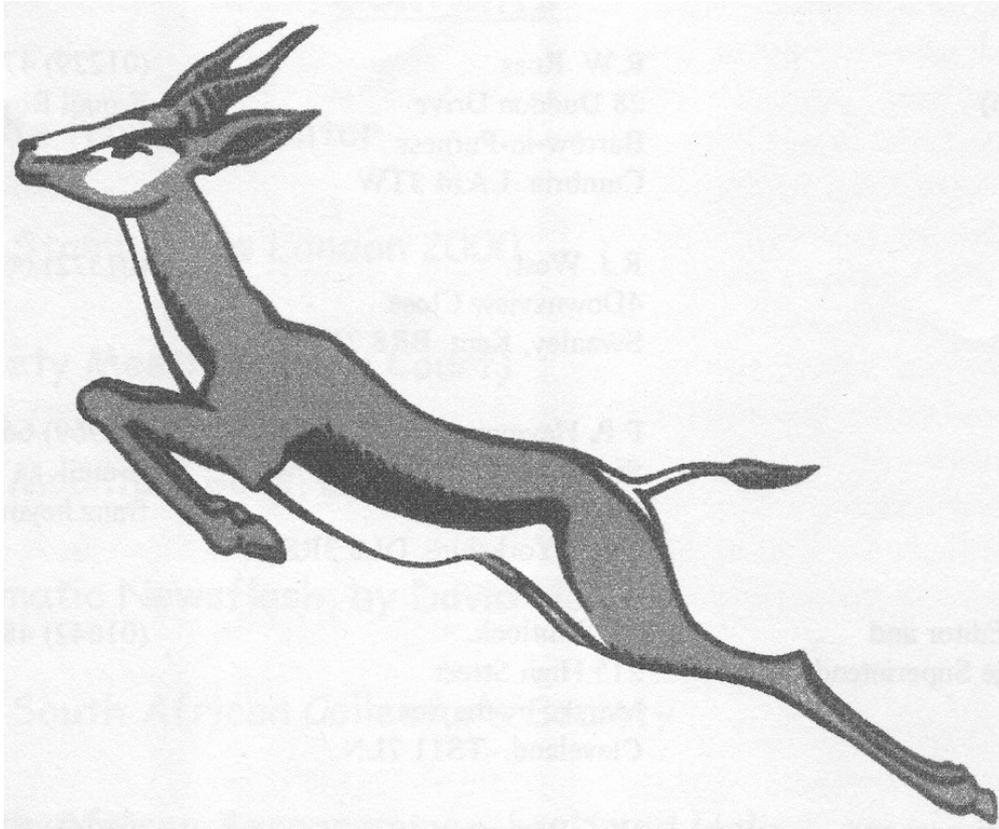


THE SPRINGBOK



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

Vol. 52

No. 1

Jan/Mar 2004

| | | |
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| <small>ESTABLISHED 1918</small> HARMERS | |  |
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SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Web Site: www.sacollectors.co.uk

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| President | R.D. Allen 82c Hackford Road London SW9 0RG | (0207) 582 6498 |
| Hon. Chairman | Sqn.Ldr J.L. Shaw 17 Balcaskie Rd., London SE9 1SQ | ((020) 8378 1671 E-mail john.shaw@PGEN.net |
| Hon. Secretary | C. Oliver 46 Woodville Road, Ham, Richmond Surrey, TW10 7QN | (020) 8940 9833 olivers.of_ham@virgin.net (note dot after olivers) |
| Hon Treasurer | D.J. Osborn 77 Stuart Road, Southend-on-Sea Essex, SS2 5JS | (01702) 611 337 |
| Hon. Editor | E. Bridges The Laurels 2 Short Lane Thorpe Malsor Northamptonshire NN14 1JT | (01536 515200 aebridges@ukonline.co.uk or eddie.bridges@krohne.co.uk (for large files) |
| Hon. Assistant Editor | F.F. Heymann Sunnybank Gayle Hawes North Yorkshire DL8 3RS | (01969) 667 734 E-mail franz.heyman@btopenworld.com (note dot after "z!") |
| Hon Assistant Editor and Covers Exchange Superintendent | M. Whitlock 215 High Street Marske by the Sea Cleveland TS11 7LN | (01642) 482 877 E-mail max.whitlock@ntlworld.com (note dot after "x!") |
| Hon Postal Auctioneer and Packets exchange Superintendent | W.J. Branney 19 The Lilacs Orgill, Egremont Cumbria CA22 2HU | (01946) 823 083 E-mail bill@branney.freeseve.co.uk |
| Hon Librarian | J.B. Carter 2 Smithy Cottage Old Road, Crosby Maryport Cumbria CA15 6SP | (01900) 818 567 E-mail JBC0001@aol.com |
| Hon Membership Secretary | C. Oliver 46 Woodville Road, Ham, Richmond Surrey, TW10 7QN | (020) 8940 9833 olivers.of_ham@virgin.net (note dot after olivers) |
| Hon Auditor | Vacant | |

SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Cash Except subscriptions, auction and exchange packets | D.J. Osborn |
| 2. Editorial | E. Bridges |
| 3. Exchange packets and auctions | W.J. Branney |
| 4. Exchange packet Covers | M. Whitlock |
| 5. Membership (including subscriptions and change of address) | C. Oliver |
| 6. Library | J.B. Carter |
| 7. Everything else | C. Oliver |

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to HIM and not to the Society.



The Springbok

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The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

We are also a sponsor of the Stamps in Schools Project.

Contents

The Springbok is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors' Society. It is not available to non-members. Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All correspondence including SAE will be acknowledged.

Editor

Eddie Bridges
The Laurels
2 Short Lane
Thorpe Malsor
Northamptonshire NN14 1JT
U.K.

Editorial Panel

E. Bridges
F.F. Heymann
R.D. Allen
C. Oliver

Articles

| | Page |
|--|------------------|
| That Dumb Paquebot Mark Speaks Again by Fred Clark | 4 |
| Stamp Affixing Machines by Eddie Bridges | 9 |
| An Excellent Meeting at the Royal by Chris Oliver | 12 |
| Report on Philatex Meeting, 1st Nov by Chris Oliver | 13 |
| Report on Association Scottish Philatelic Societies Meeting by Ray Glanville-Jones | 13 |
| New Venue for London meetings | 13 |
| Subject for Sep meeting in London | 13 |
| Conference at Leamington Spa by Eddie Bridges | 14 |
| S.A. Officials Sets 19-21, Large Format by Bob Hisey | 15 |
| Requirements for sending items for publication | Inside back page |
| East African Provisionals by Eddie Bridges | 17 |
| Regional Meetings | 22 |
| Aerogramme Publication | back page |

Regular Features

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| From the Editors desk | 2 |
| Events for your diary | 2 |
| Letters to the Editor | 3 |
| Members Queries | 6 |
| Deadlines for contributions | 8 |
| For the Bookshelf | 10 |
| Auction Reports | 9 |
| Committee reports | 11 |
| Members smalls | 15 |
| New Issues | 15 |
| Items of interest | 16 |

Events for your Diary 2004

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 7th Feb. | SACS London meeting | Subject: 1927-28 London Pictorials |
| 25-29 Feb. | Spring Stampex | Business Design Centre, Islington, London |
| 26-28th Feb. | Spring Philatex | Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London |
| 27th March | SACS Carlisle meeting | Subject: Open topics Bring something to show |
| 15th May | SACS London meeting | Subject: Postage due covers and marks |
| 12th June | Swinpex | St Josephs Lower School, Queens Drive, Swindon |
| 4th Sep. | SACS London meeting | Subject: Bantam War Effort stamps |
| 15-19th Sep. | Autumn Stampex | Business Design Centre Islington, London |
| 25th Sep. | SACS Carlisle meeting | Subject: Pre-Union and S. African Stamps used abroad |
| 30 Sep. -3 Oct. | A.B.P.S. Congress | Winchester |
| 6-7th Nov. | Southern African Societies Convention, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa. | |
| 11-13th Nov. | Autumn Philatex | Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London |
| 21-22 Nov. | A.B.P.S. Basildon 2004 | Exhibition |
| 22nd Nov. | Basildon 2004 | Open displays by all members |

For details, please contact the secretary. We have joint meetings at Swindon and Basildon. Please support these events.

From the Editors Desk

Let me start by wishing all members a wonderful New Year and may you find some of those illusive items for your collection in 2004!

As some of you already know, I am passionate about keeping the interest in Southern African Philately and the hobby in general alive. This does not mean that we are to become complacent if things seem to be ok. We need to make the interest in our hobby grow and to do that, we have to actively encourage new members and potential collectors to join our society. The membership has been static for some time and actually declined. We have managed to gain a few new members in the last few months and I hope that we can get a few more interested during the course of this year.

We can only do this by keeping the society in the news, (here Chris Oliver has made a good start) promoting ourselves at events and actively encouraging those interested in the stamps and postal history of South Africa to join. We all need to participate more in the Societies events, meetings, more displays are required (not just the regulars!), put articles of interest together for publication etc.

This brings me to **THE SPRINGBOK**, more accurately to its content. **THE SPRINGBOK** can only be good, interesting and varied, if the members contribute to it. The journal is the life

Blood of the Society. It provides news of the activities and an insight to the collecting interests of the members and helps to bring together those with similar interests. Many of our members are working on studies/topics in isolation. If we do not publish anything, no one else will know. If we share the knowledge and information we have, no matter how insignificant or otherwise, we will also receive more information in return!

It cannot be left to the Editor to do everything. Within a year or two he will have run out of ideas and you will have a hollow journal. Fortunately there are a few stalwarts that have kept the odd article or two coming through. I know from conversations with Franz Heymann, our previous Editor, that at times it was a struggle to put the journal together due to lack of some articles. So, over to all the members out there. Let me know what you want, provide me with articles, small studies, snippets of information, anything to do with our sphere of interest.

Finally last but not least, I would like to use this opportunity on behalf of the members to thank Franz for the tremendous job he did editing the journal over the last number of years. His enthusiasm and dedication will be a hard act to follow. I do hope that you will afford me the same support you gave him. Enjoy the journal.

Eddie Bridges



Letters to the Editor

Please use this forum to advise me of your interests and what you would like to see in the Journal. I can only change, adapt or modify format, articles if you let me know what your thoughts are. Constructive criticism will always be taken onboard. As this is my first Issue there is not much for this column apart from the item or two Franz has passed on. I hope this improves!

Ed.

Publications: Awareness

Fred Clark is right that specialist collectors are all too often unaware of relevant specialist publications—both separate publications and notes and articles in newsletters and periodicals. One of the reasons for this is that philatelic publications often don't include enough references to the earlier and more detailed work, in order to follow things up and get a better understanding of what we know and the evidence on which it is based. It is in particular a pity that the standard Handbook Catalogue of Union of South Africa stamps (Hagger 1986) includes no details of the hundreds of specialised articles and publications on which it was based.

It would help if people include relevant references in publications (including notes and articles). This doesn't need to clog the text up too much: two simple ways of including references are either to put them in footnotes (the older "historical" convention), or to list them at the end, referring to them in the text by the author's surname and the year of publication (the newer "scientific" convention— used here as an example).

Sebastian Payne

Reference:

Hagger SJ (ed) 1986 *The stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961*. Reijger Publications (Pty.) Ltd., Cape Town.

Definition of Rotogravure

Rotogravure will soon have a legal definition as there is to be a regulation laid before parliament this year, ***The Solvent Emissions (England and Wales) Regulations 2004***, that includes (quote) the following definition:
"rotogravure" means a printing activity, using a cylindrical image carrier in which the printing area is below the non-printing area and liquid inks which dry through evaporation, and in which the recesses

are filled with ink and the surplus is cleaned off the non-printing area before the surface to be printed contacts the cylinder and lifts the ink from the recesses.'

There, now we all know, and let there never be any more doubt in anyone's mind!

David Page

Thanks David, I hope the Commission for plain English has a look at it as well! **Ed.**

Display in Worcester

I have been passed your magazine with a view to writing to request someone from your Society to give a display to the Worcester and District Philatelic & Postcard Society at some time in the future. One of your new members is also one of our members so I would be most Grateful if someone could contact our Hon. Secretary.

The reason I am writing rather than David is because I too need your help. As Hon. Librarian of the Egypt Study Circle I am attempting to write a book to collate much of the information concerning the British and other Forces in Egypt between the two world wars and, possibly into World War II. Whilst I have good contacts in relation to Australian Forces, New Zealand Forces and Indian Forces, I am struggling to find anyone who is knowledgeable concerning the South African Forces using Army Post stamps in particular, but also South African stamps during the early part of the war. If you have such a member and I am sure you will have, please mention my request in the hope that such person will contact me.

In reciprocation may I suggest that, should anyone in your Society have queries relating to Egyptian material of any kind, any queries could be answered from our extensive library or put into our own Quarterly Circular for information. I should be pleased to offer any help in this direction that may be requested.

I can now return ***THE SPRINGBOK*** to our mutual member and trust that you will be able to help. With very best wishes to you and your Society.

John Davis

If there is any interest from our membership, please contact me for the details. This is a good opportunity to foster ties with other Societies and who knows, we might be able to interest some prospective members. I have spoken to the Hon. Secretary of the Worcester Society and offered to do a display on our behalf. Maybe it can be done by say two or three members? **Ed.**

That Dumb Paquebot Mark Speaks Again

Fred Clark

There are several S. African postal marks consisting only of the word PAQUEBOT inside a circle or two circles, that originated for security reasons during WW II. As the place of usage was not shown they became known as "Dumb" paquebot marks and it is only by studying covers or other postal items with these marks that philatelists can determine where these marks were used. One rather scarce of this type however, gives rise to more contention than the others and is shown on the two covers Figs. 1 & 2 that follow.

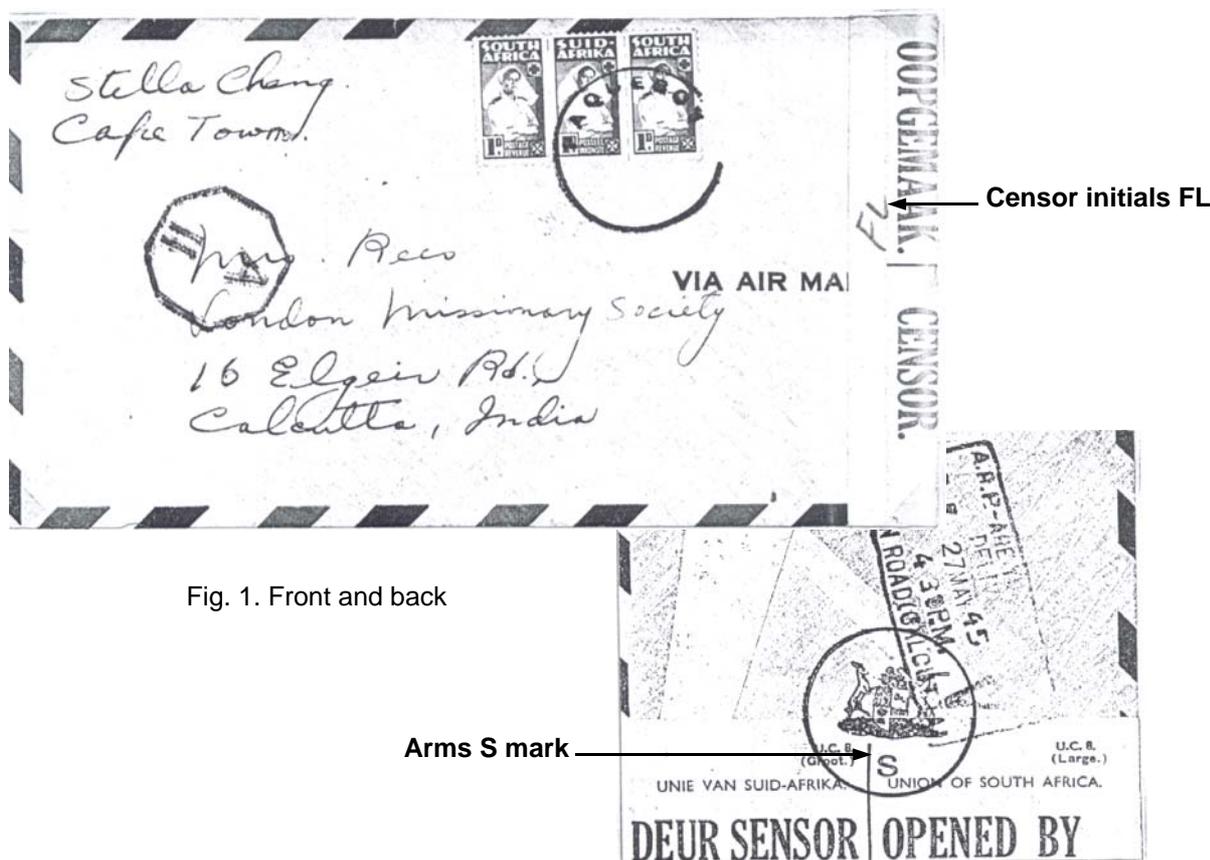
After several ports in S. Africa or S.W.A. had been suggested, it was announced in the **South African Philatelist** of March 1981 page 101 that the riddle had been solved and that this particular mark had been applied in Port Elizabeth. This was accepted as fact by S.A. philatelists on the basis of a message dated 19th June 1944 written on a post-card featuring the Swedish-American Line's ship SS Drottningholm, the card having a violet strike of the paquebot mark in question. The writer, Martin Eichele, of this article had ascertained that this ship

left Göteborg on 18th May 1944 and arrived in Port Elizabeth on 17th June 1944 without touching S.W.A. It left Port Elizabeth on 21st June 1944 and reached Lisbon on 11th July again without stopping in S.W.A. and so a S.W.A. useage is eliminated. With the post card message being dated while the ship was in harbour in Port Elizabeth, this seems to indicate that this paquebot mark was used there.

Or does it?

Mail from a ship arriving in port is usually removed from the ship most promptly, but this postcard could only have been posted on board two days after arrival in port, at the earliest. So could such mail have remained on board till the first port of call after leaving Port Elizabeth on 21st June? Unfortunately the above S.A.P. article does not mention any port of call between leaving Port Elizabeth and arrival at Lisbon. Maybe a brief call was made at Cape Town on this homeward trip. The reason for suggesting this possibility and that this mark could well be a Cape Town mark is as follows:

Cont. on page 5



Paquebot Mark cont.....

Firstly.

The late Alec Page in his article "The Wartime Paquebot Saga" in the SPRINGBOK Vol. 40 p.94, illustrated a cover (Fig. 1 on previous page) having the mark in question and with manuscript "Stella (or Stilla) Cheng (or Chang) Cape Town". This cover addressed to India was censored somewhere in S. Africa and the Opened by Censor label tied by an Arms handstamp (encircled type) with code letter "S". This particular code letter handstamp was stated by J.H. Harvey-Pirie to have been allocated (not stated where) but not brought into use and this cover so far as I am aware, is the only example known of this Arms "S" mark on cover.

Secondly.

The cover shown in Fig. 2 below was acquired by me some time ago and also has a fine example of this mark in purple ink as on the cover to India. This second cover addressed to S. Rhodesia is not franked with stamps and accordingly bears a 2d. postage due T mark. The back however is more exciting as it shows the "Opened by Censor" label tied by an Arms A (open type) handstamp in violet ink. Now this censor's handstamp with the letter A is common and has long been accepted as a Cape Town mark.

So consider this cover logically.

If it had been taken from a ship in Cape Town, received a Cape Town paquebot mark (the mark in question), received the postage due mark and been censored in Cape Town, resealed and received the Cape Town Arms A mark and then been forwarded to S. Rhodesia where a receiving handstamp Salisbury 30 April 1945 was applied, then this all makes sense. Note also that the censor's initials "FL" appear on both covers 1 & 2.

However if cover 2 had been landed at Port Elizabeth and received this paquebot mark there, then it would have been sent hundreds of miles in the wrong direction for a destination in Southern Rhodesia, for the purpose of being censored in Cape Town. Why censor this cover in Cape Town when a censoring office existed in Port Elizabeth? This does not make sense in any way.

The only logical conclusions from the above are that:

- a/. This particular paquebot mark was used in Cape Town and,
 - b/. That the Arms S mark is also a Cape Town mark.
- Readers comments and observations are awaited.

PS: It would be helpful if collectors with either a cover with this paquebot mark or the Arms S mark could send photocopies to the editor.

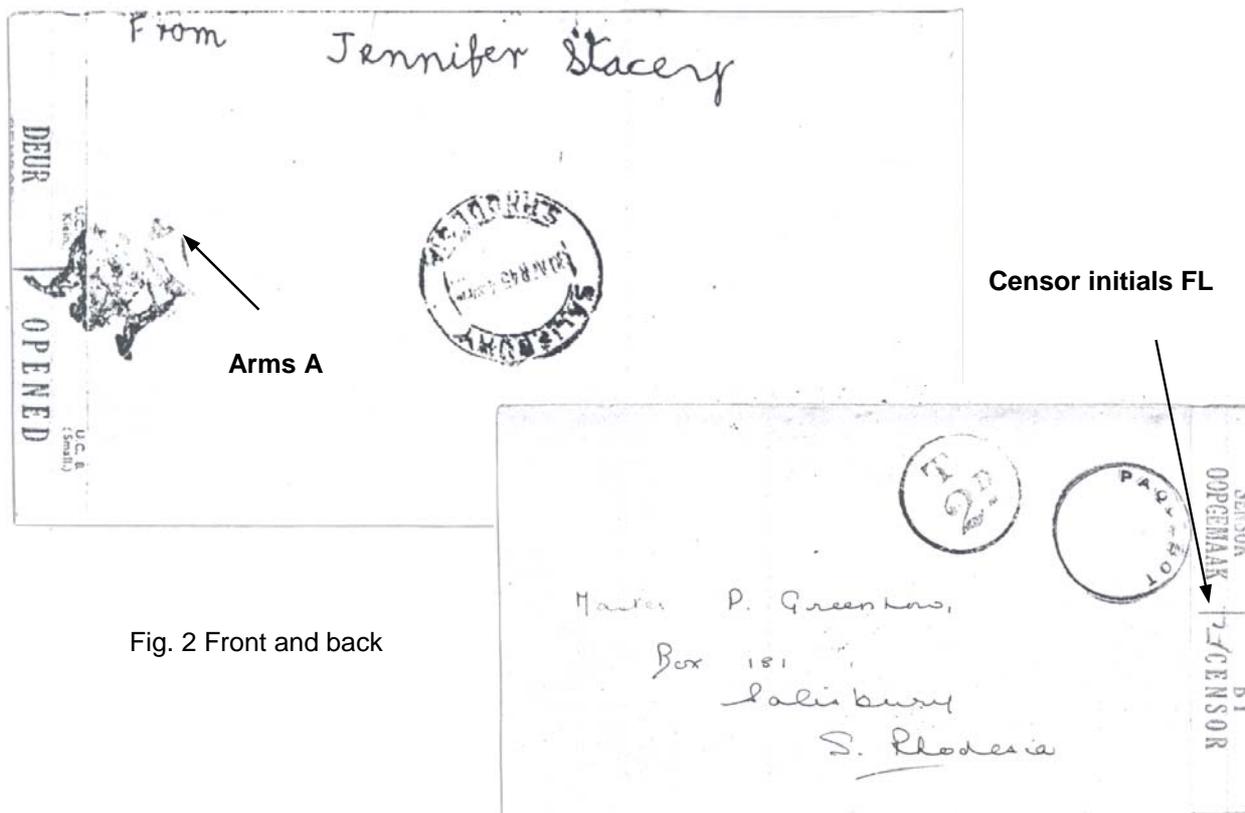


Fig. 2 Front and back

Fig. 2. Front & back



Members Queries

If you have a query about anything, I will put it in and if an answer is forthcoming, I will publish the answer for all here as well.

Word War I Sticker Fred Clark, writes

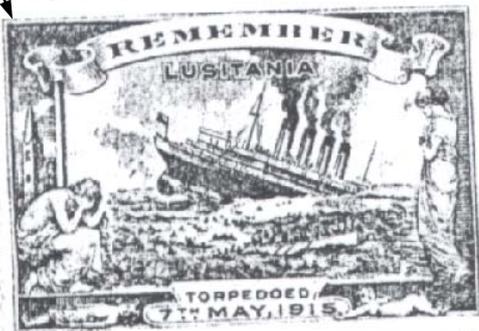
"Occasionally one comes across an item which has a feature lifting it above the normal run of things and one such item I recently acquired has something I have not seen before.

This cover is to the USA, illustrated below, is franked with a 2½d blue KGV head stamp post-marked Pietermaritzburg 13 Jun 19. 2.45 PM and has the single circle Passed Censor 10/99 mark.

Its particular feature is that it bears a dark blue and black label perforated 13¼ having the subject "Remember Lusitania Torpedoed 7th May 1915" and is a surface printed item of good quality.

This reminded me of Ken Lewis's listing of SA War Labels, printed in the *SPRINGBOK* Vol. 37 pages 24-28, 59-63, 113 and 123. The label on this cover however is not mentioned in the Ken Lewis listings for WW I and in no other place as far as I am aware.

Whilst this cover is of South African origin, there is of course no indication that this label is a South African production, so any information in this



Strange booklet pane Eddie Bridges

Whilst sorting some booklet panes I came across this one which has puzzled me. The stamps appear to be from the earlier hyphenated printings and has a size of 18.5 X 22.5 mm. It cannot be a pane from booklets B 10 with the advertising top and bottom margins removed, as these were all perforated through the binding margin. The same goes for Booklet B11 (blank border booklets), B12 and 13 were the Razorblade booklets with single pairs, Booklets 14 to 17 all had the left binding margin perforated through as well. Booklet 18 contained 1d stamps with a reduced size to 18 x 22 mm which these stamps are definitely not. The rest of the booklets had the smaller stamp and the earlier booklets were un-hyphenated.

If anyone has ideas, I would be happy to hear from them.



As can be seen from the pane above, the binding margin is clearly evident and not perforated through. The stamp size is 18.5 X 22.5 mm.

Feedback from Rudolf Lazar in Germany

In the *SPRINGBOK* of Jul/Sep 2003 illustrations were shown of some special date stamps currently available in South Africa. Amongst these, one was shown defaced by the Postal authorities in Upington. The cover had a beautiful "Calvinia Flower Post Box" cds applied in Calvinia but when it went to Upington (the main sorting centre or hub) the special postmark was crossed through and cancelled with a date two days later in Upington. Rudolph reports that Frank van Rensburg advised that he had written a letter of complaint to the Postmaster in Upington about this. Frank received a reply to advise that all mails from Calvinia would be placed in a special bag and the special date stamp would be applied manually in Upington.

A happy ending!

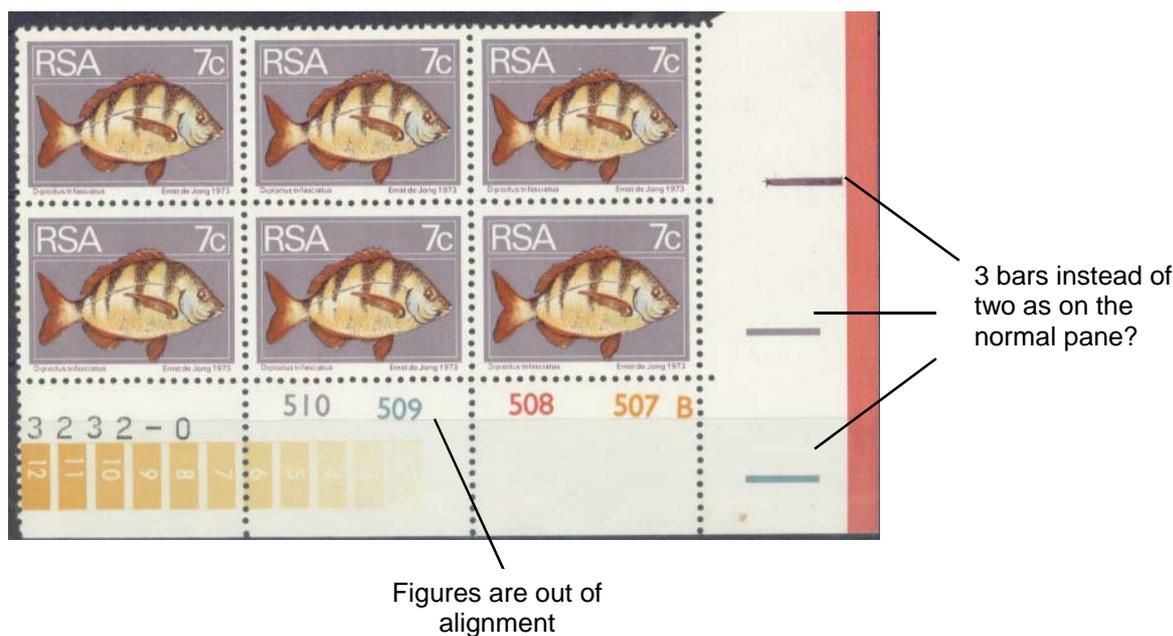
Dankeschön Rudolf. Ed.

Members Queries continued.....

Second RSA definitives. Query on the 7c value John Archer, writes

I have acquired the two items below, they are identical except one has two bars in the margin and one has three. The bottom one is perforated and the other not. I am trying to find the reason for this. Could someone shed some light on this please?

Sorry, I could not reproduce the illustrations as they were already of a low resolution. See page 16! I checked my holding of these values and found one identical to John's. As for the perforated and imperforate bottom margin, this was just the way the sheets were guillotined? The original illustrations show that the one margin is smaller than the other. Ed.



John Archer also asks,

I am looking for information on the first Republican Definitives so as to start to write up my collection. I do not want to go into great depth but a bit more than I have found in the SACC/Stanley Gibbons catalogues. Any ideas?

John, I have found that the only reasonable source of a bit more information is the (now out of print) RSA Postage Stamp Catalogue, Editors Nick Dorn & Coen Slagt and published by the Arcade Stamp Shop in Johannesburg. This little catalogue provides a guide to the identification of the stamps, lists all the printings, watermarks and issue dates. A synopsis of the issue dates, watermarks and cylinder numbers is also provided in tabular form. Still believed to be the best source for information for the first definitives of the Republic.

If you would like a copy of the relevant section, please let me know. Does anyone have any further sources of information for this complex series? Ed.

Rudolf Lazar queries a ½d Newspaper Wrapper

A wrapper with imprinted stamp at ½d for mailing newspapers and despatched on 9th June 1031 to Germany. The back is blank. It is franked with an additional ½d and this is the first time he has seen one. The wrapper is addressed to a German Innkeeper and Rudolf writes, "I have no idea what kind of newspaper a German Innkeeper might have been interested in!

Rudolf, these wrappers are well known and catalogued in the 1979 Union Handbook Catalogue as well as a more recent publication published by The Dutch Southern African Collectors Society FVZA .

The Postal Stationary of South Africa Part 2. Edited by W.J. Quik

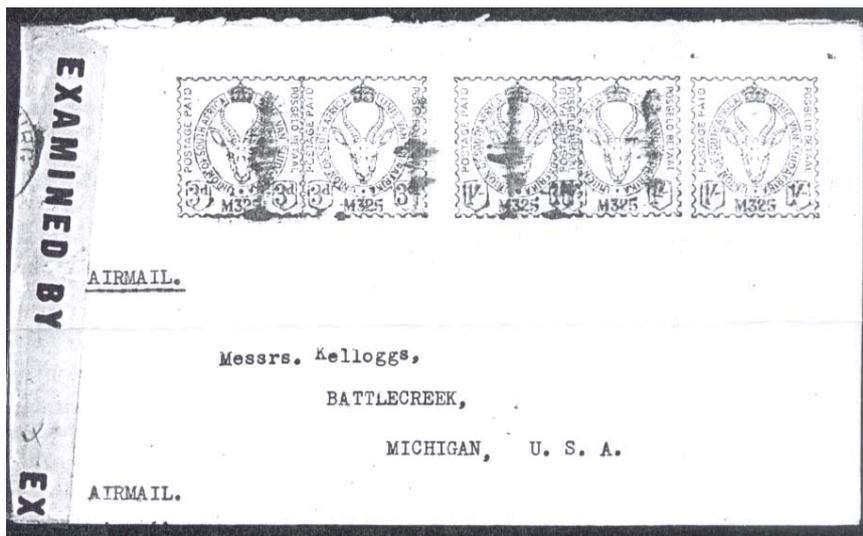
The additional ½d was required to cover the overseas postage. ½d was the domestic rate. 1d Newspaper wrappers were available for overseas mailing as well. Ed.

Wrapper not Illustrated (copy too poor) See P 16

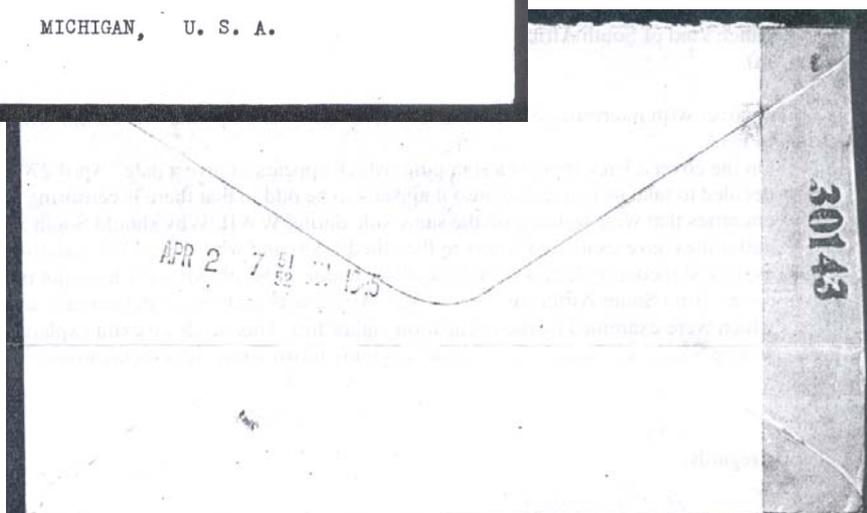
Members Queries continued.....

A further query from Rudolf Lazar in Germany

A cover with interesting South African meter mark and censor strip, as sent to the USA.
 On the back of the cover a date marking appears to give the date as April 27th 1945. I decided to take the cover because it appears to be odd that there is censoring between countries that were fighting on the same side during WW II. Why should South African authorities have examined letters to the Allied USA and why should US authorities have examined incoming letters from their allied Union South Africa? I have got post war covers from South and South West Africa with addresses in Germany and Austria, which were examined by the occupation authorities. This needs no extra explanation. But between South Africa and the USA??? Can anybody shed some light on the matter?



Front of censored cover



Back of cover with date just visible

Deadlines for Contributions

The following is a guide for the deadlines for contributions for the **SPRINGBOK**. I would like to stay as close to these dates as I can to enable us to get the journal out to you before the following quarters meetings , events etc. Unfortunately the next deadline will be pretty close by the time you get this edition. This will be rectified by the second quarter. We are aiming to pull the publication date back to the beginning of the quarter instead of at the end. Please let me have your input. I am also looking for a few feature articles to keep standby.

Start those articles coming in. I will publish as much as I can. It will go in sooner or later!

- Issue 2 Apr/Jun 2004** **15 March 2004**
- Issue 3 Jul/Sep 2004** **10 June 2004**
- Issue 4 Oct/Dec 2004** **10 Sept. 2004**

I will accept correspondence in English, Afrikaans and German. All articles, information will be translated to English and replies will be in English as well. I hope this will encourage more of our distant members to correspond as well. **Ed.**



Auction Report

I am happy to report that Tony Howgrave-Graham has agreed to start the auction report segment again. As there was no time to prepare a report this time round this report is scheduled for the next issue. We look forward to this. The report is intended as a round up of the key and better realisations for South African material that has appeared on Auction in the past months.

Forthcoming auctions

Philatelic Friends-Hout Bay South Africa
Closing date: 14 Feb 2004
Website: www.philatelicfriends.com

Southern Cape Philatelic Auctions-George East South Africa
Closing date: 28 Jan 2004
(Publication might be too late for this)

If information is too hand, I will publish auctions with a South African Interest if the closing date is such that the information will reach you in time.

If you know of auctions which regularly feature South African Material, please let me know. Ed.

In the next issue of **THE SPRINGBOK**

New constant flaws on the Union 5/- Ox wagon
A further historical article from David Haig
A review and history of the Cape Triangular.
(last year was the 150th Anniversary of the issuing of this stamp)
The regular features (need input from the members!)
Updated listing of the Republican booklets.
Part one of a series looking at the Animal definitives of 1954

Members, if you feel you would like to contribute to **THE SPRINGBOK** in the form of a longer article that might need a few issues to spread it over, please let me know. This makes a little forward planning a little easier and also takes the pressure off in doing an article all in one go!

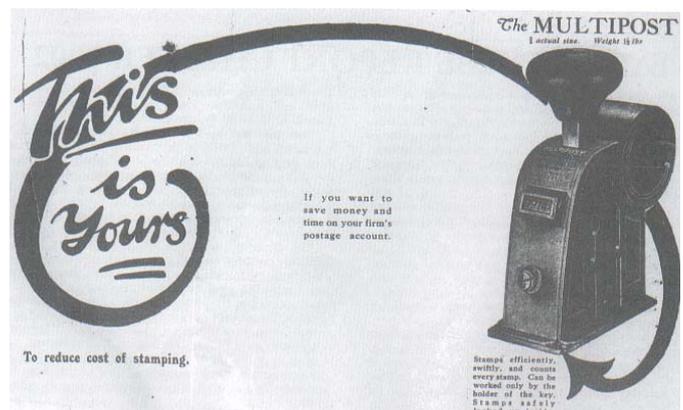
The Post bag is now empty!
Please put pen to paper!

Stamp affixing Machines

Eddie Bridges

An interesting article caught my eye in Stamp Lover Vol. 95 No. 3 in June 2003. (This is the magazine published by the National Philatelic Society.)

The article discussed Stamp affixing machines which made me dig around for some information I had gathered in the Archives in Pretoria many years ago. This particular machine the author describes and shows (picture below) is also the subject of correspondence in the archives regarding the outer diameter of the 1/2d and 1d rolls sold in the 1940's. Two sizes of rolls were made up and sold by the Post Office. One had 1012 stamps per roll (earlier issues had 1200 and 1000 stamps per roll) and the second had 506 stamps per roll. (earlier issues had 500 stamps per roll). The correspondence was mostly from firms and one from a manufacturer (Multipost) who complained that the rolls were slightly too large and were being squeezed too tight in the device which resulted in the stamps being damaged when affixed to a letter. This was a result of the roll size being increased from 500 to 506 stamps and the paper used to print the stamps on was slightly heavier. This caused the outer diameter of the roll to be slightly larger than the affixing machine could handle. The advice given by the Post Office at that stage was for the purchaser to tear off 10 or so stamps and then install the roll in the machine! The larger rolls of 1012 were used in the Stamp vending machines installed at Post Offices around the country.



Source: Stamp Lover Vol. 95 June 2003



For the Bookshelf

There has been much written in the **SPRINGBOK** about the lack of information coming to us about new publications. (see letters to the Editor as well) I have committed to try and improve this and to this end I have communicated with Paul van Zeyl who is the Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. He will keep us informed through the **SPRINGBOK**.

Thanks Paul.

I herewith also appeal to other organisations, individuals who see or hear of a new publication to let us know immediately. This will enable us to procure some specimens to review and to supply interested members. Several of the recent publications were released with limited print runs, that by the time we heard about them, the copies had been sold out.

I am also pleased to advise that I have persuaded Fred Clark to do a review for us from time to time when publications become available. His first is published below. We thank Fred for this.

World War II: Prisoner of War and Internment Camps in South Africa and their Mail. By JBR Findlay & Rory Ryan

Published by the Philatelic Federation
of South Africa (PFSA)

Available from:

Paul van Zeyl
P.O. Box 29012
Sunnyside
Pretoria 0132
South Africa

Price: R85, postage paid
(add R15 for overseas airmail)

This is a 40 page (A4 210 x 297 mm) book crammed full of little known information about a complex section of war-time postal history. With the urgent requirement for security after the declaration of war against Germany and later against Italy and in view of the mixed origins and sympathies of some of the local population, the need for Internment facilities arose. Later, after the war campaigns in Italian territories in East Africa and then in Egypt a large number of Prisoner of War camps was required. These camps are listed alphabetically in their two groups with details of

location, mailing arrangements, cachets used, number of inmates and nationalities and very much more. A great help is the illustration in colour of many covers with typical camp and censorship cachets and other postal markings. Pre-printed postal stationery for both Italian and German P.O.W.'s to send messages to families or next of kin by radio via the Vatican Radio are detailed, though strangely no mention is made of similar arrangements whereby messages were sent via the airgraph service to the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London for subsequent transmission by the BBC on their Italian Service.

Much more could be said about this book's contents and the extensive reference section demonstrates the extent of the research which has been done. The authors acknowledge that this study is not complete and invite comments and additional information to be sent to their addresses. This I shall be doing when I have completed a survey of my own collection of relevant material.

Awarded a Large Silver (Literature class) at the S.A. National Philatelic Exhibition STAMPEX 2003, Johannesburg 23-26 October 2003, only 250 copies were printed of which over half were sold within a month. So if you want one, my advice is do not delay your order!

I find this publication a very welcome source of data and recommend it for anyone interested in this subject.

Fred Clark

There is a very active group in South Africa studying the Postal History of WW II. They communicate mostly by E-mail with members outside of Johannesburg and overseas. I have found this to be a very useful source of information and advise. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact me for the relevant details. Ed.

Fred mentioned to me awhile ago that there was a further publication he had heard of "S.A. Postal rates by Ammoore-De Jager." I made some enquiries and was informed that this book was still to be finalised. Ed.

A list of publications of non philatelic nature but of interest to South Africa has been submitted by David Haig. This will be published at a later date.

If anyone needs information that has been published in the **South African Philatelist** and the Volume or year is known, I will be able to help. A full set is on my bookshelf and I can make photocopies if required of particular items of interest. Postage and copy costs is all that is required!



Chairman's Report

LONDON MEETING – NOVEMBER 2003

This was probably the last SACS meeting to be held at Hawkstone Hall since, sadly, the hire cost of the room has made it uneconomic to continue holding meetings there. It was, nonetheless, a particularly enjoyable afternoon meeting with eight attending, and it was very nice to meet Colin Moore from Cumbria, who is about to rejoin the society, and especially to welcome back one of our stalwarts, Jack Newman after a long absence due to sight problems and who is now recovering well from a cataract operation. Our Life President, RDA, sent his apologies due to a minor indisposition, as did Brian Trotter, Eric Day and Chris Board who all had other commitments, mostly in the form of meetings at Philatex that day.

After a fairly lengthy business session, including structuring the London programme for 2004, the main reasons for the meeting progressed. These were firstly the Abell Trophy for which there were two fine and greatly contrasting entries. Eddie Bridges, last year's winner, showed a fine study of the World War Two military air letter forms and John Shaw showed a study of the first Union postage due stamps, including the 3d trials in the colour of each value and most of the listed varieties. This gave John his tenth win in this competition, since 1989, and may now prompt him to retire from the competition.

Then we came to the main business of the meeting which was further airmails, most ably directed by Fred Clark. For the previous airmail meeting, we ran out of time at about the end of the Union Airways material, and Fred showed a fine selection of covers between this time and the end of World War Two, including many lovely feeder service covers including the linking of the Cape to London and London Australia routes, with the connection at Cairo. He also showed some of the more exotic items from this period including the HL Brook 1936 "Praga Baby" flight using a light Czechoslovakian built aircraft – a well know flight, but not chronicled in Milton Stern's excellent listing. John Shaw then showed a selection of the 1931 and later Windhoek to Kimberley feeder service covers, one being a 1933 connecting flight to Singapore – a flight also shown by Fred Clark.. Milton Stern states the mail was transferred at Cairo on 8th December (confirmed by the backstamps) and arrived in Singapore on 17th December; yet John Shaw's cover bore a clear "Thomas Cook & Sons 11 December 1933" oval arrival mark and Fred Clark's cover a Singapore

GPO arrival mark of 19th December! Now this could be that the Thomas Cook employee who backstamped the cover was amiss in not modifying the arrival stamp, it could be that Milton Stern was wrong, or it could be, as Chris Oliver postulated, that the Thomas Cook employee moved the date ring the wrong way, since a datestamp set to 10th could be moved one way to 11 and the other way to 19. This matter is still worthy of further research and is one of the nice tantalising queries which seem to emanate from our society meetings. Obviously, any comments from readers would be most welcome.

Finally Eddie Bridges showed a most interesting range of postal stationery postcards including the short-lived provisional ½d on 1d card, and some K Ed VII cards which must surely – along with the Transvaal Plate 3 and 4 1d stamps - be regarded as interprovincials, if not full Union issues, since they were not issued in that particular size until after the formation of the Union.

Hon. Secretary/Hon. Membership Secretary

Chris Oliver

With the sad death of Alan Caines, we are now looking for a new Hon. Auditor [independent examiner] for the Society. If any member feels that they may be able to tackle this job, we would be pleased if they could contact either the Secretary or the Treasurer who will endeavour to explain the duties involved.

We are pleased to welcome Eddie Bridges to the Hon. Editor's chair and wish him well in the post. Please support him by providing him with plenty of articles for **THE SPRINGBOK** to make this an even more outstanding journal.

We also take this opportunity to thank Franz Heymann for all his work and encouragement in producing a worthwhile magazine over the last few years. Franz has kindly agreed to become one of our Hon. Assistant Editors so that we will not lose the benefit of his advice.

We have 3 new members.

Welcome to:

Geoffrey Ford (1072)

P.D. Patel (1073)

and one rejoining member

Colin Moore (946).

We hope to see some of the new members at one of the forthcoming events. Please make yourself known.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

– FRANZ HEYMANN, OUR RETIRING EDITOR

Recently, I paid tribute to Roy Ross for his stewardship of the post of Honorary Secretary of this society. This issue, I must pay tribute to Franz Heymann, who has now handed over the editorship of the Springbok to Eddie Bridges.

Franz took over this job at a difficult time in the society's history. Some of our key officials were having medical and personal problems of their own – (Alec Page was one who, after years of robust health and selfless service to the society, was struck with the dreaded Big C which led to his rapid demise) - and there was a severe shortage of articles being submitted for the journal. Franz took this job head on and for years has served the society so well, possibly to the extent of keeping the journal and the society in being.

One of the problems in accepting a key post in a specialist society such as ours, is that the time one dedicates also dilutes the attention to personal research and development of the collection. I know that Franz would have liked to spend more time studying the 1935 Silver Jubilees but, to do this involves, in a sense a lot of "pottering about" – something not easy to do when there are articles to be read, deadlines to be met and reluctant authors to chivvy up – something Franz did very well indeed, with what can be described as "firm diplomacy" – and I speak here from personal experience!

Franz is now approaching 80 years of age and it is only right he should slow down a little and obtain more enjoyment studying those curious little pieces of coloured paper we all love so much, but without bidding farewell to us altogether. In Eddie Bridges we have an ideal person to take over the reins from Franz, and I am also pleased that Franz has agreed to remain on the editorial board in an emeritus capacity.

From our President, from myself and the membership, thank you Franz for your efforts without which the society would have been the poorer.

John Shaw

The Cover Packet Superintendent

Max Whitlock

After a slow period caused by lack of material and also lack of my time, things have improved and there are three packets starting their circuit, although two seem to have gone astray already. Amongst the covers sent to me recently, are several hundreds of Date Stamp Cards, at prices from 4p to 10p. At this price level it is not worth photocopying each one, and so I will be sending out lists, probably with a whole packet devoted to this material.

If you are already on the cover packet list and do not want to see this material, please let me know. If you are **not** on the cover packet list and wish to see this material, then please also let me know.

Hon. Auctioneer

&

Packets Exchange Superintendent

Bill Branney

Bill has made a plea for more material for the auction as he does not have sufficient for an auction yet. As a result the auction will be moved back to April.

Please have a look through your material and if there is something that you have been thinking of moving on, please let Bill have it. You know the sort of material he needs.

Hon Librarian

J.B. Carter

I have not had an opportunity to talk to John, but I am sure he will send you the book or books you would like to look at. We are hoping to be able to publish an updated list of books in our library soon. The Librarian also has access to funds and if you think we should buy a particular book for the Library, let the Librarian know. He will put it forward for consideration. He also has the Index of **THE SPRINGBOK** listed from day one on a floppy disk.

If you are interested in this please contact him. Costs are about a fiver. **Ed**

AN EXCELLENT MEETING AT THE ROYAL

Chris Oliver

On 23rd October, I was invited to attend the Royal Philatelic Society of London, by a friend who knew of my interest in the philately of South Africa, to see a display by The Orange Free State Study Circle. This display was given to mark the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the Study Circle and also contained six frames of O.F.S. material from the Queen's collection under the stewardship of the Assistant Keeper of the Royal Collection, Suresh Dhargalkar F.R.P.S.L. The Study Circle obviously has friends in high places.

Several members of the South African Collectors' Society were present including our Chairman, John Shaw, and Mike Smith, in his capacity as Chairman of the Orange Free State Study Circle.

The Royal Collection was, as one would expect, of stamps, essays and die proofs with good examples of the many overprints and varieties of the overprints of the O.F.S. including a block of nine with a missing surcharge of 1d on 4d on stamp 8, and an unadopted, private essay, of 1900, for a 5s stamp for the Colony which shows a head and shoulders portrait of General Lord Roberts.

Robert Allison had provided two breathtaking and informative frames of the postal history of the pre-stamp period, followed by four frames of postage stamps of the Republican era. Four further frames contained especially fine material from the collections of Kurt Schau, Derek Hepworth, Alan Drysdall RDP, R.D.P.S.A., John Cheminais, Tim Bartshe and Robert Allison. The display of Republican period items continued with three frames, by Robert Allison, of stamps, with many surcharged provisionally by the government printer, due to the distance of communication with the stamp printer in London. From 1856 until 1877 embossed revenue stamps were issued and examples of these from Robert Allison's collection could be seen in the twentieth frame. In the next two frames Wikus van Heerden R.D.P.S.A., who was visiting from South Africa, displayed the definitive revenue stamps which had superseded the embossed stamps.

Richard Stroud and Robert Allison ably illustrated the complicated postal history, rates and markings of the republican period in the next six frames, including mail sent from Natal to London via Bloemfontein. Postal cards from Mike Smith's collection explained the differences between those printed by the government printer, C. Borckenhagen in Bloemfontein from 1889 onward and those printed by De la Rue in London during the five years previously.

The next thirteen frames displayed the issues of the Second Anglo-Boer War from October 1889 until March 1900. Tim Bartshe from the U.S.A. showed the complexity of the V.R.I. overprints, illustrated by the numerous varieties found. These overprints were also seen on the postal cards in Mike Smith's display. Robert Allison illustrated how further provisional overprinting was carried out due to the abandonment of the preparation of a new definitive issue at Queen Victoria's death. In six frames of material from Richard Stroud's extensive collection he displayed the postal history of the area during these times.

On the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging in May 1902 hostilities ceased, enabling production of Edwardian stamps and postal stationery for the Orange River Colony. Brian Trotter displayed two frames of these stamps including the "IOSTAGE" plate flaw on position 5 in a corner block of six, whilst the postal stationery could be studied in the next frame, by Mike Smith, and revenue items from Robert Allison's collection were shown in the subsequent frame.

The post-1910 interprovincial issues showing the use of O.R.C. stamps elsewhere in South Africa and of the other South African provinces within the area of the colony were displayed by Dr. Chris Board in the penultimate frame. The last frame, by Richard Solly, showed the Postal Orders which were in use.

This well researched display was enhanced by an informative catalogue to the exhibition and this has served as an aid memoir in reminding me of the marvelous material displayed and a crib in writing a report on the proceedings.

After tea, the President of the Royal Philatelic Society, David Beech, echoed the thoughts of many of those present in stating that this was one of the best, thorough and most extensive displays by a society, at the Royal Philatelic Society and presented Mike Smith F.R.P.S.L. with a commemorative plaque to record the fact.

We have published this report as we are actively encouraging members to support activities of the other Societies in the Southern African sphere of interest.

The Conference reported on in the last issue is a good example of the co-operation that is possible between the Southern African specialist Societies. Thanks to Chris for this detailed report.

Ed.

Philatex Meeting 1st November 2003

Chris Oliver

The Transvaal Study Circle organized a joint meeting for all South Africa Specialist Philatelic Societies on 1st November. The room was kindly provided by Chris Rainey and Trevor Davis. A standing display on the Captain F. Courtenay Marsh

Correspondence, from the Secretary, Jeff Woolgar, took place during the first part of the morning. Courtenay Marsh's military career had placed him at Potchefstroom Cantonment from 1905. His intelligent wit was employed to assist him at a garrison, which he described as "Still unfinished and likely to remain so". In his copious correspondence with his family and friends, his warm humor is very apparent. This display was not only philately but also a good social history of the times. Courtenay Marsh lost his life at Gallipoli, aged 48 on the 9th August, 1915.

Dr. Chris Board then chaired the meeting whilst John Shaw, Eddie Bridges and Chris Board gave short presentations of material, which they had brought. Jeff Woolgar was thanked for having arranged the meeting and Chris Board for chairing it. It was disappointing that only a dozen people attended the meeting and a large proportion of those had to dash away to other philatelic meetings. The Study circle is intending that similar meetings will take place on the Saturday at Philatex in the Spring and in November 2004 when it is hoped that more members of the South Africa Specialist Philatelic Societies will attend.

New Venue for London Meetings

The London group will be meeting at a new venue for a trial period in 2004. The old venue at Hawkstone Hall was becoming too expensive. The new venue is the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 M 6PT. Please make a note of this for the meeting on the 7th Feb. 2004. There will be no one at the old venue!

A correction from Patrick Williams

Further to the interesting information provided by Patrick in the last issue on the 3d Deep Blue (1954), Formally SG 117b, he wishes to correct a sentence which had a part omitted. (page 178 in Vol. 51 iss. 4)

Line 3 should read:- However, the footnote in previous editions which stated SG117a 3d blue (3.51) and SG117b were "Printed from....."

Please pencil in the correction on the article if you want to keep your records of these things.

Ed.

Report on Association of SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES Meeting

Ray Glanville-Jones

This is a report of the meeting held in Glasgow on 11 November 2003.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Annual A.S.P.S. Congress, this year hosted by the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society, to be held in the Dewar Centre, Perth, on Saturday 17 April 2004 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Admission free). A souvenir card featuring a Lanark tram to commemorate the first run in 1904 will be on sale, the postmark showing that tram. The number of dealers will be virtually as last year, overall occupying 119 tables! There will be competition entries to Federation standard and other Society displays.

Provisional dates for 2005 (15 April) and 2006 (22 April) were announced.

The next A.B.P.S. show will be at Basildon Essex in 2004 but the 2006 venue has been moved to Torquay. Many individual Societies have websites, some needing updating, and it is proposed to list-all addresses in the News letter.

It is interesting to note that young Philatelists are flourishing with a junior school in Doonfoot, Ayrshire taking 5 silver and 9 bronze at Stampex, this total carrying the main trophy.

Subject for 4 Sep. meeting in London

The meeting in Sep. will look at the **Bantam War issues** again. This was handled some years ago with some reports in **THE SPRINGBOK**. Members are requested to bring their material to the meeting and it is hoped to be able to produce some pictorial record for further study and development.

Conference at Leamington Spa

Eddie Bridges

Just a short note to say that it was a very enjoyable weekend for me. The quality of the displays and talks were of the highest standard. The display of Kings Heads by Tony Howgrave-Graham was absolutely superb with really outstanding material. It was also awarded the Tony Chilton Trophy by popular vote as reported in the last issue. I would just like to add my congratulations to Tony as well. I am also discussing with Tony at the moment to see if we have the possibility to get a colour copy of the display which I could bind and put a copy in the library and make a few copies available to those members studying these issues. I don't think there is another collection like it intact.



Part of Tony's magnificent display



Tony receiving the trophy from last years winner, Brian Trotter.



Tony Howgrave-Graham with the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy

Members Smalls

This is all I have. I have searched to no avail. If any of our readers know where I can find info, or have a picture, advertising material, please let me know.
Eddie Bridges. Contact details as per inside front

This forum is available to members who wish to advertise material, seek material or require information on a subject or subjects. Please use this if you require anything. There is no charge!

Frama Labels for Sale
Franz Heymann has an extensive list available at very reasonable prices. This list is from Frank van Rensburg in South Africa and dates back to April 2003. If you contact Franz, he will be happy to send you a copy. Contact details as per the inside front cover.

Information wanted
I am looking for information on the stamp vending machine used to vend the "razor blade" booklets. It was supplied by a company called "Brecknells"

New RSA Issues

I have not been able to update this list or provide the programme for 2004. I looked on the South African Post Office web site but this has not been updated for some time. We will try and get updated information for the next issue.
If anyone does have information, please let us know.
I think we have many members who still collect the Republican issues but it must be becoming more frustrating every year!

I still find the Booklets interesting but information is scarce. Does anyone have a contact at the RSA Study Group who could perhaps contribute some information? Ed.

S.A. Officials, Sets 19-21, Large Format

Bob Hisey, USA

These three sets have always confused me as I have tried to follow the evolution of the formes. Here I have tried to make sense out of them, at least for the large format items.

It would appear that there was an overprinting of the 1s and 2/6d either with diareases in R1/5,6 in Set 20 with both words short.

According to the H/C the diareases in Sets 19-21 are as follows. The H/C does not point out where both words are short, and there are no diareases in Set 18 or Set 22. Short refers to the length of the words when they are 1 mm shorter than normal. Where a measurement is given, I have measured them. Spacing given in mm.

| Set | Diareases 2d | 1/- | 2/6 | Date |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| 19 | 2d No diareases | O95 1/-, R?/5&6, both short 20.2/20.3 | No 2/6 | 1941-44 |
| 20 | No 2d | O105 No Diareases | No 2/6 | 1944-46 |
| 21 | R1&11/5.6 Both short 21/20.1 | 6/2,3 Only Afr. short | 6/2,3 Blue Only Afr. Short 19.3/19.5 | Nov. 1947 |

It seems grossly improbable that the 1s diareases from Set 19 would disappear in Set 20 and reappear in Set 21 unchanged, so I conclude that the 1s should shift from Set 19 to Set 20. Rearranging and inserting the data from 2 used singles, 1 B4 and one cover plus the earliest dates in my collection:

S.A. Officials, Sets 19-21, Large Format.... Cont.

| Set | 2d | 1/- | 2/6 | Date |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---------|
| 19 | 2d No Diare- ses | O105, No Diare- ses | No 2/6 | 1941-44 |
| 20 | No 2d | O95, 1/-, R?/5,6, both short, diare- ses Light Sepia and pale violet | No 2/6 | !944-46 |
| TR B4 | | R1/5,6. Both short Diare- ses Like O95 Colour. 20.2/20.3 mm | | |
| 1/- (E) Cover | | Both short, diare- ses. 20.0 mm like O95 colour. 9 Jan 47 | | |
| 1/- (A) single | | Both short diare- ses. 20.1 mm Grey blue and sepia brown 8 May 47 | | |
| 2/6 (E) single | | | Both short, diare- ses 0.1 mm Darker hues than H/C O108 27 Feb 47 | |
| 21 | R1&11/5,6 Both short 21/20.1 8 April 1947 | 6/2,3 (only Afr. Short) | O108. 6/2,3 Only Afr. Short 19.3/19.5 1 June 50 | Nov. 47 |

The 2/6d single with diare-
sis and both words short is a new item not mentioned in the H/C. The H/C does not distinguish both short from only Afrikaans short.

From this it seems clear that there was a forme used to print the 2d, 1s and 2/6d late in 1946, well before the Set 21 date of November 1947. For convenience, let's call this Set 20A, and it would include the 2d O105 from Set 21, the 1s O95) from Set 19, and the newly found 2/6d.

A possible other choice is to posit that the forme was used for the 1s in Set 20, and then a first 2d and 2/6d in Set 21, also changing the date for Set 21. This seems to me even more awkward.

This is a rather major revision of the H/C, but I can find no way around it. Hopefully some of the members

Items of Interest

Please use this forum if you have anything of interest that you would like to share with the rest of the membership. This can be anything from stamps, events, displays etc. If you know of a South African related display at a local society, let me know and I will publish the details. There might just be a member living in the vicinity who would like to go and have a look. This might also be an opportunity to see members who are just names on paper. **Keep us informed! Ed.**

East African Provisionals

Eddie Bridges

I have re-visited this issue as it is interesting and note that quite a few members collect these issues. The basic listing in "Gibbons Commonwealth" does not reveal the intrigue and the measures taken to overprint the Union Pictorials for use in East Africa or K.U.T. during the war. An article in "The South African Philatelist" of August 1941 reveals that the stamps were overprinted, giving quantities and issues. A further report in "The South African Philatelist" of May 1942 advises that a further overprinting was done on the 1/- pictorial (Gnu) of the 1937 – 1939 issue. In "The South African Philatelist" of June 1942, page 62, there is a small report that 17 000 sheets of these stamps were supplied by the Post Master General for overprinting and shipped to Nairobi on 17th March 1942.

A further article published in Geosix, March 1999, the journal of the King George 6th Collectors Society, tells the story in more detail. I found this fascinating and share some of the details with you – with full acknowledgement to the author, F.R. Lockyer, and the Newsletter of the Society.

A further mention of some research done by Stuart Rossiter and published in the London Philatelist is also mentioned but I have not tracked this down yet.

War Time Damage to De La Rue in London

It all started with a letter dated 30th December 1940 from the Managing Director of De La Rue to the Crown Agents. This letter stated: "I have no doubt that Mr. Mackay has reported to your that our George, Crown and Star Factories were severely damaged last night and also that 108 and 110 Bunhill Row were destroyed by fire." A full report was promised as soon as the damage has been assessed.

On 8 January, De la Rue told the Crown Agents: "In many respects the position is much better than we could possibly have hoped for at the outset." Fortunately it appeared that nearly all the original dies and plates were intact as well as the printing plates and engraving machines.

The following day the Crown Agents reported in a telegram to Nairobi that 10c and 20c stamps were destroyed in the course of printing. (Presumably these were on order from Nairobi). This drew a response from the PMG in Nairobi that only three months' supply remained in stock of the 10c and 20c as well as substitute denominations.

De la Rue also advised their customers with an understated note saying: "In circumstances beyond our control, records of goods dispatched from our warehouse after December 2nd 1940 have all been destroyed. If you have not received an invoice for goods supplied to you after this date, would you kindly provide particulars ..."

By the 17th January the Crown Agents notified Nairobi that 850 000 20c stamps had been shipped in early December and that 1 500 000 of the 10c should reach Kenya in three months. De la Rue was pulling out all the stops to get the business back to normal as soon as possible. Up unto this point the situation was still under control.

Disaster at Sea

Five days later another cable was sent from London reporting to the PMG in Nairobi that the shipment of 20C stamps together with 309 100 30c stamps had been lost at sea. They added that the good news was that 1 500 000 of the 10c stamps should be dispatched in February.

A secret telegram from Nairobi to London on 23rd January stated that stocks of the 10c, 20c and 30c were likely to be exhausted by the end of February, but the use of substitute denominations and booklet stamps could last until mid-March. A further telegram to Kenya 24 hours later advised that approximately 200 000 10c and 12 500 20c stamps had been salvaged, (presumably at the bombed premises of De la Rue) although some had been damaged by melting wax interleaf.

As an emergency measure, 500 sheets of the 10c were dispatched by the Flying-boat service via Lagos, another 500 sheets by the next boat to Takoradi for onward transport by air and a 1000 sheets of the 10c and 500 quarter sheets of the 20c were being posted c/o the Postmaster in Cape Town.

Continued on page 18

Growing Shortage

These measures were evidently not solving the shortage of stamps soon enough and the PMG in Nairobi wrote to the PMG in Pretoria enquiring whether it would be possible to do an emergency printing at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria. A reply pointed out that there were no engraving machines available, but that a photogravure mock-up of the design could be produced on paper with a Springbok watermark.

In the meantime a telegram from London on the 1st of March confirmed that the dispatches mentioned on 24 January were on their way and that another 3 000 sheets had been posted on 18 February followed by a further 1 000 sheets on 21 February. Additionally the Crown Agents also advised that 1 500 000 of the 10c value would be posted when ready, with further deliveries of the 20c and 30c values in two to three weeks.

Advances by the Allied troops through Somaliland into Ethiopia was in progress in early 1941 and on the 3rd of March the PMG in Nairobi advised the Chief Secretary of the State of London that, provided all the new supplies arrived on time, he could release stamps for use if required in the occupied territories.

Desperate Situation

The situation deteriorated further to the effect that on 28 March the PMG in Nairobi telegraphed Pretoria to start printing a photo emergency issue and on the following day advised the Colonial Office that stocks would only last for a maximum of 14 days and that the parcels en route would only be sufficient for a further 3 weeks. Under these circumstances he was forced to order 1 000 000 10c and 1 000 000 20c values from South Africa pending approval from London.

This drew a sharp reaction from the Secretary of State in London who telegraphed "Should greatly prefer not to use reproduction of East Africa Stamps made in South Africa owing to complete absence of usual security factors and danger of complications through infringement of copyright. Suggest you consider surcharging of other denominations or obtaining an overprinting of genuine stamps of a neighbouring territory".

A speedy reply by the PMG in Nairobi pointed out that he had no more stamps to surcharge! He would enquire if sufficient quantities of stamps would be available in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia or India.

South African Overprinted Values

On 12 April Pretoria was asked to go ahead and overprint 480 000 1d stamps, 1 200 000 of the 3d and 1 440 000 of the 6d with the legend KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA and 5c, 10c and 20c respectively. The Colonial Office in London confirmed this action adding a reminder that the customary blocks for the Royal Collection would have to be forwarded!

Non arrival of Supplies from London

On 30 April the PMG in Nairobi reported that the main stocks of stamps were exhausted. Two days later the Crown Agents stated that further supplies had been sent. Two of the five consignments failed to arrive in Nairobi – one probably lost at sea.

On 9 May a letter from Pretoria advised that a supply of overprinted stamps had been forwarded by registered parcel post. Confirmation of receipt was sent on 26 May. As dispatches were coming from London, no decision was made to use the provisionals. By 19 June the main stocks were depleted and it was recommended that the overprinted South African stamps should be distributed after examination by a Board of Survey. Sealed supplies were distributed on 21 June with wrappers stating "In no circumstances is this cover to be opened until you receive telegraphic instructions from this office to place these stamps on sale". On 28 June it was decided to issue them on the 1st of July. An announcement was broadcast on 30 June and published in newspapers on 1 July. A second consignment of stamps arrived from Pretoria on the 26th of July.

The Overprinted Values

The first consignment of overprinted sheets (9th May) had:

- 1 999 sheets of the 5c/1d Ship
- 9 999 sheets of the 10c/3d "Groote Schuur"
- 5 999 sheets of the 20c/6d Orange Tree

Continued on page 20

East African Provisionals cont.....

One sheet of each was kept in Pretoria on the Printers Specimen File. 360 pairs of each denomination were sent to London for distribution as specimens to the UPU. This was hand stamped in Sans Serif capitals 26 X 3 mm reading diagonally downwards.



1d with inverted overprint



3d Specimen value



6d Specimen value



1/- value issued later with Violet overprint

A further value was issued on 20 April 1942 (1/- Gnu overprinted as before with a value of 70c) for use on the Airgraph Service. Once this service ceased, the stamps were mainly used on parcels. 4 000 Sheets were overprinted and 360 pairs were distributed as specimens.

The second consignment (26th July) had:
 4 000 sheets of the 5c/1d value
 30 000 sheets of the 10c/3d value
 12 000 sheets of the 20c/6d value

As can be seen, the number of 1d Ship sheets overprinted were considerably less than the other values. This could account for the relative difficulty in finding large blocks/part sheets.

The 1d Ship Stamp – overprinted 5c

1st Consignment - These were all overprinted on Issue 14 stamps (size 18,5 and 22,5 mm).

2nd Consignment - These were mostly overprinted on Issue 14 sheets but a small number of sheets (quantity unknown) were overprinted on Issue 15 sheets. This was most probably used as the Issue 14 sheets had run out. This is also probably why the Issue 15 overprinted stamps are hard to find.



Issue 14



Issue 15

Continued on page 21

The 3d Groote Schuur Stamp – overprinted 10c

The overprinting was done on Issue 5 (old number used in literature – now renumbered as Issue 3 in the Union Handbook by Jack Hagger). The first consignment had stamps which were recorded as dull Ultramarine on toned paper. The second consignment was more Ultramarine and the paper was more white than toned.



First consignment



Second consignment on white paper

The 6d Orange Tree Stamp – overprinted 20c

The stamps overprinted came from Issue 3 (cylinder 6919/53, June 1938). The first consignment was on a distinctive orange/brown and deep green. The second consignment had the stamps on a lighter orange and green.



6d First consignment in orange/ brown and deep green.



6d Second consignment in a distinctly lighter orange

continued on page 22

The 1/- Gnu Overprinted 70c

There was only one shipment to Nairobi of this value and almost a year after the other values. These were in a variety of shades ranging from chocolate and slate blue to sepia brown and chalky blue to dull blue.



**Marginal positional arrow block
With "Crescent moon flaw"**



**The "Crescent moon" flaw
enlarged. This occurred as a
result of a bedding screw on
the overprint form protruding
slightly.**

References:

1. South African Philatelist Vol. 17 Aug. 1941 Pub. Philatelic Federation of South Africa
2. South African Philatelist Vol. 18 May 1942 Pub. Philatelic Federation of South Africa
3. Geosix, Newsletter of the George VI Collectors Society. Whole number 191, March 1999
4. Ward, Gordon, The Ship Penny. Pub. Sherwood, Cheshire, GB.
5. The Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue, 18th Edition pub. Murray Pane Ltd.
6. The Commonwealth Catalogue Part 1 1995, Pub. Stanley Gibbons. London

We have some space for a limited amount of advertising. Possibly a dealer or two or an Auction House. This could help pay for some of the production costs. I will pursue this avenue if no one has any objections. We will not have too many which could overpower the journal.

New Publication coming soon!



The Aerogramme's of the Union of South Africa 1942-1961

This publication is a result of two years collating information and notes of all the Active Service Letter Cards, Air Letter Cards and Aerogramme's used during this period. This was a study topic started at one of the London meetings by the late Tony Chilton. This started my interest again in this topic and we had several informal discussions on how to put all the information together in a publication. Unfortunately Tony passed away before this could come to fruition. It also set the work already done back by a year or so. Many of the members of SACS and non members here in the UK and in South Africa helped with information and illustrations. This listing is as definitive as possible and all the airletters/aerogramme's are illustrated in colour to make identification easier.

This publication is now nearly finalised and should go to print in April. It would be help full if you are interested in a copy to let me know as this will make judging the quantity too print, a little easier-hopefully! An estimated cost is between £18 and £22. Please let me know if you have an interest in a copy so that I can reserve one for you. **Eddie Bridges.**

Requirements for sending items for Publication

Eddie Bridges

To ensure that we try and maintain a reasonable quality for *THE SPRINGBOK*, I need your co-operation on the following points please:

1. Text Articles/info

Please send all text in Microsoft Word. This makes life a lot easier for me as I do not have to retype pages of text. (My typing speed is not good!) This text can be sent as an attachment by e-mail or on a floppy disc or CD if you have the facilities. If you do not have the facilities or the use of a computer, then by all means send the article on paper and I will type it out. I would rather do this than have no article at all!

2. Illustrations and pictures

This is a problem for most of us. Poor photocopies do not reproduce well at all. Some of the copies I have received have been faint and poor. It is important to try and get a crisp clean copy in black and white.

Better still do the photocopy in colour if at all possible. This usually reproduces better.

My preference is of course scanned images which you can send by e-mail or on a disk by snail mail.

This allows me to manipulate the resolution to suit and the file size. If you are scanning, please save in jpeg format. I find that, depending on size of illustration, a fairly good resolution can be achieved if you make the file size about 300 to 500 Kbyte

Please do not try and incorporate pictures and illustrations on to a page with the text and only send me a paper copy! If you do this, you might as well send me the disk to enable me to use the text and I can lift the image and position it to fit the page. This makes page layout easier. I cannot scan your information again as this just loses all the resolution. I tried to do this with an article I received ready on paper without success. I had to use such a high resolution scan that the file became too big to manipulate with ease.

If in any doubt, give me a ring or send me an e-mail. I will try and help.

Your co-operation in this regard, will make for an enjoyable experience for all of us!

Regional Meetings

If any members would like to get a small group together for a regional meeting in their area, please advise the editor so that we can publicise the event.

South West Group

What has happened to the South West Group? Anyone willing to revive this group?

Midlands Group

There are several society members living in the Cambridge, Northampton, Leicester, Derby and Peterborough

areas. I am sure we will be able to get a group together in this area. We need meet once or twice a year. I would be willing to arrange such a meeting if the interest is there. Please let me know if you are interested and we can look for a suitable central venue to meet. It is envisaged that this would be sometime just after the summer.

We would like to see at least one more group meeting and who knows we might be able to get more interest generated and possibly some more members.

Eddie Bridges.

Next issue due out in early April.

Please note the deadlines for submissions printed on page 8