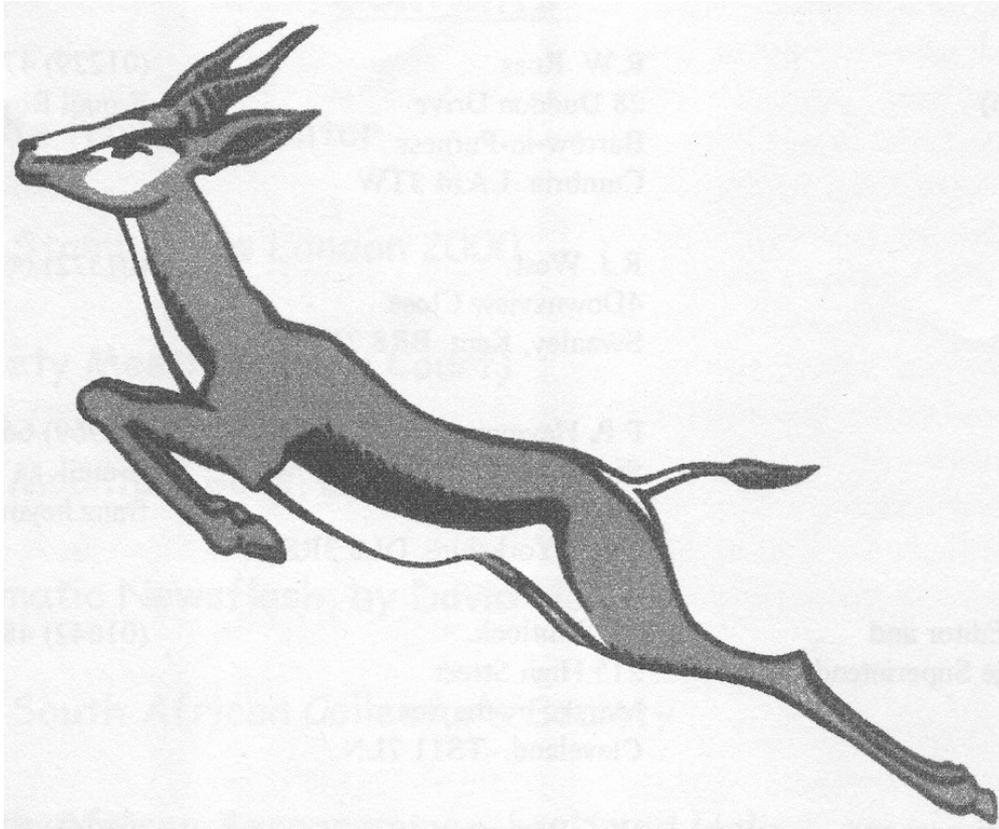


# *THE SPRINGBOK*



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

**QUARTERLY**

**Vol. 52**

**No. 4**

**Oct/Dec 2004**

<small>ESTABLISHED 1918</small> <b>HARMERS</b>		
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# ***The Springbok***

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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

<b>6-7th Nov.</b>	<b>Southern African Societies Convention, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa.</b>	
11-13th Nov.	Autumn Philatex	Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
20-21 Nov.	A.B.P.S. Basildon 2004	Exhibition
<b>22nd Nov.</b>	<b>Basildon 2004</b>	<b>Open displays by members and meeting</b>

## Events for your Diary 2005

5 Feb	SACS London Meeting	<b>Swedish Church London</b> , 2d Union Buildings
26 Feb	Philatex (Joint meeting)	Royal Agricultural Halls, Vincent Square London
16 Apr	SACS London Meeting	<b>Swedish Church London</b> , Revenues
23rd April	SACS Carlisle meeting	George V
26th June	Midpex	Tile Hill, Coventry

The rest of the programme for 2005 will be published in the Jan/Mar Issue of *The Springbok*

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

## From the Editors Desk

This is the final issue of the year and also marks the end of the first year in the Editors seat. It has been a challenge to put each issue together on time (more or less!) as well as juggle my other commitments. The task has been made a lot easier by the members submitting articles and writing in with queries etc. If there is a continuous stream of articles and snippets of information, the task becomes a lot easier. Please keep it up. I have also attempted to provide a balance of articles between the various disciplines as well as the Union and Republican periods. This is only possible if the articles come in from these various areas. If you feel that you as the reader, would like some more of a certain subject, please let me know. Better still, let me have an article! Articles do not have to be long. A page or two is usually enough to get a debate going with additional information being submitted by other members.

A good example, is a query by a member on how to distinguish between the genuine stamps of the 1925 Airmails and the forgeries. This prompted me to ask John Shaw to do an article as we had a meeting in London early in the year where the 1925 Airmails were discussed. Several members brought along material including many of the forgeries. John had a superb lot of the forgeries. Mike Tonking from South Africa was kind enough to forward some articles that appeared in the Newsletter of the South African Study Circle. I had not forwarded this to the member querying this in the first place yet, as we thought that with the additional information that has been gathered in the past few years, we will bring it all up to date in one article. This was due to be published in this issue, but unfortunately John could not get it finished in time. I hope to publish this in the next issue. Something to look forward to.

I have had additional information from Rudolph Lasar in Germany regarding the Virtual Stamps and this will go in the next issue as well. A query was received regarding the Paper Trials of the Government Printer in South Africa and several members responded to this. An article appears in this issue.

We also started to try and improve the quality of *The Springbok* and we will attempt to publish more in the new year. There is also a drive on to recruit more members as our membership had declined slightly. This has been fairly successful, but we need to make meetings interesting and ensure that the publications we do are of a good quality to keep the members interested. However, we also need members to be a bit more pro-active. We had a regional meeting in Cambridge and very few attended. Those who did not attend are usually the first to complain that the hobby is dying!

My thanks to all the members who supported me with articles and letters in the first year. I hope to have your continued support in the new year.

May I take this opportunity in wishing all our members well over the coming festive season.

**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.**

**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.

***I have left this in as I have not seen any response. 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?

***I have left this one in as well as no response has been forthcoming. Ed.***

Thanks to Mike Tonking of South Africa for the useful information on the Airmail forgeries. This will be used in an article and forwarded to the relevant parties. **Ed.**

**Bryan Stokoe** writes:

With regard to Nick Arrow's comments regarding the 1925 Durban Airmail cachet, this is well documented by Wyndham in "The Airposts of South Africa" on page 23, but to add interest I enclose photocopies of two covers illustrating the ? last use of the rubber cachet i.e. 9:45 am on 2.4.25 and ? first use of the metal cachet 11:30 am on 2.4.25. It all adds to the interest. My thanks for another very fine bulletin.

***Thanks for the information and kind words Bryan. Two very nice covers! I have reproduced them on the next page for our members. Ed.***

### Obituary

I have just heard of the sudden death of one of our American Members, Howard H. Schloss. He was an enthusiastic philatelic collector of Denmark, Israel, Barbados and Czechoslovakia as well as South Africa, a historian of the American Civil War and a baseball fan.

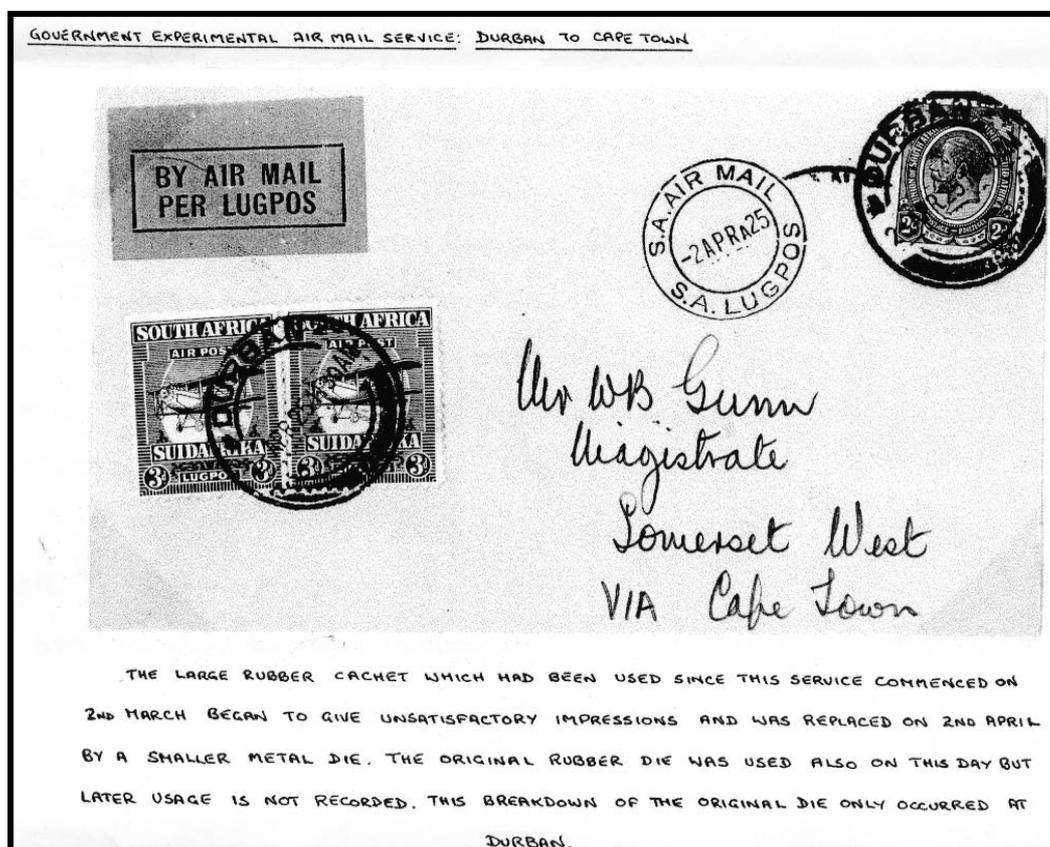
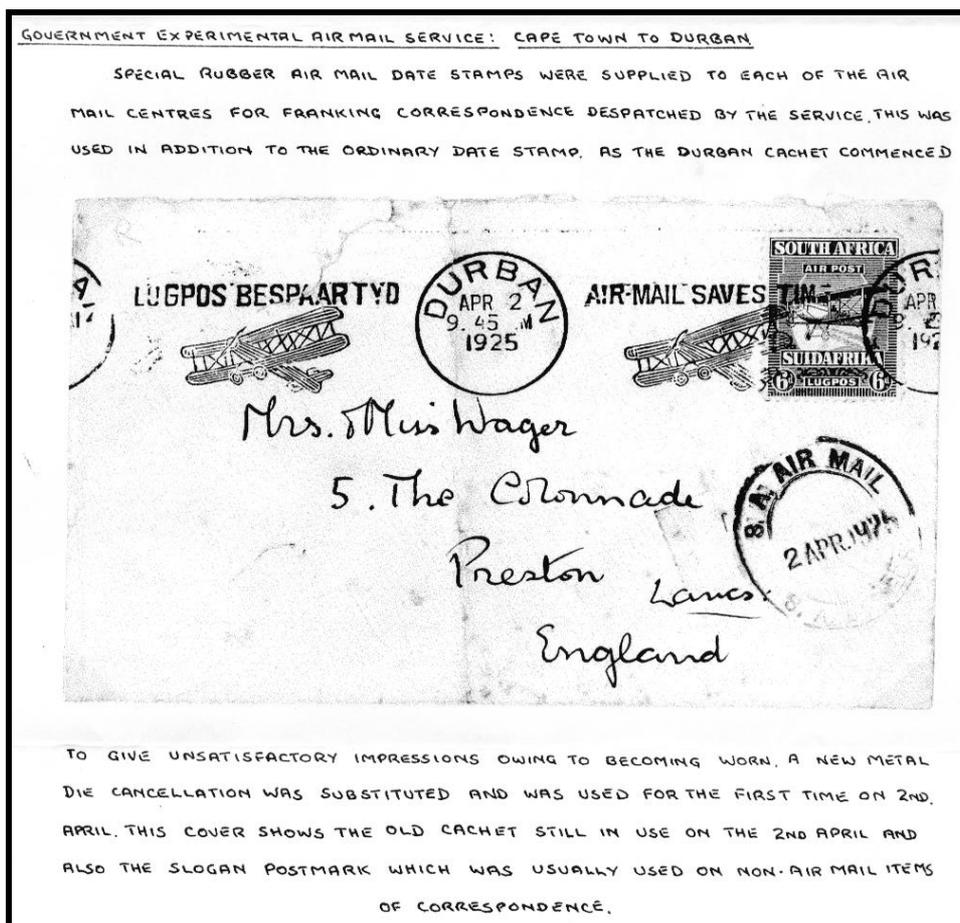
My only meeting with him was in Iceland last October where we were both attending the Nordia Philatelic exhibition. He confided in me that he was currently neglecting his S.A. collecting in favour of Denmark (he was treasurer & director of Nordia 2001) but he hoped to restore the balance soon.

Howard was, prior to his retirement, a chemist and lawyer and was attorney to the FDA for most of his career. He died, on 15th May, from a massive heart attack whilst en route to a stamp show.

A tree is to be planted in his memory at the American Philatelic Society premises in Philadelphia.

**Chris Oliver**

The two airmail covers mentioned on the previous page from Bryan Stokoe.



## Southern African Philatelic Conference

Just a reminder for the Conference. If you still would like to attend, please contact Brian Trotter or Eddie Bridges. Contact details below. This is an event not to be missed. Programme as below.

### Southern African Philatelic Conference Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa 5, 6 and 7 November 2004

#### Programme

##### Friday 5 November

18.30	Gather in the bar	
19.15 – 20.00	Major Mathews Memorial Lecture Stamps of Swaziland 1889-1894	Andrew Higson
20.00	Dinner	

##### Saturday 6 November

9.45 – 10.00	Opening Remarks	Brian Trotter
10.00 – 11.00	Anglo-Boer War Censorship	Stuart Duggan
11.00 – 11.15	Break	
11.15 – 12.15	British South Africa Company	Colin Hoffman
12.15 – 13.00	Union of SA SG1 Researched	Chris Board
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch Break	
14.15 – 15.15	Union of SA Pictorials	John Shaw
15.15 – 15.30	Break	
15.30 – 16.15	The Medway Story	Ian Shapiro
16.15 – 17.00	Orange Free State	Richard Stroud

Auction items available for viewing throughout the day

17.00 – 18.00	South African Collectors Society AGM and OFS Study Circle meeting.	
18.30	Gather in the bar	
19.30	Dinner	

##### Sunday 7 November

9.30 – 11.00	Attendees bring-along displays	All
11.00 – 11.30	Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Attendees bring-along displays	All
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 15.30	Auction	Eddie Bridges
15.30	Close of conference	

Brian Trotter may be contacted as follows:

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

Eddie Bridges may be contacted as follows:

Tel: 01536 515200  
E-mail: aebridges@ukonline.co.uk

## **Agenda For the AGM in Leamington Spa**

**Saturday 6th November at 1700**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Chairman's Report**
- 3. Secretary's Report**
- 4. Treasurer's Report & Account Statement.**
- 5. Editors Report**
- 6. Librarian's Report**
- 7. Auctioneer's Report**
- 8. Packet and Cover Packet Report**
- 9. Subscription Rates**
- 10. Ratification of Officers of the Society.**
- 11. Ratification of the proposed constitution changes**  
(as published in the last issue)
- 12. Basildon 2004 (help required)**
- 13. Midpex 2005 (feedback)**
- 14. AOB (notified before the meeting)**

If any of the office bearers cannot be present, please e-mail a short summary of your activities for the past year and your willingness to continue in the post.

As we have only scheduled one hour for the meeting the reports need to be kept short and to the point.

If any member wishes to raise any issues, please let Chris Oliver know.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Headplate Varieties of the Bicoloured KGV's

By  
Morgan Farrell

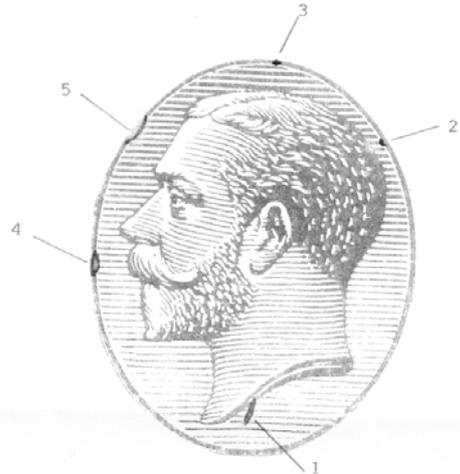
In the KGV definitives of 1913-1926, there are six values that are from single plates. They are the ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 1/- and the 1/3. There are eight values that are made up of two plates. There are the 2½d, 3d (two colours), 4d, 6d, 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and the £1. All values individual frameplates, but in the case of the bicoloured's there was a shared headplate. This small part of a larger study is meant to display this.

In fact it can't be assumed that a single plate performed the printings of all eight values in their entirety of this long running definitive series. I personally doubt that one plate could have done the job without major wear and damage over time. Such wear and damage is generally not seen. It is suggested that there was a master plate. Only the control number "1" is seen on all of these values and it is from the headplate, but this does not really mean anything. If there was a master plate, any number of plates might have been produced from the master and the control number would have remained the same.

One thing is certain. The headplate (or headplates) were used for several of the different values at any one time. This is demonstrated by certain constant flaws that appear on different values. For now, I show only five of these. This is a study that needs to be done with some hesitation. The inking of the many thousands of sheets can often lend to the appearance of breaks in lines etc...that are not all constant varieties. These would be both meaningless and confusing to this study and so, they need to be "weeded" out from the true varieties. Backup second varieties would be very useful to prove the constancy of the primary varieties, but they are rarely seen on these issues. Though my study consists of several varieties that I believe to be constant, I show here only five that I am 100% sure of. Yet other varieties await twins to try and prove that they too are constant. The following are the five here identified:

- 1) A white mark through the shading lines below the bottom of the King's neck. I have so far found this on the 2½d (1), the 3d Orange (2), and the 6d (3). The earliest postmark seen is 1919.
- 2) A small chip in the medallion edge behind the King's head. So far seen on the 2½d (1), 4d (1), 6d (4) and the 2/6 (3). Earliest date seen is 1925.
- 3) A small chip in the medallion above head. So far seen on the 2½d (1), 6d (2), and the 5/-. No legible dates are noted.

4. A disturbance in the medallion edge in front of the King's moustache. So far seen on the 4d (1) and the 6d (2). All are dated 1924.
5. A dent in the medallion in front of the King's forehead. So far seen on the 3d blue (1) and the 4d (1). The 3d is dated either 1925 or 1926.



Positions of the constant varieties

Certainly this kind of studying stamps amuses me and keeps me out of trouble first of all. But I also believe that it has philatelic significance as well. Although this is a well studied stamp series, I am pretty sure that there have not yet been any approaches to it from this angle. I also believe that it can be taken much further and I would be pleased to collaborate with anyone who is interested in doing so. Some of the questions that could be asked and possibly answered are:

- 1) How many headplates were used? Can the number be ascertained and which were used for which values?
- 2) Was one headplate used with individual cliches replaced when damaged?
- 3) Could only one headplate have spanned these years of printing with only minimal damage? The majority of the varieties have so far been seen later in the life of the series.
- 4) Were there any repairs done to damaged cliches? My number "5" may have such a repair done to it. I have a stamp that could represent this. (It could also be heavy inking in that spot)
- 5) Could material with jubilee lines offer any clues to the number of headplates?

Continued on next page....

KGV continued...

My study is from examining thousands of mostly used singles. Owners of better mint material, especially multiples could take this much further. To be continued?

The following scans illustrate the five varieties identified.



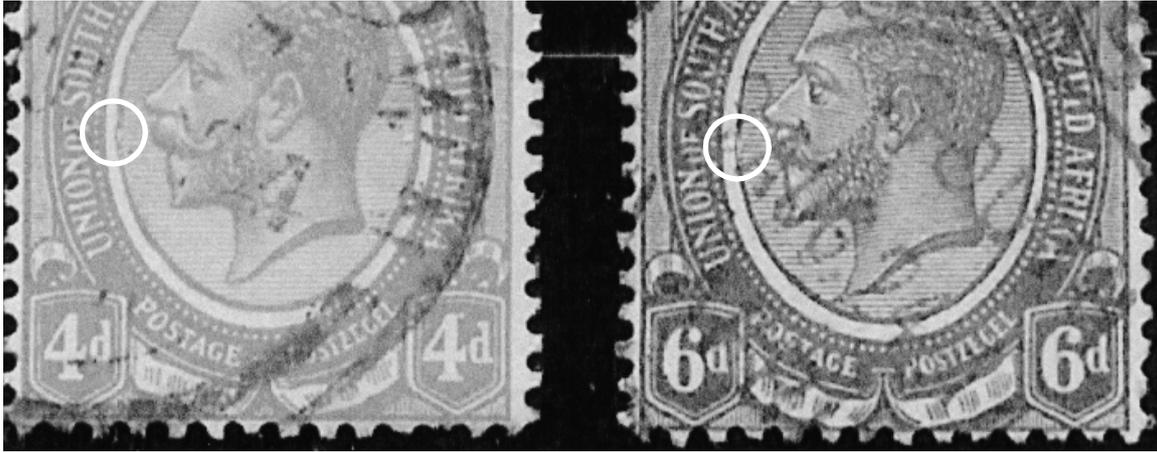
Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4



Type 5

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

# A Philatelic Tour of the Western and Eastern Cape

By  
Olaf Schulze and Rudolf Lasar

*This is an account of a tour in the region by Olaf Schulze in search of special date stamps which were available at the various tourist attractions and museums. Rudolf has kindly translated the text from German which was in the form of a diary. Many black and white photocopies of the post marks were also supplied but unfortunately most were unsuitable for publication due to quality.*

*However I will summarise the postmarks found and try and illustrate some of them. Ed.*

## Kirstenbosch

The botanical gardens near Cape Town. Advised that the special date stamp was no longer in use.

## Simonstown

Enquired about the existence of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Again advised that the date stamp had been withdrawn due to damage and was not replaced.

## Cape Town

Enquired at the main Post Office for special date stamps. Non were available except a Paquebot date stamp which we got a copy of on some mail.

## Swellendam

The special date stamp for the "Bontebok Park" nature reserve was produced at the main Post Office. Some mail was cancelled with this date stamp.

## Mosselbay

Obtained a copy of the "The Old Post Office Tree" date stamp on our mail.

## Addo Post Office (near Port Elizabeth)

A clear strike of the Addo Elephant Park canceller was obtained on our mail.

## Grahamstown

Five different special date stamps were available! Our listing only had three. These were Settlers Monument, Oldest Official Letter Box, Albany Museum, Festival City and Albany Museum-First South African Dinosaur.



Festival City



Settlers Monument



Albany Museum



Oldest Post Box

## Port Elizabeth

Only two date stamps were available. A Paquebot canceller and the Utenhage "Railway Museum" special date stamp. These were duly used on our mail.

## Storms River Village

A special date stamp for the "Tsitsikamma" forest was available.

## Oudtshoorn

No special date stamps were available at the Post Office but were advised that the "C.P. Nel" Museum had a special date stamp.

## Worcester

Post Office staff had no knowledge of any special date stamps. No one had any knowledge of the "Klein-Plasie" date stamp that we had obtained a year before!

## Stellenbosch

One special date stamp was in existence for the local museum "Kruithuis" (translated as gunpowder store. **Ed.**)

## Paarl

There were three special date stamps available at the Post Office, Afrikaanse Taalmonument, Oude Pastorie Museum and Nederburg. Our mail was duly serviced.

*Olaf also included some commentary on the level of knowledge and service and it appears that a better level of knowledge and service was available at the smaller Post Offices than those at Cape Town and Worcester.*

*Olaf and Rudolf supplied many photocopies that had examples of the date stamps on them but invariably on a stamp with a black background which made scanning and reproducing impossible. A tip when doing special date stamps is to ask for one on a clean portion of the envelope as well as those that actually cancel the stamps. In this way one gets a clear impression of the date stamp. Thanks to Rudolf and Olaf for providing an insight as to what can be found if one goes looking as well as enjoying a memorable holiday, I am sure.. **Ed.***

## Regional Meeting in Cambridge

A regional meeting was held at Cambridge on Saturday the 9th October. This was held at the Arbury Centre where the monthly Stamp Fair also takes place. This was also advertised in **The Springbok** well in advance. Despite all this, we had a very disappointing turnout. In fact only one member from the Cambridge area turned up (Terry Gentle). The rest came from London (Chris Oliver), Kettering (Eddie Bridges) and Halstead in Essex (John Archer). Nevertheless an enjoyable gathering was held and some material was shown. John showed some well written up sheets on the last definitive animal series, Terry showed some Airmail items including some early Airmails and a more modern Concorde Flight cover over Cape Town signed by the pilots. (worth keeping in light of the current Concorde collecting frenzy that is taking place.) Eddie showed some Bantam War issues and Chris finished off by showing some South African Republic material. A cup of tea was enjoyed together with some cakes supplied by John. Thanks to those that made the effort. **Those that did not, missed an enjoyable afternoon.**

Despite the disappointment, we will give it another try in the new year. Watch this space! These regional meetings are designed to get members out and to meet other members and to show some material. Invariably one learns something new as well.

**Eddie Bridges**

## In the Philatelic Press

### RSA Stamp Study Group Newsletter Vol 23 August 2004

An interesting Republican query regarding the June 1978 ISCOR issue. Printing layout evidently done on four panes but no proof of this has been found to date. They make an appeal to anybody that has a control block of this issue that does not match the description in the Atlas catalogue, to contact the editor urgently. ***If you need details, contact me and I will get a copy of the article to you. Ed.***

A further article describes the identification of four distinct varieties of the "Birds" aerogramme issued in November 1985 and withdrawn in March 1987.

The Study group are also looking for specialists in various areas of Republican Philately to help with a handbook being planned for all issues of the Republic from 1961. A target date has been set for 2011 which will be the 50th Anniversary of the Republic as reported in their bulletin of October 2004.

### South West Africa Stamp Study Group Newsletter 308 July 2004

A repeat of the article on SWA registration marks by Tony Howgrave-Graham as published in Vol 52 No. 3 of *The Springbok*.

### The South African Stamp Study Circle Newsletter 498 August 2004

Interesting article on perforations and their history. Differences between line and comb perforations are also well described.

### The South African Stamp Study Circle Newsletter 499 September 2004

A detailed article on "The making of sheet printed stamps into coils/rolls." This article collates much of what has been published before, including a lot of information originally published by our Hon. President R.D. Allen in his book on the coil stamps. A must for those collecting Union coil/roll stamps.

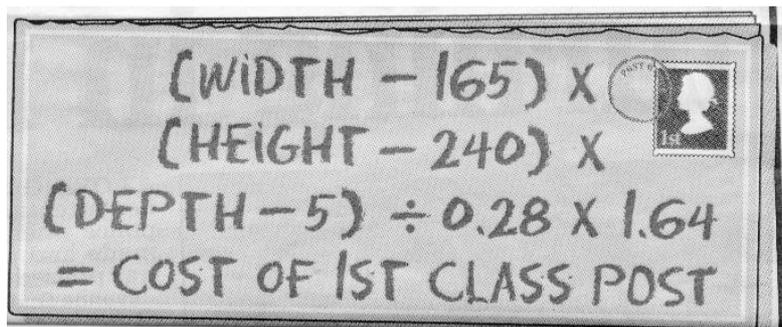
### South Africa Word War II study group. Meeting notes August 2004.

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.

In this newsletter they comment on an article on the movement of SA APO's in East Africa, that was submitted to the SA Philatelist but was edited to the bone as it was too specialised. A full listing has been sent to members.

### Not from the Philatelic Press!!

***The following appeared in the Daily Mail May 15th 2004 regarding the proposed increase in postage based on envelope size and not weight. The Headline read A degree in postage I hope the post Office is not serious!***



### New Monograph on the Union Booklet Issues Planned.

If you have a holding of Union Booklets and you would be willing to help put a monograph together, please contact me. I know several members have been doing studies and reconstructions on various booklets. I would like to collate all the printed material to date with colour illustrations if possible. A target date for completion hopefully can be end of next year.

**Eddie Bridges**

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Namaqualand: 1913-1924  
1½d. chestnut variety  
"Watermark sideways", lightly  
used, a few perfs, very rare.  
(5c), (S.A.C.C.4v). The only  
known copy. **Sold for £1,294**  
(15,094.85 ZAR)



South West Africa: 1923, £1 red and  
green, a block of four from lower  
right hand corner of sheet with  
Control, part o.g., crease in  
margin, a fine and rare block. **Sold for £3,176**  
(37,045.11 ZAR)



Rhodesia: 1910-1913 "Double  
Heads" 5d. lake brown and green,  
part o.g., fine and rare. With B.P.A  
certificate (1980) **Sold for £9,998**  
(116,617.43 ZAR)

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*The following article is published as I am sure more members would like to know more about this issue, which has been in the news lately. I have also been requested by a member as well as a non-member for more information about this stamp. Bob Hissey has coincidentally submitted this article which has come at just the right time. Bob has spent some time researching and analysing this issue as can be seen. Ed.*

## 1½d Official, Horizontal Overprint

By

Bob Hissey

*The horizontal 'Official/Offisieel' overprint on the medium size 1½d has been known for some 40-50 years, but only a few examples were known, and it was almost forgotten until recently, when further examples came to light. During this period it, along with the up-reading medium 2d of 1949, have been condemned as fakes or 'surreptitious' emanations.*

Recently, the up-reading 2d of 1949 has been accepted as legitimate, along with the up-reading medium 1½d of 1949 that was never in question.

Examination of a sheet number B6 and the two Control Blocks of 8 of the horizontal overprint allow certain observations.

The control blocks show 'Cylinder No. 6919B' and 'Cylinder No. 6919A' inverted. This places the base stamp as issue 9 or issue 10 per Hagger. The colour is the rather pale bluish slate and matches the normal up-reading stamps, which would indicate that it is Issue 9, as is the normal.

The sheet number is in red, and matches in position and number the normal Issue 9, Hagger 23/120 stamp. It does not match Issue 10, as can be seen in the table below, so it must be from Issue 9.

Stamp	Sheet #	Colour	Stamp	Language	Distance	Margin	Issue
Hor OP	7904	Red	R12/15	Eng	+20.4	15.5, clear	
23/1201	7806	Red	R12/15	Eng	+20.5	15.3, clear	9
23/1202	7835	Red	R12/15	Eng	+20.5	15.5, clear	9
25/1341	1226	Red	R12/15	Eng	+20.8	15.5,	10?
26/1342	7759	Red	R12/18	Afrik	+21	15, clear	10
26/1343	???3	Red	R12/18	Afrik	+21.5	15, clear	10
26/1344	5914	Red	R12/18	Afrik	+21	15, clear	10

(Incidentally, the above table raises a question about the attribution of 25/134 to Issue 10. On all of the Set 26 issue 10 examples the sheet number is on R12/18, while the 'smudgy' 25/134 has the number on R12/15 as do the 2 examples of 23/120 on Issue 9. Two other C/Bs of this 'smudgy' issue do not show the number on 18. This would indicate the 'smudgy' issue was from Issue 9. However, a left arrow block of the smudgy shows the 'cruciform' variety on R7/1, which reportedly is the indicator of Issue 10. Is it possible that the 'cruciform' flaw occurred late in Issue 9, along with whatever conditions led to the 'smudgy' effect. )

One can also note that the sheet number of the horizontal OP stamp is close in value to that of the normals (7904 vs 7806 and 7835), indicating it was in the same ream withdrawn from the vault and used for the normals of Set 23. The spacing of the overprint is the same as in the setting for the small format ½d, 1d, and 6d of Set 22 and 23. Apparently one of these formes was used to print the horizontal overprint.

Continued on next page

The varieties of Sets 22 and 23, small format, are shown below. Shaded areas are the blocks examined. The Forme No. is according to my classification.

Set 22 Map												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6										1		
7												
8												2
9												
10												
11	2											
12	2											
13						3						
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												
19												
20												

Set 22 Small Format H/C vs. Varieties seen. Forme sG					
		H/C	½d	1d	6d
1	Broken 'L', Afrikaans	6/10		No	
2	Raised Official	8/12	7/12	7,8/12 11,12/1	
3	Broken 'O' English	13/6		No	
4	Broken top 'L', English	No	11/1	No	
5	Broken 'O' Afrikaans	No	11/1	No	
1/1 English ½d & 1d, Afrikaans 6d					

Set 23 Map												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1												
2	1											
3						2						
4												4
5												4
6												4
7												4
8												4
9												
10												
11												
12												4
13												
14												
15												
16	5											
17												
18												
19												
20										10		

Set 23 Small Format H/C vs. Varieties seen. Forme sG2					
		H/C	½d	1d	6d
1	Dot in lower loop 'S', Afrikaans	2/1			
2	Projection right side 'O', English	3/6		3/6	
3	Dropped English vs raised Afr.	5/8		5/8	
4	Raised English	4-8/12 12/12, 20/10	12/12 20/10	8/12 20/10	
5	Broken 'C' English	16/1			

Continued on next page

The first observation is that the varieties of Set 22 are quite variable, but Set 23 may be somewhat more constant.

The second observation is that there is only one variety in either Set that might show on the examined blocks. That is V5 of Set 23, 'Broken 'C' English' on 16/1 of the small format (12/16 of the 1½d). Unfortunately I have not found this variety in Set 23, so have no comparison. A scan of 12/16 of the horizontal 1½d is shown below, and perhaps some of our members can identify it.



From this I conclude that the 'Horizontal Overprint' of the 1½d was done in the Government Printing Works and that it was done concurrently with the Normal printing of the 1½d of Set 23, most likely with the small format forme of Set 23.

Was it a normal error, such as the small size 2d, or was it surreptitious, illegal emanation? I have never seen any evidence presented to support the 'surreptitious' interpretation, and on the face of it, it seems improbable. To profit from this activity, the villain would have had to come to work in the morning with a sheet of the unoverprinted 1½ds carefully concealed about his person. He would then have to print a sheet from the ream of 1½ds drawn from security using a forme of the small format still on the press, then insert his smuggled sheet into the ream for the normal

overprint to make the count correct. This would surely be caught when checking back in the overprinted ream, as one of the numbers would be out of range. He then would have to smuggle the surreptitious sheet out. The simplest answer that covers all the evidence is that it was a normal error.

Hopefully some of the SACS members may have more information on this subject.



The two controls from Bob's Collection.

## Members in the news.

### The Wicks Medal



At the last meeting Carlisle, the Wicks Medal was awarded for the best article published in *The Springbok* in the past year. This year the editorial panel decided to bend the rules a bit and award the Wicks Medal to Franz Heymann for his years of dedicated service as *Editor of The Springbok*. Franz retired from this role last year and the panel decided that he would be a worthy recipient of the medal. Our heartfelt gratitude go to Franz for keeping the Journal going for 6 years.

**On the left Franz receiving the Wicks Medal from our Chairman, John Shaw.**

### The Abell Trophy Competition



As has now become tradition, the Northern Group were the hosts for the competition this year, which alternates yearly between London and Carlisle.

Five excellent entries were received and eventually Bill Branney was judged the winner by popular vote from the members present. Bill showed a marvellous display of Booklet 21 reconstructions and pane identifications based on constant flaws. Our congratulations to Bill. We look forward to seeing more of Bill's booklets in the near future. It has been suggested that we should have a study session on the Union Booklets again. I think several members are keen to see what has been done in the last number of years.

**Bill receiving the Abell Trophy from John Shaw.**

# The Booyesen's Essays

By

Eddie Bridges

While looking for information on the background to the Darmstadt Trials I discovered some photo copies I had made many years ago in the P.O. Archives in Pretoria.

These photo copies are of some correspondence between Dr. Ken Freund, who was on the committee tasked by the Philatelic Federation to investigate the Darmstadt trials and to submit a report recommending the recognition or not of these issues and Mr J. Booyesen, who was an employee in the Government Printing works. Incidentally Mr. Booyesen became the Government Printer in later years and was also responsible for several Union stamp designs. Part of this investigation also covered the so called "Booyesen's Essays.

These were stamps that were printed in Europe in the run up to the Darmstadt Trials. I have retyped the correspondence verbatim as it makes interesting reading!

## The letter from K. Freund to Booyesen.

43 Harvey Road  
Bloemfontein  
28.4.1954.

Mr. J. Booyesen,  
Foreman, Stamp Department,  
Government Printing Works,  
Pretoria.

Dear Sir,

Mr. A.D. Smit, who is a former colleague of yours and with whom I play Tennis here in Bloemfontein has told me that I may refer to him when writing to you.

The reason for my writing to you is that I am doing some philatelic research work and am writing articles in connection with Union stamp problems. I have helped in the compilation of the recently issued Handbook/Catalogue of South African stamps.

Now there is one item about which I would like to get some further information, and I think that you are the most authentic person to supply this information, as the item in question, an essay, was printed by you in 1929 in Darmstadt during trial printings. The item is catalogued on p.79 of the New Union Handbook, depicts a Springbok without horns and is called by us generally the "Booyesen Essay" (after you).

I would be greatly obliged to you if you could find the time to answer me the following questions in connection with the Essay:

(1) What was the purpose of printing these Essays (in sheets of 8 x 10), in violet and in red-brown)?  
Was it

(a) to test the working and suitability of the new Goebels Rotogravure machine;  
(b) or to present to the Union authorities some practical proof of your acquired skill by printing these Essays;

(c) or to propose a new 1d design for the future stamp issue?

(2) Did you draw the design ("Springbok without horns") yourself, or what was the source of the design?

(3) How many sheets (stamps) did you print (if you still can recollect)

(a) of the violet stamps,

(b) of the red-brown stamps?

(4) Did you print these sheets also on the new Goebels Rotogravure machine before delivery to South Africa? If not, on what type of machine?

(5) Do you still possess Sheets (or parts) of your Essay and are you prepared to dispose of them to me?

I hope you do not mind these questions in the Interest of Union philately, and thank you very much in anticipation of a kind reply.

Regards from Mr. Smit,

Yours truly,

Dr. K. Freund

Continued on the next page

A draft handwritten reply from Booyesen was found in the archive and is reproduced below: Some interesting facts surrounding the stamps were given but these were never made public, as will be seen later.

**Booyesen's reply.**

4.5.54  
Stamps Dept.

Mr Ferreira

**P O Publicity**

In reply to Dr Freund's letter of the 28.04.50, (sic) I can furnish the following information.

Question

(1) (a) It was not to test out the Goebel Rotogravure machine.

(b) I did these stamps with the specific purpose of gaining experience.

(c) There was no idea of proposing a new 1d stamp design. A dummy design was chosen on purpose so that it was of no value.

(2) The Springbok doe head drawing was done by me from a photo supplied by the S.A. Railways and was obtained from the S.A. Legation's office at The Hague.

The Protea border design I based on drawings received from the University of Leiden, Holland.

(3) As these stamps were not official no check was kept on the number of sheets printed. They were printed in, as far as I can remember, in four different colours, viz. black, blue, red brown and violet.

(4) These sheets were not printed on the new Goebel Rotogravure machine, that is the reason why they are not perforated.

I printed these trial sheets on a sheet fed photogravure machine in the factory of the "Nederlandse Rotogravure Maatschapy", Leiden Holland, where I was undergoing my course of study.

(5) No more sheets are available.

Yours  
(Signed J. Booyesen)

Together with this note I found a letter reprimanding Booyesen for intending to supply information to the public on the activities of the Government printer. He was given a warning with the threat of dismissal if it happened again. I was not allowed to copy this letter as it was considered to be of a personal nature.

The official reply that was sent to Dr. Freund is reproduced on the next page.

Continued on next page.

**The official reply from the Government Printer (Booyesen)**

7 May, 1954

Dr. K. Freund,  
43 Harvey Road,

**BLOEMFONTEIN**

Dear Dr. Freund,

I have received your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> April and regret to say that as an employee in the Government Printing Works I am not authorised in my private capacity to give information of the nature you asked for in your letter.

Please remember me to Mr. Smit.

Yours faithfully,

J. Booyesen

If this knowledge was made available at the time the committee tasked to report back to the Philatelic Federation, the decisions taken might have been different. Who knows?

The so called Booyesen's Essays were deemed not to be essays or trials for the 1d Ship stamp to be printed on the new Goebels printing Press and of no Philatelic interest.

This does not seem to have had any effect on the interest and the keen prices paid for the stamps at auction. They also appear in most collections of the Darmstadt trial printings as the forerunners to the trials!

**Examples of the four colours printed by Booyesen.**



**Red brown shade**



**Violet**



**Light blue and blue**



**Black**

Only one sheet reported, but this is doubtful based on the information above.

# The Christmas Air Letters of the Union of South Africa

By

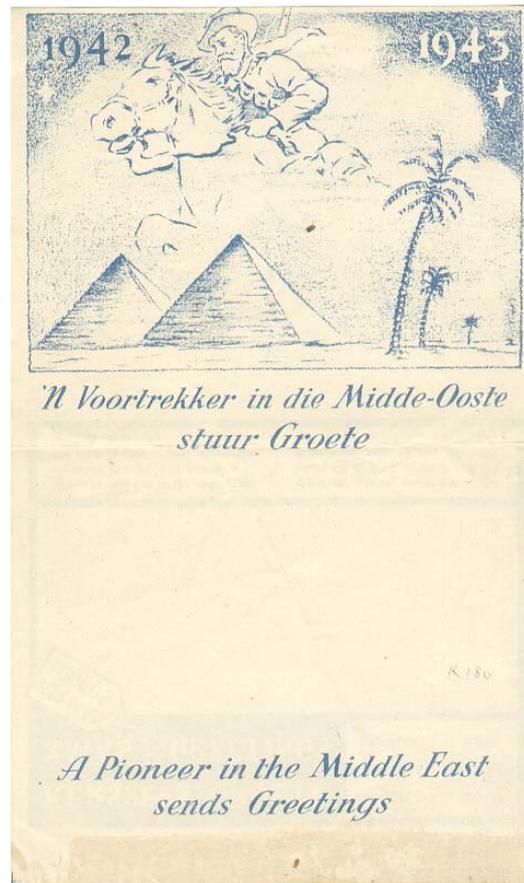
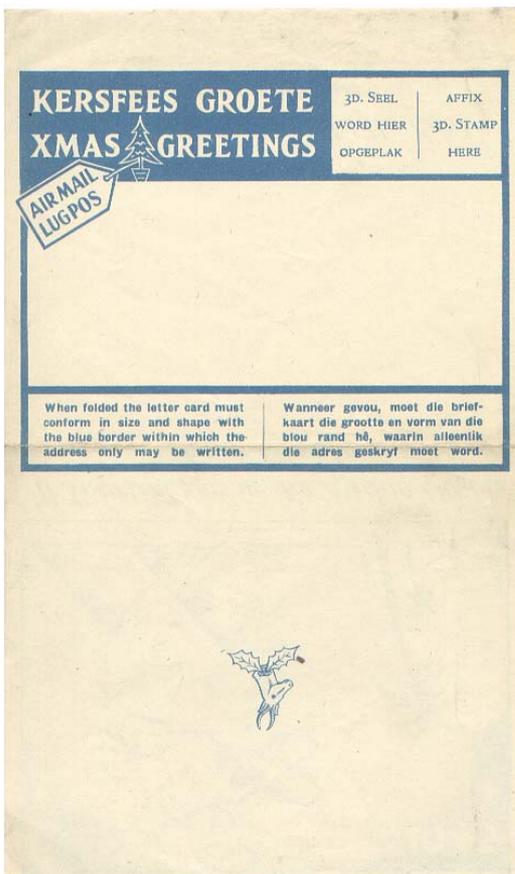
Eddie Bridges

*As we are approaching the season of goodwill I thought it would be apt to look back on the first Christmas Greeting Air Letters of the Union. Ed.*

During the Union Period of South Africa, only four Christmas Air Letters were issued. These were all issued during World War II. A further Greetings Air Letter was issued on the 10th December 1958 which could be considered a Christmas issue but does not specifically indicate it as such. It was re-issued in February the following year overprinted with the decimal value to coincide with the introduction of decimalisation in South Africa. These were the only Christmas Air Letters in the fifty years of Union!

Surprisingly only two appear in the 1979 issue of the 2nd revised edition of the Union Handbook/Catalogue. The reasons evidently given was that these were issued to troops during WW II and were postage free. The two issues of 1942 and 1943 required postage and were thus not considered "official". They were however legitimate issues and printed by the Union Defence Force in the Middle East.

These issues are illustrated below. These Air Letters have commanded healthy prices at auctions in recent years.



1942 issue Bi-lingual Christmas greetings Air Letter Card.  
Scan of the front and reverse shown with a message from  
the troops in the Middle East.



1943 issue Bi-lingual Christmas Greetings Air Letter. These Air Letters were designed by a M.E. Elliot whose name appears in the design just below the address panel. These were issued to the troops free of charge but they were expected to pay the postage of 3d.



In 1944 the Union Defence Force once again printed Christmas Greetings Air Letters for the troops to send home. This time the Air Letter is identified the bottom left corner of the unfolded sheet with the initials of the Directorate of the UDF responsible for the printing in the Middle East. These Air Letters are now clearly marked as Free Postage and no stamps were necessary.



1945 Bi-lingual Christmas Greetings "Free Postage" Air Letter. Message same as before, *Greetings From The North & Groete Van Die Noorde*. These were issued for the exclusive use by South African Troops in North Africa and the central Mediterranean Countries, including Italy. The printing in a blue-grey depicts a flying sleigh drawn by a Springbok. The printing was done by the 6th (Division) Department of Military Printing. This is indicated by the small printers inscription at the lower left side of the Air Letter.

## Committee Reports



### Chairman's Report

John Shaw

London Meeting – September 2004

Again, this meeting marked a first, and possibly last, SACS meeting to be held at the Calthorpe Arms, close to Euston, Kings Cross and Pentonville Road – shades of the monopoly board! Our Hon Secretary, Christopher Oliver, was able to arrange this venue prior to a more permanent arrangement for future meetings at the Swedish Church. In truth, however, this was an agreeable venue, with plenty of light, and could well be held in reserve for the future. Thank you Chris, for all your hard work over the venues after difficult times with the previous two. Again, our president, RDA, could not be with us but, despite many hospital visits is still in excellent spirits. Six members attended this meeting, Jack Newman, who has recovered well from his eye treatment, Brian Trotter, Fred Clark, Christopher Oliver, myself and Eddie Bridges, who gave the main display.

Eddie produced a very nice one page handout on the marginal cylinder features of the Bantam War Effort stamps, with two excellent pages of colour illustrations. He explained the distinguishing features of the different marginal slogan and figure markings which can be basically explained as follows: the 1½d, 2d, 6d and 1/- were produced in sheets of 240 stamps and the remainder of the denominations in sheets of 360 stamps. Initially, there were only slogans, arrows and sheet numbers in the margins and, for the 240 image sheets the slogans were very close to the stamps themselves, a feature corrected in later printings.

The slogans for the 360 stamp sheets are slightly different, especially regarding the small defects around the "B" of "BUY UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES". For the last two groups in each category the side margins were filled with a pattern of two parallel lines, interrupted by the figures "240" or "360" according to the sheet arrangement, and for the final group in each this arrangement was changed slightly, enabling large marginal pieces to be easily allocated to a particular group. Eddie showed a fine selection of all these groups, with many large blocks to illustrate his talk. He also covered the sheet numbers and their various colours, explaining how difficult it was to find some of the listed earlier types.

Fred Clark then showed some complete sheets of the low values, mostly from the collection of our late member Len Harman, and John Shaw showed some 1/- values with defective printing at the top of the stamps, from his own collection, then the study from the estate of the late Bill Fincham; this latter

attracted much interest and will be auctioned as a single lot at the Leamington conference (reserve £50). Fred also expressed the opinion that the 240 and 360 marginal inscriptions were introduced to help the postal clerks who were used to selling 1d 240-sheet stamps at £1 and 120 3d stamps at 30/-, whilst the Bantam 1d sheets 9 of 360) cost that amount. Thus, the post office might have lost some revenue due to the oversight of some of the postal clerks, and this feature was intended to avoid that. This explanation seemed perfectly reasonable, although it does not appear to have been previously recorded.

Again, this was a display which deserved a greater audience than the small but devoted band who attended and John Shaw gave the vote of thanks to Eddie.

### Hon. Secretary/Hon. Membership Secretary

Chris Oliver

A reminder to members who will not be able to attend the AGM and would like to raise an issue, to please submit to Chris by Nov 1st. Please.

Any comments on the proposed rule changes as proposed in the previous issue of The Springbok are also welcome.

Please also think about lending a hand at Basildon, if you can make it. We will also be attending Midpex on the 26 th June 2005.

### Membership Matters

A warm welcome to the following new members:

- (1082) H-G. Blach - Bubesheim, Germany.
- (1083) Mrs. Valerie Cooley, Southampton
- (1084) D. Mawson, Tong, Bradford
- (1085) S. Palmer, Watford, Herts.
- (1086) M. Breen, Englewood, Colorado.

## 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.

The next auction is being planned. Turn your duplicates and excess material into cash!

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.

Bill is also looking for fresh booklets to circulate in the packets.

## Hon Librarian

J.B. Carter

John is updating the Library listing which should be available soon.

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*

## Programme for next year

If you have any requests or ideas for displays or study topics for next year, please let Chris Oliver know. We can try and incorporate these into the programmes for next year.

Godfrey Mellor is co-ordinating the programme for the Northern Group. Let him know if there are any special requests.

Other regions can be catered for if there is enough interest.

## Report on the Carlisle meeting Sep. 2004

By Malcolm Ridsdale

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2004

Attendees – 17 Members (list with Godfrey Mellor)  
Apologies – Albert Moffat and Roy Ross

Meeting opened with Godfrey Mellor in the Chair who welcomed everybody and especially John Shaw our Hon. Chairman. The members present heard that Roy Ross was recovering from an operation and best wishes were to be sent to him for a speedy recovery.

### Items through the Chair

GM reminded members that the next two Carlisle meetings would be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2005 and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The changed date for the April meeting was due to GM having been elected as Chairman of the North West Federation of Philatelic Societies and there was a clash of dates with the NW Feds. AGM. It was decided that the subject matter for displays at these meetings would be George V (April) and Airmails (September).

Discussion took place regarding next year's joint meeting with the Rhodesia Study Circle. Colin Hoffman from the Rhodesia Study Circle had offered his office in Manchester as a venue for the meeting. It was agreed to take up this offer with the meeting planned for November 2005 avoiding the Leamington Spa event.

The next joint South Africa Collectors meeting will be held at Leamington Spa on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005. The event will commence with a memorial lecture on the Friday night followed by a full programme of invited displays on the Saturday, the AGM on the Saturday evening and open displays and auction on the Sunday. Any member wishing to attend should contact Eddie Bridges or Brian Trotter.

### Other Officer Reports

John Shaw

Commented that there continued to be problems with the London meeting venue. The meeting had been held in various locations all with increasing costs with the next meeting planned to be held at the Swedish Church which is not too far from Marble Arch. A location map is to be included in The Springbok. The meetings had generally been poorly attended but there were good displays.

JS and Chris Oliver had been involved in disposing of Bill Fincham's SA Union collection.

Continued on next page

His Christmas seals had been sold intact, could possibly be made into a book, and other items were to be dispersed through the SACS and Leamington Spa auctions.

JS felt that the Society still needed more members but is in a far healthier state than some other societies particularly the London ones.

JS had attended the Royal Philatelic Society's meeting in September. There had been a display of stamps from HM The Queen including issues of South and South West Africa with some outstanding George V items.

He also advised that a 1.5d Official overprint sideways had been sent to the RPS for expertisation.

Bill Branney

Feels the phoning ahead is generally working well. Max Whitlock suggested that slip might be included in the packet confirming that a telephone call had been received before the packet arrived and a telephone call had been made before packet dispatched.

Packets seemed to be going around slowly and still needs more material. Asked Eddie Bridges to continue to include a regular mention in The Springbok.

Brian Carter

Is busy updating the library list. It was agreed that the library of Springboks would be split into smaller grouping, probably annual and they would be bound. The library and Springbok lists were to be put on the SACS website. BM was to purchase two books as the originals appeared to have gone missing.

Max Whitlock

Always needs more material.

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. Is busy sorting through some postage due items which are still to be photocopied and then distributed. He still has a huge amount of date stamp cards to be put through the cover packets. Still has a number of "cheap" items which doesn't bring much for the SACS. There is a feeling at times that it is a waste of effort with all the photocopying and distribution costs.

MW had a query regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> definitives. Are the later printings of the stamps different? The feeling at the meeting was that the only way to tell differences was from control block datings.

However, Chris Oliver commented that SETEMPE had indicated that there were perforation differences which could be quite marked.

Eddie Bridges

Wished to thank everyone who had contributed to The Springbok. He was now in position to start to be able to choose which articles appeared when. He had received an e mail from Jack Hagger's son in law thanking the SACS for the kind comments recorded in The Springbok.

EB had been requested to make a copy of Tony Howgrave – Graham's display on the King's Heads available for the library. This had been done and it created an excellent book. EB had also done a copy of his "Penny Ship" display for the library.

EB's own book is nearing availability. He is hoping to take copies to Leamington Spa with the price being about £25 plus overseas postage.

EB commented that our archival material needs to be looked after with perhaps some cost involvement.

Chris Oliver

Reported that he had requests from dealers and auction houses asking for membership lists. CO had advised them that we were not releasing such lists.

SACS were to attend various fairs, details of which would be in the latest Springbok. CO was looking for volunteers to attend at our stands.

There were to be four meetings in London in 2005 although the dates are not yet confirmed. The four display topics were to be 2d Union Building, Revenues via Brian Trotter, Union commemoratives and None SA philately.

CO commented that he was still reviewing the SACS membership rules. "If no objections are received before the A.G.M. in November, the rules will be changed in the manner as suggested on page 62 of the last **Springbok**."

### **Around the Table**

Eric Hammond

Will be holidaying in SA shortly and was happy for members to ask him to purchase and bring or send back SA stamps.

### **Abell Trophy**

Five members entered displays of up to 12 frames.  
Eddie Bridges – KUT 1d overprints  
Chris Oliver – Italian POW postal stationery  
John Shaw - Darmstadt Trials  
Bill Branney – B21 Union booklet panels  
Giovanni Palazzo – Revenues

Continued on next page

Members present were asked to vote for their top three displays. Marks were added up on a three for first, two for second and one for third basis. It was a close run between Bill Branney and John Shaw with Bill receiving the award on the basis of more firsts and seconds in his total score. Eddie Bridges came third.

### **Wicks Medal**

EB, JS and CO had concluded that Franz Heymann was to be awarded this medal in recognition of all his hard work in putting together The Springbok over the years.

### **Displays**

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

John Shaw displayed pre union provincials. These included specimen copies of Natal Chalon overprints and a complete run of Transvaal Edward VII specimens.

Eddie Bridges displayed post cards printed in the interface period at the end of the provincials and the start of the Union. He included cards used post 1910 from the COGH, Transvaal, OFS and Natal. He also displayed some Union cards that had been printed using pre Union plates.

David Haig displayed a number of covers with Antarctic postmarks. Included were items that had been genuinely through the full service PO at the SANAE base as well as philatelic items from the SA Antarctic expeditions and Marion Island.

Chris Oliver displayed items from Second World War that had used SA stamps in Egypt as well as modern postal items with post office marks identifying them as accepted after final postage or dispatch.

Godfrey Mellor displayed a variety of covers covering SA stamps used in Tristan da Cunha, Marion Island, SA Antarctic expeditions and SA paquebot marks. There were a number of fairly modern covers that had foreign post marks for exhibitions, fairs and sports events e.g. the Olympics and the football World Cup.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.00pm

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Aerogramme Publication**

I am now in a position to start taking orders for this book. Cost will be £25 postage paid in the UK, £26.50, postage paid to Europe and £28.50 postage paid to the rest of the world.

Please remit by Cheque or cash made out to E. Bridges at the address on the inside front cover.

Books will be shipped from the first or second week in November.

## **Union Bantam Series**

As promised, I have a limited number of full colour copies available of my display to the London meeting in September.

65 pages (single sided) plus summary on how to distinguish the various printings. These are bound with a transparent cover.

Cost £5 plus postage. Approx. £2.50 on a first come first served basis.

Eddie Bridges.

### **Wanted ! South African Representative**

**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.**

### **Deadlines for Contributions**

Jan/Mar 2005 Issue      Mid Dec 04

Apr/Jun 2005 Issue      End Mar 05

So get those pens/PC's working during the coming winter months. I need some articles!

*Editor*

## An unrecorded postal route between South Africa and Basutoland?

Mike Berry

This information might be of interest to both Union Postal historians as well as Basutoland collectors. The information was passed to me by member Mike Berry from Leicester.

While on a holiday in South Africa, Mike visited the Drakensberg area near Underberg and the Sani Pass into Basutoland, now Lesotho. He visited the Himeville Museum and I quote further from Mike's letter;

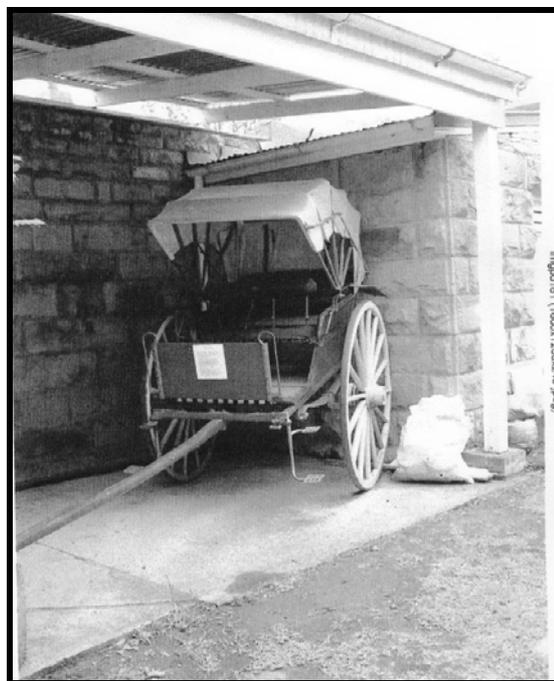
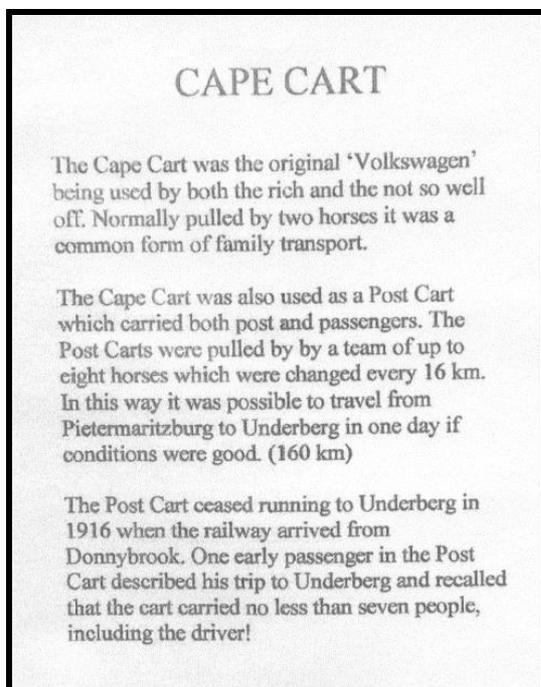
"my interest was aroused by by the references to the Post Cart from Pietermaritzburg, but more particularly the mule train service carrying mail from the Eastern Province of Basutoland, where the DC was situated in Mokhotlong, and the route over the Sani Pass (10,000+ ft, and not traversed by motor vehicle until 1947) for all that area mail to the outside world via Himeville and Pietermaritzburg".

Subsequent correspondence with the curator at the Himeville Museum confirms that it was possible that post was taken in and out of Basutoland along this route, but no markings exist that indicate that the mail had been carried by Mule. The rail link to the coast was only completed in 1916.

This service would have been discontinued when the new Air Service was started in the late 1940's.

The only way to prove this route would be to find some correspondence to this effect or postal markings from Mokhotlong camp to Underberg or the other way round.

**If anybody has something that might shed some further light on this, please let me know as I collect Basutoland! Ed.**



**Some photo's from Mike showing the Cape cart that was used from Pietermaritzburg to Underberg to possibly link up with the mule train to take mail over the Sani Pass.**

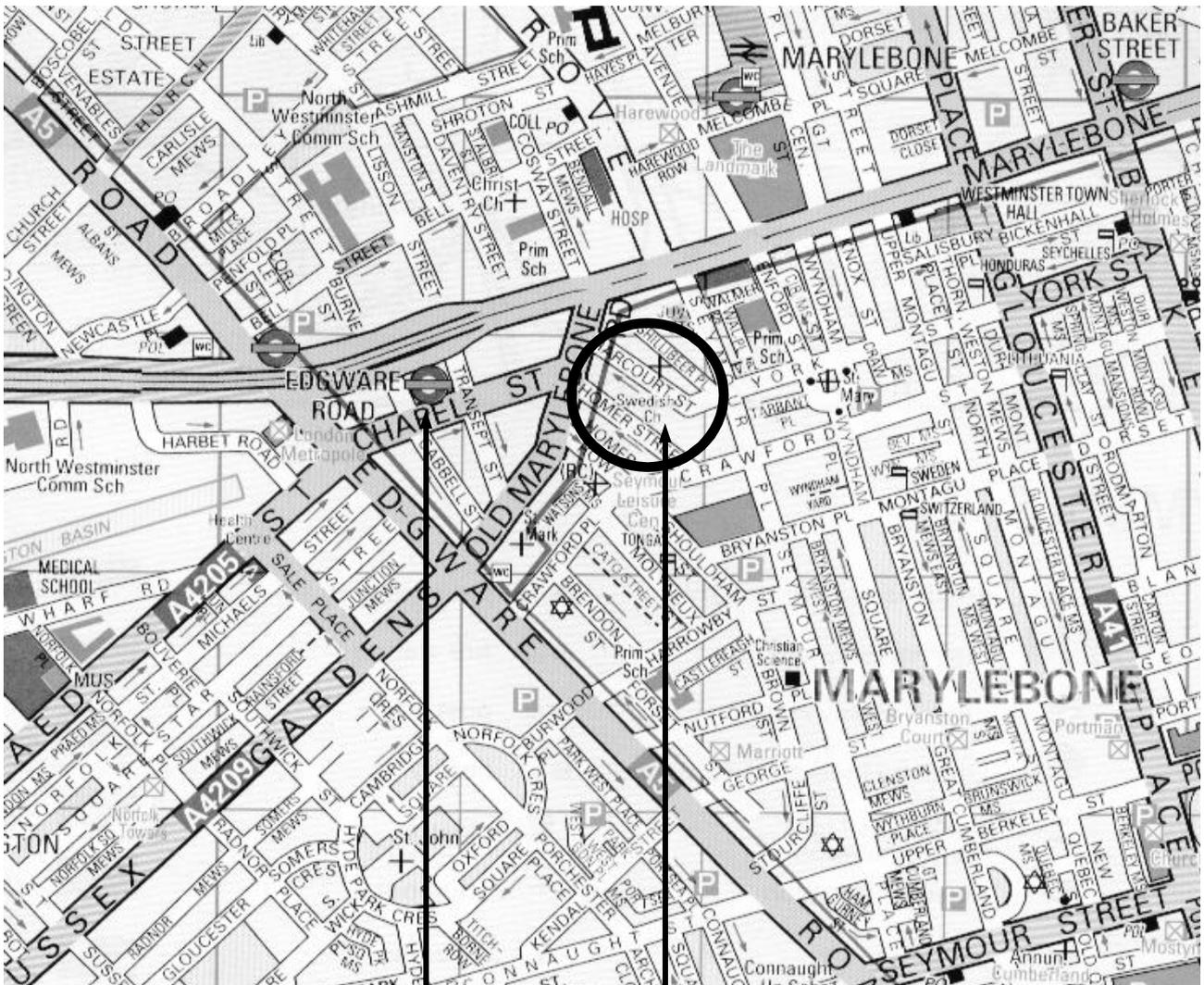
## New Venue for the London Meetings

Please note that the meetings in London normally start at 2 'o clock

On 5<sup>th</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> February.***

For additional location details please contact the Secretary.



Nearest Tube Station  
Marylebone

Swedish Church Harcourt St, Marylebone

# The Government Printing Works Paper Trials of 1998

*This article is reproduced from Setempe Nov/Dec 1998 with full acknowledgement.*

*My grateful thanks also to Mr. G. van Eeden from Pretoria who sent me a similar copy of the trials.*

*The following was provided as a loose page reprint together with the stamps which were sold by the Post Office at the International Exhibition (Ilsapex 1998) in Midrand . Ed.*

This is the story of the first paper trials to take place in South Africa since the late 1960s when, for security reasons, the Post Office experimented with a combination of phosphor tagging, phosphorescent and non-phosphorescent papers to replace the old system of watermarked paper.

Collectors of South African stamps will have noticed by now that during the course of 1998 the South African Post Office moved most of its commemorative stamp printing programme to off-shore printers. To date this has involved three different companies:

- The House of Questa in London, for our commemorative issues, as well as our operational, tourist and souvenir booklets
- Helio-Courvoisier in Switzerland, for our experimental Framalabels
- Sprintpak in Australia, for our self-adhesive range.

In terms of volume, however the bulk of this work, has remained with the Government Printing Works who are still printing our definitives as well as any short-term work, such as corporate products and “emergency” commemorative issues, which invariably arise.

The reasons for this outsourcing of work are manifold, but can best be grouped under four main headings: price, quality, delivery and security. These factors are paramount to the integrity of a postal product and in the highly competitive world of international security printing the South African Post Office has found that off-shore printing offers many distinct advantages.

Despite this the South African Post Office recognises the need to foster a domestic security printing industry and is currently taking the initiative in a number of local projects aimed at returning this work to South Africa. One of them has been the development of a local paper to replace the relatively expensive imported material which the Government Printing Works continues to use.

This is the story of the paper trials to take place in this country since the late 1960s when, for security reasons, the Post Office experimented with a combination of phosphor tagging, phosphorescent and non-phosphorescent papers to replace the old system of watermarked paper.

## The Rhodesian Experience

From the onset the Post Office has argued that, given our local paper industry's past experience in the 1966—1970 period in the development of a security printing paper on behalf of Rhodesia's UDI government\*, it should not be too difficult to revisit this work and amend it to meet our current needs.

Given the nature of subsequent events we are no longer certain about this assumption and it now appears certain that any efforts to develop a local stamp paper will have to take place virtually from basic principles.

## Factors leading up to the tests

There are a number of factors which the Post Office has had to take into consideration in the run-up to these tests.

- ♦ The introduction, of phosphor tagging onto our commemorative stamps. Although this was originally done for reasons of security, the move away from phosphorised papers has also afforded the Post Office considerable savings in its printing costs.



Paper Trial stamps printed on various papers



Paper Trial 6th Defs. printed on Platinum paper



Paper Trial 6th Defs. printed on Diamond paper

- ♦ The use of unphosphorised paper has also opened the door for local paper manufacturers to compete with overseas firms on a more equitable basis.
- ♦ However, despite the fact that the South African Post Office uses about 385 million standard rate stamps every year, this market is not considered to be big enough by local paper manufacturers to either develop or manufacture a special paper for Post Office usage. Instead during these trials we have had to accept papers already available and adapted to our own specifications.
- ♦ Unlike overseas stamp papers which have a high rag fibre content, local paper makes predominant use of bagasse, a sugar cane by-product. This means that fibres in local paper are longer than those in imported papers which gives for a poor tear. This proved to be an important point subsequently, when one of the local papers was rejected almost immediately after printing.
- ♦ Overseas stamp papers are three-times surface coated, whereas local technology can only provide for a single surface coating. Under high magnification local papers have the coarse appearance of newsprint which, when printed with spot colours, tend to “feather”. Feathering takes place when a solid block of colour is printed onto paper and the ink is absorbed by paper fibres outside the area of print. This effect is less noticeable in litho printing which uses 275-300 dots psi (in South Africa) but which can go up to 850 dots psi (known as Superlitho overseas).

## The Government Printing Works Paper Tests

On 19 May 1998 a group of experts gathered at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria. This included printers, paper and gum manufacturers, scientists from the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and, of course, representatives of the Post Office. The costs of the experiment were sponsored by the Post Office.

For the purpose of the trials two separate sets of plates were prepared. The first was a special design using four primary spot colours, black, yellow, blue and magenta and featuring an Art Nouveau portrait of a woman, the Post Office's logo and the words PAPER TEST inscribed on the bottom. The second was the new standard rate definitive stamps featuring the heads of five buck. The first was the test for colour density and feathering; the second to provide a comparative base for quality of printing.

Three batches of paper were chosen to go through: the imported 95gms Tullis Russel, the local 89gm Platinum Label, and the local 115gm Platinum Label. Some 1 200 sheets of 100 stamps of each paper were run through on each of the two designs.

Some time later, on 25 June 1998, substantially the same group of people met to test a separate batch of the local 115gm Diamond coated art paper. This differed from the Platinum Label in that it used a coating of 35gms as against the Platinum's 19gms. The Diamond paper also was surfaced on both sides whereas the Platinum was only surfaced on one side. Again 1 200 sheets of 100 stamps each were run through on each of the two designs.

### Some results

It was immediately obvious that the 89gm Platinum Label did not give the quality of printing required. The paper was altogether too flimsy, it was translucent and allowed the printed design to show through, was prone to feathering and, once perforated, burst badly and unevenly, and even tore off at a tangent into the stamps in mid-sheet instead of along the perforations.

The 115gm Platinum Label performed much better and although it too was prone to feathering, it was dense enough not to allow the design to show through, and burst well, even under rough treatment. On the other hand it had a coarse feel which was not pleasant to the touch. However, it was shown that careful printing could reduce feathering to negligible levels.

The 115gm Diamond paper performed equally well. Fears that the layer of adhesive would not adhere to the gum side because of the surfacing proved unfounded.

To date the results of further testing by the SABS are still pending. These include archival quality, the response of both paper and glue to ageing, and levels of acidity. Nonetheless it appears certain that, given a more or less equal performance to date, cost will become a major factor in determining the Post Office's choice.

However, given the cost of perforating pins, currently at about R90 each, it seems likely that wear and tear on the Government Printing Work's machinery will also become a major factor in the selection process. Both local papers have already been shown to be more abrasive than their imported counterparts. This means a shorter life to printing plates, more dust in the perforators, and ultimately more wear and tear all round.

### Field testing

On the operational side the Post Office is currently running its own field tests independent to the SABS, to see the reaction of both the public as well as its counter staff to these papers. For the purpose of this exercise some 30 000 sheets of the standard rate definitive antelope issue have been printed in each of two

papers, the 115gm Platinum and the 115gm Diamond coated art paper. These will be distributed to six specially selected post offices throughout the country where they will be issued parallel to the normal stamps printed on the Tullis Russell paper.

Unfortunately we are not in a position to reveal at this stage the location of these tests as this would defeat the aims of this exercise. The names of the post offices concerned shall be made public once they have been concluded.

Collectors however, will be able to obtain these trials directly from Philatelic Services, either in complete sets (including the early tests) or just in the two papers used for post office tests. However, as only 24 000 complete sets are possible, these will only be made available on a cash order and first come first served basis.

The PAPER TEST labels are not being sold but will be made available free of charge to clients purchasing their sets at the ILSAPEX '98 Exhibition. All stocks of these labels left over thereafter will be destroyed.

### Differences in papers:

Although seemingly a complex set, this issue is not difficult to differentiate once the basic characteristics have been set out.

- ♦ **Tullis Russel 95gm:** Paper is phosphorised with a creamy white appearance and, compared to the others, the gum has a fine, well-finished look. This set is commonly available at all post offices and has not been included in the packaged set of trials.
- ♦ **Platinum 89gm:** The paper is noticeably thin and translucent, allowing the design to show through the back. The gummed side has a rough feel and a bluish tinge.
- ♦ **Platinum 115gm:** Paper is noticeably thicker, and on the gummed side, has an off-white appearance and a rough feel.
- ♦ **Diamond 115gm:** Paper is noticeably thicker, and on the gummed side, has a very white appearance and a rough feel.
- ♦ **Platinum 115gm - the Post Office issue:** As above but has a vertical phosphor bar, some 2mm thick printed on the right hand side of the stamp. The imprint 1998-07-27-TPP appears in the bottom left-hand side selvedge of the sheet.
- ♦ **Diamond 115gm - the Post Office issue:** As above but has a vertical phosphor bar some 5mm thick printed on the right hand side of the stamp. The imprint 1998-07-28-TPD appears on the bottom left-hand side selvedge of the sheet.

*\*On 11 November 1965, the Rhodesian Government declared itself independent from Britain. This unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) was not internationally recognised. Negotiations led to a conference in London during 1979, where it was agreed that the British Government should resume control, pending elections.*

*Elections took place in February 1980 and on 18 April 1980 Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, an independent republic within the Commonwealth.*

**I hope this information will be sufficient to now identify the stamps . Further information is published in the book by R. Smith, "The 6th Definitive Series of the RSA 1993-2000 Ed.**

## 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.

### Les Elmore of Chatham writes:

At a meeting of the Medway P.S., I was shown a cover and was invited to comment. It is addressed to Petrinovic & Co. (SA) (Pty) Ltd in Johannesburg and has two stamps of Ifni(!) in the top left hand corner, round which a blue crayon line has been drawn. At the top right is a Johannesburg c.d.s. of 19th October. 1960 and in the centre a circular **T 1/6d** mark has been applied. Below the address a rectangular registration hand stamp of Johannesburg with "8238" added in blue ink manuscript. A further oddity is a rectangular framed handstamp in English and Afrikaans "POSTED OUT OF COURSE".

The owner thought it had been posted in the U.K. but this seems unlikely to me in the absence of a U.K. postmark. She also thinks that Petrinovic may have been a Philatelic dealer but had nothing to support the idea, apart from the peculiarities of the cover. I suspect that it was posted in Johannesburg, but I do not know whether the tax fee of 1/6d would represent the appropriate amount for an unpaid local registered letter, if that is in fact what it is, but I find it hard to accept that the Jo'berg post office would accept a registered letter without payment. I suppose that the "POSTED OUT OF COURSE" might suggest that it was put into a pillar box, but why should the Post Office then assume that it was to be registered? Would any of our readers feel able to comment?

**Unfortunately no illustration was included. Ed.**

### Fred Clark from Derby writes:

Regarding N. Arrow's various Airmail item queries in the Springbok Vol. 52 No. 3 pages 78-79, the following comments may be of some use to him.

#### 1. 1925 Airmail Covers

Looking through my own collection of these items, I have covers originating from Durban with strikes from the original S.A. Air Mail datestamp of Durban up to 5th March 1925 showing no damage to the outer circle. My cover with this mark dated 12th March 1925 however shows damage very similar to N. Arrow's cover Fig. 1 and the outer circle is now out of round, being larger north to south than east to west. Another of my covers of the same date as N. Arrow's Fig. 2 (2nd April 1925) has also a similar strike with the damaged outer circle showing only a

gap at the top, as though some damaged rubber had been trimmed away. This mark is now even more out of shape being approx. 34 mm N-S and 31 mm E-W. My earliest dated cover for the Durban replacement metal S.A. Air Mail datestamp of smaller size than the original is also dated 2nd April 1925, indicating that for this flight both types of handstamp were in use on the same day. I do not have a cover of later date showing the original S.A. Air Mail datestamp.

The conclusions are that when the original handstamp damage was noted, a new replacement was ordered. Meanwhile the original item continued in use, with eventually some attempt being made to clean up the damage and on the 2nd April this and the new handstamp were both in use. Presumably the original was then discarded.

This accords with Wyndham's statement on page 23 of his book that the new handstamp appears to have been used for the first time on 2nd April.

**See also Letters to the Editor and illustrations on pages 101 and 102. Ed.**

#### 2. Large Wings Aerial Post Card.

My understanding of Wyndham's comments about the "influenza epidemic" has always been that its effect on the handling of the mail by the Post Office was such that a number of these cards *intended to be flown on the first flight of 7th October* were delayed in the post and by missing this flight had to be delivered in the normal way. Had the Post Office known that a second flight was to be made at a later date then maybe they might have held the items accordingly, but this second flight was not announced till much later on 24th October.

#### 3. Small Wings Aerial P. C. (N. Arrow's Fig. 3.)

None of my examples of the above card are registered and Wyndham's check list on page 110 of his book does not list such an item. I personally have not previously seen a registered card and would agree to it being scarce.

The date of registration of N. Arrow's card was 22nd November 1918 at Davel. According to Putzel's "Postmarks of South Africa" Vol. 2 Page 260, no separate Davel Station?Rail (Tvl.) stamps (handstamps—FAC) so far have been seen for 1913 to 1920. The postmark Davel on this card is Putzel's No. 1 which was in use until at least Dec. 1925 as Putzel illustrates.

**A wealth of information. Thanks Fred. Ed**

*Continued on next page*

**Fred Clark, Derby writes:**

Recess-printed London Pictorial 3d stamp:  
Re Sebastian Payne's article on the above stamp in *The Springbok* Vol. 52 pages 39-40 and Jack Hagger's comment on page 78, I would draw your attention to the fact that Jack Hagger had already stated 10 years ago that this stamp was printed in sheets of 120 rather than 240 and in two panes only, each with it's inscription at the foot.  
The article by Jack in *The Springbok* Vol. 42 No. 1 page 12 refers.

**Chris Miller from Reading sends the following:**

An item acquired in America.  
The date on the circular date stamp is not legible but the manuscript date perhaps of receipt looks reasonable. The censorship in the US zone of Germany is nothing unusual but I have been told that the rectangular mark is South African. Any idea what it is?

*Unfortunately the illustration is not legible, but maybe someone has something similar that is legible and would be able to throw some light on the item. Ed.*



The envelop sent in by Chris Miller.

Mark in question.

**For the Elusive and Unusual in Southern African Philately**

**Contact**

**John-Peter Wharton-Hood**

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Windsor Glen  
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2194 South Africa

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E-mail [johnpwh@iafrica.com](mailto:johnpwh@iafrica.com)

## South African World War II-Paquebot Query

By Chris Miller

The illustrated cover has been reduced to enable the pictures to fit the page.

At first sight it is straight forward but questions have to be raised.

The shadowy "Censor" handstamp overlaying the stamps appears to me to be a "ghost" print of the Durban Released handstamp, of which a good strike appears on the reverse.

Paquebot mail having been posted aboard ship is under U.P.U. rules postmarked at the first port of call and the rectangular "Paquebot" handstamp was used in East London for many years. This ties in well with the two different East London circular date stamps both dated 3 October 1944.

The presence of the Arms C handstamp on the resealing label shows quite clearly that the envelope was opened and examined by the censor in Durban and this is further reinforced by the Durban Released handstamp.

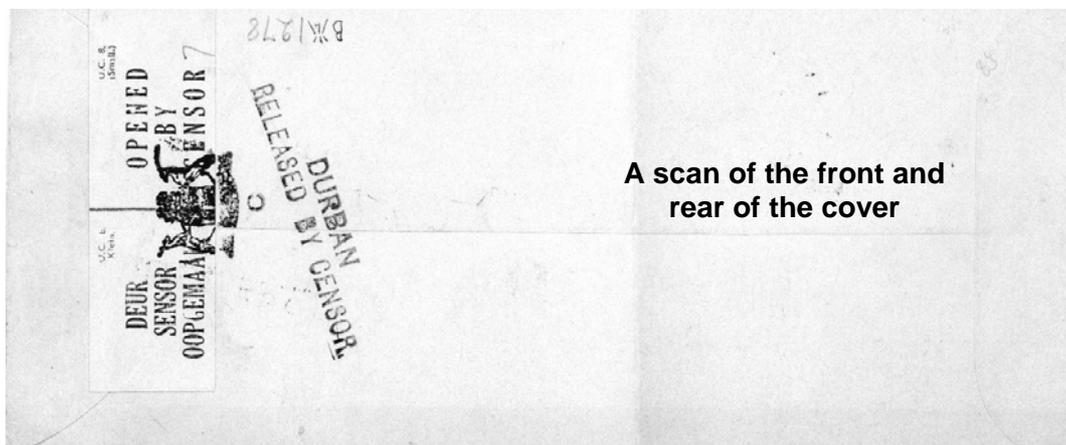
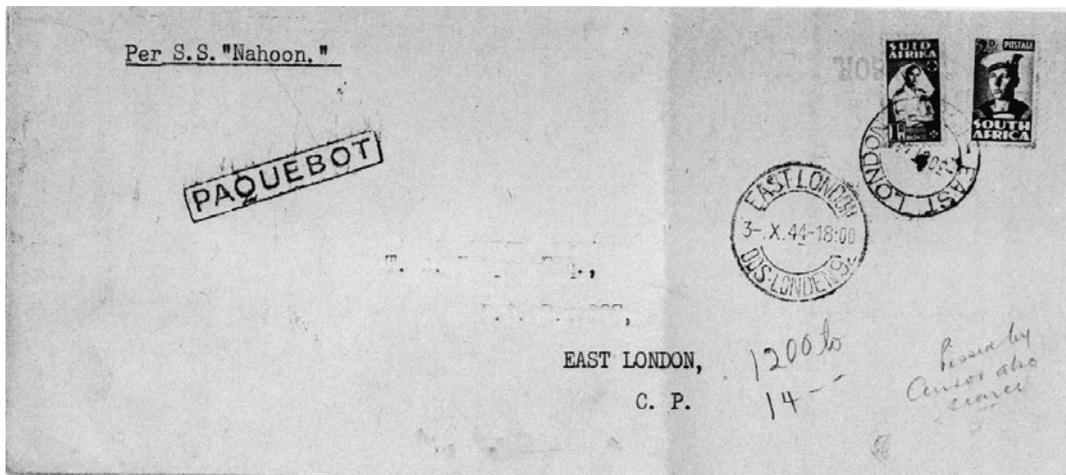
The question is why did the cover go to Durban at all? The bigger and more important Cape Town Censor station was much nearer and East London was itself a censor station. Unfortunately there is no Durban datestamp.

No clue can be read from the address, as except for the partially obliterated address on the envelope front there is no other. As the delivery address was in East London there is no clue here.

Can any reader suggest why and how Durban became involved?

*Please let me have information at [cpbmiller@aol.com](mailto:cpbmiller@aol.com) or by mail at 161 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7JR, UK.*

***A copy to the Ed. would also be useful.***



**A scan of the front and rear of the cover**

## South African Cinderella Story

By  
Fred Clark

Further to the listing of S. African War Labels by Ken Lewis in *The Springbok* Vol. 37 pages 24-28 and 59-63 and my follow up in Vol. 45 pages 21-27, three more of these labels have turned up as follows:

### G.G. National War Fund

Oval-Imperforate - green background to gold head, gold lettering and gold frame. On cover postmarked Cape Town 13th January 1942.

Subscribe to the Merchant Seamen's Memorial Club

Red, white and blue. White letters on blue background. Perf. 10. On cover postmarked Modderfontein 28th March 1945. This cover also bears labels K. Lewis nos. 46.2, 47.2 & 48.3.

For Victory V Britain Will Win.

Dark blue lettering on red. Imperforate. Size 45 x 57 mm. Letters 4 mm tall and "V" 35 mm tall and 4 mm thick. On back of magazine wrapper postmarked Cape Town, date unknown. Has K. Lewis Label no. 49 perf. 10 on the front.

*Illustrations unsuitable for reproduction but hopefully the descriptions will help identify these. Ed.*

---

## More Cinderella WW II items.

In a similar vein Chris Miller has sent me a listing of South African WW II Patriotic and Propaganda labels.

These do not contain any of those listed by Fred above. This is possibly a good opportunity to look at the feasibility of putting good scans of these in a listing which could be reproduced in colour for those interested in these labels.

If you have scanning facilities, you can scan what you have and forward them to me. I will then attempt to put a listing together during the Christmas break. If you do not have scanning facilities, then you may forward the item/s to me by mail (recorded) and I will scan them and return the items to you.

Alternatively if someone will volunteer to do this, they would be welcome. I have colour reproduction facilities so could distribute the listings for a nominal fee and at the same time we could raise a few pounds for the Society Funds.

**Eddie Bridges.**

### 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.

Monographs can also be printed and either sold to raise funds or distributed as a separate publication with *The Springbok* if finances allow.

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



## Auction Scene

### Forthcoming Auctions

**No new catalogues received for the coming months.**

*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

This will be published in Issue 1 in 2005 to give Tony time to wrap up the years remaining auctions in one report.

**Ed.**

### Items of Interest

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

It has been a dry quarter for the Items of Interest column. Please send me copies of your unusual, strange or that great find at the £1 box at the last fair!



### 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.

Fred Clark has a lovely new book on the history of aviation in South Africa. As there is some Air Mail Interest as well, Fred has agreed to do a review for the next issue.

## 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.

## The back page is available for your advert!

Advertising rates on application.

Please contact the Editor.