. 2027	AMSI Orga.	Virtual	AMSIPEX-27
THAILAND 2027 FIAP Asian International Stamp Exhibition	Apr. 2027	FIAP Patron.	N/A	TBA
SLOVPHILEX 2027 FIP Specialised World	30 Jun. to 4 Jul. 2027	FIP Patron.	TBA	SLOVPHILEX 2027
MELBOURNE 2027 Asian International Stamp Exhibition)	2-5 Sep. 2027	FIAP Patron.	N/A	MELBOURNE 2027
BELGRADE 2027 FIP General WSE	12 - 17 Oct. 2027	FIP Patron. Fepa Recog.	TBA	BELGRADE 2027
SAVPEX 2027	Jun. 2027	PFSA	TBA	PFSA
NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2027	TBA	PFSA Orga.	André du Plessis RDPSA	PFSA
HONG KONG 2027 Asian International Stamp Exhibition	TBA	FIAP Patron.	N/A	TBA
BANGLADESH 2027 Asian International Stamp Exhibition	TBA	FIAP Patron.	N/A	TBA
Praga 2028 FIP Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	22 - 26 Mar. 2028	FIP Patron.	TBA	Praga 2028





Looking Back a Century: Highlights from *The SA Philatelist* - July and August 1926

by Louwrence Erasmus, Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging van Pretoria

We delve into Southern African philately with summaries of July and August 1926 issues of *The SA Philatelist* this month. These insights are intended to spark further interest in philatelic research.



Fig.1: The SAP front page of Jul 1926.

July 1926, several large post offices had exhausted their stocks of 2d stamp sheets, offering only rolls for sale. This transition, combined with the withdrawal of the 3d King's Head and the introduction of the 4d triangular pictorials, which were supplied in sheets of one hundred, had reportedly complicated the weekly stamp accounts of many business houses. A curious mechanical failure was also noted: a bi-lingual 1d pictorial stamp had been produced by a slot machine in two halves, resulting from an alignment error in the dispensing mechanism.

Furthermore, the journal addressed the lack of professional etiquette in the international philatelic press. It was noted with some chagrin that figures regarding the printing and destruction of South African airmail stamps, which had originally been published in *The SAP*, had been reprinted by European journals without due acknowledgement.

Mr C.B. Mowbray of Port Elizabeth had submitted an enquiry regarding a block of 6d Rhodesia stamps that appeared to show a combination of Die I and Die III. He had noted that while Die I featured a thick, uneven line of shading on the King's cap, Die III displayed two more even, thick lines. Despite having consulted with experts at Stanley Gibbons in London, the variety remained a mystery, and Mowbray had appealed to Rhodesian specialists for further clarification.

Similarly, Mr J. Ritchie of Maraisburg raised a technical

The July 1926 issue of *The South African Philatelist*, Fig.1, opened with a testament to the journal's commercial efficacy. It was reported that a collector had successfully sold £18 worth of Cape of Good Hope stamps following a modest three-shilling advertisement. This anecdote served to underscore the growing liquidity and interest in the local stamp market during the mid-1920s.

The editor further commented on the logistical 'trouble' facing the public and postal clerks. By

query regarding the Union 1d King's Head issue. He had been investigating the elusive Plate 2 and had been in communication with the Postmaster-General and Messrs De La Rue. Ritchie pointed out specific notches in the jubilee lines of 'no plate number' corners, suggesting that these subtle markers might distinguish between different plates used during the production of the 1d value.

The most sensational discovery had been made by Mr Alex Bronks, who had acquired a sheet of the Union ½d pictorial showing a doubly printed green frame on six stamps in the bottom left-hand corner. The journal also recorded the appearance of the ½d and 1d pictorials with inverted watermarks.

A new ½d post card had been printed but not yet released, with the expectation that it would be issued in both English and Afrikaans versions, following the precedent set in South West Africa (SWA). Additionally, the Pretoria-printed 3d postage due stamps had begun to appear at select post offices.

Developments in the surrounding territories were equally noteworthy:

- Bechuanaland Protectorate: The 1/- denomination featuring the Waterlow watermark had been officially issued.
- Southern Rhodesia: The journal addressed rumours from London-based *Stamp Collecting* suggesting the 1½d value had become obsolete. The editor refuted this, noting that the 1½d rate remained standard for letters within the South African Postal Union. Furthermore, Mr P.A. Sheppard had submitted several perforation varieties, including 14½ and compound 14 by 14½, sparking a debate as to whether these were "freak" perforations caused by paper shrinkage or the use of multiple machines at the Waterlow works.
- South West Africa: Significant study had been devoted to the Pretoria-printed 3d Postage Due (Type VI). Notable varieties included "South West" measuring 16½ mm and various broken letters (such as a broken 'k' in "Afrika"). These varieties suggested that the overprinting had been executed using plates derived from the postage series.

In India, the Security Printing Press at Nasik had commenced the production of adhesive stamps, taking over the De La Rue plates for the 3 pies, ½ anna, 1 anna, and 3 annas values. The historian noted that while the workmanship was commendable, it lacked the fine finesse of the London printings. A major change was the introduction of a 'multiple

small star' watermark, replacing the previous 'single large star' per stamp.

Other brief notices included the upcoming King George V set for Tanganyika, the release of high-value Bahamas stamps with Script watermarks, and the announcement of a special Australian commemorative stamp for the opening of the Federal Parliament in Canberra by the Duke of York.

A poignant section of the July issue was dedicated to the memory of Mr Sallo Epstein, who had passed away in Vienna. Epstein was described as Johannesburg's pioneer stamp dealer, having arrived on the Rand prior to the Anglo-Boer War. He had operated the city's first professional philatelic firm in partnership with M.Z. Booleman. Epstein was remembered not only as an expert on South African stamps but also as a prolific publisher of postcards and a photographer for the 'Stereoscope' series. His departure for Vienna in 1922 had been necessitated by failing health, yet he had remained a vital link for South African collectors until his death.

The journal concluded with reports from the various regional societies, indicating a period of robust growth:

- Port Elizabeth Philatelic Society: At their AGM on 22 June, Mr N. Barfoot was re-elected as President. Due to increased interest, the society had resolved to move from quarterly to monthly meetings.
- East London Philatelic Society: The society reported a favourable credit balance and was planning a local exhibition, as well as the importation of philatelic lantern slides from London for educational purposes.
- Philatelic Society of Rhodesia: Based in Bulawayo, the society reported a membership of 40, with Mr Arthur C. Thornton re-elected as President.
- Cape Town Philatelic Society: A recent meeting had featured a display by Mr H. Jones of his specialised Rhodesia collection, which included rare shades of the £1 values and near-complete sets of the 1909 and 1910 issues.



Exhibition at East London.—Congratulations to the East London Philatelic Society on their decision to hold an exhibition in the quadrangle of the City Hall on January 5th and 6th next. Full details are not ready yet, but we are informed that a number of important collections have already been promised for exhibition.

The R.I.P.S. is out to develop their society in particular and the cause of philately in general.

There will be many other attractions for visitors to East London during the exhibition week. The "Best Ever" Carnival will take place, while golfers will be able to hold the club and the brand on one of the best courses in South Africa. With their love of beautiful designs philatelists should be interested in the beauty competition which will be held in connection with the big carnival. Perhaps if a couple of collectors did the judging in this it would not be out of place, but we suppose that they will want to live to see the philatelic exhibition!

Fuller details of the latter will appear in our pages as they come to hand.

A Rare S.W. African Variety.—A Johannesburg collector has come into possession of a used copy of the 4d Type I overprint, with watermark inverted. This is the only variety of this nature in this territory's stamps which we know of.

The Triangles Again.—A contemporary assumes that sheets of perforated triangular stamps are now on sale in South Africa. In view of the cartoon from the "Two and Telegraph Herald" published in our last issue, it can be taken as definite that we are not likely to see perforated triangulars for a long time yet—we may never see them. There are a few roughly perforated three-sided or triangular stamps, but these are from imperforate sheets treated privately with a sewing machine.

Fig.2: The SAP front page of Aug 1926.

already been promised, indicating a high level of engagement among local collectors.

Simultaneously, the international reach of South African philately was highlighted by the departure of Mr Emil Tamsen of Nylstroom. Mr Tamsen had been selected to serve as a judge at the upcoming New York Exhibition. The journal expressed the collective pride of South African philatelists, noting that the New York show was expected to surpass all previous exhibitions in scale and preparation.

The journal reported on several upcoming and recently published works. There had been a strong prospect of a new handbook on South West African (SWA) stamps, a project supported by several enthusiasts to address a clear gap in the literature. Furthermore, Mr Ritchie's handbook was reported to be in the press, with the editors assuring readers of its accuracy and completeness.

In terms of international literature, the journal reviewed *British Postmarks Prior to May 6th, 1840* by P.L. Tengely. This work classified the numerous types of postmarks in use before the advent of the 'Penny Black'. Additionally, Sections 8 and 9 of the second edition of Kohl's Handbook had been released, completing Volume I and commencing Volume II. These sections focused heavily on German issues and war-time usage in overseas territories, including New Guinea.

A significant portion of the journal was dedicated to a recent legal victory concerning the importation of philatelic literature into the United Kingdom. The British Postmaster-General (PMG) had attempted to enforce a prohibition on coloured stamp illustrations, but the regulation had been misinterpreted by customs officials. This led to the seizure of journals containing even black-and-white illustrations, which were derisively classed as 'prohibited immigrants'.

Mr Albert H. Harris, editor of the *Philatelic Magazine*, had led a successful campaign against this embargo. He argued that black-and-white illustrations could not possibly deceive anyone but a fool. Following this 'onslaught', the British PMG withdrew the restrictions on all but coloured illustrations. *The South African Philatelist* expressed gratitude to Mr Harris, noting that while their own copies had not yet been seized, the local trade would have surely suffered had the regulation remained unchallenged.

Several notable varieties were brought to the attention of the collecting community. A Johannesburg collector had discovered a used copy of the SWA 4d Type I overprint with an inverted watermark, the only such variety known at the time. The journal also clarified a persistent rumour regarding perforated triangular stamps. It was confirmed that no official perforated triangulars were on sale; any such examples in circulation were likely private productions created with sewing machines.

Additionally, a rare double print of the halfpenny value was mentioned, though the journal was unable to provide an illustration at the time as the specimen had recently changed hands. The editors expressed hope to document this variety in a future issue.

A central feature of the issue was a paper read by Mr Charles Hand before the Pretoria Philatelic Society titled "Notes on Early South African Issues". Mr Hand provided a detailed historical account of the legislative origins of South African stamps. He noted that Ordinance No. 1 of 1846 had authorised the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope to provide stamps as early as 1846, though the first issues (the 1d and 4d triangulars) did not appear until 1 September 1853.

Hand's research highlighted a significant technical discovery: the existence of two distinct types (A and B) for the 4d, 6d, and 1s triangular values. These differences arose from the use of two separately engraved dies during the plate-making process. For example, in Type A of the 4d value, the bottom limb of the first 'E' in PENCE projected further than the top limb, whereas in Type B, the letter was normal. Similar minute differences in the serifs and curves of the lettering were identified for the 6d and 1s values.

Transitioning to Natal, Hand explained that the territory had remained subject to Cape laws until 1856. Despite this connection, there was no evidence that Natal had ever officially used Cape triangular stamps. Instead, Natal had issued embossed provisionals in 1857 as a 'measure of public convenience'. Hand also discussed the 1869 regulation which required all postage stamps to be overprinted with the word POSTAGE to differentiate them from fiscal issues. He noted that in Natal, the use of revenue stamps for postage had been strictly prohibited, though the rule was occasionally contravened, as seen in the postal use of £1 revenue stamps in 1903.

An auction held by Mr H.R. Harmer in London had seen robust prices for African material. A superb mint triangular block of nine of the Cape 1s bright emerald-green had realised the substantial sum of £90, while a 1861 'Woodblock'

1d carmine had fetched £38.

A snapshot of the changing face of the British Empire's postal systems included:

- Mauritius: Several denominations were transitioning from the "Arms" type to the "King's Head" design.
- Irish Free State: New pictorial 2s 6d, 5s, and 10s stamps were expected in August 1926, representing a significant move toward permanent designs.
- Tanganyika: The Crown Agents had announced a new King's Head type with the inscription "Mandated Territory of Tanganyika."
- Zanzibar: A new set featuring the Sultan's portrait was in preparation, with colours ranging from brown for the 1c to sepia for the 75c.

Brief reports from the centres indicated active participation. The Cape Town Philatelic Society had enjoyed a display of Union Air Mail stamps and flown covers by Mr L. Simenhoff, which included a rare envelope carried by air from East London to Durban on the Prince of Wales' train. Meanwhile, the East Rand Philatelic Society had focused on the Belgian Congo, with Mr C.L. Larsen presenting a paper on the historical context of the territory's various issues.

References

- [1] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 4 No. 6. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Jul. 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Jul-2026.pdf>.
- [2] *The SA Philatelist*, Vol. 4 No. 7. Johannesburg: J. Robertson, Aug. 1926. [Online]. Available: <https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SAP-Aug-2026.pdf>.



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATÉLIE

Neil Cronje Receives FIP Cross Accreditation in Postal Stationery



Fig.1: Dr Neil Cronje RDPSA.

been officially recognized as a FIP-accredited juror for the Postal Stationery class.

This accomplishment follows a rigorous assessment process during the MACAO exhibition, where Neil's expertise and performance were evaluated by senior members of the

The Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) is delighted to share the news that one of our own, Dr Neil Cronje RDPSA, has achieved a significant milestone in his international judging career. Following his successful assessment during the MACAO 2026 FIP Specialised World Stamp Exhibition, held 26 June to 1 July 2026, Neil has

international jury panel. Upon the conclusion of the exhibition, the FIP Board of Directors, during their 201st Conference meeting, unanimously approved the evaluation, formally adding Neil to the esteemed Jury List as an accredited juror for Postal Stationery.

This new qualification adds to his existing status as a FIP-accredited juror for the Traditional Philately class.

For the South African philatelic community, Neil's achievement is a source of great pride. It reflects not only his personal dedication to the study and promotion of philately but also the high standards of expertise maintained within our national ranks.

We congratulate Neil on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to his continued contributions to the global philatelic community in his expanded capacity as an FIP juror.





Before the Official Runner Post

by Andrew Briscoe RDPsA FRPSL, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

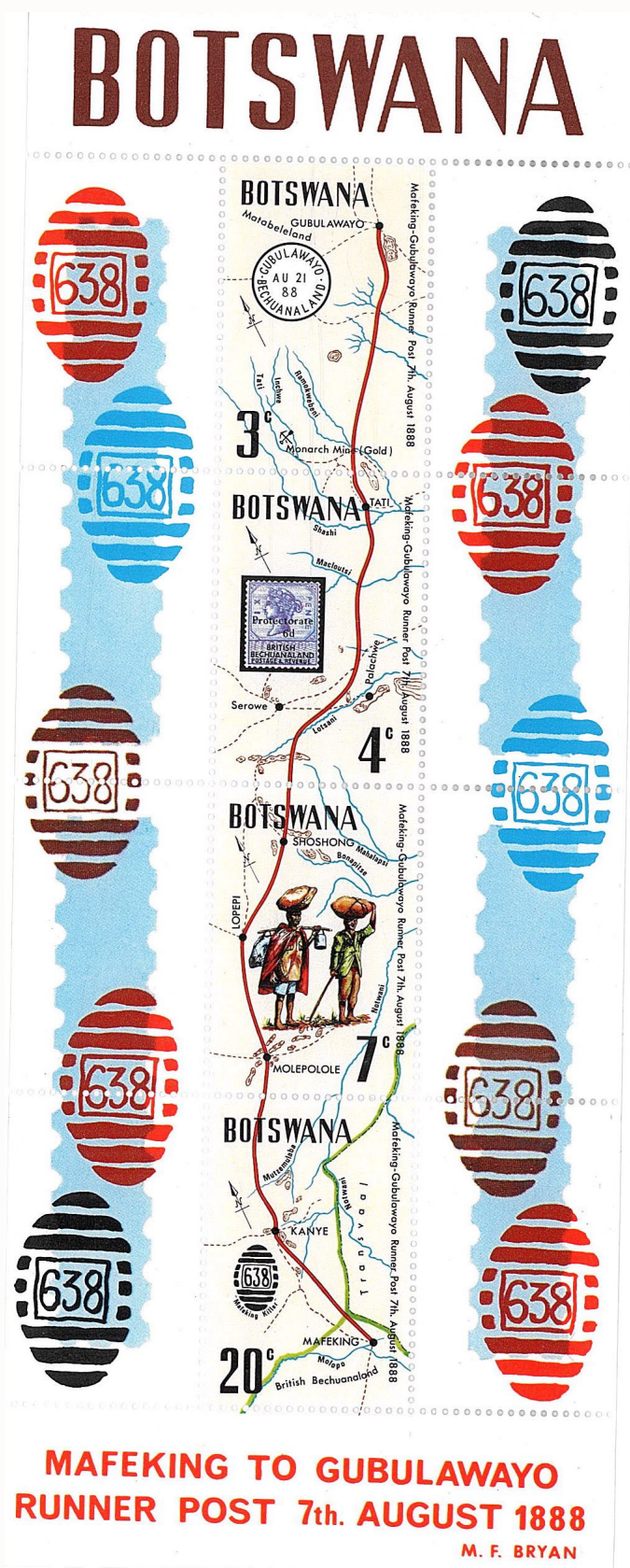


Fig.1: A miniature sheet issued by the Botswana Post Office in 1972 to celebrate the introduction of the Official Runner Post in 1888.

There is something exciting about the runner posts that grips the imagination. These early carriers of mail were not like the runners in the organised marathons of today where hundreds of weary runners strive for the prize in the presence of thousands of cheering onlookers and spectators. These mail carriers were of only one or two in number, often scantily dressed men of Africa, daring to traverse lion and disease infested wilds. Travelling over thorn-strewn, snake-infested, sometimes sandy, sometimes rocky and often uncharted pathways, they crossed dangerous tribal and national boundaries, carrying all important little pieces of folded paper, with messages they did not understand. Roaring rivers had to be crossed in the rainy season with the ever-present dangers of the African crocodile. At other times they faced the very opposite threat of thirst. These mail runners performed their task for no ultimate glory, but for a few meagre shillings. No one even tried to remember their names. It is to them that this article is dedicated.

The Bechuanalands' official runner post commenced in August, 1888. The mails from and to Mafeking, Kanye, Molepolole and Shoshong were served by native runners weekly. A fortnightly service operated northwards from Shoshong to Tati and Gubulawayo.

Letters written from Botswana before the Official Runner Post



Fig.2: Sketch map indicating the location of places referred to in this feature.

By 1821, the London Missionary Society (LMS) had established a mission station at Kuruman in the northern Cape. To Europeans, the mission became known as the 'gateway' to the interior, a place that passing hunters, traders

and travellers invariably visited to take advantage of the hospitality provided and to exchange information. The majority of letters written at the mission were taken to Cape Town by those going that way. In Cape Town, mission correspondence was handled by the Reverend John Philip, the LMS representative, who acted as a forwarding agent and facilitated its onward delivery to Europe or America. Other letters were carried south by passing travellers and would enter the postal system of the Cape Colony at the post office in Colesberg, some 300 kilometres.

The earliest surviving letters known to the author which were written from the land that is now Botswana are those of the renowned missionary-explorer Dr David Livingstone. Twenty-one such letters have been traced by the author, written between November 1847 and September 1885. Most of these letters were written at Kolobeng and are addressed to Kuruman, or to the London Missionary Society headquarters in England or to Livingstone's family members in Scotland. The letters to Britain took on average just under five months to arrive. The longest took 6½ months, and the fastest three months. This last letter is remarkable because it was written further north at Lake Ngami, and Livingstone records that it was entrusted to "the kindness of a party of Griquas who leave this river tomorrow and proceed directly to Philipolis" [1, p. 174]. These Griquas probably originated from an area north of the Orange River and were on a hunting expedition to the Okavango. The letter was presumably put into the postal system of the Orange River Sovereignty upon arrival at Philipolis. Most of Livingstone's other letters to Britain were routed via the mission at Kuruman. Letters from Kolobeng via Kuruman usually took three or four months to reach Cape Town.

Some of Livingstone's letters were received from or passed to trusted native carriers: "By the recent arrival of Monye Mabole we were favoured with communications from the South, and by the arrival of Montseabona & party from the Bamangwato we have an opportunity of returning you thanks ..." [2, vol 1, p. 252]. "... Sechele's brother Basiamang took the letter on towards the Bamangwato Sechele sent a particular request to Sekhomi to forward it punctually" [2, vol 2, p. 100]. Another letter includes an intriguing statement: "This goes early tomorrow We had written [a previous letter] some time ago and intended to send it out by an express, but as that would have cost us a calf and we thought [of] it better" [2, vol 2, p. 28].

Whilst at Linyanti in the far north, Livingstone arranged for his letters to be carried to the west coast. On 11 October 1853, he wrote: "I think this goes by Walwich [Walvis] Bay." And on 27 September 1885, he begins a letter: "I have just learned that my Arabian post-office man is detained at Sesheke by the sickness of one of his party, so I am glad of the opportunity to write a little appendix to that hurried note of the 13th ... Only think of the way this letter goes -

by an Arab from Zanzibar who takes charge of a party of Makololo with ivory for Loanda." [1, pp. 255, 285].

A variety of goods such as vegetables, books, cheese, oranges and preserves were sent in boxes and parcels to Livingstone in Kolobeng by members of his family in Scotland. Such parcels generally took about a year to arrive in Kolobeng [3, p. 71].

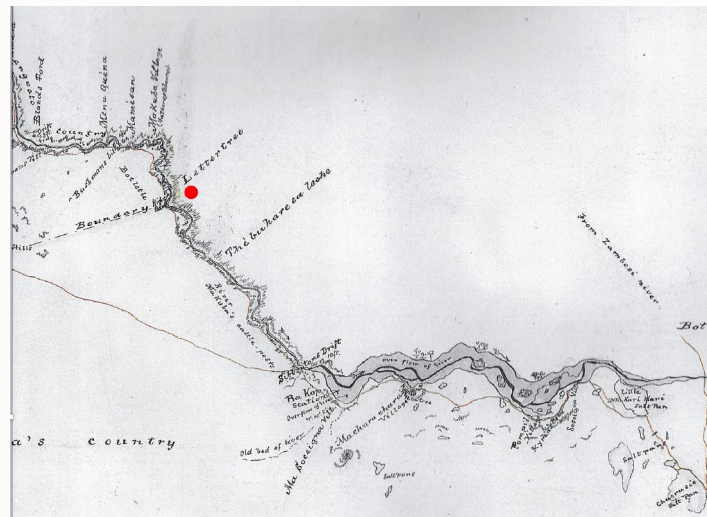


Fig.3: Sketch Map of Ngamiland' showing position of the Letter Tree (red spot shows location), drawn by Robert J. Hicks of the Bechuanaland Border Police (1888-92).

Travellers at this time also utilised 'letter trees' to deposit mail addressed to other places in the region. The trees had notches or holes in which letters could be deposited. Sometimes a tin box was attached to the tree. There was an expectation that someone travelling in the appropriate direction would carry the letter with him to the nearest place hosting some type of postal service. There were at least three such letter trees, situated near Molepolole and near Shoshong; the third - a giant baobab - was located on an island not far from Gutshaa Pan. This giant baobab, was utilised by Livingstone as a rudimentary 'post office'. Runners bearing letters for Livingstone would bury the mail bag under the tree, to be eventually collected on his return trip. Thus, Sir R. I. Murchison, President of the Royal Geographical Society, posted a copy of an address he had made to the Society on 25 May 1852 to Livingstone. On the inside page of the address is written in Livingstone's hand: "This address was sent by the author to me through the Cape Colony and was delivered by the Revd. Robert Moffat to some Matabele who laid it down on the south bank of the Seeanibye just above Victoria Falls. It was taken by the Makololo and placed on the island about 14th September 1854 and remained there till me returned from Loanda when I received it from the Mokololo about the same date in 1855. It was then brought home and delivered by me to Sir Roderick Murchison 19th February 1858. David Livingstone."

The Missionary Post

In 1859, the London Missionary Society established a northern mission station at Inyati, 'the place of the buffaloes',

situated near Gubulawayo. An unofficial postal system was introduced between Inyati and the main mission at Kuruman, passing via the smaller missions at Shoshong and Molepolole. This service utilised passing travellers, and operated initially on an *ad hoc* basis, as described in 1861 by Robert Moffat, then heading the Kuruman mission, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary in Cape Town: “We receive the post regularly at this place [Kuruman], and the letters and papers for the missionaries at Inyati are either forwarded direct by parties going in that direction or sent to the care of [the missionary at Shoshong], who again embraces opportunities of persons going to Inyati. It is now more than five months since the date of last letters from Inyati brought by people of this station.” [4, p. 257].

Another early traveller passing through and around the Bechuana territory was Frank Oates, an explorer and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. The discovery in 1961 of the Oates correspondence has provided, as Wright and Drysdall comment, “unique information relating to mail originating in the territories then known collectively as the ‘far interior’, which had no formally organised postal service” [5, p. 28]. Oates corresponded with relatives in England from 1873 until his death in 1875. Oates’ letters include several references to mail carried by a passing ox-wagon returning from a hunting trip. These wagons generally averaged only 15 kilometres a day over long trips. From time to time, Oates himself acted as the postman for other travellers; he also refers to resident traders and missionaries hiring runners to carry their mail [5, pp. 20–23].

Letters from Pandamatenga or Gubulawayo in the north were ‘sorted’ at the Shoshong mission station and despatched by runner or wagon to Marico (Zeerust) in the South African Republic where a formal post office had been established in 1860. Although there is no direct evidence as to how the senders of such letters paid the postage for carriage of their mail to Cape Town or Europe, it seems likely that the sender either gave the carrier the appropriate payment, or – more probably – established an account with the mission at Shoshong.

Confirmation that a regular missionary postal link between Shoshong and the South African Republic had been established before 1875 is provided by Major Henry Stabb of the Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry who travelled via Shoshong and Tati to the Victoria Falls. In a diary entry dated 18 June 1875, he recorded “McKenzie ... acts as a postmaster here [Shoshong] Between this and the Transvaal I found that letters were received and despatched every fortnight, being conveyed through Secheli’s country by runners from one missionary post to another, and that beyond Shoshong as far as Gobulawayo [Gubulawayo] there was a monthly post. The postal arrangements are managed principally by the missionaries and supported by annual subscriptions from among the traders and white residents” [6, p. 24].

At around this time, the Reverend James Hepburn of Shoshong attempted to establish a monthly post between Shoshong and Kuruman, via the mission stations at Molepolole and Kanye. By mid-1875, this had become a fortnightly service supported by subscriptions. Hepburn’s successor, the Reverend McKenzie, improved the service to operate on a fortnightly basis by 1876, with mail despatched northwards to Gubulawayo every month. By 1888, it was reported that between 7,000 and 8,000 letters *per annum* were being handled in Shoshong.

Another insight into the organisation of the mails at this time is provided by a letter written by a Jesuit priest in Gubulawayo to Fiesole (near Florence in Italy) in late September 1879: “I received your note on the 20th. It was dated 15 July. So letters from you arrive here in a little over 2 months. There is now a fortnightly post from here to the [Cape] Colony. The Europeans had reduced the post to a monthly one from want of funds. But now the government gives £100 a year and our party gives 18 guineas a year – 3 for each priest – so now they are enabled to have a fortnightly one. It would be quite sufficient to direct [by writing on the face of the cover] ‘Zambesi mission – Gubulawayo. Via Cape Colony – Transvaal and Marico [Zeerust]’ but at present we add ‘Care of Francis and Clarke Shoshong’ Francis forwards them at once by the same post – so there is no delay” [7, p. 129]. This quotation merits three comments. Firstly, regarding the length of time the letter from Fiesole took to arrive in Gubulawayo. Mail from Italy to Southern Africa at this time went via Britain (usually 3 days in transit), by packet post to Table Bay (approximately 30 days), by rail, cart and runner to Marico (on average 9 days), and then by missionary runner post to Gubulawayo via Molepolole and Shoshong (in this case approximately 24 days). Secondly, the reference to a government subsidy. This remains a mystery, since it was surely not supplied by Lobengula’s administration (he had neither the funds nor the interest in subsidising the Europeans’ post), and if it was the government of the Cape Colony, it is surprising that there is no reference to such payment in the Annual Reports of the Cape Postmaster General. The third is the reference to the role played by the firm of Francis and Clarke in Shoshong. The firm were prominent traders who are also known to have acted as interior forwarding agents.

Another leading figure in organising these early postal communications was Henry Westbeeche, one of the best known traders and hunters in the ‘far interior’. Westbeeche lived in Pandamatenga from 1870 to 1888. At this time, Pandamatenga was a well-known stopping place and the point at which travellers turned to visit the Victoria Falls. From there, Westbeeche made arrangements with passing travellers and ivory hunters to carry letters up and down the ‘Westbeeche Road’ between Pandamatenga and Tati.

The Reverend C. D. Helm acted as the informal postmaster at Gubulawayo from about 1875. Helm charged regular users

of his runner post an annual subscription of between 30 and 50 shillings, and temporary residents five shillings per letter. In one of his own letters, Helm stated that runners between Gubulawayo and Tati completed the return trip of 420 kilometres in a week, an average of 60 kilometres a day. The complete route of 800 kilometres from Gubulawayo to Mafeking was accomplished in 17 days, an average of 46 kilometres a day.

Further evidence of a developing communications system is provided by the following snippet of information that appeared in *The Bechuanaland News* of 4 April 1883:

“For the advantage of traders and others who seek to send packages to the interior, we are informed by Mr Isaacs of Mafeking that such may be conveyed by arrangement with the Reverend Wookey at Sechele’s place in Molepolole. He reports that if the Reverend is not there, the package may safely be left with the chief who is a convert to Christianity, a man on whose promptitude and faithfulness can be placed the fullest reliance. Sechele shall ensure carriage by trusty Kaffirs to other places at the charge of one shilling for one package. Mr Isaacs can arrange conveyance to Molepolole.”

In May 1884, Francois Coillard of the Paris Evangelical Mission, recorded this about the postal arrangements that prevailed in Shoshong:

“The postal service is interrupted now, because of the small-pox which is raging in the direction of Zeerust. Two postmen, who are sent every three weeks, take a fortnight to accomplish the journey [to Zeerust], and it costs £3. In order to defray the cost of the service, a tax of £3 10s is imposed upon every European without distinction who makes a stay in the country, and it means therefore £14 for us. But the Europeans of the district have held a consultation, and unanimously decided to make us pay only half that sum.

Later, whilst temporarily based at Leshoma, Coillard wrote: “The very evening before I left [Leshoma] two messengers came from Panda-matenga, bringing us a great packet of letters, which a trader had been so obliging as to bring from Mangwato [Shoshong]; and what was more the good man added that he still had ‘a whole bag of newspapers and a pile of letters for us, with which he had not been able to load the porters.’ How tantalising! But never mind; we shall enjoy what we have. Adieu dinner! Adieu sleep! The silent hours of the night fly by while we listen to the news!”

The dutiful trader was surely George Westbeeche. From Pandamatenga, Westbeeche made arrangements with passing travellers and ivory hunters to carry letters up and down the ‘Westbeeche Road’ to Tati. Tati was at this time a very small settlement at which converged the ‘Westbeeche Road’ from Pandamatenga, the ‘Hunters’ Road’ to Gubulawayo, the route eastwards along the Macloutsie River, and the wagon track south to Shoshong. As such, Tati was an early ‘communications hub’ that was subsequently to play

a significant role in the development of the official postal service of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The Bechuanaland Expeditionary Force

The next step towards the development of an officially recognised postal system was provided by the arrival of the Bechuanaland Expeditionary Force in 1885. The Force had been despatched to secure British interests in the region. In 1884, Germany had formally annexed all of the territory between the Orange River and the Portuguese colony of Angola, excepting Walvis Bay. And then, on 16 September 1884, President Kruger of the Transvaal announced the annexation of the recently proclaimed ‘republics’ of Goshen and Stellaland. Confronted by these dual threats from both the west and the east, the British government realised that it was about to lose control of the strategic corridor of land north of the Cape Colony. The Expeditionary Force, under the command of General Charles Warren, was formed in Cape Town, and in March 1885 set off to establish control of this strategic corridor. The Force encountered no opposition from the Boers and the objective was achieved without a shot being fired.

As the Expeditionary Force moved northwards, communication systems were established. Initially, heliographic communication was established, followed by a telegraph line [8, p. 242]. Points were established along the line with military telegraphists in charge. The construction of a telegraph line north of Kimberley and into Bechuanaland was undertaken by a mounted troop of telegraph engineers under the command of Lieutenant R. W. Anstruther who supervised the laying of a line from Barkly West to Molepolole, via Mafeking and Kanye (Fig.4). The line reached Molepolole in May 1885, and was dismantled following the withdrawal of British troops three months later.



Fig.4: An incoming letter to a member of the Bechuanaland Expeditionary Force.

A despatch rider mail service was also introduced between Mafeking and Molepolole via Kanye. This service operated three times per week. The despatch riders were estimated

to travel through the rough bush road at an average speed of only ten kilometres per hour. The personal correspondence to and from members of the Expeditionary Force was also carried by the military down this route to the nearest Cape Colony post office at Barkly West.

The Bechuanaland Border Police

Following the disbanding of the Bechuanaland Expeditionary Force in August 1885, a quasi-military force was established to patrol the borders of the new territory so as to prevent incursions by freebooters and other intruders. The initial recruits of the Bechuanaland Border Police came mainly from the disbanded mounted units of the Expeditionary Force. The Border Police headquarters were at Mafeking in British Bechuanaland. The first Police camp within the Protectorate was established in December 1885 at Shoshong. Additional, smaller, camps were established at Kanye and Molepolole in early 1886 and later at Fort Elebe, Ramotswa, Macloutsie, Mochudi, and Gaberones.

Although the primary role of the Police was to patrol the borders and villages of the new Protectorate, the carriage of the administration's official mail was an important additional responsibility. In British Bechuanaland, the Border Police conveyed government and other official letters by horseback riders and wagons between Barkly West in the northern Cape and Vryburg. For a few months in 1885, the Police also conveyed the civil post on behalf of the Post Office in Vryburg. However, this task was not performed satisfactorily. There were numerous complaints about registered letters going astray, and of other irregularities which were all credited to the opening of the mail bags by the Police at their camp instead of the bags being taken directly to the Post Office [9, p. 26].

In the Protectorate, the Border Police initially conveyed only government mail and despatches. This service was operated on an *ad hoc* basis, as the need arose and resources were available. Despatch riders journeyed between Chief Khama's base in Shoshong and Mafeking. The route passed through Molepolole, and Kanye.

The Postmaster General of British Bechuanaland decided in early 1887 that the Police should cease to carry the mails between Vryburg and Mafeking, and tenders were invited to operate this service. Mr Geeringh, the proprietor of the Passenger Cart Service, was awarded the tender for conveyance of the mails from Kimberley to Mafeking with effect from 1 March 1887. Little is known about the service offered by Geeringh, except that he abandoned the contract in July 1888, and the Border Police were instructed to resume their postal duties by carrying the Protectorate mail by post cart from Mafeking to Tati in the northern Trans-Protectorate.

The Official Runner Post

On 30 September 1885, the territory north of the Molopo River as far as Latitude 22 degrees south was declared a British Protectorate.

In 1887, the administrator J. S. Moffat was deployed to Gubulawayo to attempt the resolution of a dispute between Khama III and Chief Lobengula of the Amandebele regarding the ownership of a tract of land lying south of the Tati River, between the Shashi and Macloutsie Rivers. Moffat communicated regularly from Gubulawayo with Sir Sidney Shippard, the British Administrator in Vryburg, either through the missionaries' informal postal system or by paying runners to carry his letters and reports over the 500 miles to Mafeking, where they were handed to the official post office for onward transmission to Vryburg.

The success of this runner service led Moffat in 1888 to suggest to Shippard that a regular mail system be introduced between Mafeking and Gubulawayo. The proposal was approved, and the Postmaster General at Vryburg was instructed to investigate whether certain residents would be able to assist in the establishment of the project:

- (a) "To enquire from Mr Tillard, Postmaster at Mafeking, Mr John Williams of Kanye, Mr Boyne of Molepolole, Messrs Musson Bros of Shoshong, and Mr Samuel Edwards of Tati, the cost of a Postal Service from Mafeking to Shoshong, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo via the Tati to be carried out by a system of native runners.
- (b) Mr Tillard to say whether he could secure the services of trustworthy runners between Mafeking and Kanye to convey a post once a fortnight each way, and if so what would be the cost.
- (c) Mr John Williams to be asked whether he would be willing to act as Postal Agent and to undertake the sale of stamps without remuneration and also to find reliable runners for a post once a fortnight each way, between Kanye and Molepolole.
- (d) Similar questions to be asked of Mr Boyne as regards a post between Shoshong and Molepolole and to Messrs Musson Bros with regard to a fortnightly post between Shoshong and the Tati, and Mr Samuel Edwards with regard to a fortnightly post between Tati and Gubulawayo, to which there is reason to believe the Chief Lobengula would be willing to contribute a small subsidy." [9, p. 45].

Although some of the traders were reluctant to undertake the work of Postal Agent, the missionaries were all willing, and the necessary arrangements were finally made. In June 1888, Moffat was instructed to implement the project. The total cost of the mail service between Mafeking and Gubulawayo was under no circumstances to exceed the cost of £200 per annum. The mail service was to be limited only to letters and newspapers; books and parcels were not to be accepted for as long as the service was operated by runners [10, p. 97].

The proposed remuneration for a Postal Agent was a commission of 2½% upon the value of postage stamps sold, and 25% upon the amount of extra charges collected on correspondence delivered. Although the position was poorly

remunerated, there were other factors that outweighed the meagre salary. The premises of the Postal Agent became a meeting place for the literate community, a location at which everyone was likely to call, and thus provided a captive audience for a missionary or store owner.

The Postal Agents appointed were based at Kanye (Mr John Williams), Molepolole (Rev. S. J. Wookey), Shoshong (Mr C. Austin), Tati (Mr Samuel Edwards) and Gubulawayo (Rev C.D. Helm). Chief Montsioa's son and heir, Kebalepele, agreed to arrange transportation of the mails between Mafeking and Kanye at a cost of £1 per trip [9, p. 46].

From the very beginning, the Protectorate Post Office required mail to be prepaid by affixing adhesive postage stamps to the front of the envelope. Since the cost of the service was not to exceed £200 per annum, it was necessary to introduce a mechanism for the achievement of this objective. British Bechuanaland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate operated a joint fiscal system, and it was therefore necessary - in order to calculate the revenue derived from the postal service of the Protectorate - for the postage stamps used in the two territories to be distinguished from each other. For this accounting purpose, a quantity of British Bechuanaland stamps were overprinted 'Protectorate' for sale only in the Protectorate. These overprinted stamps were issued for sale on 7 August 1888.

The compulsory use of adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage simplified the role of the Postal Agent. All he needed to do was to sell the relevant stamp(s) to the customer and then 'deface' the stamps with an 'obliterator', being a barred numeral cancellation. Following the practice observed in the Cape Post Office, each agency was issued with an obliterator bearing a different number: 674 to Molepolole, 676 to Shoshong, 677 to Kanye, 678 to Gubulawayo, and 679 to Kanye.

The introduction of the service was announced on 8 August 1888 by a Notice in *The Bechuanaland News*, which stated that "The arrangements which Mr. J. S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner, has during the past month or two been making are now completed and the 'Protectorate Post' comes into operation forthwith. The former route to the Interior, via Zeerust in the Transvaal, has been summarily abandoned, and the post will be conveyed by native runners through Mafeking to Kanya (Gasitsive's), Molepolole (Secheli's) and Shoshong (Khama's) weekly, and from Shoshong to Gubulawayo (Lobengula's) fortnightly"

The illustrated Notice dated 28 July 1888 (Fig.5) indicated that, as in the Cape, postal charges were to be based on the weight of the letter and its destination. A letter addressed within the Protectorate cost 2d per half ounce, and 4d per half ounce when addressed to offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa. The rate for mail addressed to Great Britain (and foreign countries) was the rate that applied to such places from British Bechuanaland plus a surcharge of 2d.

PROTECTORATE POST.			
IT is hereby notified for general information that arrangements will shortly be completed for the establishment of a Postal Service, by Native Runners, between British Bechuanaland and Matabeleland via Bamangwato, when the following Rates of Postage will come into force:—			
Correspondence posted within the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate to be prepaid in British Bechuanaland Stamps overprinted with the word "Protectorate."	LETTERS		For each Newspaper not exceeding 4 oz. and for every additional 4 oz.
	Not exceeding ½ oz.	Every additional ½ oz.	
1.—WHEN POSTED WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(a) Addressed to places within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	2d	2d	2d
2.—WHEN POSTED BEYOND THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE—			
(a) Addressed to Places within the Trans-Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices within the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	6d	6d	4½d
(d) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	4d	4d	4d
3.—CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO THE PROTECTORATE OR TRANS-PROTECTORATE FROM OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PREPAID AT THE RATES PROVIDED IN THE EXISTING CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CAPE COLONY AND BRITISH BECHUANALAND, and the following additional charges will be payable upon delivery—			
(a) When delivered within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) When delivered beyond the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	4d
Postal Agencies are being opened at the undermentioned places:— Within the present limits of the Protectorate at Kanye, Molepolole (Secheli's), and Shoshong (Khama's). Beyond the present limits of the Protectorate at Tati and Gubulawayo (Lobengula's). No Articles will be transmitted at Book or Parcels Rates beyond Mafeking in British Bechuanaland so long as the Mails are conveyed by Native Runners. ERNEST C. BAXTER, Acting Postmaster-General. Vryburg, British Bechuanaland, July 28th, 1888. Printed by Townshend & Son, "Government Gazette" Office, Vryburg.			

Fig.5: Notice dated 28 July 1888.

By these means, the Protectorate's first official postal service was introduced on 9 August, 1888. The mails from and to Mafeking, Kanye, Molepolole and Shoshong were served by native runners weekly. A fortnightly service operated northwards from Shoshong to Tati and Gubulawayo.

The runner 'foot post' system worked satisfactorily for nine months. However, in May 1889, the main body of the Border Police was moved up from Mafeking to Macloutsie in anticipation of the invasion of Mashonaland by Cecil Rhodes's 'Pioneer Column'. This relocation led to a considerable increase in the weight of the mails to be conveyed through the Protectorate, and although the service was restricted to letters and newspapers only, the native runners were unable to cope with the resulting demands, and responsibility for transporting the mail was transferred (temporarily) back to the Bechuanaland Border Police.

Conclusion

In 1971, H.R. Holmes asserted that 'there was no organised postal service in any part of the Bechuanalands until the Stellaland

Republic started one in February 1884' (Holmes, p15). The information collated in this article begs the question as to what we understand as the essential characteristics of an 'organised postal service'. The arrangements that Livingstone made with his 'Arabian post-office man' and others surely do not qualify since they were personal, opportunistic, and lacking third-party facilitation. Similarly, the arrangements made by Oates to ensure his letters reached Shoshong. Another hallmark of an organised postal service is regularity of service provision. In this respect, the efforts made the missionaries Helm, Hepburn and McKenzie to provide a fortnightly or monthly service qualify. The mission stations at Molepolole and Shosong may be regarded as intrinsic to an organised postal service in that they were places at which mail was received, sorted and despatched. The missionaries' postal services could also be utilised by members of the public, unlike those of the Bechuanaland Expeditionary Force and the Bechuanaland Border Police. There still remains much to be learned about these early years, especially concerning the role played by the various missionaries and traders. Also, nothing appears to be as yet known about the terms on which the chiefs supplied runners and other forms of cooperation to facilitate the postal services.

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Violet (shades).

A reddish violet shade is listed by the UHB, Stanley Gibbons (SG 100a) and the SA Stamp Colour Catalogue (SASCC 98a).

The 2d value features a sailor and in format and sheet lay out the stamps were the same as the 1½d value except that the first stamp is inscribed in Afrikaans and the sheet numbers are red and black in Issue 1. Slogans or figures were also only in the colour of the stamps.

They are usually collected in horizontal pairs. A block of four contains all the possible combinations of language, perforation and roulette.

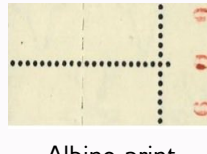
There were five issues in all, produced from two stamps and four different slogan cylinders. The stamp cylinders were from a common multipositive and the first, number 6931, had much finer screening than the second, which was numbered 39.

No	Issue	Cylinder Numbers		Margin Colours	Issue Date
		Stamp	Margin		
92	1	6931	Slogan 1	Green	Feb. 1943
	2	6931	Slogan 2	Green	Jan. 1944
	3	39	Slogan 2	Violet	Oct. 1944
	4	39	Slogan 3	Violet	Jan. 1945
	5	39	Slogan 4	Green	Apr. 1945

SELECTED VARIETIES

(As listed in the Union Handbook [1])

 Multipositive: Blob ("star") on right frame below POSSEEL (ex-Row 4/1) UHB 92 - V1	 Issues 1 - 2: White scratches between "2d." and POSSEEL (ex-Row 13/1) UHB 92 - V2	 White scratches below POSSEEL level with cap (ex-Row 14/6) UHB 92 - V3	 Line above "D" of 2d. making it appear "2/6" (ex-Row 19/1) UHB 92 - V4 (SG 100c) (SASCC 98d) Listed as "Apostrophe flaw"	 Issues 3 - 5: "Tassel" on cap below "2D." of 2d. (ex-Row 11/9) UHB 92 - V5	 Vertical line on cap below "2D" of 2d. (ex-Row 12/11) UHB 92 - V6 (SG 100d) (SASCC 98e) Listed as "Line on Cap"
No Image Joined paper UHB 92 - V7	 Stamps partly printed UHB 92 - V8 (SASCC 98c) Listed as "Stamps half printed and misperforated"	 "Certificates" or "Sertifikate" printed on stamps UHB 92 - V9	No Image With bottom loops of "y", "g" or "f" printed on stamps (Issue 1) UHB 92 - V10		

				
Blurred slogans UHB 92 - V11	Misplaced perforation (through centre of stamps - Progressive) UHB 92 - V12 (SG 97c) (SASCC 95c)	Roulette omitted UHB 92 - V13 (SG 100b) (SASCC 98b)	Albino print UHB 92 - New	Blank border around arrow Issue 4 UHB 92 - New

3d Issues 1 to 3
UHB 93
(SG 101) (SASCC 99)



Blue (shades).

The 3d stamps, which portrayed a member of the Women's Auxiliary Corps, were of 21,5 x 11 mm format, printed sideways to the web of the paper. Consequently, the sheets of 360 stamps were made up of 18 rows x 20, watermark

facing left, and the slogans or figures which appeared on the side margins in the ½d and 1d values were now at the top and bottom, or vice versa.

First stamp on the sheet was inscribed in English, and there were six marginal arrows. They are usually collected in vertical triplets. A block of six contains all the possible combinations of language, perforation and roulette.

There were three issues produced from the same stamp cylinder in combination with three different marginal cylinders. Throughout, the colour of the slogans or figures was the same as that of the stamps.

No	Issue	Cylinder Numbers		Margin Colours	Issue Date
		Stamp	Margin		
93	1	7014	Slogan 6	Red	Oct. 1942
	2	7014	Slogan 7	Violet	Aug. 1944
	3	7014	Slogan 9	Purple	Oct. 1945

SELECTED VARIETIES
(As listed in the Union Handbook [1])

		No Image			
White blob on "Tall C" of AFRICA (ex-Row 6/20) UHB 93 - V1	Blue smudge on lefthand "3" (ex-Row 18/19) UHB 93 - V2	Joined paper UHB 93 - V3	"Certificates" or "Sertifikate" printed on stamps UHB 93 - V4	With blank margin (slogan not printed) UHB 93 - V5	Dry printing of slogans in margins UHB 93 - New

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=20>.



Review and Revision of the 'Ladysmith Siege Postcards'

by Roger Porter RDPSA* and John Handman[§],

*Cape & Natal Study Circle, [§]Maritzburg Philatelic Society

Introduction

A state of war existed between the Boer Republics of Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek and Oranje-Vrijstaat, and Great Britain from 11 October 1899. Boer forces invaded the Colony of Natal and the opening battle in Natal was fought at Talana, Dundee on 20 October 1899. British forces withdrew to Ladysmith where a force under Lieutenant General George White occupied the town. The Battle of Elands-laagte was fought on 21 October 1899. Boer forces under Commandant General PJ Joubert encircle the town and a state of siege began on 2 November 1899. The Boers shelled the town from the surrounding high ground and hills. General Redvers Buller VC had arrived in Natal from England with reinforcements. His objective was to relieve Ladysmith and drive the Boer forces out of Natal. The population in Ladysmith was approximately 13 500 soldiers and 5 000 civilians. The 118 day long siege was relieved on 28 February 1900. The postal service beyond the town was discontinued but did operate within. A large correspondence of outward mail accumulated at the Ladysmith post office during the siege which later entered the Natal postal system only after the siege was lifted. The mail was cancelled with the LADYSMITH / NATAL date stamp measuring 25mm in diameter. Independent of the Natal Post Office, a garrison post office operated in the town and mail from 'on active service' personnel was cancelled with a metal hand stamp made up of loose type reading LADYSMITH SIEGE POST OFFICE / Date. Several varieties arose when the date was changed daily. Part of this correspondence comprised illustrated postcards produced in Ladysmith, which are known as 'Ladysmith Siege Postcards' and may have both or either of these postmarks.

Since the first account of the 'Ladysmith Siege Postcards' was published during the 1940s in a book titled *'Philately of the Anglo-Boer war 1899-1902'* written by Stephan Rich, other more comprehensive attempts have been made to determine and describe the types of siege postcards printed during and after the siege. He says *'the printing of the jubilant post cards of defiance in Ladysmith form the best known philatelic material from the siege'* [1, p. 44]. Indeed these cards have been eagerly sought after by philatelist for many years. Further he states that *'These cards come with two varieties...'* which he described and illustrated. Illustration 3-2 & 3-3 are of a card printed in red having three soldiers at the bottom front right, while illustration 3-4 has two soldiers. Although he mentions other differences between the two varieties, he mistakenly considered the three soldier

card was the earliest printed. He does point out that *'The inscriptions imitate closely the then current Natal postcards, but reads "Subject to letter rates"'*. The significance of this is that the postage rates on privately produced postcards was at that time in Natal the same as that for letters i.e. 1d for local postage and mail to Britain, and 2½d if addressed to other overseas destinations. Therefore the status of the Ladysmith Siege Postcard is that it was not official but a privately produced postcard [2].

Nothing further happened until A. Leslie Leon [3] recognised four card types which he designated A to D by comparing the illustrations on both the front and reverse of the cards. Although he had limited amount of material at his disposal he did make new findings. That is (i) there were four types and set-out the characteristics of each of these, (ii) although he was unable to determine the order of appearance, he did find that the card type having a 3rd soldier and with 'Piet and sword' appeared later than the other card types.

Subsequently the *SA Philatelist* [4] reported on a presentation by Mr. Leslie Leon to the *Anglo Boer War Philatelic Society* in Durban. He tried to answer five questions, as follows:

- Who designed the cards?
- Who printed them?
- How many types are there?
- When and how were they produced?
- To what extent were they used?

This article attempts to answer these basic questions by undertaking a review and revision of cards found in various collections, published articles, and auction catalogues since the 1970s and later articles by Duggan [5].

The Artist

Leslie Leon confirmed that the artist who designed the cards was Earl Robert. Robert was an illustrator, artist, and cartoonist TODO: (Greenwall 1992). Initially he was a correspondent to the *Illustrated London News* and came to South Africa in 1882. During the siege of Ladysmith he contributed to the *'Ladysmith Bombshell'* newspaper intended to boost the morale of the town's people. The *Ladysmith Bombshell* was a satirical, illustrated newspaper that was unique in giving a firsthand account, being humorous, and in presenting a perspective on siege events from the besieged defenders viewpoint. The drawings of Earl Robert with text by George Walter Lines were featured. It served as a vital chronicle for the soldiers during a difficult period of the Anglo Boer War. There were eight issues dated

from November 1899 to January 1900.

Three cartoon cards were also produced at that time. They have the initials 'E R' (i.e. Earl Robert) and bear obvious similarities to the siege postcards (Fig. 1).



Fig.1: Cartoon card drawn by Earl Roberts with his initials 'E R' at bottom right.

The Printer

There is no information on who printed the siege cards TODO: (Leslie Leon 1973). Possibly one may assume that the siege cards printed in Ladysmith were done at the same place that published the *Ladysmith Bombshell* as a private arrangement.

When the cards were available to the public is indicated by the illustration on the reverse of the cards that shows the damaged Town Hall tower caused by a shell fired from the Long Tom gun on Mbulwana on 20 December 1899. Duggan [5] had seen a card dated 2 November 1899 but this date must obviously be wrong given that the Town Hall had not yet been damaged. In a presentation by Leslie Leon [4] a card with manuscript date of 25 DE 1899 which had been illustrated in the ABWP of September 1990 was described (but postmarked later Ladysmith MR 4 1900). It was therefore assumed that the siege postcards

were produced before Christmas 1899. This assumption is supported by [5] who describes a card cancelled on DE 27 99 at LADYSMITH RAIL which is illustrated on page 74 of the TODO: *Anglo Boer War Philatelist* (1999). It is addressed to Major Julian RAMC, Waggon Hill and part of the message reads '...on duty Railway station for one week'. The Natal Government Railways operated a train between Ladysmith Station and Intombi Hospital Camp (situated some distance from the town) during the siege carrying supplies, sick and wounded soldiers.

Method of Printing

Siege postcards produced during the Siege of Ladysmith were printed in pairs in red ink and generally have a smudged appearance. Engravings and letter press for the front and back were set up head to head (Fig. 2) as shown in [5]. Double sized sheets of card were printed on one side, then **turned over and rotated** and printed on the other. The two cards were separated by a guillotine. The description explains the two recorded printer's errors of the first card type produced:

- i the reverse of a card have part of the lettering printed from the front of the card as a result of being fed into the printer at a slant.
- ii A used card cancelled Ladysmith MR 10 1900 with the same illustration on the front and on the reverse (Fig. 3) resulting from the doubled sized card not being rotated after having been turned over [6], [7].



Fig.2: Showing how the type was set up for printing [5, p. 80].

The Types of Siege Cards

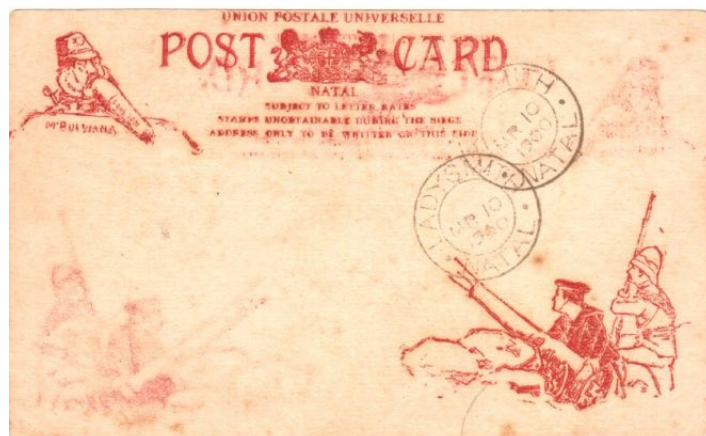
Since the book by Rich [1] there have been several accounts published that have described the types of Ladysmith Siege postcards from the original four types [3], five types TODO: (Leslie Leon 1973), nine types and sub-types TODO: (Duggan 2005, & 2006) , and the six types and five varieties of [8]. Duggan states that the original type numbers in the earlier published papers was illogical. This account attempts to list the card types in a more logical sequence based on the earlier types being listed first followed by the later types. The first distinction to be made is the card types produced

during the siege of Ladysmith and those types printed after the siege was lifted on 28 February 1900. The following description is based on the types listed by Argyll Etkin in their 2019 auction catalogue of the Kenneth Griffith collection.

Siege Postcards Produced During the Siege of Ladysmith

These are the type 'D' [3] and types 3, 3A, and 4 [5] and type 3 and subtypes 3a, 3b, 3c, and type 4 [8]. Some type 1 and type 2 postcards were cancelled 'LADYSMITH SIEGE POST OFFICE / Feb date'. This was done at the Garrison Post Office set up by Major General A Hunter on 6th February 1900. He organized a postal system for official correspondence and letters. There were nine districts each having a post box and an orderly riding a bicycle attached to each district that brought the mail to the Garrison P O where it was sorted and dispatched [9].

Several cards were posted some weeks or months after the siege was lifted.



Reverse



Front

Fig.3: The reverse and front of a printer's error card having the same image on both sides.

Type 1 siege postcard. Heading with large coat of arms (24mm) and POSTCARD, and badge on Boer cap, smudged ink printing in shades of red (Fig. 4). Reverse. 'LADYSMITH' is 14.5mm long. Earliest date of use is 25 DE 1899 (manuscript).

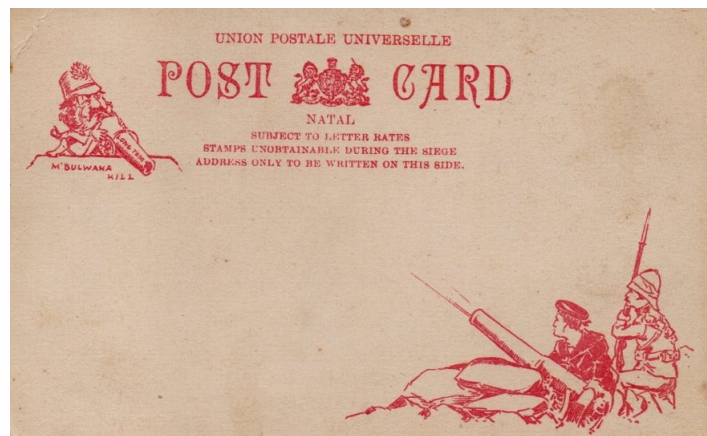
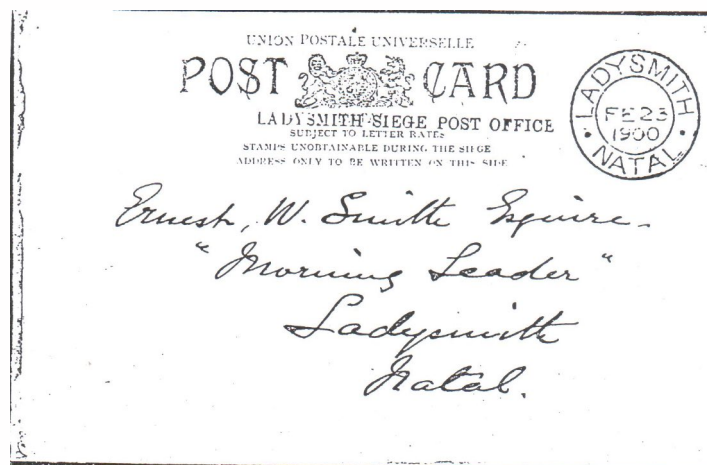
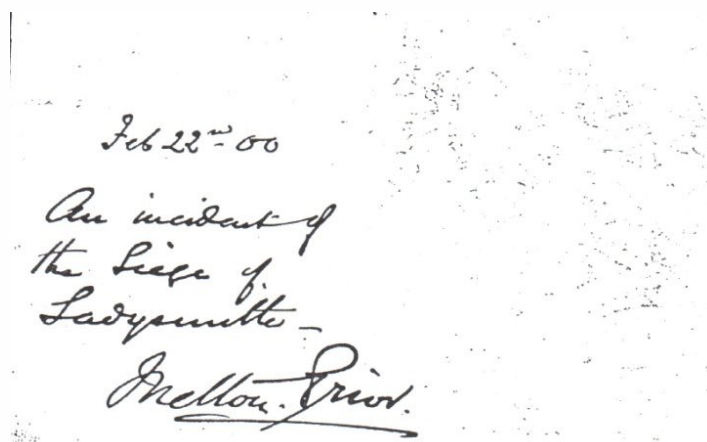


Fig.4: Type 1.

Figure 5a is of a postcard with the same printed head as occurs on the Type 1 postcard (Fig. 4) but all the other printed images as found on the siege postcard are absent (ex late John Sandilands collection). It is cancelled LADYSMITH FE 23 1900 and LADYSMITH SIEGE POST OFFICE with date omitted. On the reverse is a message 'Feb 22nd 00 an incident of the Siege of Ladysmith - Melton Prior signature (Fig. 5b). It is illustrated with a hectograph sketch 'Capture of Long Tom on Gun Hill'.



a)



b)

Fig.5: a) Postcard with the same printed head as occurs on the Type 1 postcard (Fig. 4) but all the other printed images as found on the siege postcard are absent. b) The dated back has a written message and signature of Melton Prior. (ex late John Sandilands collection).

It is locally addressed to EW Smith, a war correspondent for the 'Morning Leader'. The postcard was possibly a 'trial printing' before the images of the siege postcard were added but used only later in February 1900.

- Sub-type 1A. The heading has been moved 15 mm to the right. Earliest date of use JA 30 1900 (Fig. 6).
- Sub-type 1B. Printed in blue ink on a thick card (Fig. 7).

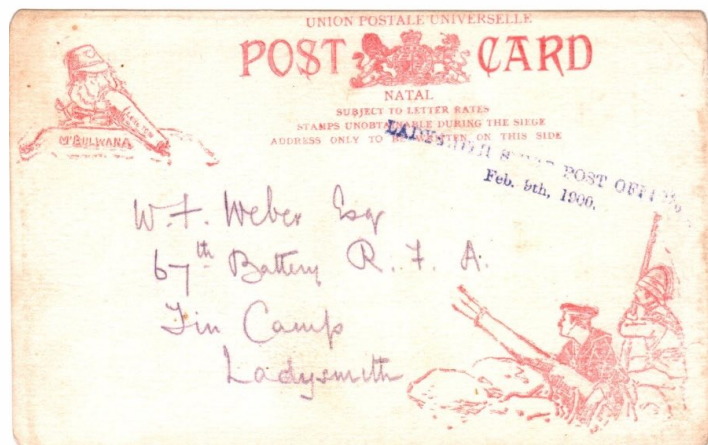


Fig. 6: Type 1A used within the town, cancelled 'LADYSMITH SIEGE POST OFFICE / Feb. 9th, 1900', i.e. three days after the Garrison Post Office was opened. Note the smudged red ink printing of this card.



Fig. 7: The unique siege postcard printed in blue cancelled Ladysmith MR 8 1900 to England (ex Harris collection). Speculation is that it was a printer's proof.

Type 2 siege postcard. As for type 1, but a solid red circle added to the flag on the Town Hall (Fig. 8). Earliest date of use DE 27 1899 LADYSMITH RAIL.

Siege Postcards Produced After 28 February 1900

The design was redrawn for the siege cards produced after the siege was lifted. There are two soldiers at the bottom right of the card. These are Leslie Leon type C, Duggan and Argyll Etkin types 1 and 2.

Type 3 siege postcard. Coat of Arms small (16mm). Boer gunner with cockade on cap, a curl in 'P' of POST and half diagonal in the 'S' of POST and a half diagonal in 'C' of CARD. (Fig. 9). Reverse. 'LADYSMITH' is 32mm long. Earliest date of use MR 12 1900.

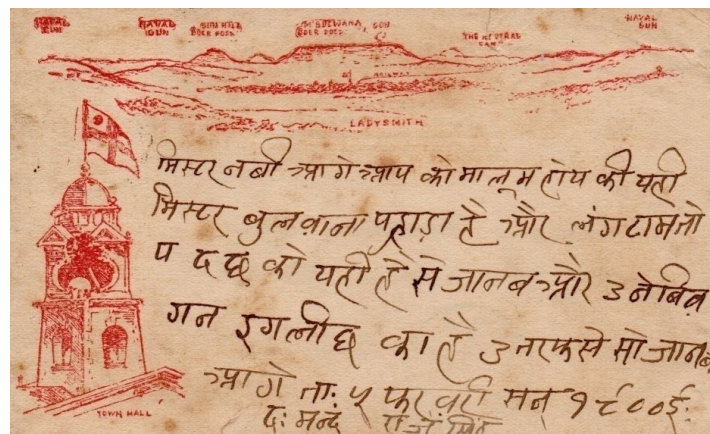


Fig. 8: Type 2. Note solid red dot in the flag of St George.

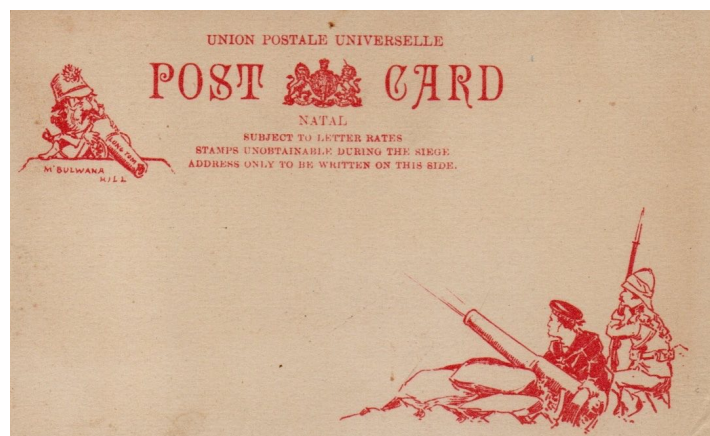


Fig. 9: Type 3.

Type 4 siege postcard. Coat of Arms larger (23mm), two soldiers at bottom right. Boer gunner with badge on cap, a curl in both the 'P' and 'O' of POST, no diagonal in the 'S' of POST and a curl in 'C' of CARD (Fig. 10). Reverse. 'LADYSMITH' is 14.5mm long. No used or unused cards were seen by the authors and efforts made to find an example for scanning were unsuccessful.

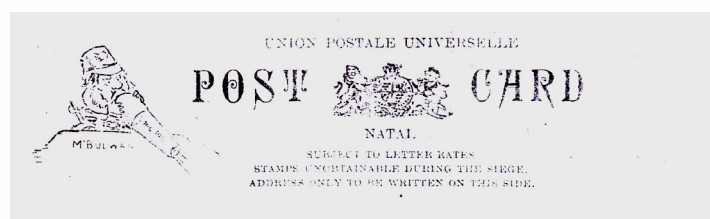


Fig. 10: Type 4 [5, p. 81].

The Souvenir Siege Postcard

The design was redrawn. There are three soldiers (a Natal Colonial volunteer was added) at the bottom right of the card. These are the types A and B of Leslie Leon and types 5, 5a, 5b and 6 of Duggan and Argyll Etkin. The cards are cancelled with a bogus LADYSMITH / 27 FE 1900 date stamp measuring 26mm in diameter, its position varies on different card.

Type 5 postcard. 'POSTCARD' in sans serif capitals, 'NATAL' above coat of Arms (24mm). Boer gunner named 'Piet' holding a sword, with 'ZAR' on cap. Reverse. The 'N' of gun in NAVAL GUN' has dropped (at left top). 'LONG TOM' beside gun barrel (Fig. 11). It has not been established where

the souvenir postcards were printed; it has been suggested that it was at Cape Town.

- Sub type 5A. 'Ladysmith' is 13 mm long. Earliest date of use MR 5 1900.
- Sub type 5B. 'Ladysmith' is 10 mm long. Earliest date of use FE 27 1900.
- Sub type 5C. Overprinted in black 'LADYSMITH SIEGE POST CARD / 6D. EACH'. Reverse plain (no printed image) (Fig. 13a)
- Sub-type 5D. Heading only. Printing on the reverse of the card replaced by a cyclostyled text and or image (Fig. 13b) e.g. 'my camp Ladysmith 1900 and a message written by Melton Prior [8].

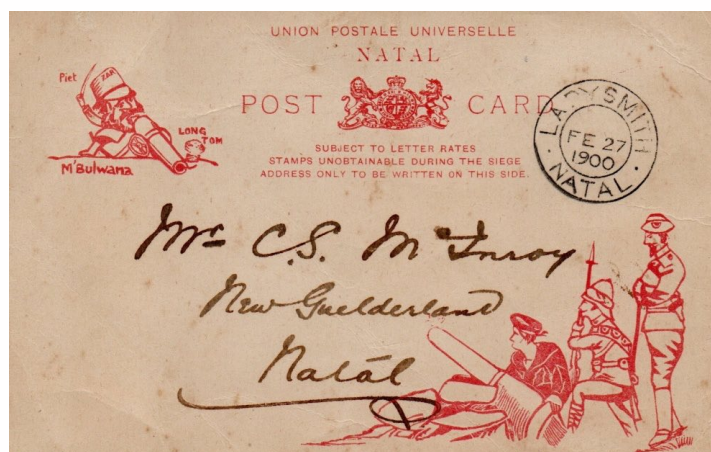


Fig.11: Type 5.

Type 6 postcard. Similar to Type 5 but 'NATAL' is omitted (Fig 12). Duggan states that 'LONG TOM' is on the gun barrel (error?) but Figure 12 shows 'LONG TOM' next to the gun barrel. Earliest date of use FE 27 1900 illustrated in Rich tying pair Natal 1 stamps [5, p. 44].

Illustrated covers

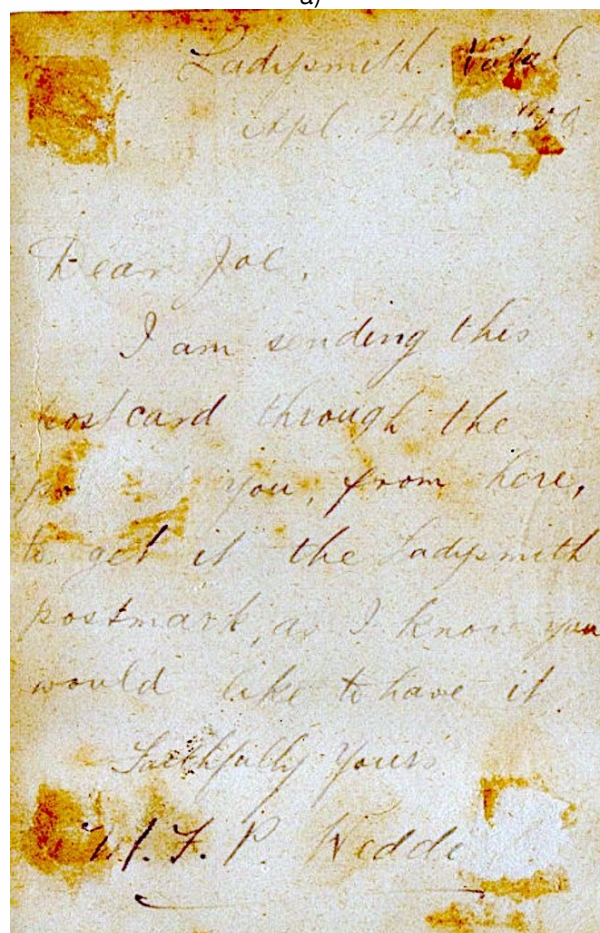
The siege postcards inspired someone to copy the illustrations from the cards and decorate some envelopes that were then sent by post to a correspondent. Three such covers are known, dated in Ladysmith on Feb, 22nd 1900 addressed to India, FE 23 1900, and FE 28 1900 these were to different addresses in Pietermaritzburg (Fig. 14).



Fig.12: Type 6.



a)



Message written by Melton Prio



b)

Fig.13: a & b. Sub type 5C and sub type 5D dated Ladysmith 24 AP 00.

Acknowledgement.

We thank our British correspondent Nick Harris Esq, for the scan of the siege card illustrated in Figure 7.

Oom Pat Vertel ...



Fig.1: Pat Izaaks.

Patrick C. Izaaks was born in the old Grey's Hospital, Prince Alfred Street, Pietermaritzburg on 26 March 1949.

He tells the following story leading up to his reason for collecting stamps and what he collects:

I attended the following schools: Prestbury Class 1 and 2; New Hanover

standard 1 and 2 (this school was demolished and a new school was built to replace it); Hanover School (Cape Province) standard 3 and 4; Hanover Road Farm School Standard 5 and 6; Ladysmith (Natal) High School standard 7 and 8 and Newcastle High School standard 9 and 10.

In 1966 I became an apprentice Fitter & Turner at the DNC Mine in Dannhauser (Durban Navigation Collieries).

I was called up for military duty and joined 1 Parachute Battalion in Tempe, Bloemfontein.

After my discharge I returned to my home town of Pietermaritzburg and became Stores & Transport Controller at the Electricity Department, Havelock Road, Pietermaritzburg from 1969 until I retired on pension in March 2014.

My family and friends call me Oom Pat but I have been known by other names ...

The two hobbies in my life are Stamp Collecting and Gardening.

When I was three years old, on Christmas Day in December 1952, my grand-father gave me a Ceylon three-ply tea box filled with postage stamps both on and off paper. Well, I cried my eyes out because I had anticipated presents of "boys toys" such as Dinky Cars and not a whole lot of useless paper!

Over the years I came to appreciate that "unwanted gift" as I learnt that it was, in fact, a great gift as it helped me through my school years and even to date stamps are still teaching me about life and history.

I have friends all over the World who send me stamps and I reciprocate.

Whilst I collect stamps from all over the World I do specialise in South Africa and stamps with errors and flaws of which I am fortunate to have quite a few.

My greatest achievement in philately was when I won the Maric Urn in 2016 for Postal History and Postal Stationary.

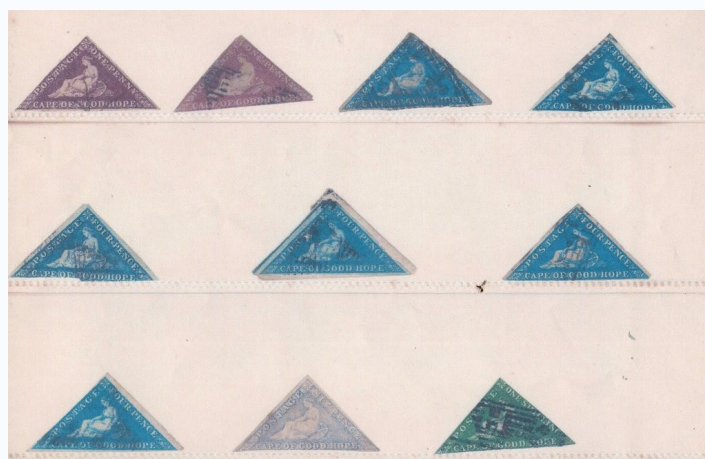


Fig.2: Pat's Cape Triangulars.

The "Maric Urn" is a bronze claret jug mounted on a wooden base with a surrounding band showing previous winners over the years which include Roger Porter; Ruth Sykes; Aubrey Bowles and myself.

This cup disappeared for a number of years and, unfortunately, there was no record who had last won it.

In August 2025, following the passing of my wife and brother in short succession, I decided to down-size and took a load of scrap metal to a local dealer who directed me to an offloading point.



Fig.3: Part of Pat's Great Britain Collection.

To my surprise, I noticed the Maric Urn staring at me from a nearby pile of scrap! I could hardly believe it and immediately swapped my scrap for the precious urn which I returned to its rightful owners, the Maritzburg Philatelic Society.

Whilst I still enjoy hiking, swimming and cycling my preference is still stamp collecting and finding those elusive bits of paper with faults; varieties and errors!

I enjoy looking through my various collections and helping fellow philatelists with their needs as I have done for the past 73 years!

My favourite stamps are my collection of Gt Britain stamps

(Figure 3) and my Cape Triangulars (Figure 2).

Stamp Collecting is “for one and all” and a hobby that should not be overlooked for both education and entertainment.

“Fluit, fluit, my storie is uit”.

Groete
Oom Pat

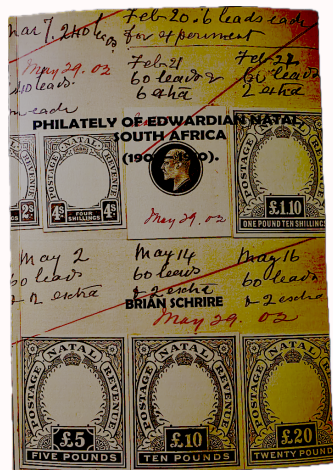


Do you have a story to share? The SA Philatelist is always looking to highlight the journeys of our members. Contact us at sap@stampssa.africa.

BOOK REVIEW

Brian Schrire: Philately of Edwardian Natal, South Africa (1901-1910)

by Charles Stirton, Bath Philatelic Society



Brian Schrire's 199-page book, *Philately of Edwardian Natal, South Africa (1901-1910)*, represents a significant and scholarly contribution to Colonial Natal Edwardian philately. The book brings together and expands on individual studies by various authors and on an extensive collection of personal material started by his father Dr. Leonard Schrire (1923-1999) and built on further by himself.

What makes this book special is that his meticulous research has accessed previously unobtainable information via the internet that was not accessible to earlier authors. Through visits to libraries and detailed study of auction catalogues and additional records of essays, die proofs, striking book cut-down die proofs, colour appendices, colour trials, ink recipes, stamps booklets, regular issue stamps, specimens, revenues, perfin stamps and postal stationary, he has helped to fill in gaps from previous studies and enabled some reassessments to be made of conclusions from prior studies. Many gaps have now been filled, and this has enabled him to update in detail where research is still needed.

The book is profusely illustrated in high resolution colour and black and white photographs. I was fascinated by the detailed descriptions of the complicated die and plate production processes plus the decision processes and correspondences between the British Government, the Colonial Office Natal, and the Printers De la Rue & Co. These correspondences

highlight just how complex it was during the Edwardian period to produce stamp sets for the Colonies.

Anyone interested in the production of British Colonial stamp issues, especially the omnibus issues from this period will enjoy this book. As with the Natal stamps, the various colony issues of the period were constrained by the Universal Colour Scheme of 1881 and the Universal key plate design (1887) which tried to standardize design and colours thereby reducing costs of the complex quality controls and production methods. As some Colonies deviated on colours there did arise some unintended consequences. For example, the decision to not use doubly fugitive inks on dual purpose postage and revenue stamps led to fraudulent use of the high value issues when chemically “cleaned” and reused.

The book has four important and comprehensive appendices. Appendix 1 covers the Natal KEVII die proofs and is a testimony to the detailed research by the author with numerous gaps being filled. Appendix 2 is a Consolidated Master Chronology. Appendix 3 is a detailed Stamp Production Sequence table. Finally, Appendix 4 is a Comprehensive Colour Selection Analysis (1902-1909). These appendices are a useful template for scholars of other British colony stamp issues from this period. Throughout the text is large and easily readable.

The book finishes with a chapter on ‘Conclusions and future directions’ of study. He explains where he has made new ground and makes tribute to those authors which preceded him and what still needs to be studied. The book is a meticulous synthesis of earlier research and incorporates a substantial body of new archival material. It is highly recommended.



Invitation: Send us 300dpi scans of your Gold or Large Gold exhibit, so that we can share it on the PFSA website and as a video on the PFSA Facebook page and in a short feature in *The SA Philatelist*: sap@stampssa.africa.

mail route. April 1903 marked her last departure from Table Bay for Southampton and Germany. Thereafter she was redirected and employed as the Mediterranean cruise liner *Oceanea*.

As a postal history item, this card combines several attractive elements: maritime mail interest, a named Royal Mail steamer, Cape Town harbour, and a German-printed postcard used from the Cape to Germany.

Welcoming Joseph Chamberlain

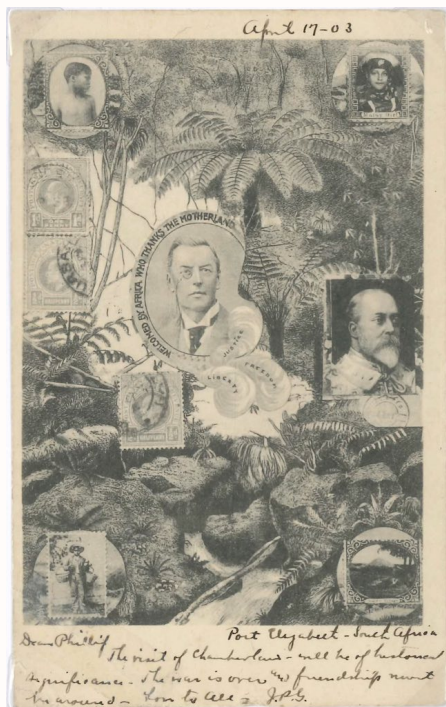


Fig.4: Promotional postcard, 1902-1903.

A politically charged item is a promotional postcard welcoming *Joseph Chamberlain*, British Colonial Secretary, to the Cape Colony during his South African tour. Chamberlain visited the Colony from 26 December 1902 until 24 February 1903.

He was the first, and apparently only, Colonial Secretary to make such a visit to the Cape Colony. His tour followed the end of the Anglo-Boer War and formed part of an imperial

effort to promote reconciliation and eventual political unity in South Africa.

Chamberlain was a controversial figure. In the British Parliament he had been one of the strongest advocates of the policies that led to the Anglo-Boer War, and he was deeply unpopular in the former Boer republics, particularly the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. His stated mission after the war was to encourage reconciliation and to lay foundations for a united South Africa.

Conclusion

These Cape of Good Hope colour postcards show how rapidly the illustrated card became a vehicle for tourism, communication, imperial messaging, and postal administration.

They document not only the postal markings and rates of the period, but also Cape Town's role as a port, imperial centre, and tourist destination. For the philatelist, such cards offer a rich field in which postal history, social history, and visual culture meet.

References

- [1] 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.
- [2] W. J. Quik and G. H. Jonkers, *De Postwaardestukken van Zuid-Afrika = The Postal Stationery of South Africa - Part 2: 1910-2000*, 3rd. Rotterdam: Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika, 2000.
- [3] 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.
- [4] G. Hugo, "Four frame exhibit: Table mountain, the inspiration."



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Eleventh South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition

by Joof van der Merwe RDP SA, Jury Secretary: SAVPEX 2026

SAVPEX is an event that brings together philatelists, collectors, and enthusiasts from around the world through digital technology and no geographical boundaries.

Eighteen countries participated, and the greater number were received from South Africa (14), followed by India (16).

Three Commissioners were appointed by their Federations, and a number of appointed jurors also acted as Commissioners.

A total of 77 exhibits were entered, including one youth entry, in eleven classes with Traditional (13), Postal History (15) having the most entries, followed by Thematic (15). No Revenue, FDC and Modern class entries were entered. Seventeen, two-frame exhibits were received, as in line with FIP policy.



Unfortunately, one entry was disqualified due to enhancing the exhibit.

Twenty-two jurors judged the exhibits, from whom excellent critique was received.

Louwrence Erasmus from South Africa won the best of show for 2026 with 91 points for "The King's Head booklets of South Africa". Congratulations on a well-deserved achievements!

The organising committee wishes to thank the exhibitors, commissioners, and jurors for their participation and willingness to participate. It is truly appreciated.

Last but not least, thanks to those federations for advertising this virtual exhibition to their members.

All exhibits, page-by-page, along with their awards, are available to be viewed on the Philatelic Federation of South Africa's website at <https://philatelysa.co.za/savpex-2026/>.

The results are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: SAVPEX 2026 Results.

NAME	COUNTRY	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	%
Traditional			
Berman, Genady	Israel	Taxi post stamps of Israel	70
Delmore, Patrick	Canada	Basutoland King George V – Definitive Issue	88
Erasmus, Louwrence	South Africa	The King's Head booklets of South Africa	91
McEntyre, John	Canada	1908 Canada: One cent Quebec Tercentenary	83
Mehra, Sushil	India	1969 Gandhi Centenary Issues of India	66
Miranda, Raquel Arabella	Guatemala	The Quetzal (classis design: 100 years in Gautemalan philately)	74
Monk APR, Gordon	Australia	A study of the "Run N" variety flaw KGV 1d pane 8 # 60	80
Van Der Merwe Joof	South Africa	Union of S.A. – Booklet No. 20 – A study of the ½d Springbok Panes	80
Van Zyl, Danie	South Africa	The Union Overprints – South West Africa Official Stamps, 1926 to 1929	85
Van Zyl, Danie	South Africa	The South West Africa Official Pictorial Stamps 1931 to 1952	85
Viljoen, Diederik	South Africa	Austria Newspaper Tax and Newspaper Stamps	70
Yarahuan Jimenez, Carlos	Mexico	Durango District, 1874 -1883	78
Postal history			
Berman, Genady	Israel	Occupation of Crimea from postal point of view, March-October 2014	70
Berman, Genady	Israel	Ways of payment for postage in Ukraine 1991-1996	72

Continued on next page

Table 1 – continued from previous page

NAME	COUNTRY	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	%
Böttger, Lars	Luxembourg	Manuscript Cancellations in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg 1 September 1852-30 June 1918	85
Böttger, Lars	Luxembourg	The Type 32 “Postal Relais” Cancellations of Luxembourg	85
Erasmus, Ronel	South Africa	PKZ 00002 Permit Mail	76
Flaminio, Enrico	Italy	Handwritten Postal Annotations	90
Glavi Matej	Croatia	Novska Post Traffic	55
Gramajo Leal, Romeo Estuardo	Guatemala	Envios por Correo Certificado en el Sur Occidente de Guatemala Mayo 1948-Abril 1949	81
Jones, Julian	United Kingdom	Harnden’s Foreign Letter Express	90
Rivera Grajeda, Carlos Estuardo	Guatemala	Arch of the Guatemala Post Office Palace	80
Ryss, Igor	Russian Federation	Postal history of Transcaucasia 09.1923-01.1924	88
Sengupta, Chandan	India	Promoting Public Events: Postal Slogans of Exhibitions, Fairs and Fetes in British India (1907-1947)	80
Sengupta, Chandan	India	The Post Office as Financial Educator: Promoting Savings Schemes and Investment Products in British India	87
Shiryaev, Eugeny	Russian Federation	The St.-Petersburg postmarks in French (1765-1800)	85
Subramanyam, Satish Kumar	India	Pre Stamp Mail	70
Varelas, Dimitrios	Greece	ps in Greece 1833-1835	83
Postal Stationary			
Dehadraya, Milind	India	The 1922 ‘½’ on Quarter Anna surcharged post card	84
Paschos, Athanasios	Greece	Military Postal Cards of Greece, 1915-1917	82
Pirc, Igor	Slovenia	Correspondenz-Karte – Listnica 1871-1875	81
Van Zyl, Danie	South Africa	Postal Stationery – Union Picture Postcards of 1927 to 1932: A Detailed Study of the 1931 Springbok Halfpenny Set	86
Thematic			
<i>Thematic Culture</i>			
Bounamous, Khaled	Algeria	From pass to goal: The perfect handball attack	75
Khadiwala, Alok	India	The legend of Lord Hanuman across countries	71
Martínez Arias, Ana Cecilia	Mexico	Adorables Sirenios	75
Orive Cruz, Ana Patricia	Guatemala	Destination Guatemala: Inspiration behind the Little Prince by Sanit-Ecupery	73
Pacheco, Luis Manuel	Mexico	El Antiguo testamento en las estampillas de Israel con Bandeleta	72
Polo, Pasquale	Italy	Diving “Acrobatic sport”	86
Sada Guereca, Alfonso	Mexico	Origin and Evolution of Comics and Animation: A Sequential History	65
Van der Merwe, Barend	South Africa	A Tale of Two Islands: A Thematic Comparison Between Tristan da Cunha and Ascension (1950-1989)	75
Wamanacharya, Ravindra Vasant	India	India’s Progress Wheel @75	68
Wamanacharya, Ravindra Vasant	India	SPORT’s – Key to Fitness	68
<i>Thematic Nature</i>			

Continued on next page

Table 1 – continued from previous page

NAME	COUNTRY	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	%
Belaref, Mohamed Lamine	Algeria	Who orients himself by the star doesn't turn around	74
Gómez Martínez, Angel Luis	Mexico	El Covid-19 en la Filatelia	74
Santana Santoyo, Monica Lydia	Mexico	Vida Marina: En tus manossu futuro	70
Stekolshchikov, Andrey	Russian Federation	Reef-forming corals	80
<i>Thematic Technology</i>			
Moravac, Siniša	Serbia	Steam locomotives built in Europe in the 19th century	70
<i>Aerophilately</i>			
Jagtap, Sanjay Prabhakar	India	Indian Airmails: Developments and Operations (1925-1934)	Not judged
Jagtap, Sanjay Prabhakar	India	The Balloon Mails of India (1963-2021)	70
Jagtap, Sanjay Prabhakar	India	The Pigeon Mails Of India (1931-2018)	82
Muller, Chuck	South Africa	The Development of Airmail Services in South Africa, 1911-1934	81
<i>Astrophilately</i>			
Cavallaro, Umberto	Italy	ATV – Automated Transfer Vehicle	86
Della Maddalena, Pietro	Italy	American space missions to Mars, 1964-2020	82
Disanti, Vincenzo	Italy	From Africa to the Space – African Astrophilately	74
Jagtap, Sanjay Prabhakar	India	The Rocket Mails of India (1934-1940)	78
Toniaccini, Giorgio	Italy	MIR Space Station	79
Van den Lemmer, Marianne	Belgium	The First Conquerors of the Cosmos – Animal-pioneers paved the way for manned space exploration	86
Van Quickenborne, Marc	Belgium	Living beyond the space frontier – Sergei Krikalev	88
<i>Macrophily</i>			
Ramírez, Mario	Mexico	UPF – Midget meter in México	82
<i>Maximaphily</i>			
Metaj, Matjaž	Slovenia	To eat or not to eat mushrooms	70
<i>Open Class</i>			
Barnard, Nicolene	South Africa	Everything's a story: the magic of children's literature	70
Bartshe, Tim	USA	U.S.S. TROUT – The Submarine with the "Golden Belly"	65
Della Maddalena, Pietro	Italy	Italy in Space – Collaborations with the USA and Russia, 1962-2014	72
Du Plessis, André	South Africa	Union Loan Certificates – National Savings	83
Lubbe, Sam	South Africa	From Quantum Dawn to the Nuclear Age: A Philatelic Journey Through the Atomic Pioneers	58
McLaughlin, David	Canada	Victorian Belt & Buckle Symbols in Philately, Postal History & Ephemera	83
Mehra, Sushil	India	Taj Mahal: A Philatelic Journey through Eternal Beauty	78
Picconi, Salvatore	Italy	I am a fan of a football team: Torres of Sassari	82
Sengupta, Chandan	India	War-Themed Slogan Postmarks in British India (1914-1945)	76
Van Niekerk, Herman	South Africa	Filateliëse Outobiografie	71

Continued on next page

Table 1 – continued from previous page

NAME	COUNTRY	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	%
Van Pletzen, Mias	South Africa	Prime Ministers and Presidents of the Republic of South Africa	61
Picture Post Cards			
Bose, Arijit	India	Tehzeeb of Lucknow: Palaces, Imambaras, and Colonial Echoes	80
Glashan, Alexandra	Canada	Irish Culture is Illustrated through the Designs on Saint Patrick's Day Picture Postcards: 1904-1918	83
Mehra, Sushil	India	Faces of Faith: Religious Identity on Picture Postcards of Colonial India	84
Pienaar, Gary	South Africa	Humour in Uniform: A comic look at Scouting activities	81
Van den Lemmer, Marianne	Belgium	Space Dogs – The First Soviet Superstars	81
Youth			
Gupta, Lavisha	India	Aerophilately	60

STAMPSHOW

MACAO 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition

by Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Chairman: FIP/FIAP Committee



I attended the FIP Congress on 1 July held during the international exhibition in Macau.

Motions put forward by the FIP board to amend the GREX and GREV were withdrawn at the start of the congress.

The following person were elected to serve a four-year term on the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie board:

- Dr Prakob Chirakiti of Thailand as President,
- Mr Richard Tan, Singapore as Vice-President for Asia, and
- Mr Abdulla Khoory, United Arab Emirates as Director for Asia.

At this Exhibition I attended the Commission meetings.

These were Thematics, Postal Stationery, Open Class and Revenue Commissions. The sole business conducted was that of electing new members to the Commissions.

The first Commission meeting for Open Philately had taken place prior to Congress with the appointment of Iva Mouritsen as Chairlady. Her appointment and other new Commission executives appointed at their meetings were confirmed by Congress.

The Fédération Internationale de Philatélie celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Congress.

South Africa did not enter any exhibits, but Neil Cronjé RDPSA (Orange Free State Philatelic Society) served on the jury in order to Cross-Accredit into the Postal Stationery class for which he has successfully been accredited.



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Report on the World's Best Stamp



The World's Best Stamps 2025

Under the Patronage of the Universal Postal Union and the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa



The organising committee extends its sincere gratitude to our Patrons, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), for their invaluable support. We also wish to express special thanks to Benjamin Combes, Yana Brugier, and Stéphane Cuennet, whose dedicated contributions were essential to bringing the World's Best Stamp to fruition.

We express our appreciation to the graphic artists, academics, and philatelists from many countries who generously gave their time to adjudicate the entries.

The Organising Committee, comprising Emil Minnaar RDPSA, André du Plessis RDPSA, and Josua van der Merwe RDPSA, devoted their time and effort to ensuring a successful outcome.

The results of the competition, featuring 192 stamps entered by 66 countries, are published on our website <https://www.worldsbeststamp.com>.

Category winners were:

Category	Postal Administration	Entry
Most Innovative Stamp Format	China	Beauty of Mathematics: Möbius Strip
Best Souvenir Sheet	Russian Federation	500 Years of Russian Development of the Northern Sea Route
Best Intaglio Stamp	China (for Macao)	Rare Animals in China
Best Offset Stamp	Portugal	EXPO Osaka 2025
Best Mixed and other Printed Stamp	China	World Cultural Heritage – Beijing Central Axis: Bell and Drum Towers
Winner of the World's Best Stamp:	China	World Cultural Heritage – Beijing Central Axis: Bell and Drum Towers

Awards were presented at the Welcome Dinner during the Macau 2026 Specialised World Exhibition on 27 June 2026. Trophies were conferred upon the winners of each category,

while a special prize – two ceramic pieces depicting the South African Wild Dog, Fig.1 – was awarded to China Post Group, the overall winner of the World's Best Stamp.

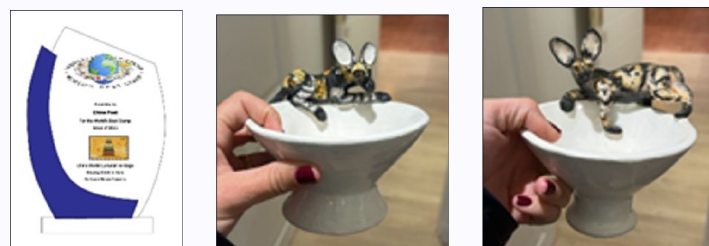


Fig.1: Trophy for World's Best Stamp and Special prize.

Representatives who received the awards and special gift:

- China, Cao Jian Xin – Deputy General Manager of Post Services of China Post Group
- Russian Federation, Igor Ryss – Commissioner to Macao Exhibition for the Russian Federation
- China (for Macao), Dixon, Lao Lan Wa – Acting Director of Macao Post & Telecommunications Bureau
- Portugal, David Prada - Representative of CTT-Portugal
- China for World's Best Stamp, Cao Jian Xin – Deputy General Manager of Post Services of China Post Group



Fig.2: From left to right: Dr. Neil Cronje RDPSA (South Africa), Emil Minnaar RDPSA (South Africa), Mr Cao Jian Xin (China Post) and Mr Benjamin Combes (Universal Postal Union).

Moths of the UK Take Flight on New Royal Mail Special Stamps

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: Illustrations of moths from across the UK.

Royal Mail unveiled images of 10 stamps that showcase vibrant illustrations of moths from across the UK.

The full set of stamps features striking illustrations by renowned wildlife artist Richard Lewington, whose work brings each moth species to life with exceptional detail and scientific accuracy.

The issue celebrates the remarkable diversity of British moths, highlighting species found across a range of habitats throughout the UK. Each design reflects the richness and variety of these often-overlooked insects.

Together, the collection offers a vibrant celebration of British biodiversity, capturing the beauty of moths in their natural settings and showcasing their important place in the UK's ecosystems.

Featured on the stamps, Fig.1, are the:

- Emperor Moth (*Saturnia pavonia*)
- Puss Moth (*Cerura vinula*)
- Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth (*Hemaris fuciformis*)
- Dark Bordered Beauty Moth (*Epione vespertaria*)
- December Moth (*Poecilocampa populi*)
- Dark Crimson Underwing Moth (*Catocala sponsa*)
- Scarce Crimson and Gold Moth (*Pyrausta sanguinalis*)
- Swallow-tailed Moth (*Ourapteryx sambucaria*)
- Hedge Beauty Moth (*Alabonia geoffrella*)
- Buff-tip Moth (*Phalera bucephala*)

Royal Mail worked with ecologist and leading authority on British moths and butterflies Dr Phil Sterling on the stamp issue.

Moths:

There are over 2,500 moth species recorded in the United Kingdom, compared with around 80 butterflies, and they exhibit astonishing diversity, which is largely hidden to us humans because moths are mostly nocturnal. Yet many moths do fly by day and are as beautiful as butterflies, including the emperor moth and the hedge beauty moth. Bizarrely, the female of the lesser bagworm moth does not have wings, legs or scales, the very things that define moths and butterflies as Lepidoptera, the scale-winged insects.

The number of species in the UK is rising as our warming climate encourages moths to move north from Europe, and as the warmth is allowing once rare southern species, such as the dark crimson underwing moth, to become much more widespread.

Moths have a bad reputation as clothes-munchers, yet only two species in the UK eat wool and feathers. Caterpillars of others eat a remarkable range of food, including leaves, fruits, living and dead wood and even fungi.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available to order at www.royalmail.com/moths. A Presentation Pack including all 10 stamps is priced at £14.45. 

Icons of the Skies: Military Jet Aircraft Special Stamps

by Press Office, Royal Mail



Fig.1: UK military's most iconic jet-powered aircraft.

Royal Mail is celebrating Britain's military jet aircraft and Sir Frank Whittle's pioneering work in jet propulsion, which revolutionised aviation, with a set of Special Stamps.

Eight stamps commemorate significant anniversaries in 2026, including 50 years since the Hawker Siddeley Hawk, 70 years since the Gloster Javelin and Avro Vulcan, and 80 years since the de Havilland Vampire entered service. Striking illustrations of historic aircraft adorn the stamps, including a new artwork of the Gloster Meteor F1 by aviation artist Chris French. Fig.1.

Four miniature stamps commemorate the 30th anniversary of Sir Frank Whittle's death, whose pioneering jet engine development paved the way for modern military and commercial aviation Fig.2.

Turbojet and turboprop engines have revolutionised military aircraft performance and capabilities, from the RAF's first jet fighter, the Gloster Meteor F1 (top speed 415mph or 668km/h) in 1944, to the F-35B Lightning II (top speed over

1,200mph or 1,931km/h) today.

In 1928, 21-year-old Frank Whittle conceived the idea of a jet propulsion system using a gas turbine while at RAF College Cranwell. He patented the concept two years later. Whittle and his team founded Power Jets Ltd and successfully designed, constructed, and tested the Whittle Unit, the world's first turbojet engine, on April 12, 1937. An improved version, the W1, powered Britain's first turbojet aircraft, the Gloster E28/39, which flew in 1941.

This new technology was shared with Britain's aero-engine manufacturers, including Bristol, de Havilland and Rolls-Royce. The Gloster Meteor F1's two Rolls-Royce W2B/23 Welland turbojets and the de Havilland Vampire's single Halford H1/DH Goblin turbojet, were both developed from Whittle's basic design.

The stamps, and a range of collectible products, are available at www.royalmail.com/militaryjetaircraft. A Presentation Pack including all 12 stamps is priced at £22.50. 



Fig.2: 30th anniversary of the death of Sir Frank Whittle.

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Open: 08:00 with Auction at 10:00
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kenny.napier@mweb.co.za

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z.kawecki57@gmail.com

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• **WITWATERSRAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Ian Matheson RDPSA FRPSL, [083 455 9501, ian@cdi.biz](mailto:ian@cdi.biz); Sec: Nikki Espley-Jones, [011 710 6406, nikki@ccj.co.za](mailto:nikki@ccj.co.za); Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly at 16:00—Country Club, Johannesburg, Napier Rd, Auckland Park; last Wednesday monthly at 19:00—Woodmead Country Club, Johannesburg.

• **THEMATICS SA:**

• **Pretoria Chapter:** Contact: Helena Snyman, [• **Western Cape Chapter:** Contact: Diederik Viljoen, \[• **KZN Chapter:** Contact: Aubrey Bowles, \\[**KWA-ZULU NATAL**\\]\\(mailto:083 382 8308, <u>aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com</u>; Meeting: Third Monday monthly at 15:00.00—St Matthews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg.</p></div><div data-bbox=\\)\]\(mailto:082 456 6653, <u>diederikaviljoen@gmail.com</u>; Meeting: First Saturday monthly at 09:00—Bellville-Vallei DRC hall, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.</p></div><div data-bbox=\)](mailto:083 990 8953, <u>helenasnyman7@gmail.com</u>; Meeting: First Saturday monthly at 10:00—Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, Pretoria (opposite UP main gate).</p></div><div data-bbox=)

• **HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Frik Booyse, [hps@xsinet.co.za](mailto:083 284 5929, <u>nfbooyse@gmail.com</u>; Marketing: Barry Livsey, <a href=); Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/339715808168144>;

Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 08:30—Elizabeth Church Hall, Salisbury Avenue, Westville, Durban.

• **MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: John Handman, [• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWAZULU-NATAL:** Pres: Zbigniew Kawecki, \[genevieve60@gmail.com\]\(mailto:082 968 6888, <u>z.kawecki57@gmail.com</u>; Sec: Genevieve Fitzpatrick, <a href=\); Meetings: Second and fourth Saturday monthly at 09:00—Classic Motor Cycle Clubhouse, 137 Tara Road, The Bluff, Durban.](mailto:083 660 1275, -; Sec: Aubrey Bowles, 082 316 3308, <u>maritzburgphilatelicsociety@gmail.com</u>; Meetings: Third Saturday monthly at 10:00—Hilton Scout and Community Hall, Magnolia Road, Hilton.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

WESTERN CAPE

• **BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Chuck Muller, [• **FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Pres: Johan De Wet, \[janssenp@iafrica.com\]\(mailto:073 020 5004, <u>elspethd@iafrica.com</u>; Sec: Volker Janssen, <a href=\) <https://www.fhps.info>; Meetings: First Tuesday monthly at 14:00—The Minor Hall, Civic Centre, Recreation Rd, Fish Hoek.](mailto:073 187 4076, <u>chuck@sbr.co.za</u>; Sec: Karen Coetzer; Meetings: Second Wednesday monthly—Durbanville Golf Club, Sports Way, Durbanville – 19:00.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

• **PAARLSE FILATELISTE:** Pres: Gawie Hugo, [paarlsefilateliste@gmail.com](mailto:083 956 2410, <u>gawiehugo@gmail.com</u>; Sec: Riaan Crafford, <a href=); Meetings: Second Saturday

monthly at 09:00—MBA gebou, Concordia St, Suider Paarl.

• **PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE, CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Martin Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com; Sec: Marilyn Crawford, m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com; Meetings: Last Wednesday monthly at 18:30 (except December)—Activities Hall, Public Library, Howard Place, Pinelands.

• **ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN:** Pres: Hugh Amore RDPSA FRPSL, [royalphilct@gmail.com](mailto:082 440 8204, <u>082 440 8204</u>; Sec: Victor Millard, <a href=) <https://stampssa.africa/rpsct>; Meetings: First Saturday monthly at 11:00 and fourth Monday at 14:00—Athenaeum Trust, Mariendahl Rd off Campground Road, Newlands.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

• **ANGLO-BOER WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Chairman: Kevin Darcy, drmkdacy@gmail.com; Sec: Nick Harris, [nichosk@iafrica.com](mailto:0791 8081197, <u>mrnpbboer@aol.com</u>; SA rep: Nigel Hosking, <a href=); Website: <https://boerwarsociety.org.uk>; Meetings as advised in *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist* — usually in South Africa during Congress week.

• **CAPE & NATAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Contact: Simon Solomon, capenatalstamps@gmail.com.

• **FILATELISTEN VERENIGING ZUIDELIJK AFRIKA:** Act pres: Johan Diesveld, ohandiesveld@gmail.com; Act sec: Ko Zegerman, kozegerman@kpnmail.nl; Meetings quarterly.

• **ORANGE FREE STATE STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Richard Stroud RDPSA, [http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk](mailto:+44(0)1278 782235, <u>richard@richardstroud.plus.com</u>; Website: <a href=); Meetings and venue advised in *OFS Bulletin*.

• **PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTH AFRICA:** Contact: Peter Thy, pthy@ucdavis.edu; SA rep: Uli Bantz, [http://psgsa.org](mailto:011 766 1495, <u>ulib@mweb.co.za</u>; Website: <a href=).

• **RHODESIAN STUDY CIRCLE:** Sec: Brian Zlotnick, [patf@fgprop.com](mailto:00 44 1274 566607, <u>bzlot@blueyonder.co.uk</u>; SA rep: Patrick Flanagan RDPSA, FRPSL, <a href=); Website: <https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk>; Regular meetings and events across the world..

• **SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY:** Contact: Simon Peetoom, contact@southafricancollectorsociety.com; Website: <https://southafricancollectorsociety.com/>.

• **SOUTH WEST AFRICA STAMP STUDY GROUP:** Pres: Uli Bantz, [• **TRANSVAAL STUDY CIRCLE:** Pres: Lars Jørgensen RDPSA, \[lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com\]\(mailto:lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com\); SA rep: Danna Strydom, \[• **WINDHOEK FILATELIEKLUB:** Pres: Derick Loteryman, \\[derickl@iway.na\\]\\(mailto:derickl@iway.na\\); Sec: Friedhelm Beck, \\[beckciv@iafrica.com.na\\]\\(mailto:beckciv@iafrica.com.na\\).\]\(mailto:083 452 0575, <u>dstrydom@icon.co.za</u>.</p></div><div data-bbox=\)](mailto:083 409 6969, <u>ulib@mweb.co.za</u>.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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