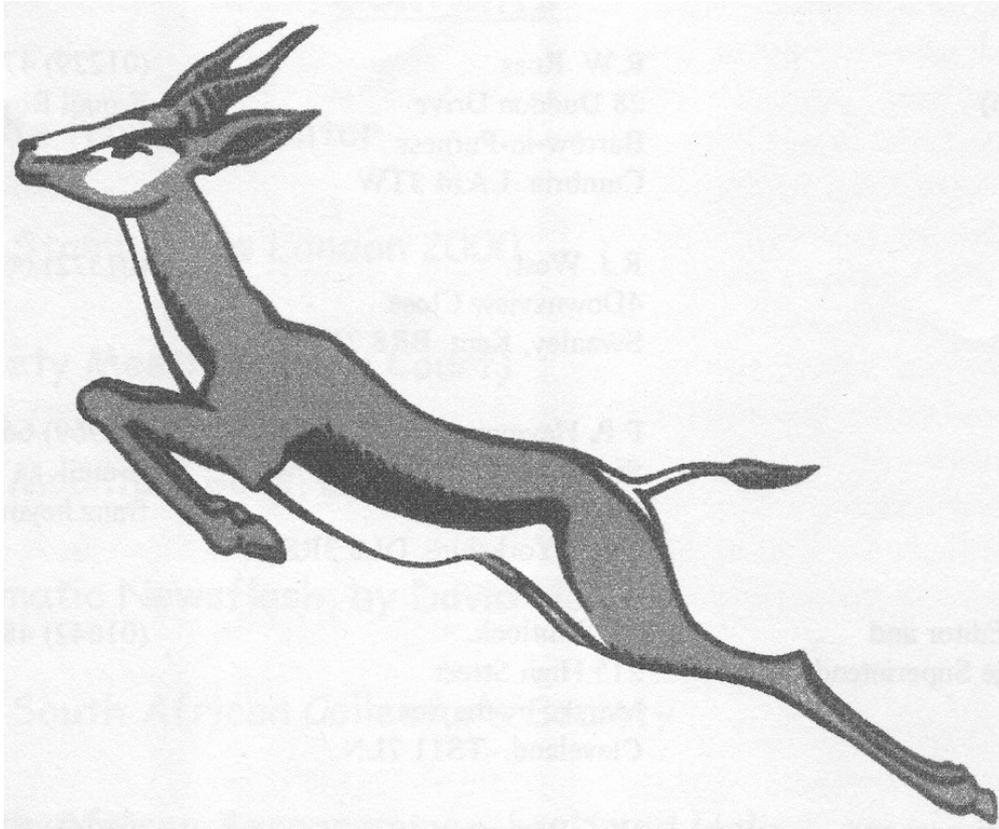


THE SPRINGBOK



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

Vol. 52

No. 3

Jul/Sep 2004

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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.

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Events for your Diary 2004

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
		Able Trophy Competition
30 Sep. -3 Oct.	A.B.P.S. Congress	Winchester
9th October	Regional meeting Cambridge	Arbury Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge
6-7th Nov.	Southern African Societies Convention, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa.	
11-13th Nov.	Autumn Philatex	Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
20-21 Nov.	A.B.P.S. Basildon 2004	Exhibition
22nd Nov.	Basildon 2004	Open displays by members

Events for your Diary 2005

5 Feb	SACS London Meeting	Swedish Church London , Subject to be announced
26 Feb	Philatex (Joint meeting)	Royal Agricultural Halls, Vincent Square London
16 Apr	SACS London Meeting	Swedish Church London , Subject to be announced
23rd April	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject to be announced
26th June	Midpex	Tile Hill, Coventry

For details, please contact the secretary. We have joint meetings at Basildon and Spring Philatex

From the Editors Desk

The time to start this issue rushed up on me without warning! My best intentions of getting **The Springbok** out at the beginning of the quarter in which it is due, has gone out the window. Hopefully there is something for everyone in this issue. I am still receiving many notes and e-mails with complimentary remarks. Thanks to those with the good wishes. I recently corresponded with Dr. Alan Rose of the South African Philatelist and he said that it was harder than he thought to get a variety of articles for the readership of the SAP.

Fortunately I do not have that problem yet, or is it the fear that I will bore everyone with a string of articles on the Penny Ship that has kept the articles coming in? I have a whole bag full of these for a rainy day. So keep the articles coming in. If you have submitted something and it has not appeared in print, be patient as I am trying to keep a balance of subjects to try and make the journal as interesting as possible to a wide range of interests. I need some more articles on traditional subjects like the stamps, booklets and coils of both the Union and Republican period. Postal History, airmails and new discoveries will be welcome. We are also doing a little section on items of interest, or you have queries, this is the forum to find out. We have a wealth of knowledgeable collectors out there who are only too willing to share their knowledge.

I need to make an apology as well. Two reports were inadvertently left over from the last issue. These were from Malcolm Ridsdale for the Carlisle meeting and from Chris Oliver. These have now been included in this issue.

We also celebrate the 100th birthday of Jack Hagger, the doyen of Union Philately and editor of the 1986 Union Handbook. Your committee has also made Jack a Honorary Life Member of the Society.

The last few months have seen some significant and interesting Union material come up for auction, particularly Union Booklets. These have all fetched prices at catalogue value or higher. How am I going to get my booklet collection complete? Please read Tony Howgrave-Grahams' auction report as well.

By this time our auction will be over and I hope you all got something for your collections.

We are still continuing our drive to recruit members and this must be a top priority for all the members. Our society will only survive if we have a strong and active membership.

Thanks to the contributors for this quarter. Keep the articles coming in and 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.

Ed.

Godfrey Mellor writes to correct me on a few gremlins which appeared in the last issue. Dates for the Carlisle meeting changing from 16 April to 23 April was also changed for which he offers his apologies. Dates for Basildon has also been corrected to 20 to 21 November. The convention dates in the article were also incorrect. He has also requested a reminder for the Abell Trophy competition. See item on page 74.

A second note from Godfrey advises that he will be displaying South Africa at the following meetings: 4th November 2004 at Burnley Phil. Soc. And on the 4th Jan. 2005 at Southport Phil. Soc. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Godfrey Mellor for details. Tel: 0161 449 9010 or on e-mail godfrey.mellor@ntlworld.com

Nicholas Arrow writes:

I wonder if I could ask for help through the columns of **The Springbok**?

I have amassed over the course of the years a number of the Harrison Springbok Essays, and the time has at last come for me to mount them and install them into my collection. The problem is that information available concerning these items is really non-existent. There is a short paragraph or two in the Handbook, but not enough for me to start any sensible form of writing up.

John Shaw has passed on some info, but if anyone out there has any more please let me know and I will pass it on. **Ed.**

Graham Manning has the following plea.

Could you please ask through **The Springbok** if anyone can give me any information on the following cover.

No.2A 1st Flight Johannesburg-Ilha da Sol-New York A:AM No stops

No.2B 1st Flight Johannesburg-Ilha da Sol-New York B:AM with stops.

I presume the difference between the two has something to do with the CDS on the back of the cover?

Graham also comments on the following:

Also I have been led to believe from a dealer that the 1926 London Pictorials can be identified from the Pretoria Pictorials from the margin. He tells me that the London margin is on the left and the Pretoria on the right. I was always led to believe that they are the same because they used the same plates, paper etc. If any member can enlighten me on this would be grateful.

Graham this is partly true. I think your dealer actually meant that the perforated margins appeared on the left or right. This applies to the low values 1/2d, 1d, and 6d. This is described in the handbook.

The Pretoria booklet stamps also had a different perforation gauge. These can trip you up as well. Copy of info in the post to you. Ed.

David Page writes:

Congratulations on a second excellent and very readable issue. *Thanks David Ed.*

David also points out that some articles on the 1925 Air Mail forgeries have appeared in **The Springbok** Vol 24 No1, Vol 25 No 3, Vol 26 No1, Vol 30 No 3 and Vol 32 No 4.

Now with full sheetlets of the forgeries in evidence, perhaps it is time for someone in the know to add something to the fund of knowledge.

I have persuaded John Shaw to do us an article on these issues as he has the material! Hopefully we can publish this in the next issue. Ed.

David also adds...And to answer John Davis' query, if a 1925 airmail stamp is on cover with a contemporary postmark then it is genuine-or am I being just a little naïve?

Mike Tonking from South Africa writes:

I am writing in answer to a couple of queries raised in the April/June 2004 edition of **The Springbok**.

Firstly in answer to the flaw on the 5/- hyphenated issue 2 stamp-this occurs on row 13/5 i.e. break in bottom frame line. The white dot above and between the SS in POSSEEL is of course found on row 14/6. Both flaws are constant on this issue. With regard to John Davis' query on the 1925 Air-mail forgeries, there is no better description as that which appeared in the July 1968 and December 1969 editions of the South African Stamp Study Circle newsletter, copies of which I am enclosing for your reference. The first paper by the late Stan Naylor describes three different types of forgery whilst that fine philatelist Jack Hagger managed to identify a fourth forgery type.

The paper appearing in the May 2004 edition of the Stamp Study Circle newsletter on the subject of the identification of the RSA roll stamps may be of assistance to John Davis. I trust the information above will be of assistance.

Thanks Mike. Useful info. Ed

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Annual General Meeting will take place during the Southern African Societies Convention in Leamington Spa on the weekend of the 6-7th November 2004.

One of the topics for the Agenda will be some changes to the Club Rule Book. Chris Oliver our Hon. Secretary has sent the following for comment. If you have any thoughts/opinions, please let Chris know.

Proposed Amendments to the Club Rule Book.

There is a need to update the Green Book. It was last revised in 1995. Having revived the position of Hon Chairman **Article 4** needs to include him on the Committee.

Article 5 (d) needs to add "or electronically transmitted".

Article 11 (12) One off regional or country meetings can be promoted by the committee and do not necessitate the forming of a regional committee.

New Article 11 [Current Articles 11, 12 & 13 shall be renumbered 12, 13 & 14 if this is adopted]

(a) The committee will, each year, elect a Web-master.

(b) The Web-master is to ensure that information on the society web site is kept up to date and to consult with the committee on the content of the web site.

Competition rules: **Abell Trophy Competition.**

Clause 2 to change from "no more than 12 sheets of material" to "no more than 9 sheets of material."

The Wicks Medal.

1. The Wicks Medal is awarded for written work published in The Springbok by a member of the Society.
2. The panel of judges shall consist of: The Chairman, The Hon. Editor and The Hon. Secretary.
3. Consideration will be given to readability and excellence of research.
4. The Wicks Medal will be awarded each year for work published in the year immediately preceding that year.
5. The name of the winner and the year of the published work will be engraved upon the medal presented.

The Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy.

1. The Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy Competition is to be held annually.
2. The Competition is open to members of all recognised Southern Africa Philatelic Societies in the U.K.
3. The Competition will be held at an appropriate venue where all recognised Southern Africa Societies are present. (Annual Convention?)
4. Should the number of frames (pages) be limited? (i.e. 18 pages).
5. Members wishing to enter the competition who are not intending to be present at the venue should advise the Secretary of their Society and arrange for a proxy to deliver their entry to the organizers.
6. Members who adopt the course outlined in (5) above will not be able to present their displays but may ask a proxy to do so on their behalf.
7. All members of the representative societies present, will vote upon the winning entry, in a secret ballot.
8. The Trophy will be held by the winner for one year and a miniature replica trophy will also be awarded.

N.B. The rules for The Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy will also need to be endorsed by the other Southern Africa Philatelic Societies. These are, at present, The Anglo Boer War Philatelic Society; The Bechuanaland & Botswana Society; The Orange Free State Study Circle; The Rhodesian Study Circle and The Transvaal Study Circle.

Comments Please, to the Secretary.

Jack Hagger RDPSA – One Hundred Not Out !

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our oldest member, Jack Hagger, will be 100 years old on 22nd July this year. My spies in South Africa tell me that, by all accounts, he continues to enjoy good health.

Jack, as many of you know, is truly the doyen of Union philately. Following closely in the footsteps of Dr Alec Kaplan, Sam Legator and Bill Sheffield, he raised the tone of the South African Handbook/Catalogue from that of excellent specialist catalogue to major definitive reference work. His work on the very difficult area of Union officials is of a quality that only he could have done, and this will continue to be the definitive reference source for these stamps for many, many, years. Jack has now disposed of his used officials and it is nice to know that the values to 1/- now reside in this country, with one of our members.

Jack wrote to me years ago, saying that he retired at 55 and has never regretted it; most of the succeeding 45 years he appears to have devoted to Union philately. He is certainly never slow in responding to queries published in the Springbok and has made a massive contribution to our hobby, which was quite properly recognised by being invited to sign the roll of Distinguished South African Philatelists.

The late Bob Lawrence, whom I regarded as my mentor in Union matters, and who was an outstanding researcher, regarded Jack as his mentor. Bob could tell you who had the best collections – Airmail, Len Van de Kar - proofs and essays, Dr Pat Pattinson - stamps, Stan Naylor and Thys Rall – but for information his first port of call was always Jack., whom he regarded as the supreme authority.

Jack from the members of SACS, we all wish you a very happy birthday and, indeed, many more of them.. Congratulations!

John Shaw

Jack Hagger

Our oldest member, Jack Hagger turns 100 on the 22nd July. I have known Jack for many years, first meeting him at the Palmares dinner at the Stamps 150 in Johannesburg in 1990. His encouragement to continue collecting Union (this was my first exhibition where I exhibited my Penny Ships) has remained with me to this day. I met Jack again at the National Exhibition in Durban in 1993 where he had a look at my Penny Ship exhibit and pointed out some errors in my descriptions! He also tried to persuade me to part with a Waterlow 1d Coil stamp with the leader still attached.

Suffice to say, I was not persuaded and I still have the item to this day! The last time I saw Jack was when I exhibited at the International Exhibition "Ilsapex" in Johannesburg in 1998. He was looking at my exhibit with Dennis Wolmarans (who bought Jack's Unhyphenated Roto Penny Ships) and again gave advice.

Jack has always been a "mentor" of sort and I speak for all Union collectors when I say that he has been the inspiration for collecting Union to all the "younger collectors".

Jack, here's to your continued health and hope that you have an enjoyable and memorable birthday.

Eddie Bridges

SACS Representative in the USA

We are very pleased to announce that we have found a volunteer in the US to represent the members and the Societies interest in the USA. He is Morgan Farrell and may be contacted by e-mail mtf3@qwest.net. Further details will be supplied in the next issue. It would be nice if the members in the USA could meet at one of the big Stamp Shows or exhibitions. When next I am in the US I will attempt to visit Morgan and get to know him better. Good luck to Morgan. He is assured of our support in this task.

Ed.

Jack Hagger — An Appreciation

I have been very fortunate to have Jack Hagger as a friend over the past thirty years. My deep interest in Union Philately really commenced after meeting Jack, who with his unfailing patience has been my guide and mentor. Thinking back over the years, I have unashamedly picked his brains and have learned from him more about Union Philately than it would have ever been possible in any other way.

It saddened me when he decided to part with his Union Collection, an assembly which, I fear, will never again be duplicated.

In 1989 we produced the monograph on the 2d. London Printings which could not have been completed without his extraordinary input.

We have corresponded over the years and his letters which I have retained contain information to which I am fortunate to be able to refer.

The 1986 Union Handbook is a lasting memorial to a great philatelist and will ensure his name will not be forgotten long after his album is closed.

I last met Jack at the National Stamp Exhibition held in Johannesburg, in October last year, where he made a special effort to come and meet me for a chat. He is that sort of philatelic friend.

Mike Tonking

Hon. Life Membership-Jack Hagger RDPSA

Earlier this year, the Committee decided to offer Life Membership to Jack Hagger RDPSA. A letter was sent to him with this invitation and we are very pleased and honoured to report that Jack has accepted.

On behalf of all the Committee and members of the South African Collectors Society we would like to welcome Jack as a Life Member and wish him many more years of membership.

Jack is only the 3rd Hon Life Member in the Society's 57 year history. The Late Eric Sherwood, the Founder of SACS in 1947 was the first and Reg Allen our current President, the second.

We will create a space in the Society's Office bearer banner for these life memberships in the next issue.

Eddie Bridges.

Venue for the next London Meeting. 4th September 2004

As reported in the Secretaries report, the next meeting will be held upstairs in The Calthorpe Arms, Grey's Inn Road, London WC1 near Wren Street.

Subject is the Bantam War Issues. If you have material, please bring it along. I will be doing a Pictorial write up of some sorts as we have been requested by our overseas members to provide some sort of record for this meeting. **Ed.**

Theft at Stampwise (Post Office Archive and museum in Pretoria)

The following was distributed for information from Philatelic Services in South Africa.

Dear Sir/Madam

It is with regret that I have to inform you that we experienced a robbery at Stampwise (the Post Office Museum) at Church Square, Pretoria on Wednesday, 23 June 2004.

Fourteen large ledgers with commemorative and definitive stamps of the Republic of South Africa from 1993 to 2000 were stolen. Two ledgers, however, included earlier commemorative issues from 1979 to 1989, including miniature sheets for the period 1979 to 1982.

The material for 1993 to 2000 included imperf proof sheets, proof sheets in uncut format (i.e. with horizontal and vertical gutters between both sheets), uncut coils (1981) and booklet proofs.

The matter has been reported to the South African Police Services, who has also involved their Serious and Violent Crime Unit due to the historical and commercial value of the stamps.

We would like to appeal to anybody who has any information in this regard to contact Inspector Cronje at 082 335 2329 of the South African Police Services or Johan van Wyk at (012) 845-2901 or 082 557 4242 regarding the matter.

Your assistance in the matter is highly appreciated. We will leave no stone unturned to recover the stamps and to bring the culprit(s) to book. We will not tolerate abuse of the legacy of the country for commercial and personal gain.

Yours sincerely

**JOHAN VAN WYK
SENIOR MANAGER: PHILATELIC SERVICES
SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICE**

Southern African Societies Convention - Leamington Spa

6-7 th November 2004

I apologise for the confusion caused in the last issue of *The Springbok* where the dates were given as 11-13 November. Where the dates came from, I don't know! Anyway, please note the above date in your diary as above. The dates given in the Events for your Diary in the front were correct.

If you have not let Brian Trotter know if you are attending, please do so as soon as possible. This will be a good gathering. The SACS AGM will take place at this meeting as well as the Mathews Memorial Lecture by Andrew Higson which will take place on Friday evening the 5th.

Apart from the displays, which will also compete for the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy, there will be an auction of material of this region and we are hoping to have a dealer or two present as well.

It promises to be a good meeting with something of interest for everyone.

Brian Trotter may be contacted as follows:

Tel: 020 8870 7100
E-mail: brian@btrotter.co.uk

Eddie Bridges

Damaged By Fire At Luttig, June 1924

by Richard Stroud

Norman Hoggarth, a philatelic colleague who specialises in crash and disaster mail, wrote to me recently to see if I could throw some light on a mail-train fire that happened at Luttig, Cape, in June 1924. He introduced the matter with an extract from *A History of Wreck Covers* by A.E. Hopkins, page 137, whereby:

A letter from England to Northern Rhodesia is rather battered and water-stained, but it has the one-line strike Damaged by Fire. There are backstamps of Ndola, N.W. Rhodesia, for 5 JUL 24 and Abercorn, N, Rhodesia, for 21 JUL 24. There is no other clue as to what happened but the long time inside Rhodesia between 5 and 21 July suggests there must have been some trouble between the two places.

Norman has recently acquired another cover from England franked by two 1924 British Empire Exhibition commemoratives and cancelled at the Exhibition on 26 MAY 1924. This cover is addressed to Southern Rhodesia and has a strike in black of the single-line **DAMAGED BY FIRE** mentioned by Hopkins. However, unlike the cover he mentions, Norman's cover arrived at Salisbury on 25 June 1924. Recently, Norman was shown a photocopy of a piece bearing a bilingual resealing label which was tied by the cachet

Damaged by fire at LUTTIG 17/5/24

This piece was addressed to Umtali, Rhodesia, and forwarded on 28 June 1924 (place undecipherable). All three items therefore seem to be from the same incident.

Reference to the *Times Atlas and Gazetteer of the World* for 1922, Luttig is shown in the Cape at 32.37S and 22.10E, which positions it on the main-line railway some 40 miles south west of Beaufort West and about half a day's journey from Cape Town. That all three items have Rhodesian addresses indicate that a sealed bag of mail for that area was seriously damaged by fire at Luttig. However, Norman, with this extra information, would like to find out more about the incident. Has any member information regarding this incident or who can/will access Cape newspapers of the period?

A further item that puzzles Norman is a cover probably posted in Cape Town on 13 (July?) 1915 to Brisbane, Australia, and received a two-line strike **DAMAGED BY FIRE / IN TRANSIT**, apparently applied at the Dead Letter Office, Brisbane, on 9 September 1915, as the cachet and DLO mark are both struck in the same carmine-red shade. This item could have been damaged at Cape Town, or more likely en route on a ship or train. There had been a direct service to Australia from Cape Town for some thirty years, and Norman supposes the mail was offloaded at Perth and forwarded by train across Australia. The period is WW1 and German raiders were operating in the Indian Ocean, especially the *Emden*, which had many successes against merchant shipping. It may be that the *Emden* damaged the ship during its passage through the Indian Ocean, with a hit on the mail room. Pure speculation, of course. Again has any member information regarding this incident or who can/will access Cape newspapers of the period?



Cover from England with two 1924 British Empire Exhibition commemoratives cancelled at the Exhibition on 26 MAY 1924. Addressed to Southern Rhodesia, the cover has a strike in black of a single-line **DAMAGED BY FIRE**.

Continued on next page...

Damaged by Fire Cont.....



Cover probably posted in Cape Town 13 (July?) 1915 to Brisbane, Australia. It has a two-line strike **DAMAGED BY FIRE / IN TRANSIT.** apparently applied at the Dead Letter Office, Brisbane, on 9 September 1915, as the cachet and DLO mark are both struck in the same carmine-red shade.

In the next Issue

Your editor is now in the fortunate position of having a number of articles on various subjects. This is starting to make it easier to try and publish a balance of articles which will appeal to a wider audience. However this does not mean that you may relax if you were thinking of sending in something to publish! I am constantly in need of material and articles.

In the next Issue:

How to differentiate the 1925 Air Mail forgeries by John Shaw (As a result of some queries in The Springbok)

A philatelic tour of the Western and Eastern Cape by Olaf Schulze/Rudolf Lazar.

Notes on the RSA Post Office paper trials.

Christmas Aerogrammes of South Africa over the years.

Some information about the Booyesen's essays .

Headplate varieties of the Bi-coloured KGV Stamps by Morgan Farrell

Just some of the items we have to whet your appetite!

I need you to keep the articles coming in if we are to maintain the momentum!

Are you working on a study?

If you are working on a small study of a particular subject, please let the editor know if you intend publishing in **The Springbok**. We can then plan ahead to ensure place is reserved. If it is a lengthy article, it can be split over two or more issues.

I am looking for a volunteer to update the Republican booklet issues that the late Tony Chilton used to do.

How to differentiate Photo printings from Litho printings.

By Barry Knox.

The following was sent to me by Barry who requested that I submit for expert opinion before publication. I had no reply from my correspondent, so lets see what our readers think. **Ed.**

A simple non-technical answer is:

“Look at any margin between dark and lighter printed areas at around X10 magnification. If the edge of the darker area boundary shows a distinct wavy edge (a ‘cell structure’) it is ‘photo’; if the edge is virtually straight it is ‘Litho’.

There are lots of vastly more authorotative, detailed and informed versions of this advice about, which give very valuable information, but if you want the basic difference, that's it.”

I guess this will be useful for the Republican issues where some definitives were printed using both methods. **Ed.**

Distinguishing Roto Printings by the Margins

By Bob Hisey

Introduction

It is often of interest to be able to separate the various rotogravure printings of a stamp that were done from the same cylinders but at different times. It is of specific interest to the study of the ‘Officials’, since the main difference between ‘Sets’ is often just that they were different printings of the base stamp. To date, color has been the main method of distinguishing between different prints from the same cylinders. But color is quite variable even during a single print, and descriptions of color are notoriously idiosyncratic. Fortunately, the equipment and procedures in the Government Printing Works allow the prints of the roto issues of the definitives 1930 to 1954, the items of interest for Officials, to be readily separated based on information present in the margins. Each printing will show differences in the margins, such as width of margin, total width of the two margins, condition of the margin and especially the exact location of the sheet numbers. This information is easily observed and is quantifiable, even though only for stamps with margins.

This article will describe the equipment and procedures.

Printing of base stamps

W. J. Quik has recently described the printing works in a lengthy and exhaustive manner in Bartolomeu Dias, the Journal of the Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika, No. 62, pp5-26, November 2003. In this he brings together both old scattered information and new information, all enlightened by his personal experience in the printing trade. This excellent article answered several questions and problems. Many of the press specifics here are drawn from this source.

The two presses of interest are both Goebels, the first was installed in 1930 is identified as the Goebels KM II, or #830 of the GPW and the second in 1940, identified as press #840. Both were quite similar. The #830 was a two-color press with a working width of 640 mm. The cylinder circumference was about 532 mm. It would thus print a full sheet of 240 stamps of the small format (½d, 1d, etc.) or 120 of the higher value large format. Its speed was limited because of the limitations of beat frequency of the built in perforator. This was a ‘block’ perforator apparently capable of perforating a full sheet at one stroke. Presumably there were at least two perforating plates, one for each stamp size.

The unwind stand was designed to hold a roll of gummed paper with a length of 2,500 meters. This would serve for about 4,700 sheets, 9.4 reams or 1,100,000 small format stamps. A roll certainly could be printed in one day, as that would only take a perforator beat of 1/sec. The actual rolls were probably a bit larger to allow production of 10 reams, subdivided into 100's.

Continued on next page.....

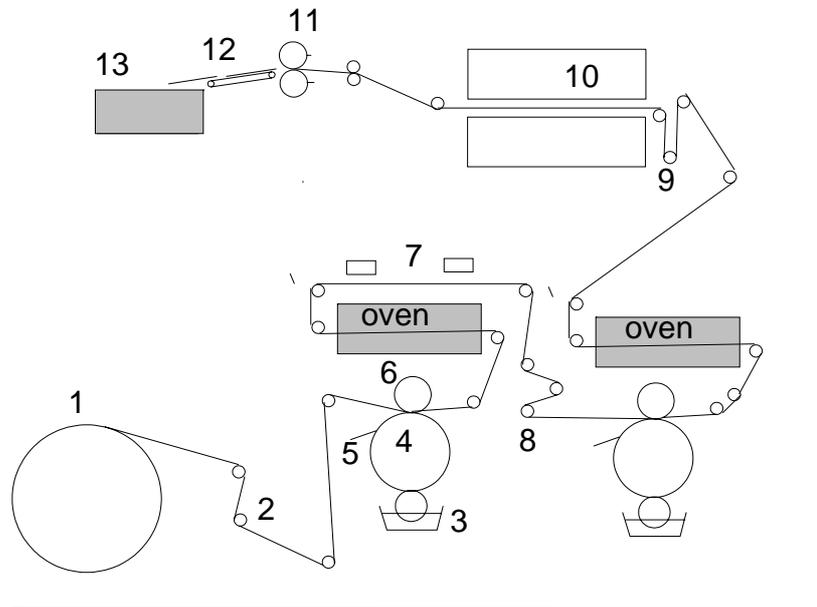


Fig. 1, Goebel #830 Schematic

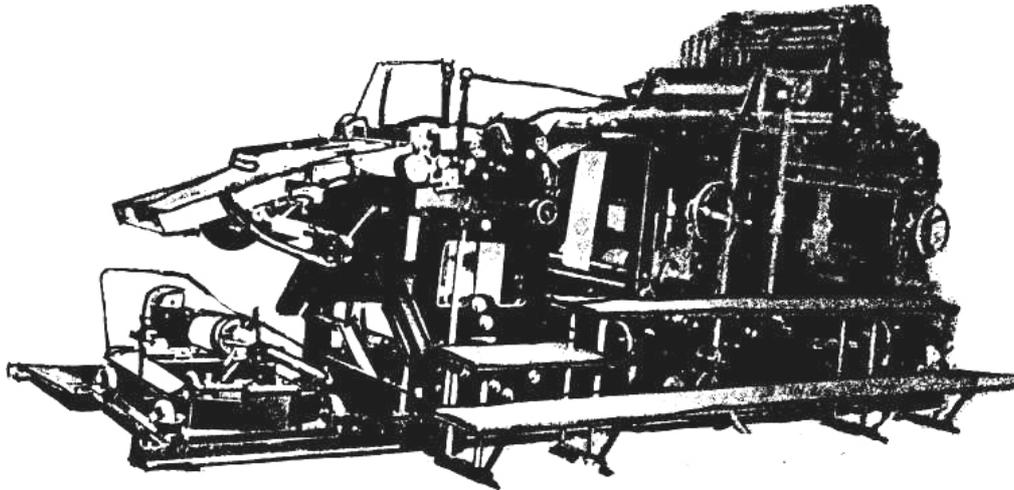
Key to Fig. 1, Rotogravure Press #830

Item #

- 1 Roll of Paper, with brake
- 2 Tension controller that controlled brake. Or it may have been manual.
- 3 Ink pan with immersed ink application roller.
- 4. Engraved cylinder, rotating clockwise, and flooded with ink by the application roller.
- 5 Doctor blade to remove all the ink except that in the etched pits.
- 6 Backing roll of rubber to hold the paper to the cylinder.
After this, the volatile ink is dried in the oven above the printing station.
- 7. Two 4-digit sheet-numbering cyclometers, placed apart exactly one half of the sheet length, 266mm or about 10.5 inches. Hard coupled.
- 8 A moveable roll to adjust the machine direction register of the 2nd cylinder.
- 8 A second register control to adjust the machine direction register of the perforation die.
- 9 A 'dance roll' that moves in synchronism with the beat of the perforating die to take up and release slack, since the paper must briefly stop for perforating.
- 10 The reciprocating perforating die.
- 11 The fly knife cutter to separate the sheets. A pair of pinch rolls to pull the paper through the perforator precedes it.
- 12 The feed belts which transport the cut sheets to the layboy.
- 13 The layboy, which piles up the cut sheets.

The preceding diagram and key to elements that are known to be in Press #830 are purely illustrative.

Continued on next page.....



Goebel KM II, Press #830

It is, however easier to understand than the actual press seen in the above illustration.

Although the illustration is not at all clear, certain points are clear. The paper roll is on a wheeled dolly at far left. The two large hand wheels show the positions of the two gravure cylinders. The large dark masses at right are the dryers for the two positions. The layboy is at top left. It seems that it could not hold much more than one or two reams. It was probably equipped with a counter to insert a tab each 100 sheets. In addition to the adjustments described above for controlling the lengthwise registration, there would have been sidewise adjustments for the paper roll, the cyclometers, the second color cylinder and some method to steer the paper through the perforator. There seems to have been no handy lengthwise adjustment for the cyclometers which had to be exactly one half of the cylinder circumference apart. Some adjustment was possible, as the numbers never fall outside rows 2-9 (and 12-19). The two printing cylinders, the cyclometers and the perforator would all have been directly geared together in order to hold register.

Starting a run

A print order would be entered for x sheets of a value, using certain cylinders. A print order would be completed in one run. A roll of paper of suitable width would be set up on the dolly, and the two cylinders installed. The two inks would be prepared and put in the fountains.

The cylinders were etched using the photo resist method that inherently does not allow the images to be exactly placed on the cylinder. The cylinders would be inked up after rough adjustment. Then the paper dolly would be adjusted to get the first image more or less in the center of the sheet. The second color unit would be adjusted in both directions to get it in register and then perforator adjusted to perforate in register. This registration should pretty much hold for the duration of the run.

In general, gravure is noted its color control. If the ink is made up from the same mixture of manufacturer's inks, the color should be quite exact, although the depth of color can be affected by dilution. Throughout one batch of ink, the color would remain very constant. The GPW, however, seemed to have been quite cavalier about color control between runs. It has been said by some that there was high variability within an issue, but this is highly improbable. It would require pressmen to add in other colors at times, something no pressroom allows. The observed variability probably would have been between runs, not within a single continuous press run.

The other press used for these stamps, #840, was quite similar to the #830. It used the same printing cylinders, but was a 3-color machine and used a 5-digit cyclometer. It originally had a 2-row perforator that was removed in the early sixties, well after the time period of interest. Perforating was then done off-line on the two-row Grover perforator that perforated 7 sheets at a time, after which the #840 was rated at 22,000 sheets per hour. This press, like the #830, also was obviously equipped from the beginning with a windup for roll-to-roll operation.

Continued on next page.....

Margin variables

The variables of a print run that will show up in the margins are:

1. The width of the 'right' or front margin. My examples vary from 10.5 to 22.5 mm.
2. The width of the left margin, which depends on the front margin and the roll width.
3. The placement of the cyclometer numbers, which have been seen from row 2 to row 19. Not only the row, but also the mm above the center of the perforations will vary. This would allow a spread of about 180 mm.
4. The condition of the margin. The doctor blade rides on the cylinder and may wear or scratch the margin. Since the doctor blade or the inking cylinder may not extend all the way to the edge of the paper, only part of the margin may be affected. Thus we can see a scum of one or both colors, affecting all or part of the margin. Also scratches may appear in various patterns.
5. Other conditions, such as ghost arrows, etc. Also the distance of the numbers from the stamp.
6. Taking 1mm as the detectable difference, this makes a total of some 2,000 different possibilities, counting only the placement of the sheet number and margin width.

Conclusion

Each print run will almost certainly show a unique combination of margin variables that will distinguish it from all other runs of the same cylinders. This is also often true even if the sheet number is not shown on the margin being examined. Also, each print run should show a constant color.

Examples

Below are shown 3 examples of the 2d unhyphenated Roto, all Issue 2/2a and one of Issue 3 from the last SACS auction. All are clearly different printings. Actually, in this case, these can be separated merely by which stamp has the number, or by the position of the number relative to the stamp.

Table 1. Marginal Information, 2d Unhyphenated Roto						
Example	Issue	Stamp Position	Sheet Number	Margin Width in mm	Sheet No. Position	Comment
A	2/2a	8/6, English	3383	13.5	+11.5	
		19/6, Afrik.	3383	13.1	+11.5	
B	2/2a	3/6, English	4174	14.0	+23.4	Dropped 4
		14/6, Afrik.	4174	14.0	+23.1	Dropped 4
C	2/2a	6/6, English	8980	13.2	+16.5	
		17/6, Afrik.	8980	13.4	+16.3	
D	3	5/6, Afrik.	8249	13.0	+8.0	
		16/6, English	8249	13.0	+8.0	
<p>Key: Margin width is from centre of perforations to edge. Sheet number position is measured up from centre of perforations to the middle of the first digit of the number</p>						

Continued on next page.....



Examples of the 2d printings listed in the table on the previous page.

Any further comments on the above article would be welcome. *Ed.*

Regional Meeting Cambridge

9th October 2004 at 2.30 pm

A regional meeting is planned at the Arbury Centre in Cambridge for the members within striking distance of Cambridge. Hopefully all members in the Midlands, and East Anglia will be able to attend. It would be really appreciated if members can make an extra effort to attend this meeting. The Society will only grow and survive if members support the meetings and activities of the Society. If this meeting is well attended, then we can discuss the possibility of making this a regular feature on the calander.

If you are thinking of attending and can provide a small display or would like a certain subject handled, please let myself or Chris Oliver know. Addresses on the inside front cover.

The Arbury Centre, Campkin Road, Arbury, Cambridge.

See you there!

Eddie Bridges and Chris Oliver

Virtual Stamps of South Africa

By Franz Heymann

In the early months of this year, the Post Office in South Africa started a scheme at four post offices, in which a new type of postage stamp (if indeed it qualifies philatelically for that appellation) was offered to the public on a pilot basis. The Post Offices which were chosen for the experiment are Bryanston, Kempton Park, Johannesburg International Airport and Menlyn Centre. The project was to last for the three months January, February and March.

The stamps are produced in rolls of 100 self-adhesive units to be used in a purpose-built dispensing machine. Each stamp is individually perforated, purely as a cosmetic feature, since the stamps are separated from one another on the roll by approximately 1 cm. The design (Fig. 1) was produced by Philatelic Services, and was based on elements of the stamp designed for the 2010 Soccer World Cup Bid, issued on 26 Sept 2003. The most



Fig. 1 No denomination

interesting feature of the stamp, obvious from a cursory look at Fig. 1, is that the bare stamp is totally devoid of any indication of denomination. The dimensions of the design are 5.2 x 2.2 cm. and it is perforated at P10. According to an article in the Newsletter of The RSA Stamp Study Circle, the stamps were printed by Schlumber of Randburg, using an ink which could be recognised by the automatic cancelling and sorting machines. I

have verified that under a long wave UV lamp, the stamp is printed on a paper which shows a very strong white fluorescence around the edge of the design. The design itself exhibits a strong blue overall fluorescence.

In use, an article to be posted is weighed at the Post Office, whereupon the teller keys the information into a computer which then prints the value together with a barcode on to the stamp prior to delivering it. Fig. 2 illustrates the finished product.



Fig. 2 With value and barcode

At the post offices where the stamps were on offer, a brief questionnaire pro forma was made available, in order to obtain feedback from the users. The six simple questions were

Do you like the look of the stamp?

Do you prefer it to conventional stamps?

Was the system convenient to use?

Do you like the idea of having only one stamp to cover the postage of letters and parcels?

Do you think there is room for improvement on this stamp?

This attempt to judge how a new stamp or similar product is received by the public must be nearly unique.

My understanding of the usefulness of a "Standard Value" stamp (Fig. 3.) is that it avoids the necessity of printing a stamp with a new denomination each time the standard postage rate changes. This prompts the question that, since the stamp is to be used there and then, kitted up with any denomination on demand, what is the use of a "Standard Postage" option?

Finally, just to prove that these stamps actually are in use, Fig. 4 is included, extracted from a recent letter addressed to me.



Fig. 3 Standard Postage



Fig. 4 R4.00 Used stamp

In The Philatelic Press

Setempe

I have received the latest edition of "Setempe", the South African Post Office philatelic magazine. Vol. 9 No. 1 Jan to June 2004. This publication started off life as a bi-monthly, then quarterly and now it appears to be bi-yearly! Very colourful issue with news on the new South African issues. An interesting note about the issue of a reprinted Big Five self-adhesive booklet. This apparently has to date not been seen by anybody yet! An updated listing of the 7th Definitives is also published.

South African Stamp Study Circle May 2004

A useful article on the RSA First Definitive coil stamps appears in this issue as exhibited by the president at the AGM in May.

South West Africa Stamp Study Circle Newsletter April 2004

Some interesting items on postal history items, one of them from one of our members Tony Howgrave-Graham, as well.

South African World War II Study Group

I receive their newsletters which cover postal history of this period. Lots of interest that overlaps our field of interest. If anyone is interested in joining this group, which is free to overseas members, as they communicate via e-mail, please let me know.

South African Philatelist Vol 80:2 April 2004

This is the new all colour and re-vamped SAP. Personally I like the changes and is in keeping with the modern trends. Many items on thematics and not a lot about traditional philately. I have communicated with Alan Rose who is on the editorial board, and he would welcome contributions from our members. If you have anything you feel you need to share, please let him know. I am sure that if anything of interest in our publication catches his eye, he will be in contact.

RSA Stamp Study Group. Vol 23 July 2004

Info on a new Christmas Aerogramme dated 26.03.2004. The Post Office makes sure you get them in time for Christmas! An interesting set of photos of printing machines and perforators used for the production of the sheet issues of the sixth definitive stamps. Maybe someone can get us a set in colour?

If you see any interesting articles regarding the philately of South or South West Africa, please let me know or better still send me a copy!

Eddie Bridges.

Abell Trophy Competition 2004

Members, please note that this years competition will take place at the Carlisle meeting on the 25 th September 2004. The basic rules for this competition are as follows: (as printed in the Societies Constitution and Rules)

- The Abell Trophy competition is to be competed for annually. (alternates yearly between the London and Carlisle meetings)
- Entries to comprise of no more than 12 sheets of material appertaining to any aspect of Union/ Republic of South Africa. (currently a change to 9 pages is being considered)
- Members unable to attend the meetings may submit entries by post which should be received at least 7 days in advance of the competition. Postage to be paid both ways by the entrant. The sending should be insured, which should be sent to the Hon. Secretary less advised otherwise.
- Judging will be carried out by those members attending the meeting at which the competition is held. Judging will comprise of selection of three places and the entry obtaining the most "firsts" will be adjudged the winner. However, in the event of two or more entries having the same number of "firsts", then then "seconds" will be considered, should it still be a tie, then "thirds" will be considered, and taken for the final result.
- The trophy will be held by the winner for one year and a medal will also be presented to the winner.

So come on, lets see a large number of entries this year! Ed.

Archival Acrobatics (or the rape of our stamp heritage)

by Paul van Zeyl, SAPDA

“We will not tolerate abuse of the legacy of the country for commercial or personal gain.” These were the words that confronted many e-mail philatelists on 23 July. They were an important perspective-placing pointer on the theft of archival material from the StampWise archives on Church Square by Johan van Wyk, Philatelic Services’ Senior Manager. So we South Africans must take steps towards making this material difficult to sell and exhibit. Then we must take the steps needed to recover the material; and act in such a way that our archives will not be seen as happy hunting grounds for philatelic plunderers again.

Rumours and fact

The rumours first arose in March 2004. The story was that a retired Government Printer employee had “lifted” a few sheets of the 6th and 7th definitives from production runs to augment his pension; after retirement had offered these sheets to a number of stamp dealers; and had found a wholesaler.

SAPDA’s Executive Committee became aware of the situation, and called for a meeting with Philatelic Services. On 19 March, we agreed on a specific plan of action for the return of the material, and the “redemption” of dealers who had unthinkingly purchased the material from the reported wholesaler.

The basis of the agreement was:

- (i) Philatelic Services would investigate the matter internally in conjunction with the SA Post Office’s legal team. After this it would write a letter to SAPDA asking the Association to comment on their findings.
- (ii) SAPDA would then circulate this letter to all members asking them to report on any such material that had been offered to them, and by whom. This information would be regarded by Philatelic Services as part of a “redemption option”.
- (iii) An article would also be placed in “The SA Philatelist” by SAPDA’s Executive Committee to the effect that such material had been stolen.
- (iv) Philatelic Services would then be in a position to prosecute any SAPDA members who had handled the stolen material but had not availed themselves of the “redemption option”.

The matter was also raised at Federation’s Management Committee meeting on 7 May. It was reported that the Post Office’s legal team was still investigating the rumoured theft.

Then the 23 May a Philatelic Services’ “red alert” hit our computer screens. What stunned us was that the material had been taken from the archives that had been reported as having been “closed” in the previous issue of “Setempe”.

With the backing of hard fact, SAPDA forwarded the “red alert” nationally and internationally, amongst others to the IFSDA dealer network and to PTS in the UK. A British response was damning: this theft was seen as a “national disgrace”.

The SAPDA ExCo met again on 1 July and resolved to assist Philatelic Services in publicising the theft from OUR archives with a view to making the material unsellable. SAPDA is clear on the fact that we are part of South Africa’s philatelic being, and that we must be prepared to face the wrath of a few of our colleagues. More to the point, we have all agreed to a Code of Conduct; and so SAPDA’s ExCo has to enforce it.

The stolen material

According to Mr Van Wyk’s e-mail, fourteen large ledgers with commemorative and definitive stamps of the Republic of South Africa from 1993 to 2000 were stolen. Two ledgers also included earlier commemorative issues from 1979 to 1989, and miniature sheets for the period 1979 to 1982.

The material for 1993 to 2000 included imperforate proof sheets, proof sheets in uncut format (i.e. with horizontal and vertical gutters between both sheets), uncut coils (1981) and booklet proofs.

Sounds familiar to the material that was rumoured stolen from the Government Printer in March 2004?! Philatelic Services has informed us that this link is also being followed up.

Archival.....cont.

The RSA Stamp Study Group has taken the trouble to record details of uncut printer's sheets of both the commemorative and definitive issues in the StampWise archives in their newsletters from 1993. These may be important to confirm the "hot material" from a legal point of view. But these details are not so important to collectors, as any collector is able to identify these proofs and uncut sheets because they are so distinctive.

The uncut sheets (these are perforated) have the feature that they have "gutters" (see illus 1 and 2), i.e. a plain margin between the stamps, both horizontally and vertically. The proofs have the feature that they are imperforate (see illustrations 3 and 4), but where they do not have gutters as well, these also have to be correlated to the period specified by Philatelic Services in their announcement. This means they must be commemoratives between 1979 to 1989 and 1993 to 2000; and definitives in 1981 (the coils) and 1993 to 2000. Two local auction houses have already featured some of these items in their auction catalogues. Resulting client phone calls to me tell me our collectors will not be fooled into buying them!

Your reaction

So you're inclined to throw up your hands in horror! It's a nice but inadequate response.

SAPDA asks its members to inform its President, Mr Tony Ferreira, of transactions undertaken at fwc@uskonet.com. This objective hereof is to both assist Philatelic Services in its investigations and to assist us in holding hearings in terms of our Code of Conduct. We also want to repeat Mr Van Wyk's appeal to anybody who has any information in regard to the theft to contact Insp Cronje of the SA Police Services at 082 335 2329 or himself at (012) 845-2901 or 082-557 4242.

Philately - our business and your hobby - can only flourish in an "utmost good faith" environment. We all have a part to play in this regard.

Members in the News

Wicks Medal 2002

Our congratulations go to Giovanni Palazzo as the recipient of the Wicks Medal for 2002. The Editorial panel decided that the article Giovanni submitted on the Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa, published in the Apr/June 2002 issue of *The Springbok* was a worthy winner of the medal. This article covered the usage of the Colonies, Transvaal and OFS revenue stamps during the "Inter-provincial period". Some original research which added to the fund of knowledge of these stamps was well received. Let's see some more articles on this subject, Giovanni. **Ed.**

Giovanni receiving the Wicks Medal at the Carlisle meeting on the 27th March 2004.



Wanted !

We are still looking for a representative in South Africa to represent members and the Society in this country and to facilitate payments and possibly distribution of material. This position will not take a lot of time but will help make the Society run a little easier in this country. If you feel you could take on this small task for the SACS, please let Chris Oliver or Eddie Bridges know.

Reciprocity Journals / Newsletters

We have established reciprocity arrangements with the following societies for their Newsletters/Journals. These will also be a source of articles if something of interest is seen for our membership.

South African World War II Study Group
The South African Stamp Study Circle
South West Africa Stamp Study Group
Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa
Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika
RSA Study Group
The Postmark Society

Johannesburg South Africa
South Africa
South Africa
USA
The Netherlands
South Africa
South Africa



RAND STAMPS
for a gold mine of treasures
within the totality of philately*
e-Mail: paulvz@mweb.co.za
Tel: +44 27 12 329 2464
Fax: +44 27 12 329 3157
No need to trek, just use
contact details if you want
Paul van Zeyl
to make you an offer on any of
your "gems"

*Totality of philately = stamps, postal history & stationery, postmarks, postcards, documents and literature

Membership News

We welcome the following members to the Society:

R.A. Chilton [1079] of Dolgellau, Gwynedd
Peter Eagles [1080] of Upottery, Devonshire
Martin Appleby [1081] of Streatham Hill, London.

It is with sadness that we report the death of our member, Mr G.F. James [455] in December 2003.

Our sympathies also go to our member Mick Edge [952] who lost his wife earlier this year.

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. You may also use this forum to request information, items etc.

3d Black and Red

Bas Payne and your editor got their lines crossed, with the result that the article on the London printings of the 3d black and red was published before Bas had finalised the article and done some final checking. He was also waiting for some feedback from Mike Tonking.

Humble apologies.

Bas writes, "Fortunately no great harm has been done-the basics in it still stand (i.e. only two imprint block type s and so one two plate plate), though there is one embarrassing uncorrected error (in the fifth line of the table, the red guide dot should be above the U of SURREY and not the U of BRADBURY). The most embarrassing thing is that various people, especially Mike Tonking and John Philpott, have helped with comments and material, and they will be a bit surprised to see it published without including their contributions or thanking them. *Sincere apologies to all concerned. Ed.*

Quite a bit of new information has emerged over the past three months-evidence that the 3d plate had two states, the first without the inter-pane guideline, the second with the guideline added (constant flaws in L 10/6 confirm that it's the same plate); also information about events in 1925 and 1926 which shed more light on what happened. Essentially it's clear that they went ahead with the 2d in 1925, hoping to issue it on 1 January 1926 together with the 1/2d, 1d and 4d, and had 8 million in stock by early 1926, but didn't issue it then partly because they were not happy with the registration problems, and partly because they had a huge surplus of the 2d Kings Head. The 3d design was still undecided at the end of 1925; so presumably they were already very aware of the problems caused by the 4-pane plate in the 2d, and went for the 2-pane format instead; the higher values probably came next, and probably had 2-pane plates with guidelines from the start-they seem to have been learning on the job. Presumably the best thing to do at this point is wait to see what emerges in response to the published note, then to revise it and publish a new version.

As can be seen this article was a bit premature. Once all the data is checked, we will publish the full story. I was a little eager to get an interesting subject published. Ed.

Responses to the article on the 3d black and red....

Jack Hagger writes: In an article which appeared in *The Springbok* of Apr/June 2004 by Sebastian Payne, he points out that in the Handbook I wrote that the London Pictorial 3d stamp was printed in four pane sheets. With the knowledge that I had that time this was almost certainly the case. One found bottom margin pieces with the gutter still attached which did or did not have the vertical perforator guideline. It was only afterwards that I was able to examine a complete pane with the gutter still attached that I began to have my doubts and after finding that there were only two types of inscription pairs I concluded that production could only have been in two pane sheets and that pieces which did not have the guideline had been printed before it had been etched into the foot of the gutter. I felt that it was not for me to expose my mistake for with so many seekers someone would find it eventually, and I have not been wrong.

S.J. Hagger RDPSA

Nicholas Arrow writes... Concerning the 1925 Government Experimental Air Service, a special flight cachet was introduced to confirm passage of the item by air. The one used in Durban rapidly deteriorated, due to the use of a black ink pad which adversely affected the rubber of the flight cachet by softening and spreading of the date and outer ring. An obvious example is enclosed (fig. 1), showing the use of the cachet in a very damaged condition. We are told moreover that the damaged flight cachet was replaced by a new, metal flight cachet, of smaller dimensions. No problem, but how come the second item I enclose (fig. 2), which shows the Durban flight cachet of the 2nd April, in apparently clear and excellent condition?

Three things occur to me:-

1. The flight cachet was not applied in Durban for some reason, and was applied after the event as it were in Cape Town-faintly possible, but unlikely, I would have thought.
2. As an experiment, someone cut off the damaged bits, but I am sure that such an event would have been noted by now if it had happened.
3. The whole thing is a rather elaborate forgery, although I think that the stamps at least are genuine-the Durban postmark looks too good to be true, but I am no expert on postmarks, and whether a postmark of this layout was available in Durban in 1925 is something way outside my own knowledge, and if it is a forgery, why not postmark the definitive stamp as well?
(illustrations on the next page)

Another query may be just nit-picking in respect of a reference book which to me makes good quality nonsense. Referring to the "Our Day" Red Cross aerial mail, Wyndham refers to the 2nd flight made in Cape Town on the 24th October 1918:

"On the 24th October it was announced that the aerial

continued on next page

Members Queries continued...

post would be resumed" and that there would be a second flight on the 26th October. He goes on to say that "Owing to the disorganised state of the Post Office as a result of the influenza epidemic, several cards posted prior to the 24th October were delivered in the normal way and not flown".

My point is that if there was no announcement until the 24th October, it was inevitable that cards posted before that date would not be flown, because no one could have known that there was to be a second flight! Or is there something that I have missed here?

My third query concerns the 1918 item (fig. 3). For a start, how much Registered mail was carried on any of the "Our Day" flights? Does anyone have

The slightest idea? I have not heard of any others, so I think it must be pretty scarce.

Secondly, Putzel's Encyclopaedia of Postmarks says that the Davel Post Office was "transferred to Rail 1.12.1913" and that the Davel Rail/Station Post Office was open from 1.12.1913, and appears to have been known alternatively as Davel Rail or Davel Station before being transferred to "Davel" in 1920. However, does this mean that the Postmark on the item is an old Davel Postmark, or did the Rail/Station not have those words in the canceller? Or am I barking up the wrong tree in respect of a subject about which I admit I know very little.



Fig. 1

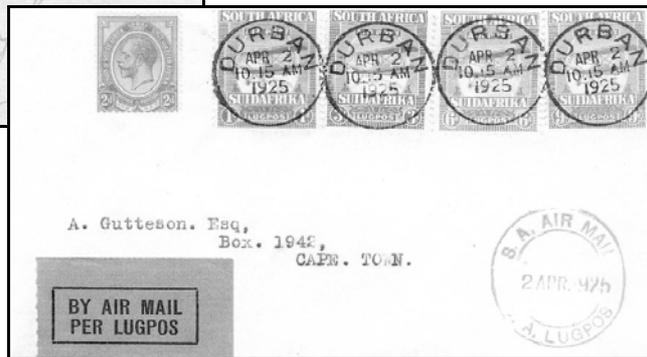


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Plating, Officials, UHB 099, Set 20

1 ½d with Diacresis

R. W. Hisey

No plating information on this issue (SACC #26ba) is given in the Handbook (The medium size 1½d with diacresis). Recently I was fortunate enough to obtain a block of 9 and a block of 46, which has made at least partial plating possible. According to the handbook, only left hand half-sheets were used, comprising 120 stamps each.

The plating diagram below shows the information for 57 positions. The shaded area signifies areas that I have not seen. Hopefully some of our members can add to this information.

'Long' English/Afrikaans means 15/16.5 mm as in most of the Official stamps, and short means 14/15.5mm respectively. The 'short' setting is associated with those slugs with a diacresis in the Afrikaans word. Raised and dropped are used as in the Handbook.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2	1								
2	2	1								
3	2	1								
4	2									
5										
6										
7										
8	1,2									
9	2,3								4	
10							5			2
11					5					
12	2									

Set 20, No. O99, 11/2d Varieties

Variety	Description
1	No diacresis, long Afrikaans
2	Long English
3	Broken 'L' English
4	Raised English
5	Dropped English

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. We are aiming to publish as close to the beginning of the quarter as possible. Please let me have your input. I am also looking for a few feature articles to keep on standby. I am particularly keen to receive studies on issues, commemoratives or definitive series of the Union or Republican period.

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

Issue 4 Oct/Dec 2004 **10 Sept. 2004**

Issue 1 Jan/Mar 2005 **10 Dec. 2005**

Issue 2 Apr/May 2005 **Mid Mar. 2005**

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.**

Registration Marks Of S.W.A.

By Tony Howgrave-Graham

Following a query by Frank Walton in the SWA Study Group Newsletter it was suggested that the registration marks of SWA was an area that had been poorly researched. No one person is likely to have access to sufficient material to give anything but guestimates as to the introduction of various methods at various offices. The aim of this article is to invite collectors to forward information from their own covers so that a more detailed picture may be built up.

Registration involves recording a letter, charging a fee, marking the site of origin and indicating on the letter that it is registered. Untraceable from a collector's point of view is the requirement for evidence of receipt by the addressee. The consistent features in this process are that the registration number is, for obvious reasons, in manuscript, that the charge is generally evidenced by postage stamps (or postal stationary) and that tradition demands the letter is marked with blue crossed lines (usually vertical & horizontal though I have seen one item where this was achieved diagonally – presumably by the sender). The cover is marked by an "R". This may be part of a cachet or label or PS envelope. Otherwise it may be by a handstamp or in manuscript. The place name of origin may be incorporated into a cachet or label, or contrived from handstamps or written in manuscript.

Registration during the German period was generally by the use of labels. The Union campaign started in September 1914 and control by the SA Field Post and Telegraph Corps continued until 30 Sept. 1915. Control then passed to civilian hands during the "occupation period" and continued through the "mandate period" from 1 Jan. 1923.

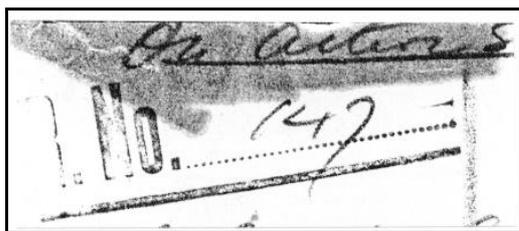


Fig. 1

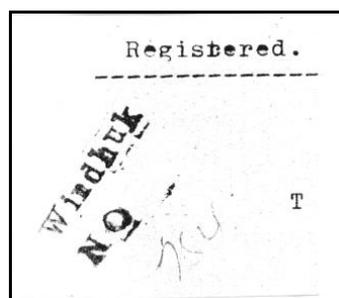


Fig. 2

Registered items from the campaign period are few and far between. The earliest I have has a cachet in deep violet (*Fig. 1*) used on 8 Jan. 1915 in conjunction with the rare ABPO4B cds. It is not certain where this office was so if anyone has further examples of this cachet which can be placed it would be of great interest. My next example is 14 Apr. 1915 from Swakopmund where the whole is in manuscript "R / @ FPO13 / 296". Windhuk produced a sort of "lettraset" attempt at a cachet (*Fig. 2*). I have 2 examples, both in blue and both dated 21.8.15. One originates from Klein Windhuk, the other is on an official envelope. One is numbered "254" and the other "266" so there are plenty more examples out there!

We know that Sturman (Director of Army Postal Services & later PMG) visited Windhoek on 20 June 1915 (just 1 month after its surrender) as he sent postcards to his wife and daughter. Presumably this was to organise postal services after the campaign and plan the handover to civilian control. Offices were clearly asked to provide a record of available cancellers – Swakopmund provided one (*Fig. 3*, reduced 50%) dated 25 Aug. 1915.

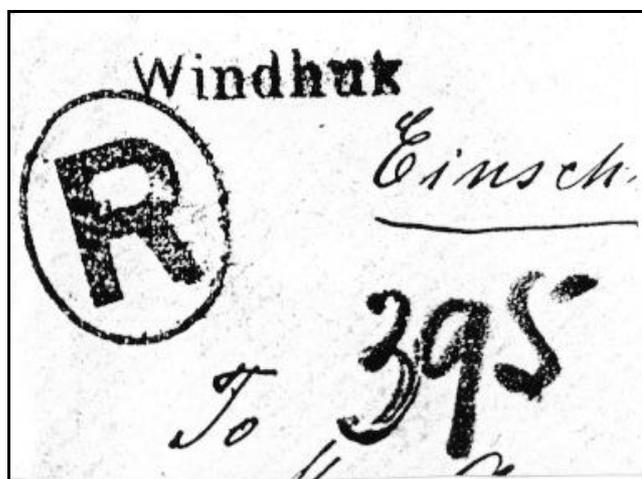


Fig. 3

The most interesting feature of this return is the existence of the standard type FPO 13 rectangle which never seems to have been used. It is signed H C Emmerson Sgt./Postmaster. From this article's point of view the interest is in the "R" in oval. These were of a standard type available at several offices. They do not appear, however, on similar returns from Grootfontein and Otavifontein. (Does anyone have more of these reports?). The "R" in oval must have been provided by the Army PO. They generally appear to have been used at relatively larger Offices. Windhoek appears to have had one but I've only seen it used once on 15 Jan 1916. Perhaps others of you have more examples.

Even at offices owning an "R" in oval its use does not appear to have been inevitable with some items completed in manuscript. Offices noted using one

are Aus (7.1.16), Gibeon (27.11.15,16.3.16), Grootfontein (3.2.18), Karibib (18.10.16,4.10.17) Keetmanshoop (17.1.16), Luderitzbucht (26.11.15 to 11.8.17), Mariental (22&3.8.19), Omaruru (28.5.19 to 10.2.20), Outjo (20.4 to 10.11.16), Seeheim (24.7.16), Swakopmund (19.3.17 to 28.1.18), Tsumeb (5.11.18 – 12.4.19), Warmbad (26.7.16) and Windhoek (15.1.16). I show the Windhoek example (Fig.4) which is in deep violet. An example is also shown on a return from Gobabis dated Oct 1919. The use of these handstamps appears to have continued into 1920. I'm sure collectors will have many more examples, probably from some different offices and certainly with different dates and I should be interested to know how many Windhoek examples are out there.

The use of old German labels is collectable stuff. I've only seen them used at 4 offices and nearly all in 1916. The "Deutsch" may, or may not, be obliterated. The three named offices are Swakopmund (Fig.5 – 17.4.16 and I have seen an example used late in May 1919 with "Deutsch" obliterated), Windhuk (Fig.6, 22.4.16 – also seen in 1916 with "Deutsch" obliterated) and Keetmanshoop (Fig.7, 23.10.16 with "Deutsch" obliterated). The 4th office is Otjiwarongo which had labels which were imperf at top and bottom and unnamed and without GSWA. I show an example from 1906 (Fig.8) with the wanderstempel handstamp and another (Fig.9) used on 18.5.16 (ex Putzel) with a different handstamp.

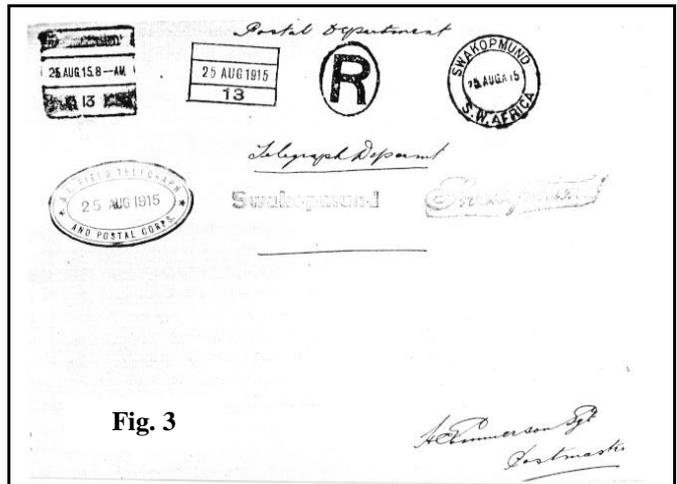


Fig. 3

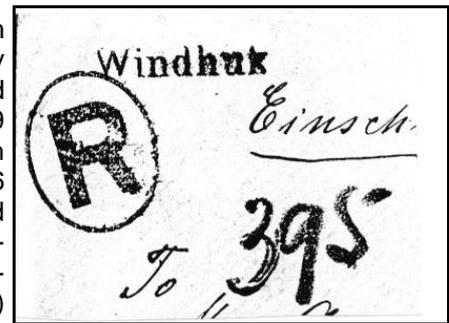


Fig. 4

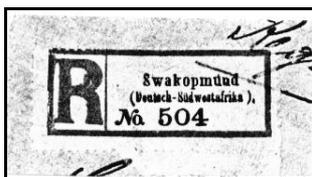


Fig. 5

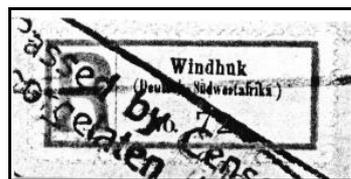


Fig. 6

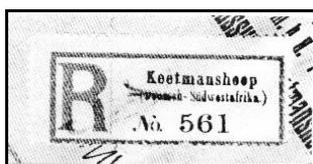


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

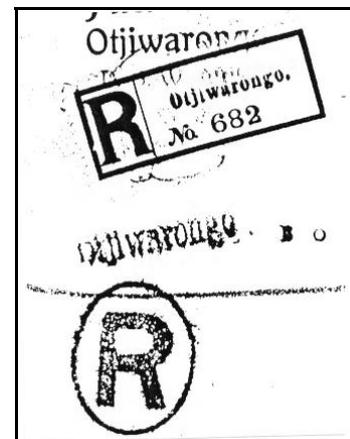


Fig. 9

Next for consideration in the occupation period are the registered postal stationary envelopes. They were of course entirely valid throughout but it is unclear whether they were available etc. They appear to be relatively scarce early in the period. The earliest example I have is 2 Dec 1916 at Tsumeb. It would again be interesting to know how many examples collectors have from what dates. Numbers would suggest that they were probably available etc from 1918/19. The overprinted mandate period postal stationary was available from January 1923.

Windhuk may be worth a separate mention. As I say I have only one example of the "R" in oval. This may be because a rubber cachet (Fig.10 – shown here 10.4.17 in bright green) was in use during 1916-19. Putzel shows it 24.10.16 on a cover to Neuheusis. It wore badly (Fig.11 – 17.8.18 in black) and I have an even more battered example 25.7.19. This covers the period when the "R" in oval was most in use. Possibly because of the damage to the rubber cachet I find an unusual intaglio "R" (Fig.12) used at Windhuk on 19.6.19. I have also seen two manuscript "R"s though it's not clear whether a postal official or the sender put them on.

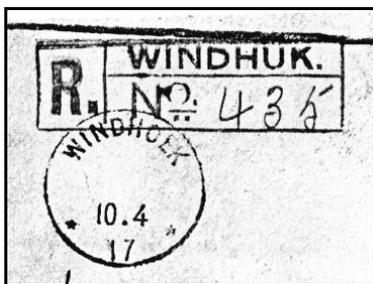


Fig. 10

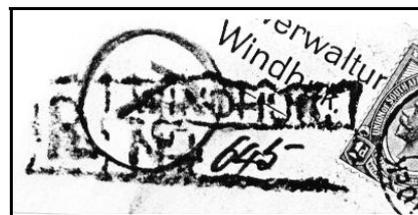


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

Metal cachets started to be used in the early 1920's at a number of offices. One appears on the Outjo return of available cancels dated 27.6.21 (Fig.13). The earliest used examples I've seen are from Windhoek, 26.7.21 (Fig.14), Tsumeb 18.8.21 and Otavi, 6.4.22 (Fig.15). Similar cachets replaced some as shown by Windhoek in different lettering on 15.6.27 (Fig.16) and 24.7.34 (Fig.17). I've seen very similar cachets also used at Aus, Bethanie, Gibeon, Gobabis, Grootfontein, Kalkfeld, Kalkfontein/South, Karibib, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, Maltahohe, Okahandja, Omaruru, Otjiwarongo, Rehoboth, Usakos, Walvis Bay and Warmbad.

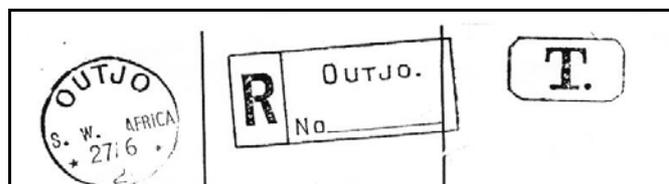


Fig. 13

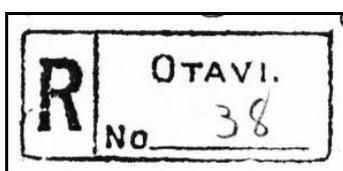


Fig. 14

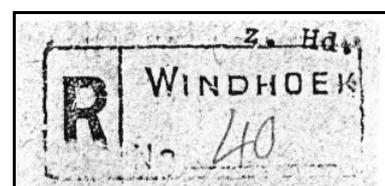


Fig. 15

Many of these are in the mandate period and I'm sure collectors will have many other examples and we could compile a list of offices and earliest dates if people are interested. Larger metal or rubber cachets appeared later at many offices including small ones such as the Ham River shown in Putzel. Whilst on cachets Kolmanskop is interesting with the 1st version misspelled without the "S" (*Fig.18*, here in red-violet 4.1.26). The corrected spelling (*Fig.19*) appeared shortly afterwards, generally in black as here, 19.11.28. Putzel illustrates a contrived cachet for Swakopmund (*Fig.20*) but doesn't date it. A rather similar one exists for Seeis (*Fig.21*, 4.10.32) but it doesn't seem to have lasted long as I have an entirely manuscript version dated 5.4.33 (*Fig.22*).

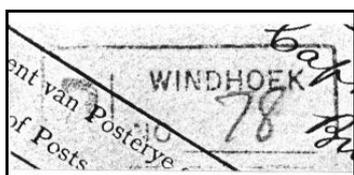


Fig. 16

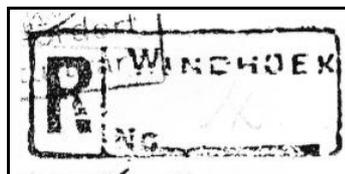


Fig. 17

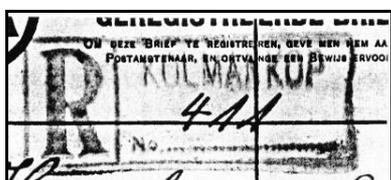


Fig. 18

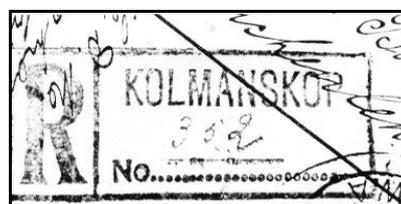


Fig. 19

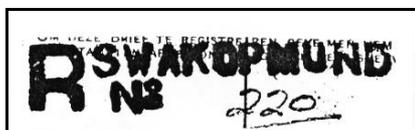


Fig. 20

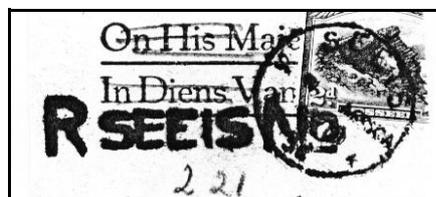


Fig. 21

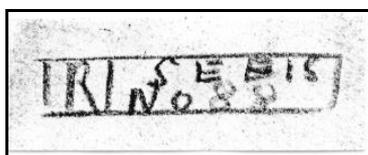


Fig. 22

Windhoek also had various cancellers associated with registration, eg:- B3 (the rare oval ABPO6) and B9 after March 1916. B11 (*Fig.23*) & B12, the "RLS" rubber handstamps don't appear to have been used much as cancellers. The example shown is a transit stamp on an unregistered letter from Klein Windhoek to Bern 9.12.16. The metal "RLS" handstamps (*Figs.24&25*) were used as cancellers but the handroller (*Fig.26*) was used as a receipt stamp.

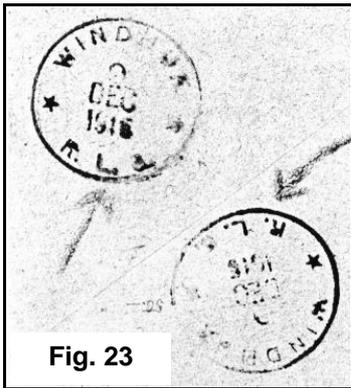


Fig. 23



Fig. 24

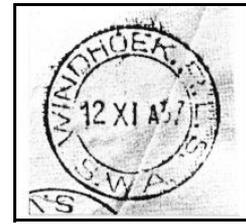


Fig. 25

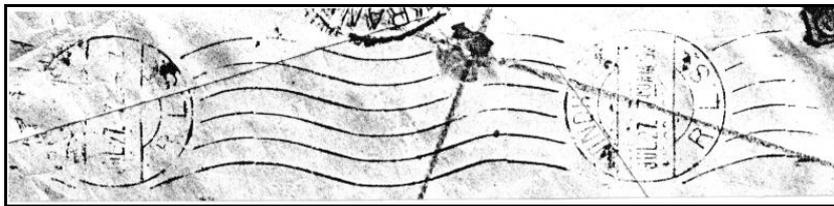


Fig. 25

We now come to the method of recording the post office of origin of the registered item. This was by use of a town handstamp, a standard canceller or by manuscript. The origin of the town handstamps will probably largely remain obscure. Framed ones rather lent themselves to registration by dint of looking a bit like a cachet. Putzel illustrates Gibeon in a circle used 27.11.15 and in a triangle 16.3.16. I show this on an official registered cover 10.4.17 (Fig.27), yet by 28.5.18 it appears to have reverted to using manuscript (Fig.28). Luderitzbucht had a larger equilateral triangle and Keetmanshoop had a rectangle (Fig.29, here 17.1.16).

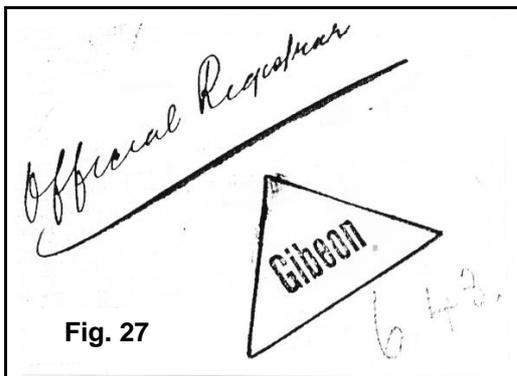


Fig. 27

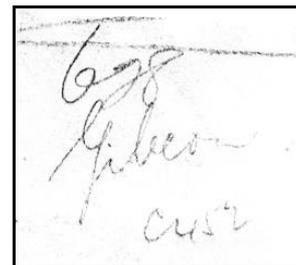


Fig. 28

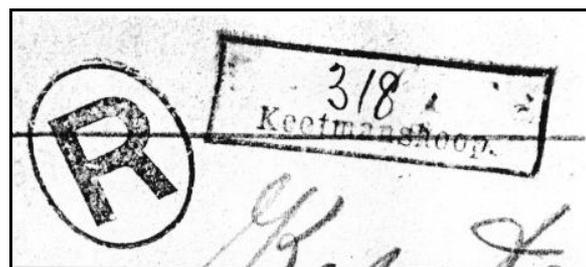


Fig. 29

I will just list some of the straight line handstamps – I'm sure collectors will be able to come up with many more:- Grootfontein *Fig.30* (3.2.18); Luderitzbucht *Fig.31* (26.11.15, 18.1.16, 22.4.17*, 28.12.17), *Fig.32* (3.2.18), *Fig.33* (19.6.16); Okahandja *Fig.34* (19.6.16); Omaruru *Fig.35* (ms 14.11.18), *Fig.36* (23.5.19), *Fig.37* (29.6.16), *Fig.38* (10.2.20), *Fig.39* (28.8.20); Otavi *Fig.40* (21.7.20); Otjiwarongo *Fig.41* (19.10.32, 10.11.37); Outjo *Fig.42* (Putzel B1, 9.2.16), *Fig.43* (17.7.16, 28.11.16*); Swakopmund *Fig.44* (19.8.17), *Fig.45* (28.1.18), *Fig.46* (13.6.18 – interesting as it is the handstamp listed in the Aug.'15 return, *Fig.3*, under the "Telegraph Department"); Tsumeb *Fig.47* (in black 2.12.16 and in blue 17.4.19*), *Fig.48* (in blue 5.11.18); Warmbad *Fig.49* (26.7.16); Walfisch Bay *Fig.50* (?1915, ex Putzel), Walvis Bay *Fig.51* (Dec.'20); Windhuk (see also *Figs 2&4*), *Fig.52* (27.10.16), *Fig.53* (16.3.28). Neuheusis also used Putzel B2 as a receipt stamp for registered mail, *Fig.54* (2.9.16, 24.10.16*).

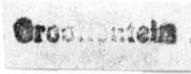


Fig.30



Fig.31



Fig.32

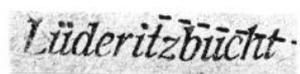


Fig.33



Fig.34



Fig.35



Fig.36



Fig.37



Fig.38



Fig.39



Fig.40



Fig.41

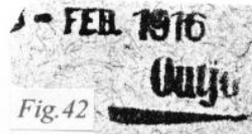


Fig.42



Fig.43



Fig.44



Fig.45



Fig.46



Fig.47

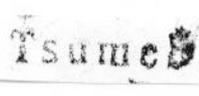


Fig.48

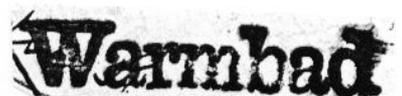


Fig.49



Fig.50

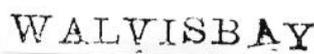


Fig.51



Fig.52

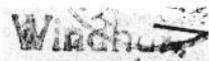


Fig.53

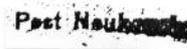


Fig.54

Turning to the use of date stamps – it is much less common than one might expect. I've seen a Blumefelde cover 11.6.22 and one from Ekuja 8.3.29, but no others.

Manuscript, on the other hand, is very common. Several of the relatively larger offices seem to have had no other mechanism for registration in the early periods and several smaller offices had to continue with manuscript until well into the mandate period. I think tracking every manuscript hand might just be a bit beyond me and might just be lacking the vitality and interest that keeps our hobby going! However, some items may be interesting from a date, or other, point of view. I show a few examples with a "P.O.A Seeheim / 24.7.16" with an "R.Francis" signature, Klein Windhoek 20.9.16, Kalkrand 25.7.32 and Kiries West 2.7.36 (Figs 55-8) and finally I show a couple of oddities from Putzel (Fig.59, 17.4.40 & Fig.60, 5.11.52).

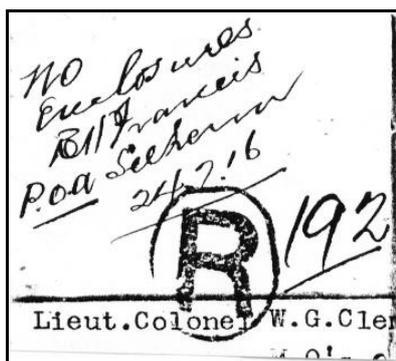


Fig. 55

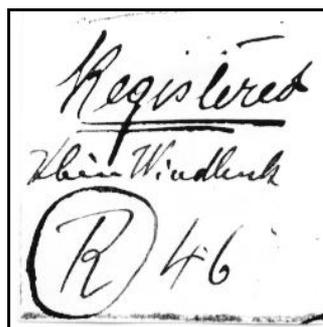


Fig. 56

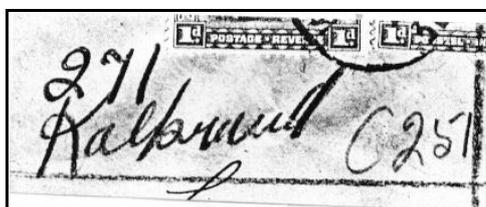


Fig. 57

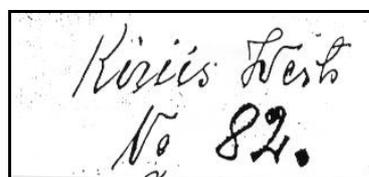


Fig. 58



Fig. 59

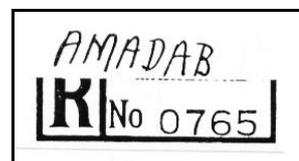


Fig. 60

So, finally, the appeal. Please have a look through your registered covers and forward on details – preferably photocopies of the whole item if it's an interesting one. If I get enough of interest I will try and produce a rather more authoritative article.

Committee Reports



Chairman's Report John Shaw London Meeting – February 2004

This was the first, and possibly the last, SACS meeting to be held at the refurbished British Philatelic Trust premises at Charterhouse Street. Sadly, the new small meeting room is far too small for our London meetings and the large meeting room can be hired only for the whole day, and at a cost that is uneconomic for our quite small afternoon gatherings. Fortunately our secretary, Christopher Oliver, has been able to arrange alternative accommodation, both for the short term and long term and details of this will appear elsewhere in the journal. However, this meeting was held in very pleasant new surroundings and proved to be most enjoyable.

Unfortunately our president, RDA, could not be with us and this was a shame, because Fred Clark, leading the displays had used RDA's postage due publication as the basis for his display and was particularly indebted both to him and to Jan Stolk, from our sister Society in the Netherlands (and also a member of SACS) for providing so much important information. Fred explained that in order to understand the postage due markings, one needed to understand the postage due system and the way in which the systems changed over time. Obviously ignoring the pre-1874 systems (ie before the formation of the UPU), Fred explained the protocols of the systems from 1874 to the present day and these systems are:

1. The Bern System – applied from 1st July 1875
2. The Paris System – applied from 1st April 1879
3. The Rome System – applied from 1st October 1907
4. The Madrid System – applied from 1st January 1922
5. The Stockholm System – applied from 1st October 1925
6. The Vienna System – applied from 1st January 1966
7. The Lausanne System – applied from 1st January 1977

In the Bern System, the despatch office registers the actual amount of postage paid on the letter in centimes of the Latin Monetary Union. The **receiving office** then calculates what should have been paid in the receiving country, in centimes, doubles this amount and then deducts the postage already paid. The difference is then converted to local currency to form the postage due to be paid. This was quickly replaced by the Paris System where the **despatch office** calculated the deficiency in centimes which the receiving office then doubles this then converts it to the local currency postage due. In the Rome System, operating during the Union period, the despatch office registers double the deficiency in centimes that the receiving office then converts to local currency postage due.

The Madrid System was identical save that the minimum deficiency of 30 centimes had to be paid, this fact explaining the issue of the 1½d postage due labels for the Union (and indeed the UK). The Stockholm System was the same, except that the deficiency was shown in UPU centimes, now based upon a gold standard, and frequently referred to as "gold centimes".

The Vienna System changed everything! Now the despatch office marks the letter according to a formula: **2a/b**, where **a** is the deficiency and **b** is the country of despatch basic rate for overseas postage. The receiving office then multiplies **2a/b** by **c**, the receiving country's rate for overseas mail. The Lausanne System is similar except that the formula is now **a/b x c + p** where **p** is a fixed amount decided by the receiving country and within UPU regulations.

With this comprehensive explanation, Fred then showed a wonderful array of these markings, as applied to the Union period and from reference to RDA's book, there appeared to be no gaps. The Vienna and Lausanne formula markings appeared especially interesting. There were some really nice covers and exotic destinations, indicating how deeply one can probe into areas normally off the beaten track of Union philately. Chris Oliver, Brian Trotter and John Shaw then each showed just a few items, including surcharged 1920 bisect mail and 1929 commercial airmail, but this was very much Fred's day and all due credit to him for travelling from Derby to give us this fine display.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ THE MISSING PERF.

○

○ What happened to the perforation?

If it's missing,

○ tell me true?

○ Why pay dearly for the nothing?

○ Why would you?

○ Philatelists from far and near

○ come searching, crying
hear! hear!

I found the perf
at last!

A drunkard walking by
asked slowly, sheepishly
What!

You found the whole that never was?

Lalien Cilliers, As published in the Vrystaat 81 Catalogue

Hon. Secretary/Hon. Membership Secretary

Chris Oliver

We are very pleased that Jack Hagger has agreed to become a honorary life member of the Society and wish him well for his 100th birthday. (see details elsewhere in this issue)

We need more members. If any members have colleagues who may be interested in joining, please urge them to do so.

Will the members who have not renewed their membership for 2004 please do so.

The editorial panel has decided to award the 2003 Wicks Medal to Prof. Franz Heymann who held the editorial helm for a number of years and who has now been released to produce interesting items for The Springbok in his own right. The award will be made at the Carlisle meeting in September.

At Carlisle on 25th September 2004 the annual competition for the Abell Trophy is being held. Nine sheets of material appertaining to any aspect of the Union / Republic of South Africa. To be judged by those present at the meeting. If you wish to submit an entry and are not attending please advise the Secretary, at least, by 15th September. He will determine the best method of getting the entry, which must be insured, to the venue. If posted the postage must be paid both ways by the entrant. We do need more entries for this competition.

A country meeting is to be held at Arbury, Cambridge on Saturday 9th October 2004 at 2.30pm. Please support this if you can. It is at the same venue as the monthly stamp fair organised by Brian Downham so come early and see what the dealers have to offer.

If members would like to see a country meeting elsewhere in the U.K. and feel that this would attract at least six members please advise me.

The South African Collectors' Society has booked a table for Midpex on 25th June 2005. We will need members to help "man the stand" so please put this date in your diary.

Planning ahead for the Basildon 2004 show and meeting. We need **VOLUNTEERS** to man our stand for sessions of about 45 minutes over both days. Early birds can choose the time to suit their itinerary. Can I also have an idea on those who can give a two frame display (18 pages) for our meeting on Sunday morning.

LONDON MEETINGS

You all know about the Great Trek. The little trek started in Lambeth. then went to the B.P.T. in Charterhouse Street, EC1. .

Now the British Philatelic Trust is not able to offer us the same accommodation.

We will be meeting, on 4th September, upstairs at The Calthorpe Arms, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 near Wren Street.

On 5th February and 16th April 2005 at 14.00hrs we meet in the Library of the Swedish Church in Harcourt Street, Marylebone, London W1H 2BD. near to Edgware Road and Marylebone tube stations. Further meetings are planned here but await confirmation. ***It is essential to ring the bell for Kontor or Lasrum and ask for the philatelic meeting in the library, as there will be another philatelic meeting at the church on 5th February.***

For additional location details please contact the Secretary.

The Cover Packet Superintendent

Max Whitlock

Packets are in circulation. If you are not on the circulation list and would like to be, please let Max know.

Hon. Auctioneer

&

Packets Exchange Superintendent

Bill Branney

Bill is always on the lookout for material for the Society auctions.

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

The library is there for the members. Make use of it. Ask John and he will send you the book or books you would like to look at. All it costs is the postage both ways. 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***

Report on the Carlisle meeting March 2004

By Malcolm Ridsdale

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 27th March 2004

Attendees – 15 Members

Apologies – Patrick Williams, Ray Granville-Jones, Brian Carter and David McDonald

Meeting opened with Godfrey Mellor in the Chair who welcomed everybody and especially Chris Oliver who has taken over from Roy Ross as Secretary at just after 10.00am. The members present then reflected for a few moments in silence in recognition of the death of two members, Alan Caines and Bill Fincham.

Items through the Chair

The joint meeting with the Rhodesia Study Circle in November had gone well. Report should be in the next issue of The Springbok. (*published in Issue 2 Ed.*)

A joint South Africa Collectors meeting had been held at Leamington Spa on the 21st – 23rd November. This had been a very successful event and will be repeated on the 6th – 7th November 2004 also in Leamington Spa. Tony Howgrave – Graham was awarded the Tony Chiltern Trophy at the meeting for his superb display of Kings Heads. The trophy was presented by Brian Trotter, last year's winner and a recently appointed trustee of the British Philatelic Trust.

Eddie Bridges was congratulated for his first edition of The Springbok. Special thanks to Franz Heymann for all his hard work as the previous editor.

Autumn meeting of SACS would be 25th September 2004 at the County Hotel, Carlisle.

Stampex dates for 2005
23rd – 27th February and 14th – 18th September

Godfrey Mellor then asked Chris Oliver to present Giovanni Palazzo with the "Wicks Medal" in recognition for his article on Revenue Stamps of the Union, which was voted the best in the 2002 issues of The Springbok. Members present extended their congratulations.

Other Officer Reports

Bill Branney

Insurance for packet – will accept post office receipt as proof of sending but have not confirmed in writing. Better still to get a Certificate of Posting.

Godfrey Mellor commented that the North West Federation packet insurance had gone up from £200 to £1200. Bill Branney replied that our insurance was £221 having gone up about 3%.

Has lost a packet somewhere along the line, however feels the phoning ahead is generally working well.

Max Whitlock

Three packets in circulation. Some problem with packets getting lost at various times and having to redo the photocopying to keep the process going. Doesn't need the phone ahead for the circulation of the packet but does for sending material out.

Is taking time to put material together but has some good material to get around. Has had some difficulty when material is not priced, it gives him more work and delays the packet. However would rather have this than no material.

Reiterated, "please read the letter" that accompanies the packet to make sure everybody follows due process.

SACC is due for issue during April. Max Whitlock has had 9 firm declarations of interest. Please let him know if further copies required.

There was a general discussion on the relationship of the £/Rand. It was felt that if you purchased material in either currency good material attracted full price whilst more common material was considerably less.

Eddie Bridges

Asked members to let him know if articles were being prepared for The Springbok and then he could plan to include them.

Hoped that small articles of interest would be forwarded to him as large articles could have a restrictive audience. He was hoping to make The Springbok attractive to the width of our membership. Was looking to mix themes and Union/Republic to give variety. Eric Hammond offered to find some curiosities for future editions.

Eddie Bridges commented that there was evidence of new member interest in South Africa and **The Springbok** is an important link.

Actively pursuing advertisers as long as they are members. Costs to advertisers approx £30/£40 a page but doesn't want to overwhelm the magazine. Would help to add perhaps colour without pushing up the cost of subscriptions.

Max Whitlock agreed to do the printing of the auction list.

continued on next page

Advised members that Brian Trotter had been awarded the Lee Medal by the Royal Philatelic Society London in November 2003 for his presentation Revenues of SA 1902 – 1930.

Brian Carter

No report. However, EB would like to look at early editions of The Springbok.

Chris Oliver

Reported that 24 members have not renewed yet. Membership levels at about 170/180 with one new member in March. Will include a coloured paper renewal note in the next Springbok. Next year it is suggested that there will be no receipts issued just a membership card. Is considering organising a banker in SA and USA to help the payment of fees in local currency.

Having a problem with the ABPS getting Secretary details into the handbook.

Correct Society details have been inserted in Stamp/Coin Mart and hoping for regular inclusion in Gibbons Stamp Monthly/ Stamp Magazine. We have an advert in Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue.

At the forthcoming Basildon fair the SACS will be joining up with other Southern African groups and putting together six frames on each table at a cost of £10 to each society. It will be interesting to see how this event compares to Chester.

At the London SACS it was suggested that Jack Hagger be given life membership of the society, as July will see his one-hundredth birthday an appropriate opportunity.

The society has booked to attend Midpex 2005 but there has been mixed reaction from the other SA societies. Boer War, Transvaal and Orange Free State are not going.

Chris Oliver is trying to pull together member lists to establish initial dates of membership. Max Whitlock will send lists that he has.

Chris Oliver felt that some of our rules need to be reconsidered and using The Springbok, members will be asked to make comments back through Eddie Bridges/Chris Oliver.

“Vera Trinder” have said they would have the latest SACC by mid May.

David Haig had brought along a copy of “Germania” which is the magazine of the German Society as an example of perhaps the way forward for **The Springbok**. Whilst it was an impressive looking magazine it is supported by a society of high numbers. Our more modest numbers, it was felt we may not wish to see substantial increases in

membership fees to move our magazine into this dimension.

Albert Moffat was experiencing difficulty in obtaining the more modern SA stamps particularly the higher values and commemoratives. There was agreement by a number of members around the table. He is also interested in any information any member may have of paper trials of the antelope definitives. EB suggested they were available at the Johannesburg Exhibition at the time of issue. There was also a view that SETEMPE gave detail of the paper trials (6th Def Issue) in one of their magazines. It was agreed that this looked like a potentially challenging area of study for collectors of the antelope definitives.

Giovanni Palazzo informed members that the current issue of SA Revenue stamps are to be phased out.

Malcolm Ridsdale thanked Godfrey Mellor for his well-received presentation on Union definitives at Northwich Philatelic Society.

Displays

In the afternoon five of the attending members put up a variety of displays.

Godfrey Mellor/Eddie Bridges both displayed the 1954 animal definitives. Included coil issues, watermark changes, varieties printed using different printing machines, serial number colour changes, stamp varieties particularly low values and mint sheets.

David Haig displayed modern military mail. Government issue envelopes from border and township duties with various regiments identified.

Eddie Bridges displayed Union booklet panes with surrounding advertising, Waterlow and Pretoria printings. He included specimen printings given to advertisers and economy strips with narrow Margins and tete-beche panes showing the make up of the booklets.

Chris Oliver also displayed booklets and included more modern examples with the plane and rhino issues. There were examples of cover varieties and proof issues.

Giovanni Palazzo displayed early revenues with perfins. They were mostly pre Union issues on and off documents with some from early period of the Union. Upright and sideways examples were on display and one document with CGH/OFS/Tvl revenue stamps with a Natal cancel.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.00pm

Apologies for the late inclusion of this report. Space in the last issue was limited Ed.

Southern African Societies Meeting

By Chris Oliver

On the afternoon of 28th February 2004 the Transvaal Study Circle arranged a meeting at Philatex by courtesy of the organizers, Chris Rainey & Trevor Davis to which all the Southern Africa Societies were invited. Chris Oliver was asked to chair the meeting.

Ten members of the societies attended. Apologies were given by others who were absent due to attendance at other meetings occurring at the same time.

The meeting commenced with a short informal discussion on the societies joint approach to certain events which would be taking place in the future.

The S.A.C.S. have booked a table and six frames at ABPS/ Basildon 2002 on 21st & 22nd November 2004 which will be shared with the other Southern Africa Societies except the Rhodesian P.S. who have made separate arrangements. The S.A.C.S. also have a meeting room booked for the morning of 22nd for an open meeting to which all are welcome.

Arrangements for the Convention at Leamington Spa are proceeding apace and attendance is expected to exceed that of the first convention, last year, as it was enjoyed by all who were there. Advise Brian Trotter or Eddie Bridges at an early juncture if you wish to attend on 6th / 7th November.

The S.A.C.S. have booked a table at Midpex in 2005. The Transvaal Study Circle would not be attending on this occasion.

During these discussions members of the Natal & Zululand Study Circle, who had completed their A.G.M. in extra quick time, joined the meeting.

It was agreed that at Philatex on March 2005 the Southern Africa Societies would try to book one room for the full day. Each Society would then determine its particular needs for A.G.M.'s or committee meetings which when programmed would leave residual time for a joint open meeting. This could be attended by more members as the conflict of meeting times would be reduced.

The meeting was then opened for members Displays:

John Dickson showed a glimpse of the postal history of the Lindsay Packet plying between the Cape and U.K. 1856 – 57. This included exceptionally good examples of the, so called and marked, Bristol Packet.

Alan Harley displayed Anglo Boer war humorous post cards with an interesting advertisement for chocolate on the reverse of a card depicting a map of the O.F.S. and Transvaal.

Jeff Woolgar showed some interesting postal cards produced by Sallo – Epstein of Johannesburg.

Chris Oliver presented some pictorial and other air letters of WWII.

The meeting concluded with thanks to those who had displayed material and to Jeff Woolgar for having arranged the meeting.

This report was also not included in the last issue of The Springbok due to space limitations. It is included here for sake of maintaining a record of the meetings. Ed.

Southern African Specialist Societies Meeting at Swinpex June 2004

By Jeff Woolgar

Nine members attended the afternoon annual meeting at Swindon on 12th June. Richard Stroud chaired the meeting and introduced the following members who gave displays:

John Philpot-Union of South Africa 1/- duty, an unusual arrangement of the Official/Offisieel over-prints.

Andrew Higson-Army Telegraphs in the Transvaal, 1900-02.

Alan Drysdall-Transvaal Revenue stamps used for Telegraphic purposes before 1899.

Eddie Bridges-South African WW2 correspondence of the brothers John and Ross Morum and early Union of South Africa Booklets Typograph and Rotogravure printings 1921-1941.

Richard Stroud-The Refugee/Concentration Camps in or administered by the Orange River Colony.

In closing the meeting Richard thanked all those who had attended and given displays and look forward to seeing everyone at Swinpex 2005-same place, same time on the 11th June next year.



Auction Scene

Forthcoming auctions

Southern Cape Philatelic Auctions-

George East
South Africa
Auction 104
Closing date: 28 Jul 2004

Stephan Welz/ Sotheby's

Rosebank Johannesburg
Closing date: 21 July 2004

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 or Tony know. Ed.

Auction Report Jan to June 2004

Tony Howgrave-Graham

"It's worth what someone will pay for it" – often heard but only true to an extent and certainly not a constant. I started the last report with some big lots from Harmers. Three unsold lots from this sale were re-offered in March. A rather boring box of covers which included 70 dull and philatelic interprovincial cards had its estimate reduced from £400 to £320 – it fetched £494 – more than its original estimate when unsold! A lot including 12 albums some of which featured RDA's 1st RSA definitives didn't sell in January at £250 – re-offered at £175 it made £223. Finally a lot of 47 SWA occupation period covers including 2 nice rubber cancels but otherwise mundane was, I thought, overestimated at £600 in January. Re-offered in March at £450 my interest was rekindled as it just about crept into my valuation at reserve. It sold for £588 – just about exactly its original estimate! The last auction report also described the Jeff Fine's collection of King's heads offered by Stephan Welz in March 2003. The unsolds from this reappeared at Harmers on 6 May. I had a quick look through thinking the estimates might be reduced – not a bit of it! – some had actually increased! They virtually all sold, virtually all well over estimate, some double and all surcharged 5% VAT (can someone explain the logic of this 5% imposed under regulations for "temporary importation from outside the EU" – it is at least kinder than the 17.5% it used to be but what is temporary about its importation if bought by someone in the UK?).



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 5

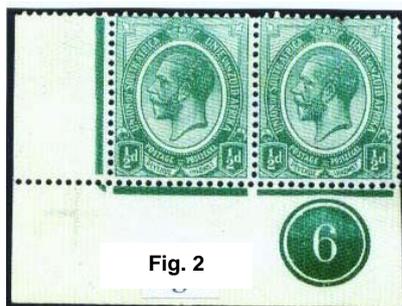


Fig. 2



Fig. 4

Auction report cont...

One sale that I can't believe is a 1d pair used at Taungs Station (*Fig. 1*). The left stamp is foxed at the edge and the e/v £100!! Quoted as "very rare by Putzel" the internet results say it sold for £100 – I remember a dealer priced copy of the same cancel on 2d which I thought rather steep at £4! Turning to better material a ½d plt.6 corner pair (*Fig.2*) with line perf made £395, a 1d plt. blk.6 with a good "flap print" (e/v £100) made £247. The 1½d sideways watermark, not handsome but unexplained and unique (*Fig.3*) sold for £1359.

Another surprise was the 1½d overprints on 1d (*Fig.4*). A mint vertical pair and "trial" used horizontal pair (left stamp only overprinted) made £741. A 2d vertical corner pair, the top stamp without watermark made £679, a 1/- die proof in black without annotation £309 and the 5/- specimen with the "purple nose" flaw (r.14/3) (*Fig.5*) double estimate at £469.

Talking of silly prices, how about silly estimates? I've not yet met an auction company that takes kindly to a suggestion of overpricing but one does have to take care – especially with postal history items. Take, for instance, an Aus POW cover (WW1 SWA). Philangles has offered one on several occasions for £150-175. Southampton offered one at £35! The latter sold for £40+ and the general price is up to about £50 – taking the initial premis – if someone pays £150 what is the item worth? – I would argue it's still about £50. Take also the 1916 £1 used. Cavendish sold one with one slightly short perf for £100 (3 March), Western had one at an e/v £120 and Gibbons had a damaged one at a "start price" of £140. They also had a 1913 6d with partially missing "Z" at a "start" of £42! Yorkshire Covers also offered a 1½d coil stamp on a commercial pc reserved at £30 and a Huguenot FDC at £25 (the same sold at Philatelic Friends for £14 in Feb.).

Talking of Philatelic Friends, I wish they would estimate lower and reduce the number repetitious and catalogue cluttering lots which remain largely unsold. Many lots are let go at two thirds estimate. The catalogue would be more interesting if streamlined and estimated lower and they could always protect with reserves. They do have interesting material in amongst the over-extensive lists of the very ordinary.

In the February sale a 1 Jan.1926 FDC with vertical pairs of ½d & 1d and 2 single 4d's made £160. The London 6d in a corner blk.24, um, with watermark inverted, made £900. The 1927 pictorial set, og, most perf 14, made a good price of £220 (ev £320!). The 5/- Gp.1, um, off centre, made £230 and an inscriptional pair of the same, lmm, 2 slightly short perfs at top, £170. The 1925 Air set on UPU presentation sheet folded through the middle (previously quoted unsold at Welz) also made a good price at £320. Turning to the unhyphenated roto a 1d pair with steel blue centres, lmm, made £46, the 2d indigo & violet, lmm, £150, 3d black & red, wmk up, fu, a surprising £38, the blue & blue arrow blk.4 with "shuttered window", £34, the 1/- with "twisted horn", wmk inv, lmm, £70, the 2/6 green & brown um pairs made £120, £130 & £160 & a lmm pair with wmk inverted made £44. In the hyphenated a ½d coil perf gutter strip of 4 made £24 and a 5/- wmk inverted, um, £85. Jipex ½d panes 5,7&8 with the wider spacing, fu, made an also surprising £36. In the LWEs the 3d top arrow blk.4, um, made £14 and the 4d or-brn with V2, um, £7. In the SWEs the 1/- SE pair with "bursting shell", um, made £46 & the 1/3 with V3, um, £20. In the screened hyphenated the ½d ex ls.21 in a blk.4 with the "bush tick" variety made an even more surprising £30 whilst the two cyl blocks of the same issue with "charcoal" centres, um, made £48. The 5/- yellow-green fu made £46 and an um control blk.4 (pane B) £120. A King's head 2d coil pair with "tail piece", um, made £60 and an um 2d booklet pane (2 sides trimmed) an again surprising £95! Amongst the Officials the 2d indigo & violet (SACC15a) made £42 og & £85 um. The 2/6 blue & brown "mixed fount" made £55 for a pair with short "official" & £100 for a pair with both words short, both were um. Finally the 1963-7 7½c wmk rt., um, made £9.

Still talking of silly prices, Spink had a fine "British Africa" sale on 25-6 March. Being Spink its main strength was pre-Union but there was some Union material. The 1924 £1 pale olive, lmm, made £276, a 1927 1d ship pair, left stamp imperf on 3 sides (*Fig.6*), og, £322 and the show piece 2d roto unhyphenated strip of 5 (*Fig.7*) with the top 2 stamps without frames (ex tiny trace on one) £2415 (ev £1000-1200). The really remarkable realisations, however, were for some of the booklet material. SAHB B3 (SGB1), stapled left, complete but with a damaged front cover (*Fig.8*) and all panes trimmed or imperf made £4025 (ev £2-2500)! 1927 tete-beche pairs, og, made £303 each for the ½d & 1d and the 1930 roto tete-beche in lmm marginal strips of 4 made £437 for the ½d and £483 for the 1d (this with a small tear in the selvage – I still don't understand why the 1d outdoes the ½d). The 1930 2/6 Firestone b/let (SAHB B8) and the 1931 3/- Smiths Cooperage (B9), both complete, interested me despite being estimated 60-70% catalogue. I put on what I thought would be securing bids but B8 fetched £1150 and B9 £1265, both well over full catalogue!

Auction report cont...

The 1937 "blank border" booklet (B11) made £322 and the rare green on buff "Dri-Foot" (B16) £1380. A complete set of 21 plated examples of the 1948 "Kirchoff Seeds" (B20) made £242.



Fig. 7



Fig. 6



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

There has been a large amount of early SWA on the market including some very fine material – Spink in March, Harmers 6 May and especially at Stephan Welz, 17 March. Here (& prices are approximate in £'s) the 1926-7 ovpts (SACC 75-80) in inscriptional blk.4 (half with 16.5mm spacing), bottom pairs um, made £492. A lovely bottom two rows of the 10/-, og, made £345 and the specimen set of 4, £125. The 1927-30 "SWA" ops had a complete right hand pane of the 1/- (Gp.II, plate unfortunately not quoted) with the missing stop on row 2/3 and various small stops. Its beauty was slightly marred by missing margin around the top right corner but it realised £1500. A 5/- inscriptional blk.8 made £210 and a similar 10/- block, £325. A non-control corner blk.4 of the 1/3 with the ovpt in blue (SACC 91c, unpriced) UM, made £600 and the £1 in a lovely bottom left control block of 12, £1100, in a margin to margin double row of 12 including the "missing stop" (r.3/4) £2200 and in a gutter blk.6 with missing jubilee line £570.

Also in this sale was some good SWA campaign material – the first for a while. A German pc from Windhuk in Feb.'15 made £150 (with another pc & map), a "Base Hospital" cachet (Luderitz) + unused pcs of a stretcher-bearer, the hospital ship *Ebani* & the *Antonia Hospital*, Swakopmund made £135, quite surprising as the cachet is quite common. Less surprising was the price for the "Aviation Corps" cachet from Walvis Bay which with a pc of a plane & a Flt. Sgt's discharge document made £500. The rectangular boxed FPO marks made from £120 to nearly £200 (for FPO33). Klein Windhuk manuscript cancels on 4d, 6d & 1/- on a philatelic regtd item to Windhuk made £325.

A few other realisations of interest include, at Cavendish (3 March) the 1926 Harrison essays (6 blocks of 4 & 2 singles) £375, a collection of controls and varieties of the 1/- wilbeest in rather mixed condition but including the Harrison 4d gnu essay in red & green, £765 and a senior members collection of war efforts £305. There's also been quite a bit of Cobham flight material around – it always seems to attract big money despite this.

Auction report cont...

At Harmers (6 Apr.) a card from Jingo (Kenya/Uganda) dated 13 Jan 1926 (Fig.9), est £500, made £941 and from Cape Town (Feb.19) plus a signed copy of "My Flight to the Cape and Back" £1764 (+5% VAT). The vignettes alone (Fig.10) made £282 (+17.5% VAT). Meanwhile at Grosvenor (25 May) cards (each estimated £650-700) from Marignane (Nov.18), and from Pisa (Nov.19 & another Nov.20) all remained unsold.



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

Grosvenor (25-6 May) have taken to offering quite a lot of SA material, probably because of John Wharton Hood's involvement. Many, but not all, were at pretty robust estimates but some different and unusual material was included. Unfortunately quite a lot of the more interesting were overestimated into the "realm of the unsolds" including the 1926 Waterlow plate proofs, 4 Darmstadt dummy cigarette labels (est £2-250!) and 12 lots of paper joins (1930-76) which had estimates between £250 and £1000. The 1947 Royal Visit colour trials were again offered at £2-4000 (clearly the world agrees with me that they are less desirable than classic archive material at less than half the price – I've not seen them sell in 30 years! – does anyone know how the high "price" became established?). Of the material that did sell a collection of 150 photo-repros of early essay material made £129 (showing that some of us may have overpaid for the bits and pieces that interested us from earlier offers) and the £1 pale olive, Imm, made £282. The SWE 2d with missing roulettes, um, made £200 and values with the slogans partially printed on the stamps in blks.4 (2 units) made £129 for 1½d, £141 for 6d and £196 for 1/- (Fig. 11).



For the Bookshelf

No new publications were submitted for review.

Has anyone seen the new South African Colour Catalogue yet?

Anyone willing to do a short write up on the improvements, price changes, additions etc.

Aerogramme Publication

Thanks to all those who responded with their interest in the above publication. We now have sufficient interest to make the effort worthwhile. Unfortunately all the best made plans come unstuck from time to time. The printers I had found to do the printing at what I thought was a reasonable price got cold feet when they saw the amount of colour that was included in the book. They have subsequently raised their price to unacceptable levels. The binding also turned out to be far more expensive than originally anticipated. This has delayed the printing somewhat, but I am happy to report that I have found replacements for most of the items and we will be proceeding within the next three weeks. I apologise for the delay, but hopefully it will be worth the wait!

Eddie Bridges.

Members Smalls

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!

Bantam War Issues

Looking for marginal pieces with sheet numbers. Particularly, numbers in blue and red. All values sought. Offers to Eddie Bridges please.

Wanted

Copy of Lobdels Georgians, published in the early years of the Union. Book on the Kings heads series. Offers to Eddie Bridges please.

Wanted

Ken Radley from Canada is looking for a copy of the April 1984 Gibbons Stamp Monthly. If anyone can help, please advise the editor.

Wanted

Back issues of The Springbok for the years 1954 to 1969. If you have the odd copy lying around and you want to part with it, please let me know. Postage and reasonable costs will be covered. Offers to Hon. Editor please.

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" 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 cover.

Note: *Items will only be left in for two issues. If you have found what you are looking for or sold the item, please let the editor know so that it can be removed.*

For the Elusive and Unusual in Southern African Philately

Contact

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Items of Interest

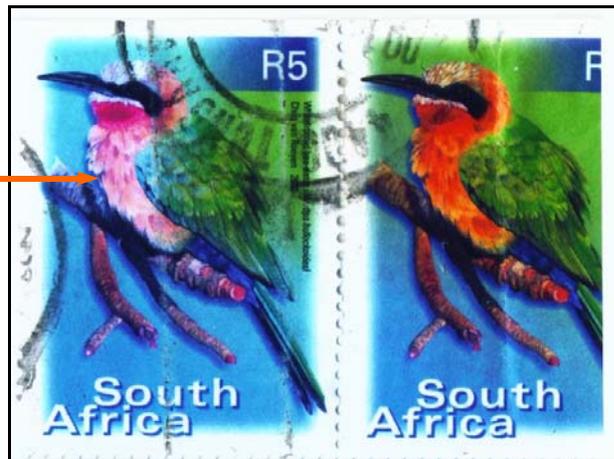
If members have anything unusual or of interest, please let your editor have the information and or illustrations to publish.

Roy Glanville-Jones sent the following item. He writes, "I thought it might be of interest to show an example of missing yellow on the R5 Bird stamp in pair with normal. Apart from the chest plumage, the top left corner of the stamp has remained blue and not green with the main branch being effected."

It may be possible to find out if there are many other copies of this error which would depend on the vigilance of quality control in the print shop!

Missing colour

If anyone has any further information or can shed some light, please let your editor know.



Rudolf Lasar from Germany sent the following photo on behalf of Olaf Schulze. Unfortunately he does not mention where the photo was taken. On the back of the post card, a manuscript note reads, oldest Post Box in Grahamstown. I do recall reading something about this post box in a journal somewhere, but cannot find the reference now. I seem to recall that it was owned by a private person and was in his garden.

Ed.

The note on the Post Box is warning people not to place any mail in it for posting as this mail will not be forwarded to the Post Office



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!

Photocopies

I note that I am still being sent lots of black and white photocopies for publication. Almost all of them are unsuitable for publication. The following notes are given as a guide:

- Colour copies are preferable to black and white. I can then scan in grey scale which reproduce better.
- If your black and white copy comes out very dark, it is of no use as it will not reproduce. Try adjusting the copier to lighten the copy. Normally items with a dark background do not copy well in black and white. Colour works better in this case.
- Do not copy many illustrations next to each other onto the same page. It is very difficult to separate them out for publication.
- Better still if you can scan the illustrations and then send them on a disk or by e-mail.
- If all else fails, you may send the items by mail to me. I will return them to you after I have scanned them. If the items are of some value, please use recorded/signed for mail and I will return likewise.

I might sound a bit pedantic about this, but this is the only way we are able to improve the quality of the journal and maintain a reasonable level of quality with out throwing money at it which will in turn lead to increased membership fees.

Conference Auction in Leamington Spa.

Remember that we need material for the auction in Leamington. Better items from the Southern African area of interest is required. Look for those unwanted items or the subjects you no longer collect and turn them into cash. Please send your material for the auction to Eddie Bridges (address inside front cover) with the description and reserve price please.