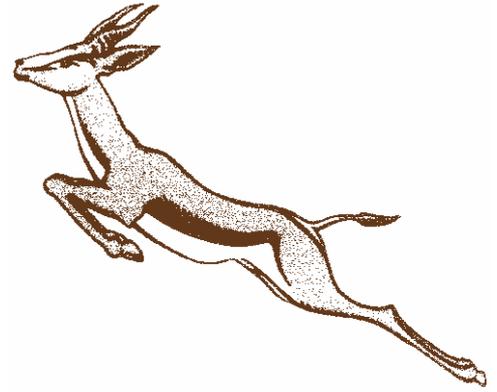


THE SPRINGBOK



An illustrated envelope which contained the Official programme for the 1910 Pageant in Cape Town

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY QUARTERLY

11 November 2012 - Leamington Spa Auction – Tony Howgrave-Graham needs material for this sale
Closing date for lots is Saturday 4 August – Contact Tony on 01725 510067 – Email ajbmhg@btinternet.com
The Cottage, Barford Lane, Downton, Wiltshire SP5 3QA

Volume 60 No 2

May 2012

No 318

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

The Springbok

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Association of British Philatelic Societies

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

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(since inception in 1947)

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Argyll Etkin **Inside Back Cover**

Back Cover

AfricaStamps.co.uk
David Loffstadt
Enfield Stamp Centre
Otto Peetoom
Paul van Zeyl
Richardson & Copp

Philatelic Events in 2012

20 - 21 July	York Racecourse Stamp Fair, York YO23 1EX
26 - 29 September	Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1 0QH
18 - 20 October	ABPS UK National Exhibition, Dewar Centre, Perth PH2 0TH
18 - 21 October	Centapex 100, South African National Exhibition, Port Elizabeth

Forthcoming Events for 2012

7 July	SACS Letchworth Midlands meeting at 2 PM	Subject: Open day
	Postal Pursuits Shop, The Wynd, Openshaw Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3EN	
26 May & 15 September	SACS London meeting, Calthorpe Arms at 2 PM	Subjects: Revenues / Airmails
	Calthorpe Arms London, 252 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8JR	
29 September	SACS Carlisle meeting, County Hotel at :10:00 AM	Subject: Open day
	County Hotel Carlisle, 8 Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1QP	

9 - 11th November	Southern African Societies Convention	Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa
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For further details, please contact the Secretary or Simon Peetoom - Our Leamington Spa Coordinator

“The Society” – Some reminiscences from the last 50 years - By W.A. Page
***The Springbok* Apr/June 1997 - Volume 45 No 2 - Final paragraph – Some food for thought!**

‘Membership has hovered around the 200+ level for a fair number of years, but active support has dwindled over recent years. Thus I conclude this review by asking YOU the Members ‘what do you want from the Society over the next fifty years?’ If you don’t ask you don’t get! Likewise what can you contribute?’

A Review of *The Springbok* - By Otto Peetoom

***The Springbok* - Number of pages & cost of production**

Eddie Bridges took over as Editor in 2004, over the last eight years; the average content of *The Springbok* was 28 pages. In my opinion this is ideal and plus an envelope, it weighs over 80gms and in terms of postage stays below that all important weight of 100gms. Any other enclosures will off course tip the scale and as most of you will be aware that from 1 May the postage rates have dramatically increased - **More of this on page 60.**

In February this year I suggested *The Springbok* be printed on A3, using better quality paper, stapled at the centre to fold into a user friendly A4 booklet. The reaction was ‘*We would like to, but can’t afford it*’. Volume 59 No 4 in the old format cost £2.19 per copy and after liaising with my own printer I have secured a price of £2 per copy on high quality paper and I invite constructive criticism on the production of this edition.

Printing & distribution: Before Eddie Bridges moved back to Germany, he printed *The Springbok* and then couriered it to Max Whitlock for posting. After Eddie’s move it was emailed in PDF form to Max who had it printed and then posted.

Volume 60 No 1 is *inappropriately* dated JAN/MAR 2012, was completed & emailed on 12 April, posted on the 23rd and my copy arrived on 27 April. I have used the same printer since 1990 and any job I submit is ready the following day, thus completion and posting of the journal can be done within 48 hours instead of eleven days.

The layout of *The Springbok* In February 2012 I suggested to the Editor to include the whole number of the journal on the front cover, besides making it easier to sort past editions in order, the idea is to use it for reference:

For instance an article in Volume 59 No 2 on page 40 (Apr/Jun 2011) I have seen this referenced as 2011:2:40, personally I prefer TS 314/40 (The Springbok Whole No 314 page 40).

The Front cover – In recent years several Philatelic Societies took the step of producing an attractive front cover instead of the same mundane format and I proposed we ought to try it, member’s comments are invited. During my term as Editor I would like to find a balance between Society news and philatelic content.

The Springbok - Previous Advertising: It occupied five pages plus the Harmers advert - Gross annual advertising revenue was £367. Looking through past journals, it seems that the adverts are there to help fill the pages.

Total number of journals printed per year 660 - Cost to the Society to print the actual adverts = £272.25

Nett benefit of advertising £94.75 per year (paid for 43 journals). The advertising rates have remained the same since 2005

As your interim Editor I am in the process of restructuring the advertising, besides the Harmers advert I have reduced the size of the adverts so that they only occupy the inside and outside back page totalling eight adverts. A premium will be charged for colour as against black & white and the foregoing is aimed at regaining three pages of your journal for articles and society content.

Increased advertising revenue is anticipated at £458 which will cost £108 to print making a Nett gain of £350 per annum and this effectively pays for the printing of 175 out of 660 journals per year.

Articles and Content in your Journal: Anyone who cares to look through previous Springbok’s will appreciate that this has been an ongoing headache for successive Editors.

Prior to the previous hand over Franz Heymann wrote in *The Springbok* Apr/Jun 2003 *This issue of The Springbok is, once again, very late. The reason for this is quite simple: Members are very tardy about supplying me with contributions for the journal.....Please remember that this is YOUR journal, and it is only as good or as bad as YOU make it.*

During Eddie Bridges term it reached one of its lowest levels in Volume 55 No 3 (Jul/Sep 2007), a journal practically devoid of content – a one page contribution, two pages by the editor and another with ‘*Letter to the Editor*’ plus nothing else worthy of note. Thus for those of you with a keen eye, the following appears on the previous page: ***‘It ought to be appreciated that the onus is not on the Editor to fill the pages of this Journal’***

Email: Our Secretary, Chris Oliver has indicated that out of the current 143 members (four have not yet paid their subscription) only 27 have not registered an email address, thus over 80% of you may be reached using one email. To ensure your privacy all collective emails will be placed in BCC and I will ask for contributions on a regular basis, ask a question or send a scan of an interesting item, even if it is only a one page article that is better than nothing. As Editor I can notify members what subjects are currently under review and provide each person with the opportunity to offer their input. Two regular features I hope to develop are ‘**Matters Arising**’ - comments on previous articles in *THE SPRINGBOK* and ‘**Members Ask**’.

Please ensure that we have your current email address - A list of missing souls appears on page 61.

There is an appeal on page 50 for you all to become **active members**, get more out of your Society – **Join In!**

Editorial

I felt that the sentiment of the late Alec Page, followed by the review of the Springbok prior to my Editorial is appropriate.

Many of you may be puzzled why there is suddenly a new Editor and **you** as members are entitled to an explanation. My first direct involvement started in November 2011 at Leamington Spa when I was asked if I would do a write up of the displays. I wanted to provide an overview of the weekend and added a touch of humour. In late January Eddie Bridges requested I submit my report as the next Springbok was nearing completion. My computer tells me I started 25/1, completed 4/2 and required sixteen & a half hours of editing. After completion Eddie and I had a long telephone conversation and as he is very busy at work I offered to assist him with production of the journal, which was well received. I wrote to him on 24 February confirming our conversation and concluded: *'I will email Chris & ask for a copy of the Society's accounts. I look forward to providing more input and hopefully build up a good working relationship with the Society.'*



Six weeks of silence followed, I phoned again and on that occasion I gained the impression that Eddie did not want me merely as an assistant, but wished for me to take over as Editor and before the Jan/Mar 2012 journal went to print he resigned on 10 April. A PDF copy of *The Springbok* was emailed to me and Max Whitlock on the 12th and received by the membership by the end of April, in the Editorial Eddie wrote: *'Now it has become even more difficult to get the copy done on time due to my work load. It has now become a burden and I think it is only fair on the membership that someone else takes on the job. If anyone is interested please let the Editor know and we can discuss.'*

Eddie Bridges Springbok Editor 2004 – 2012

As may be anticipated Eddie started 2004 with great gusto with Volume 52 No 1 (Jan/Mar 2004) and in his enthusiastic Editorial he wrote: ***The Springbok** can only be good, interesting and varied, if the members contribute to it. The journal is the life blood of the Society. It provides news of the activities and an insight to the collecting interests of the members and helps to bring together those with similar interests.*

In Eddie's first journal under 'Regular Features' there are eleven items for the membership to digest and by the end of 2011 that had dwindled to four. In 2004 the journal contained 134 pages and in 2011 it is down to 110 pages. (The average is 28 pages)

Comment - Looking through *The Springbok* during Eddie's eight years of editorship, it becomes clear that often the main contributor to the magazine, by necessity, was the Editor. This comes to me as no surprise as that trait can be seen in other society journals. When Alan Drysdall took over *The Transvaal Philatelist*, he was the one who transformed their journal and during Colin Hoffman's days as editor of *The Rhodesian Study Circle Journal*, Colin was its most prolific writer.

Eddie Bridges is a passionate and enthusiast supporter of South African Philately and has done a great deal for this Society. He is also a very pleasant man; perhaps he left it too late in appreciating that his work/personal life and *The Springbok* were in conflict with each other and to suddenly resign could have left the society without their journal, thus in the interim I volunteered to take on the task. I now find myself in a somewhat awkward position, *is it anticipated* that I produce the next three Springboks between May and October given that the last 2011 journal appeared in November and the latest edition was posted at the end of April which equates to a quarterly publication having a half year time lapse? Is it acceptable if I write Apr/Jun 2012 on the next front cover and post the Springbok in September? Is there enough steam in this society that warrants a quarterly journal? Editing any magazine is not an ego trip but the most time consuming task in the society and falling behind schedule can be upon anyone before they know it. **Postscript:** On completion, 97 hours of editing went into this edition, based on a 40 hour week = 2½ weeks.

Fortunately I have experience in producing a journal and since 1993 I have published my own magazine *The Rhodesian Philatelist*. Its content is entirely written by me and to give an insight to the amount of time it requires, the last two editions (44 pages) required 65 hours of editing. As I write, nothing has been 'handed over' to me and this entire journal has been put together from scratch. Although I am presently the Editor the society's protocol dictates that, although I **may** produce *The Springbok*, it is expected from me to invite the membership to take on the job, thus I looked through past editions of our journal to appreciate how the job of Editor was passed on from one to another.

During 1997 D.W. Painter was the Editor and in the **Jul/Sept 1997** edition under 'ANNUAL ELECTION of OFFICERS for 1998' a one line announcement said: *Special attention is drawn to the vacancy for the post of Honorary Editor.*

In the Oct/Dec 1997 edition under 'OFFICERS FOR 1998 from D.W. Painter' - *We have been fortunate in having Professor Franz Heymann volunteer for the post of Editor. This has been proposed, seconded and accepted. Franz will assume the role from 1 January 1998. We have corresponded and met and the handover is already underway.*

Franz Heymann, from Hawes in North Yorkshire, continued as SACS Editor for five years until: *The Springbok* Jan/Mar 2003 *I am now 78 years of age, with a degree of approaching senility appropriate to that age....I would therefore like to give notice that the Society should seriously start the business of looking for a new Editor.*

The Springbok Oct/Dec 2003 *This is the last issue to be edited by me. I have handed the mantle to Eddie Bridges, who will wear it from now onwards.*

Franz effectively gave the society a year's notice prior to handing over the Editorship, that scenario is not the case now so what is the solution? If any of you are happy for me to continue, I am prepared to do it for at least three years and I feel it is a good idea to appoint an Assistant Editor who, at a later stage takes over as Editor. Reasonable computer skills are essential and if these are lacking then the Editor is there to help and being over sixty myself means that I do battle with a computer every day.

Matters Arising

The Horseshoe Route Part II by Nick Arrow TS 317/24 (Volume 60/1)

Chris Oliver queries the third paragraph: If the flight from Kano took place on 17th & 18th February and mail from South Africa for this flight left Johannesburg on 8th February reaching Cape Town on 24th February, it would have missed the flight.

Nick Arrow clarifies: The Mail FROM South Africa left Johannesburg on the 8th February to connect with the flight to Kano. The mail FROM Kano arrived at Cape Town on the 24th February i.e. one flight each way.

Cinderella's and Labels

The connoisseurs call them poster stamps and in general the survival rate of labels, often applied to commercial mail, tends to have a much lower survival rate than postage stamps and it is often a trait of philatelists to claim that they have 'found an unrecorded item'. Trouble is there is always someone who might just have a similar item tucked away in the back of a book and then there are those who may have been fortunate enough to have seen a little more than others. Taking a browse through previous editions of *The Springbok* and one can soon find claims of 'new finds' or 'never seen before' and as often is the case no one follows it up and such 'finds' sink back into blissful obscurity.

Being a full time dealer, collecting and dealing is essentially a conflict of interest, thus for many years I had a section in a box that was simply marked 'Things I like' twenty plus years later with the box overflowing it became necessary to implement sub division. South African labels are numerous and cover a huge array of subjects, some are easily identified other not, Personally I am fascinated with them and along with many other odd-ball items I find myself the keeper of some very interesting items.

1910 Cape Town Pageant: Starting with the Springbok No 289 (Jan/Mar 2005) the late Fred Clark illustrated a triangular Seated Hope linked to the October 1910 Cape Town Pageant which he had seen in green and blue and posed the readers five questions, for me to answer them all would fill a journal. There was a response to Fred's appeal by Ian Shapiro and Ray Glanville Jones in issue No 290 and further input by Ray in No 293 (Volume 54/1) with some background information on the actual pageant, but nothing further on the perforated labels. I have a modest accumulation of related material that I have displayed at Leamington Spa and also at the 2010 STAMPEX celebrations.



The labels are known in Red, Green & Blue, printed in sheets on gummed paper by *TOWNSEND, TAYLOR & SNASHALL*, presumably in Cape Town. The labels are not common, multiples are rare and the largest piece I know of is a pane of seventy in green (14 x 10) with margins on three sides. On cover they are few and far between and so far I have managed to find the blue & red versions on cover. See front cover for the blue versions on an illustrated envelope which contained the Pageant programme.



World War I Recruitment Label

In *The Springbok* No 292, a whole page was devoted to this item that was illustrated in the December 1989 *Australian Stamp News* and incorrectly described as WWII.

It appears as another 'not seen before' item and no feedback was forthcoming. An illustration and query about the label appeared in the May 1989 *South African Philatelist* on page 126.

The general consensus is that it was a Patriotic recruitment label issued after the defeat of the Germans in German South West Africa. I have not seen it used on cover.

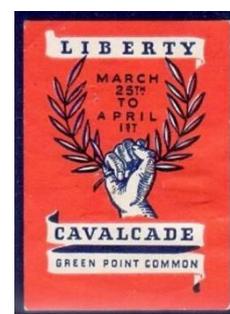
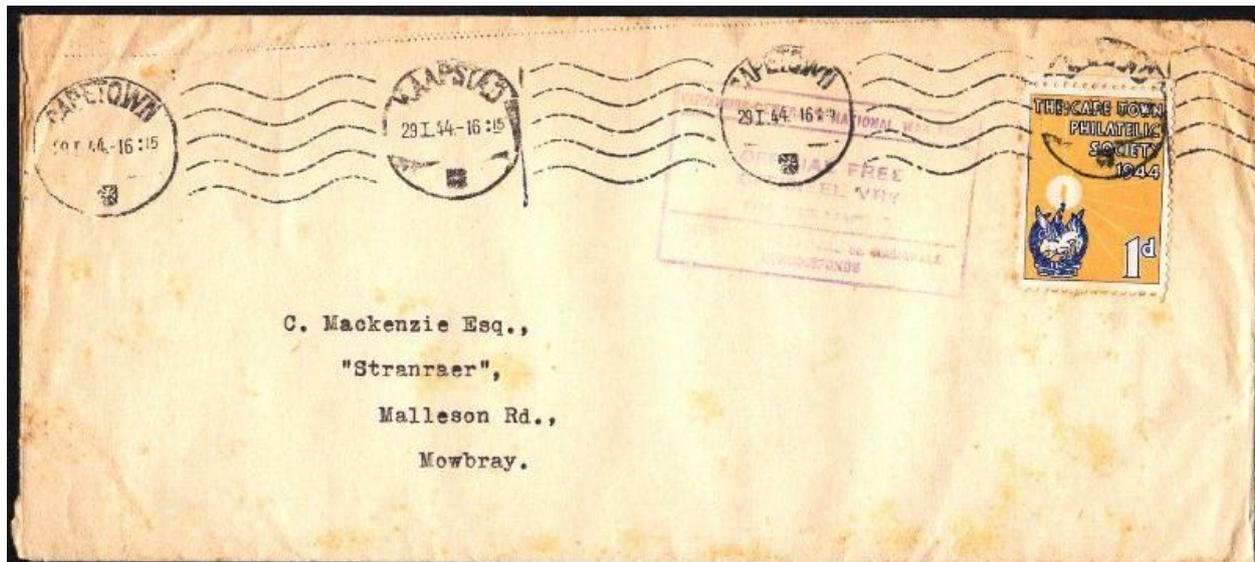
This label is part of my WWI label accumulation.

Liberty Cavalcade Promotional Labels by Eddie Bridges Springbok No 300 page 103

The Editor illustrated a letter on the Notepaper of the LIBERTY CAVALCADE – Western Province sent by the Cape Town Philatelic Society to its members enclosing sixty 1d labels requesting 'Your Committee would be greatly pleased, if each member would accept these stamps and remit the cost by cheque or postal order.'

Eddie asked whether any member had an example on cover, it's perhaps five years in coming, but I am able to comply with his request.

1944 Cape Town LIBERTY CAVALCADE



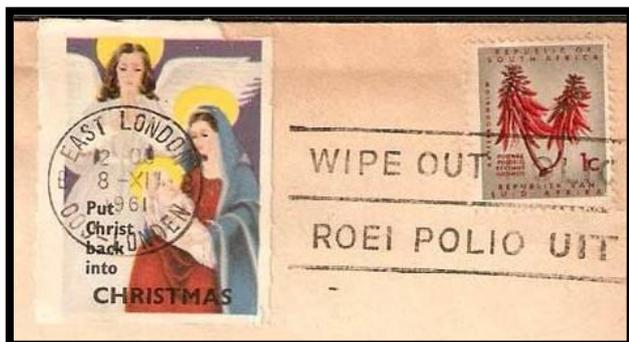
These Labels were issued in strips of six surrounded by a border and the illustrated envelope above contained the original Society letter along with ten strips of 1d stamps, it was posted 'OFFICIAL FREE' in Cape Town 29 I 44. I also possess several other covers with the Cape Town Philatelic Society labels. The illustrated strip shows a good shift of the yellow-orange colour. The red, blue and black illustration is a 'street flag' given away during street collections. Besides the above label, the Cape Town Philatelic Society also produced a sheetlet with four 1d labels with a different design which is known in two different colours.

I have another envelope indicating that the Liberty Cavalcade was stationed at 74 Strand Street in Cape Town.

Between 1942 and 1944 eight Cavalcades were organized and Cape Town was the fourth event. Others were in Bloemfontein, Durban, East London, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth plus three in Johannesburg. Special labels have been recorded for three of these events and in case of Durban I own the only example that I am aware of.

1947 Royal Visit labels in a 2/6 booklet: Springbok No 315 on this occasion it was Tony Howgrave-Graham's turn to claim a 'New Union Cinderella Discovery' sorry Tony I saw my first booklet circa 1982 and had another a few years later.

Unrecorded Christmas Booklet by Eddie Bridges Springbok 317, this time it is the turn of my son Simon who writes: The illustration on the front cover in the last issue meant nothing to me, but as soon as I saw the panes of labels on page 16 I knew I'd seen them before and found two of them on cover.



They originate from a *Burmeister* accumulation that I acquired in 2004 consisting of some 70,000 covers, all addressed to Burmeister, an agricultural & hardware supplier based in East London. Amongst these covers I found numerous labels tied to the envelopes by their postmarks.

These covers were cancelled at Stutterheim 13 XII 60 and East London 8 XII 1961 that makes it impossible to date the booklet accurately, thus circa 1960 will have to do.



Another cover with a different design but the same slogan *Put Christ back into Christmas*. The item is cancelled East London 19 XII 1967

There is the usual 1967 Christmas label alongside. Perhaps subsequent booklets were issued that included the first label.

The Unhyphenated 2d – The Purpose of Fly-Speck Philately by Tony Howgrave-Graham

John Shaw has kindly lent me his award winning ‘Anderson’ reference collection of used 2d unhyphenated stamps and it has been very useful and interesting exercise in helping me make some sort of sense of my own reasonably extensive holding.



The design of the rotogravure 2d is easily differentiated from its recess printed predecessor by the addition of the Delville Wood War Memorial added to the wall in front of the Union Buildings.

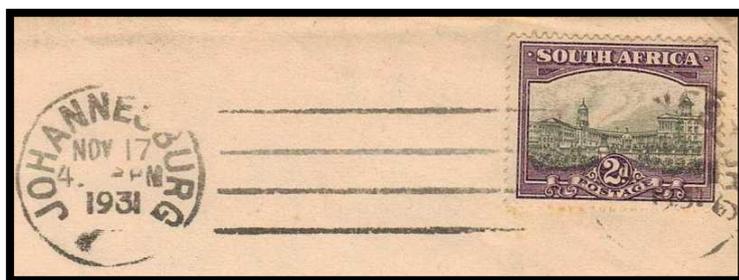
In *figure 1* I illustrate the trial printing in sepia and mauve in case the reader has not seen one before.

It's remarkable as the vignette cylinder had to be discarded because the vignette was too small for the frame.

The frame cylinder was, however, used with a new internal cylinder to produce Issue 1 released in April 1931. There were three pairs of cylinders used for production of the three standard issues plus further pairs for the booklet and coil printings.

The foregoing was derived from the same multipositives and the differentiation of issues 1/1a and 2/2a is beyond the scope of my short article that demonstrates the importance of being able to determine which issue a particular 2d stamp belongs to.

Although the Union handbooks are a mine of information I believe the dates for Issues 2 and 3 are incorrect and although Issue 2 is stated as FEB 1931, the item in *figure 2* is postmarked JOHANNESBURG NOV 17 1931 which is definitely an early Issue 2 as it has the fairly large blob in the 'S' of South ex row 20/6. My earliest example is on a single used copy dated SEP 31 but as yet I am not sure whether it could be a booklet stamp. **Figure 2**



Please study your own material as someone may be able to improve on the above dates.

According to the UHB Issue 3 appeared in 1934 but I have several examples dated in November and December 1933.

The 2012 Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth & British Empire catalogue list a 2d used pair with an upright watermark as SG 44 priced at £24 whereas its companion with an inverted watermark, SG 44bw is valued at a mere £9. Personally I do not agree with the SG valuation for the following reason.

Issue 1 - first appears with upright watermark and within a month seen inverted, in my estimation both versions are equal in value.

Issue 2 - was at first also delivered with an upright watermark and the majority seen fall in this category.

Inverted watermarks also occur but overall they possibly only represent 20 to 30% of the total issue.

Issue 3 – the initial printing is believed to have been small and had an inverted watermark, whereas subsequent printings are watermark up (about 70-80% of this issue) and remained in use until the 2d hyphenated issue appear in late 1938.

At a guess about 25% of a general holding are Issue 1, another 25% Issue 2 and 50% Issue 3. This equates to 65-70% of stamps having an upright watermark and 30-35% inverted. Almost exactly the opposite of the S.G. catalogue valuations!

With the booklet stamps, I had always thought that the panes from the left of the sheet (and the economy strip) had the watermark upright and those from the right had it inverted. Thus another example of the value of plating and taking into account the position of the watermark positions proved that the foregoing assumption is not correct. I have panes, ex rows 1&2/1 - 2, with both upright and inverted watermark so the paper feed was clearly at times with the watermark inverted.

Flaws on Issues 1 & 2 are common and on a vertical column they are repeated every eleventh stamp which in turn means the same flaw is found on different language settings. Bear in mind they are developmental flaws and once they progress appear six times in the same vertical row including the top and bottom margins.

The repetitive eleventh flaws are a different mechanism and thanks largely to the good, if not quite complete, explanation in the Anderson collection I may at last have worked them out in my mind. A full account of these flaws will appear in a subsequent article, but allow me to conclude this article with one of the better flaws on Issue 1- which appears on column six.



Figure 3 - Ex Row 1/6

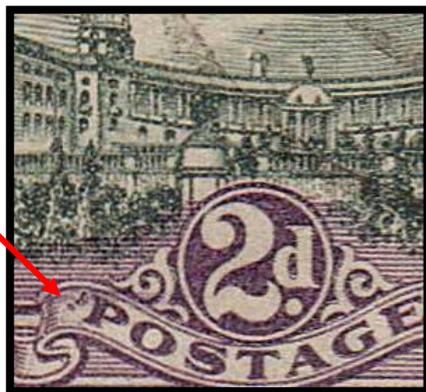


Figure 3 - Ex Row 8/6

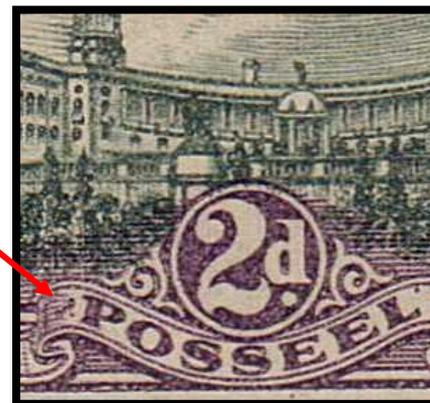


Figure 3 - Ex Row 19/6

In figure 3 a large lilac flaw appears to the left at the base of the left tower on an Afrikaans stamp ex row 1/6 and also on an English stamp on row 12/6. A similar flaw on row 8/6 is present left of the 'P' in 'POSTAGE' and again found in the same position next to the word 'POSSEEL' on row 19/6.

On rows 5 & 16 - stamp 6, this flaw is almost hidden and just affects the base of the 'I' in 'SUID' and 'U' of 'SOUTH' respectively. On Issue 1- There are at least thirteen different flaws affecting 78 stamps and up to three can appear on the same stamp – watch this space for my next article!

The Boer War by David Haig

Society member, David Haig, of Netherton, presented a truly amazing display of stamps, covers, postmarks, letters and postcards detailing the various events of the Boer War. He also had maps, books and other artefacts on display to the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society on Friday 20 April 2012

He reminded his audience that the title 'Boer War' does, in fact, cover two wars – one from 18 December 1880 to 12 March 1881 and the other from 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902. With postcards, postmarks and stereoscope views, various events of the first war were illustrated. Also displayed was a wonderful set of covers illustrating every battle fought during both Wars.

There were stamps from South Africa commemorating Winston Churchill's presence as a news correspondent for the London Morning Post during the second War. He was captured, imprisoned and eventually escaped & also stamps and covers showing Lord Baden Powell who was involved in the Siege of Mafeking. It was through his experiences here that his ideas of Boy Scout troops grew.

Postcards and stamps commemorated the various 'foreign troops' involved: Australian Victoria Mounted Rifles; Lord Strathcona's Horse; New Zealand Contingent; Irish Guards; Canadians; the Royal Navy – with HMS Powerful – and other British troops. There were many examples of postmarks of the different Field Post Offices.



There were sets of cigarette cards depicting people and events of both wars. Stamps also of Mahatma Gandhi who organized an Indian Volunteer Ambulance Corps – and was himself a stretcher bearer

Arthur Conan Doyle is commemorated on stamps both for his service as a medical doctor during the second war and also for his writing about the War.

Postcards and stamps of Lord Kitchener who put Boer civilians into concentration camps and of Emily Hobhouse, a journalist who reported the dreadful conditions she found in the camps, were also displayed. Some postcards of War Memorials recorded the aftermath of these wars.

London Meeting – 21 April 2012 by John Shaw

Held, as usual, at the Calthorpe Arms in Holborn, those present were John Archer, Nicholas Arrow, Tony Howgrave Graham, Tony Johnson, Nicholas Lindstrom, Christopher Oliver, David Osborne, Simon Peetoom and John Shaw. The meeting also stood in silence in memory of Eric Day, our late auditor.

On the society business side, I must advise you that Eddie Bridges, editor of the Springbok, and now working in Germany, has resigned from his post. Eddie has done a fine job taking the Springbok from ancient technology to the modern, despite being plagued with illness that an international oarsman is not used to; mercifully he appears to have recovered from that and has said he will continue to support the society. Through illness, work and other problems, Eddie admits he has not been able to produce the journal on time, saying it is now time for him to go (I went through a similar process before deciding to relinquish another society post I really loved) We sincerely thank Eddie for his work, not just on the Springbok, but also at Leamington Spa where he and Brian Trotter were the architects of its success.

So, we need a new editor and volunteers are welcome – please contact Chris Oliver

In the meantime, Otto Peetoom has offered to produce the next Springbok as Interim Editor - Thank you Otto

There has been much smoke and mirrors over the Society finances, but much of this should be resolved by a different format of balance sheet. Also, John Richardson from Salisbury has offered to act as Independent Examiner for the society, in place of Eric Day, and will now work closely with David Osborn on the accounts. Subscriptions were also discussed and at the AGM we shall propose a two-tier system for those prepared to accept the Springbok and auction lists by email PDF files (anywhere in the world) on the lower tier, then rates for those requiring paper copies for Europe and the rest of the world. Now to the stamps!

The philatelic theme of the meeting was 'First RSA definitives' and the lead was taken by John Archer who showed all values of the sets in cylinder blocks. Notable items were the 1 Rand blocks, starting with the Type I first printing on Arms watermark paper then, likewise its first and second reprints", concluding with the Type I cylinder block on RSA watermarked paper the latter, according to a late friend of mine, Benje Joseph, one of the scarcest RSA definitives. Why they should be classified as reprints and not later printings I shall never understand, since reprints as we philatelists comprehend, such as the Latin American Seebecks, were produced posthumously for reasons such as sale to philatelists below face value. A scarce variety in Type I, also shown, is the broken "U" in Republic. However, the 1 Rand then appeared as Type II, with only minor, but discernible, differences in the design and, to my mind, louder colours, and John showed a complete range of cylinder blocks of these.

An interesting point to mention is that John's Type I cylinder blocks with Arms watermark were written up as upright and as sideways watermark and this caused some initial excitement on the possibility of a new discovery; but John admitted to having written two pages up exactly as he had bought them from a collection. Careful examination by Simon Peetoom and Tony H-G revealed that the watermarks were extremely difficult to see but were all, as listed sideways watermarks. Also of interest in the first definitives is the 20 cents 'Secretary Bird', a protected species due to its ability to kill large snakes! I did not realize how large an animal this is and Tony Howgrave-Graham produced a lovely postcard depicting the bird killing a very large snake. From modest beginnings, John Archer has developed a fine collection and study of these definitives and is to be congratulated on leading the display.

Finally Tony H-G showed a few of the varieties on these issues including ink blobs, reminiscent of the rotogravure 11th row flaws, inverted and reversed watermarks, on the 2½ cents a block with two columns of double perforations, a block with a corner fold over resulting in a partial print and spectacular perforation effect and, finally, a stunning vertical strip of three of the 1 Rand Strelitzia two stamps showing totally missing blue colour and the top stamp with half the of the blue colour missing – an absolutely stunning piece from my favourite RSA stamp, partly since the late Eric Sherwood and his wife Gladys, who often stayed with us when we lived in Lincolnshire, sent us a Strelitzia plant during a visit to South Africa.

Yet again, this meeting allowed us to see some wonderful and interesting material and, again, I hope we shall get a greater attendance for future meetings.



Postscript – I owned a block of six of SG 325a Orange Omitted that was accompanied by a small photograph of the original sheet and kept a copy of it - not the best quality but there it is

Editor

Report on Meeting of South West Group by Nick Arrow

Bas Payne was the exhibitor at the SW Group meeting which took place at the Scout Hut, Harnham, on the 28th April, showing early Machine Cancels and then Parcel postmark, labels and related items.

Bas started by commenting that, although the material would have been very common in the period which it was being created, it now is relatively scarce - as he put it, the survival rate of these commercial items was very low, with only a few items being recorded as existing today out of the millions which would have been created. In the case of the Parcel postmarks, he suggested that this was because the cancellers used were not of the 'pretty' variety.

The machine cancellers were introduced to speed the processing of the mail. As the greater part of the mail delivered every day for process at the main Post Offices arrived in the late afternoon, it was necessary to deal with these promptly. The first cancelling machine used in South Africa, a Bickerdike machine from Canada, introduced in Cape Town from 1899 to 1903, was capable of dealing with 4 - 6,000 items an hour. In 1903, a Boston machine was trialled, but in 1904 a Columbia was brought in and used, with a succession of 'killers' and datestamps until 1912, when it was replaced with the very familiar Krag machine cancellations, with their larger (25mm diameter) datestamps. Johannesburg got off to a later start with a Columbia machine in 1904, used with a succession of 'killers' and date stamps. The first Krag machine was introduced in Johannesburg in 1914, but unlike in Cape Town, the Columbia machine continued in use until 1921 in parallel with the Krag. Bloemfontein used a Columbia machine between 1922 and 1926 - this one may have been the one used in Cape Town, as the 'killer' has the same measurements (and differs from those used in Johannesburg).

For his display of Parcel Post material, he outlined the 6 basic types of Parcel postmark, being (a) small circular dated postmark (b) cork cancellations (c) undated roller cancellations (d) the 6 (or sometimes 4) bar cancellation with the name of the Post Office between the bars (e) undated circular postmarks (both small and large) (often with the name of the offices abbreviated as two or three initials - e.g. DN, JH, PMB etc) and finally (f) dated roller parcel cancellations. There were some mouth watering blocks of stamps, in particular a block of 6 of the 1/- Issue 2 and a B14 of 1/- issue 1, as well as a spectacular B6 of the 10/- hyphenated stamps, as well as a strip of three on the same piece! He finished this part of the display with examples of different kinds of parcel post labels, including insured parcel labels, agricultural parcel labels, foreign parcel post labels and an official parcel label, as well as certificates of posting, including a certificate of a registered parcel used in Swaziland, before closing with a partial Z.A.R. form, the precise purpose of which he had yet to discover.

In all it was a fantastic display. The sad thing was that he was talking to an audience of two, Tony H-G and the writer. From our point of view, this was a huge advantage, in that, instead of the more formal display, we gathered round the material which Bas was able to demonstrate in detail - I know that I learnt far more about these subjects, both of which are well outside my normal comfort zone, than I ever would have done, even if seated in the front row of the audience.

After an excellent lunch, Tony H-G showed some airmails which a friend had asked him about, which stretched my recollection of airmail postal rates to the limit, and I showed some material from the Tercentenary celebrations, in particular the Mail Coach material which is the subject of another article in this issue of the Springbok.

It may be that small informal gatherings such as this will be the prototype of local Group meetings, as the cost to the Society of hiring halls for only a very few members has a limited appeal, particularly with the Society's finances having to be carefully considered in these difficult times. If this is to be the pattern, remember, you read it first in the experiences of the SW Group, where we found that a small group can generate a substantial enthusiasm - it has long been my belief that weight is of interest only to the designer of a steamroller!

Packet News from Tony Johnson

Currently we have 6 packets circulating with quite a good mix of material. However, as ever, more books will be needed soon to ensure we try to have something of interest to all our members. I can only send out the material I am given, so please supply any new books you can for inclusion in the circuit.

As we all know the cost of posting has recently gone up substantially and this worries me. I always endeavour to keep any packet of such a size that it will go at minimum cost as a large second class packet but some people have told me that their local post office won't accept the package from them at this rate as it is too thick. I don't really see what else can be done to avoid this, apart from including fewer books and thereby reducing choice, except to say 'take care when packing to minimise the thickness'. It always leaves me at the lower rate.

Another problem is that recently the Post Office reduced the time for claiming for loss of a packet to 80 days. This means that if a packet goes missing (as one did recently) I need to claim fairly quickly. To ensure I can do this in time it is important we all keep to the following procedure to minimise any delay in becoming aware of a loss:

1. Before sending a packet on to the next person, phone the intended recipient and **speak to them to ensure they will be available** (don't leave a message on an answer phone). If you can't get a reply go to someone else on the list. **Our insurance will require a letter from you confirming this call in the event of a packet going missing.**
2. Send me your remittance slip so I am aware that the packet has been forwarded. (If you don't purchase anything an email will suffice). Please retain the certificate of posting for 3 months, or send it to me with your remittance slip.
3. If you have been told of a packet being sent and you haven't received it in a week please let me know (either by phone on 01296 661342 or by email to tonyjohnson26@btinternet.com). I will then be able to start chasing it.
4. Try to turn a packet round in 3 days so that I can see from remittance slips/emails that a packet is moving.

The Major Varieties of the Union of South Africa **An Introduction by Otto Peetoom**

Many years ago I began asking philatelists what they considered to be the Union's rarest varieties, my question seemed to surprise most people and their tentative replies varied considerably.

Having researched the Union varieties on and off for some time, I have accumulated numerous illustrations, mainly from auction catalogues. The aim is to determine the numbers that might exist and also to attempt reconstructing the relevant sections of original pieces. It is a pity that so little has been published on the major varieties of the Union and I hope that my articles might attract further input providing a considerable contribution to South African philately.

In general most people regard the double print on the 1913 ½d King's head as South Africa's rarest variety and for many years it was the highest priced Union item in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. Visually I do not find it impressive and on the five known examples the doubling on each stamp varies from seventy to ten percent. As a result I have not been tempted to acquire this particular variety.

The major Union varieties include double prints, missing colours, watermark, overprint and perforation errors. An inverted centre exists on the 1927 10/- Table Mountain definitive. Five examples were found in the famous Charles Nissen stock sold to Stanley Gibbons in October 1977 for a price of £861,000. This impressive variety is said to have come from printers waste.

I have often heard collectors complain as to why Gibbons do not list certain variations, however in the front of each Stanley Gibbons catalogue under 'Information and Guidelines' a clear and specific criteria is given as to which types of varieties they do or do not list.

Other specialized publications that include odd ball errors and varieties, some caused by intrusions, fold over's or mis-perforation include the defunct Robemark loose leaf catalogue, the current South African Stamp Colour Catalogue and of course the various editions of the Union Handbook. Many of their listings are beyond the scope of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. Several Stamp dealers, myself included, have often contributed to the discovery, listing and pricing of Union varieties. My first claim to fame was in early 1980's when I bought a 2d Official pair as SG 035, but it proved to an inverted overprint, now listed as SG 045a.

The Union Handbooks are a wealth of information, the last edition appeared in 1986, one would anticipate that this ought to be the most up to date, comprehensive and accurate publication, but sadly it is not. To fully appreciate the value of the Union Handbooks it is necessary to work through each edition and carefully extract the relevant information. The early handbooks were produced by individuals such as G.W. Reynolds 1924 - 25, J. Ritchie 1926 and L. Simenhoff in 1931. In 1946 The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa took over the task of producing a handbook. Their next edition appeared in 1952 followed by a Part II in 1955, then the 1960 Golden Jubilee edition combined the foregoing and the last two were published in 1979 & 1986.

I have noticed that certain items listed in the early handbooks were excluded in later editions. I believe the reason for this was that some varieties effectively 'disappeared' - they were not seen or traded and some of the Union's rarest varieties remained in the hands of the same families for decades.

Price comparisons between varieties in early editions set against prices in subsequent handbooks, are useful and a worthwhile exercise. I noticed that some of the rarest items were forgotten or neglected and in later editions were either grossly devalued or simply deleted.

For example in Simenhoff's 1931 catalogue a Professor J.J. Smith is named as being the owner of the double print on the ½d Kings head and the 1926 ½d Springbok. Smith passed away in June 1949, his obituary appeared in the August 1949 S.A.P. and his collection also included a unique block of eight of the unhyphenated 3d Groote Schuur missing the frame colour completely on five stamps and partially on the other three. The 3d missing frame featured in the 1946 Handbook valued at £40 and at that time the ½d Kings Head double print was quoted at £60. The 1952 edition included the 3d variety unpriced but was omitted from the 1960 - 1986 handbooks. After 60+ years in the Smith family Stephan Welz sold several of their important varieties were and the 3d block of eight appeared in an April 2000 sale, Stanley Gibbons listed it the following year as SG 45f and it is now the highest priced South African stamp.

Another forgotten major variety is the 1926 ½d Springbok with a double print, only three pieces are known. In my opinion it is more impressive and rarer than the one on the ½d Kings head and this was reflected in the 1946 handbook pricing the Springbok at £90, fifty percent higher than the Kings head. Yet the Springbok double print also slid into obscurity, not deleted from the handbook, but devalued out of all proportion and in the 1986 edition it slid to a mere R2,000 against R10,000 for the ½d Kings head. Thus in a period of forty years its value went from being 50% higher to 80% lower.

The Smith collection included a lower corner marginal strip of five of the ½d Springbok, the first stamp doubled completely and the second approximately half. Sold by Stephan Welz in November 1999 for R77,000 (£8,000). It made its debut in the 2002 Stanley Gibbons catalogue priced at a mere £300! In 2012 it is quoted at £3250.

1926 ½d Springbok (London printing) with double print of frame - By Otto Peetoom

'*A Sensational Variety*' reported under this heading in the July 1926 South African Philatelist on page 60.

'A Johannesburg philatelist, Mr Alex Bronks, has acquired a sheet of the halfpenny pictorial showing the green frame doubly printed on six stamps in the bottom left-hand corner, two stamps having the frame completely double printed, the second impression not being complete on the other copies. An illustration will appear in our next issue.'

S.A. Philatelist August 1926 - Sadly no illustration, a three line note on page 66 explained, that owing to the variety having changed hands no illustration was forthcoming but they hoped to include it in the very near future. I looked through the rest of the 1926 (missing the December issue) and also the 1927 and 1928 S.A.P.'s - no illustration.

In the July 1928 S.A.P. under 'Familiar names' there is a picture of Mr A. Bronks, the notes indicate that he was a stamp dealer and an advertisement in the S.A.P. confirms this and his premises located at 16, Old Arcade, Market Street, Johannesburg.

J. Ritchie listed the variety in his 1926 handbook and so did L. Simenhoff in his 1931 catalogue. The varieties on the sheet were split into three units and described by Simenhoff as:-

- a) Double printed frame plate, half stamp; row 17, No.1 (in strip) £25.
- b) As a, but one complete stamp and two partially. Row 18, No.1, row 19 No's 1 and 2 (in strip) Collection H.T. Jones £95.
- c) As a, but one complete stamp and one half. Row 20 No's 1 and 2 in corner strip - Collection Prof. J.J. Smith £95.



Unit one, double print: on row 17/1 approximately forty percent of the frame is doubled being a diagonal area covering the left corner. The contemporary report did not note that the stamp above on R16/1 also has a small area of doubling in its lower left corner.

The variety is not in a strip as stated by Simenhoff, but is part of a left marginal block of forty two (6 x 7) being the first six stamps from rows 11 to 17. Part of a marginal arrow is opposite the first stamp on row 11. This multiple was in the Lamont Smith collection sold by Stephan Welz on 14 June 1989 as lot 426 - estimated R3000-4000 it realized R7,344 (£1,690)

The second impression (doubling) of the frame on R17/1 extends upwards into the lower left corner of the first stamp on row 16

The Lamont Smith Sale: The collection consisted of a host of varieties and specialized material from Southern Africa and the buyers, often with a limited budget, were spoilt for choice. With almost 360 lots of South Africa in this sale it meant that lot 426, with the double print on the 1/2d Springbok, might easily be overlooked and the item did not even qualify for a colour illustration. This variety is illustrated in 'Runner & Mailcoach' (1969) by Rosenthal & Blum opposite page 145.

Unit two - double prints on rows 18 and 19: ex H.T. Jones it was later included in the J.B. Bloom collection. I have gained the impression that this collection is more than likely still intact and possibly in the hands of a family member living in Canada.

I do not know the size of this unit and part of it is illustrated in the 1979 edition of the Union handbook opposite page 91.

This illustration shows six stamps with three affected by doubling. The frame on the stamp from R19/1 is completely doubled, whereas on R18/1 it appears around 85% and approximately 20% double on R19/2.



Unit three - double frame on row 20: This multiple is a lower left corner marginal strip of five with three normal stamps. Complete doubling on R20/1 and approximately half on R20/2. Ex Professor J. J. Smith collection, it was sold by Stephan Welz on 30 November 1999 as lot 388 - estimated R60, 000-80,000 it realized R77,000 (£8,000). This strip reappeared in a 1 November 2006 Warwick & Warwick sale as lot estimated at £5500 and sold for £5405. In my opinion, someone got a bargain.

Forgotten and devalued

In 1931 Simenhoff priced the double print on the ½d Springbok slightly higher than the one on the 1913 ½d Kings head. This was again reflected in the 1946 handbook, setting the price at £90, fifty percent higher than the ½d Kings head at £60.

The importance of the ½d Springbok variety gradually faded into obscurity. By 1960 the handbook reduced its value to R100 (£50) and the 1986 edition set its value at R2, 000 against R10, 000 for the ½d Kings head. Thus over a period of forty years the value of the ½d Springbok went from 50% higher than the Kings head to 80% lower.

The Stanley Gibbons catalogue only listed the variety in recent years as a mint pair SG 30d, pricing it at £300 in 2002 and in the 2012 edition at £3,250.

Considering that the complete doubling of the frame only occurs on the first stamps on rows 19 and 20 it ought to be listed as a single with perhaps a footnote stating how many exist. Given that SG 2a, the double print on the ½d Kings head is valued at £10,000, a more realistic price for SG 30d ought to be in the region of £15,000 - fifty percent higher than the King's head.

References:-

Illustrations from Stephan Welz Auctions 1989 & 1999 and 1979 Union handbook opposite page 91

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue

The South African Philatelist July – August 1926

The Springbok Jan/Mar 2007 – Auction Report

Union hand books – 1926 (J. Richie), 1931, (L. Simenhoff), 1946, 1952, 1960, 1979 and 1986 (all P.F.S.A.)

'Runner & Mailcoach' (1969) by Rosenthal & Blum

The above article appeared in the December 2011 edition of *THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST* and as many members do not subscribe Eddie Bridges feels it appropriate to reprint it in *The Springbok* – Other articles on major varieties will follow.

What Sort of Society Member are You? – By Simon Peetoom

Simon refers the reader to the comment by the late W.A. Page at the top of page 40

It is a fair point and one which I feel well placed to expand

Many people join a society and are happy to receive the publication that arrives on the door mat from time to time. They read the articles, see the pictures and digest the names of the regular contributors and possibly wonder who these people are?

Perhaps members of the South Africa Collectors' Society think what great knowledge such people must have and what serious philatelists they must be! These familiar names are in fact *active members* and they come from all walks of life, a friendly bunch and they are all stamp collectors, just like you & me - I know this because I joined their ranks a few years ago.

The number of people who attend meetings, especially the London meetings, is falling. This is a real shame, as often the displays can lead onto to all kinds of discussions. For example at the April London meeting, the chat turned to discussing the Secretary Bird, depicted on the 20c of the first R.S.A. definitives. Tony Howgrave-Graham coincidentally had taken a photograph of this magnificent bird attacking what turned out to be a rubber snake. From a philatelic point of view, if you had attended the last London meeting of 2011, your eyes may well have been out on stalks (mine were), as we looked at collections of the London Pictorial issues formed by Tony Howgrave-Graham and John Shaw. You would have seen stamps worthy of a Gold Medal collection, but the real delight to you was the chance to hold the album pages in your hand, instead of peering at them through a sheet of Perspex at an exhibition. More importantly, you are able ask questions of the owners of these stamps.

Thus you might appreciate, we do not just talk about stamps and we also welcome questions of any sort. If you consider yourself a beginner, we will happily show our collections and we are delighted to welcome new faces. So if you have not been to a meeting and you are wondering if you should, then go for it! If you enjoy it, come again, if you don't, so be it, but at least give it a try. By just turning up you become an *active member* and the Society needs people like you. Bring something to show and you have *contributed*. If the membership is the lifeblood of our society, then the *active members* are the vital organs, skin and bones of a society.

There are regular meetings in London and Carlisle. We also have the Joint Southern Africa Societies conference held in November in Leamington Spa (just come for one day if you wish) and next year there will be a new Leamington Spa meeting in June. Details are found elsewhere in *The Springbok*, or on the website.

Please email your comments to Simon at simon@africastamps.co.uk – A great picture of Simon at a recent Leamington Philatelic weekend, looks as if someone poked him in the eye with their tweezers.



Editor

11 November 2012 - Leamington Spa Auction – Tony Howgrave-Graham needs material for this sale
Closing date for lots is Saturday 4 August – Contact Tony on 01725 510067 – Email ajbmhg@btinternet.com
The Cottage, Barford Lane, DOWNTON, Wiltshire SP5 3QA

The Nairobi Lufthansa Crash - November 1974 - By Vicki Archard

This is an edited version of an article by Vicki which I believe appeared in the East Africa Study Circle journal issue B.E.A. Volume 14, No 93 in September 2009.

It was the first Boeing 747 Jumbo crash, flight D-ABYB from Frankfurt to Johannesburg, piloted by Captain Krack carrying 140 passengers and 17 crew members. In the early morning on 20 November after takeoff from Nairobi Airport, the Boeing had reached about 150 feet, went into a stall mode and sank back to the ground near the end of the runway. It struck an elevated access road and broke up with the left wing exploding and fire spreading to the fuselage. Of the 157 onboard there were 98 survivors, 59 perished consisting of 55 passengers and 4 crew members.

The plane had been carrying less than fifty percent of its possible payload of passengers and freight. It was the first air crash of a Boeing 747 and the first crash ever at Nairobi Airport and an appeal had to go out for blood donors to help the injured.

The official investigation revealed that the pilot had attempted to take off with the leading edge flaps retracted. This meant that the aeroplane was airborne in a partially stalled condition and could not gain enough height to complete its takeoff.

From the article it appears that the salvaged mail was forwarded to Johannesburg and it is at this point that the story gains a South African interest.

Harald Krieg from Germany brought attention to an item sold on eBay on 25 September 2009 described as:

EAST AFRICAN P & T METAL TAG ATTACHED TO PAPER DISPATCH TAG - This is a special Dispatch tag from mail bag that contained crash mail that was placed aboard the ill-fated flight at Nairobi Kenya.

The item dated 27/11/74 one week after crash and this bag carried the crash mail and forwarded to South Africa. Metal tag had some use - as it is older and still says East African P & T (Post and Telegraph) imprinted in metal. Front and rear of paper tag has the special cancel for mail from this disaster.



Vicki acquired a rather dirty envelope sent from Germany to Salisbury, Rhodesia on 16 November 1974. As well as black scrape marks it also has an excellent strike in red of a bilingual English & Afrikaans

RETRIEVED FROM
AIR CRASH ON 20
NOVEMBER 1974 AT
NAIROBI

HERWIN VAN
LUGRAMP OP 20
NOVEMBER 1974 TE
NAIROBI

Vicki wrote: *'I have also been contacted by Ken Sanford who specialises in airmails and who is Editor of the journal of the Wreck & Crash Mail Society.*

He agrees that there was a lot of mail recovered from this crash, but the exact amount is not known.

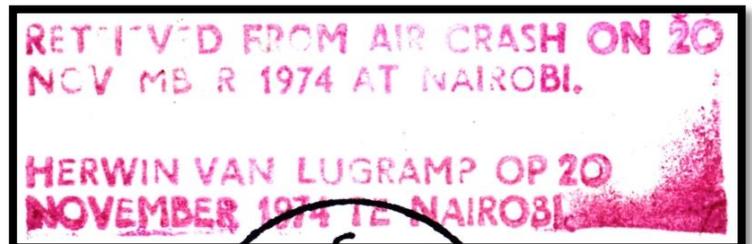
He states that the most common covers are from Germany, but he has seen covers from Norway, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Bolivia and a few other European countries. In his opinion, all of the recovered mail was sent to South Africa for processing, which explains the bilingual English-Afrikaans cachet, and none of the mail was processed in Kenya.'

In the article the Author seems unsure whether the cachet was applied in South Africa, in my opinion that is so without any doubt.

Sources quoted:

Recovered Mail, Henri L Nierinck

A Falling Star, Betty Leslie-Melville, 1986, Macmillan New York



Important events during the Union of South Africa 1910 – 1952

Several important events that occurred in the Union were of National importance and the population embraced them with pride and dignity, such events would have attracted massive coverage by national and local news media. Often such events had some sort of philatelic connection and yet when one searches contemporary philatelic magazines such as the all important South African Philatelist, announcements or mention of these events tended to be minimal or not at all.

1910 Cape Town Pageant, there is some stupendous material in the possession of a few and yet very little is known or has been written on this particular subject, I touched briefly on this event on page 47 plus there is the front cover for all to admire. Should I remain Editor, more of this will appear in future journals. The Pageant pre-dates the S.A.P. and I do not recall seeing anything about the event in later editions. Joseph Lieberfreund has been in contact and more information is on its way to me.

1938 A Philatelic connection to the Re-enactment of the Great Trek Contemporary Extracts from The South African Philatelist

January 1933 S.A.P. Editorial - Voortrekker Commemoratives in 1936?

'The suggestion has been made and we heartily commend it, that South Africa should issue a set of stamps commemorating the centenary of the Great Trek, one of the outstanding events in the history of the country. We understand that a committee has been formed to foster the idea and we hope that some leading philatelists will be invited to co-operate.....We have observed, during the last two or three decades, a strong tendency on the part of Afrikaners to keep themselves to themselves when celebrating, instead of inviting their fellow South Africans to join in with them. This is a pity, because there is a great number of the latter who appreciate the heroic deeds, bravery and perseverance in the face of terrific odds, of the heroes in South African history.'

April 1933 S.A.P. *'We now understand that the commemoration will be held in 1938 and not 1936, the former being the year when the Voortrekkers entered Natal. Meanwhile, there will be issued a set of three Voortrekker Memorial Fund stamps....The design of each stamp will be changed annually during the five-year period.....there will be issued fifteen stamps in five sets of three.'* Needless to say the ambitious stamp issuing proposal did not come about.

In the **May issue** under **'Union Notes'** it states that a set of three Voortrekker Memorial Fund stamps will be issued on 1 May.

Date of issue there appears to be a discrepancy with the day of issue, besides the SAP, in the 1946 & 1952 UHB it is on Monday the 1st and was altered to the 3rd in the 1960 handbook, then in the 1979 edition there is a footnote on page 299 that states: *'It is generally accepted that these values were issued on the 3rd May 1933, but a piece with a clear date-stamp of 1st May 1933 has come to light, thus placing doubt on the original information.'*

(A general appeal has been sent by email – has anyone got an answer?)

June 1933 S.A.P. - Editorial

The UK based *Stamp Collecting* magazine gives the South African stamp policy 'thumbs down' with a heading *'South Africa Falls for Commemoratives.....disquieting news that South Africa has fallen victim to the commemorative stamp stunt.'*

'In our May issue, we mentioned the fear that these stamps would not be popular with philatelists and our quotation from Stamp Collecting sustains our view.'

July 1933 S.A.P. - Editorial

We had not intended to revert to the subject of the issue of the Voortrekker Memorial Fund stamps, but Mr. J. Robertson, writing in the Stamp collecting of 13th May, says:-

In passing, we may mention that philatelists co-operated with the Voortrekker Centenary Committee in order that well designed stamps be issued, and the support given to the scheme by THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST is acknowledged in the official Press bulletins dealing with the issue.

This is the first that we have heard that philatelists co-operated with the Voortrekker Centenary Committee, and we should naturally like very much to know who these philatelists were.

It is true that the Committee made reference to the note in our January number relative to the projected Voortrekker Centenary commemorative issue, but we had no idea then of the projected Memorial Fund issue. We adhere to our opinion that a centenary commemorative issue would be justified as a national commemoration of the greatest event which led to the opening up of the hinterland of Southern Africa, as well as to commemorate the courage, fortitude and perseverance of the Voortrekkers; but we cannot reconcile ourselves to the Memorial Fund stamps, and we hope that the proposed issues for the next five years will be abandoned.

October 1933 S.A.P. - Letter to the Editor from H. Galbraith Criticising the designs of the 1933 Voortrekker Stamps

May I draw attention to some points in the designs of the Voortrekker Memorial Fund and the Swaziland stamps.

In the central design of the 1½d Voortrekker stamp we see a wagon drawn by the usual span of fourteen oxen being hauled up a rugged slope of more than one in one – virtually up the face of a cliff. I suppose this must be accepted as a typical example of modern art, in which the artist depicts, not the scene as it should be, but as he prefers to see it with the usual disastrous results as in this instance. *(Our correspondent is wrong – the design was copied from the well-known old paintings-Ed.)*

In the 3d value, a Zulu shield is shown on either side of the frame. Behind the shield is shown three assegais, two crossed and one vertical. The latter should have been omitted and replaced by the tufted head of the stick, held in position by the strips of hide passed over and under through the slits shown on either side of the centre, and crossed behind to hold the stick in position. In all three stamps a small cross is shown, similar in shape to the Red Cross, a symbol associated, in peace time, with charitable work. Its appearance on the stamps is meaningless and quite out of place.

In the design of the Swaziland stamps, the shields are pointed (as in the Voortrekker stamp), without the stick, and with only horizontal slits on the shield. The Zulu shield is rounded top and bottom, the stick is an essential part of its construction, as are also the strips of hide inserted through the slots for the purpose already mentioned. I have shown the designs to my Zulu servants and their verdict is "mubi impela."

During 1934 and 1935 nothing further was said about the South African Voortrekker commemoratives in the SAP and in February 1936 the additional ½d + ½d (SG 50) to three values issued in May 1933 received a plug under 'Union Notes' and in May that year there was interest in the history of the church depicted on the stamp.

November 1935 S.A.P. – Outrage over the Union Voortrekker issue being overprinted S.W.A.

Voortrekker Stamps Overprinted

Yet another attack is being made by the Government on the pockets of stamps collectors by the unnecessary and uncalled for overprinting of the Voortrekker stamps with the letters SWA. After the long time which has elapsed since the first issue in 1933 of these stamps it is certainly very strange that they should only now be made available for use in South West Africa, and it is doubtful whether a very large proportion of the residents in that territory have any desire or inclination to pay a 50 per cent, increase in postage rates in order to contribute towards the erection of a memorial to the memory of the Voortrekkers in which many of them cannot have any interest.

The position probably is that the Government finds that these stamps have not been selling too well (one certainly very seldom sees them on correspondence particularly from the country districts) and has therefore considered that it is desirable that a fresh impetus should be given to their sale, especially to stamp collectors, by means of this overprint.

It is unfortunately a fact that no amount of fulmination against this action on the part of the Government will prevent collectors from acquiring these stamps, but nevertheless it is greatly to be regretted that the Government has found it necessary to augment the funds for such a worthy object by such unworthy means.



**Illustrated cover from
P.O. Box 3686 JOHANNESBURG
27 VI 38**

**The Caption translates
Its Voortrekker year
Buy Voortrekker Stamps**

**This envelope is the only example I
have encountered**

January 1938 S.A.P.

To my amazement, several years later
The 1933 – 36 first Voortrekker set
received its first proper write up by
L. Simenhoff

In the **S.A.P. August Editorial** they announced the 16 December 1938 Voortrekker Centenary set (SG 76 – 79) and provided brief notes on the Ox-Wagon Post. In September the additional two stamps were announced - SG 80 & 81.

Both sets enjoyed a two page spread in the November issue.

At the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain that year, commemoratives once again received a bad press and they deplored the issues of Spain, along with those of France and its Colonies.

Other than a mention in the August 1938, the Philatelic connections with the Ox wagon journeys plus the various postmarks employed on the commemorative covers received no coverage in *The South African Philatelist*.

Perhaps that was due to the bad image commemoratives had been subjected to in the general philatelic press, thus to avoid getting egg on their face the S.A.P. played down the entire re-enactment as much as possible.

It took until 1975 for Hasso Reisener to do some justice to the philatelic events of 1938 in his book *'The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa'* by devoting more than six pages to the famous Trek. It has been recognized, that his information was probably gleaned from official sources as there are inaccuracies in his resume.

Our member Siegfried Mayr in the USA is a Great Trek enthusiast and advises us that a more authoritative text which covers the history and the details of the 1938 trek is – G.D.J. Duvenhage *'Die Gedenktrek van 1938: 'n Bedevaart en 'n Kruistog'* published in 1988 by Gutenberg in Pretoria. Title translates *The Commemorative Trek of 1938 – a Pilgrimage and a Crusade*.

Some philatelic insights into the 1938 Memorial Trek By Siegfried Mayr with additional comments from the Editor

During the 1938 ox-wagon commemorative journey, it retraced the path of the original 1838 Great Trek that not only proved to be a particular emotional and triumphant event for South African Afrikaners but also became a noteworthy philatelic event. The two principal ox-wagons, named Andries Pretorius and Piet Retief, carried quantities of commemorative envelopes postmarked at the point of departure to the two destinations of the Voortrekker and Blood River Monuments. The covers in question are known with approximately one hundred different postmarks dated from August to December 1938 and these are noted in a book by Hasso Reisener *'The special & commemorative postmarks, cachets & covers of South Africa 1892-1975.'* In the process of collecting these covers I have been fortunate in acquiring a few with a special philatelic and historical interest.



Illustrated above is a very special cover accompanied by a card (See following page) that was cancelled at every stop On the Trek route starting in Cape Town on 8 AUG 1938 and terminating at the Voortrekker Monument on 16 XII 38
 There are 48 transit date stamps via Philadelphia 9 AUG 38, reaching VEGKOP 1 NOV 38 to Parys on the 5th and Leaving the Orange Free State the cancellations continue on the front of the envelope with the first stop in Transvaal at Potchefstroom, continuing as far Northwest as Zeerust, then heading east – Southeast via Germiston and South to Vereeniging Then Northeast via Heidelberg towards Johannesburg and Pretoria and journey's end at the site of the Voortrekker Monument
 Eleven years later the creator of this cover returned to affix the stamps and cancels to celebrate
 The 16 DEC 1949 opening of the Voortrekker Monument

The real interest of this 'proving' cover is that the various transit cancels indicate that the actual journey taken by this ox wagon differs from the itinerary Reisener published in his book, from Cape Town it went North, in the direction of Malmesbury, to Philadelphia and then swung South east towards Stellenbosch and intermediate stops in the Cape such as Breederivier Station, Bonnievale, the delightful little town of Zuurbrak, Albertina and De Rust are not mentioned. Nor are the Orange Free State towns of Wepener, Thaba 'Nchu, Edenville, Heilbron, Kopjes and Vrededorf included by Reisener.

The journey in the Transvaal is also quite different & I gain the impression that the ox wagon started to meander as it wandered northwest as far as Zeerust before swinging back South to the Vaal River to the border town of Vereeniging - then Northeast via Heidelberg in the direction of Johannesburg.

Again places in the Transvaal such as Vereeniging, Heidelberg, Boksburg North, Boksburg and Alberton do not receive a mention in Reisener's book.

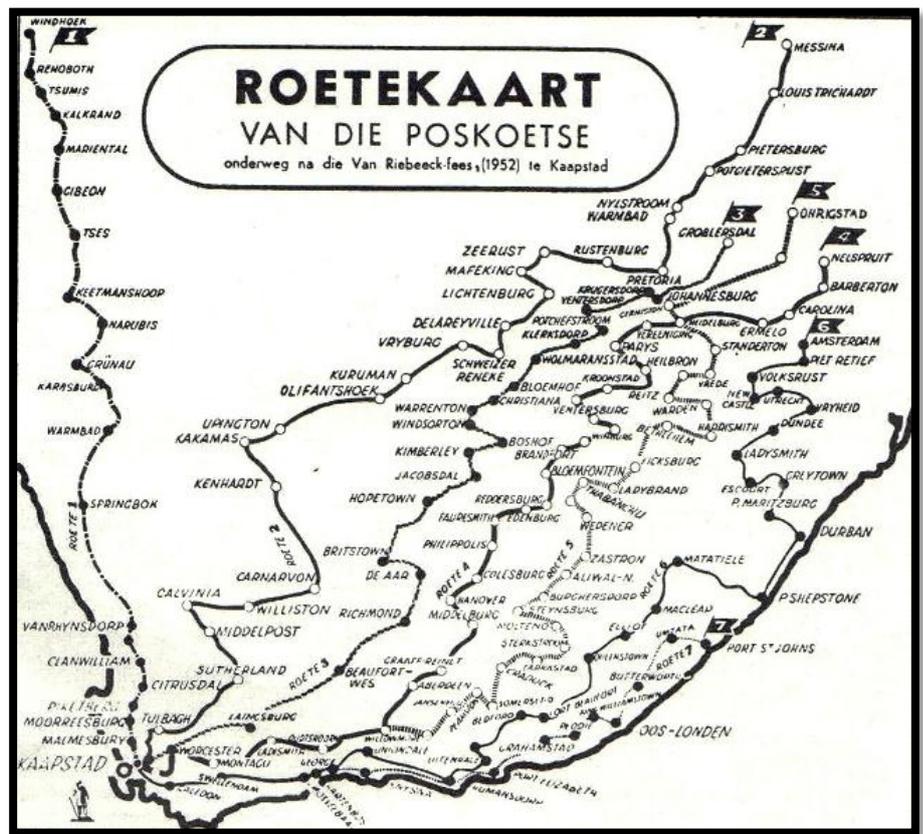
The 1952 Tercentenary Mail coach Routes with their Philatelic connection

By Nick Arrow

On the 31 March 1952 seven Mail coaches converged on Cape Town from the far flung corners of the Union including South West Africa.

This event also has a philatelic connection and I am not referring to the Van Riebeeck commemorative stamps, but the epic Mail coach journeys and once again not a word or snippet of information appeared in the 1952 S.A.P.

Some thirty years later in the April 1983 S.A.P. Benje Joseph wrote a short article that includes a Route map of the Mail coach journeys entitled 'A sleeper awakes after 30 years.' Benje had a batch of thirty three covers with connection to the coach journeys and pondered why this event had remained obscure within the Philatelic world. He had found a Mr De Swardt who had assisted Reisener in collating details of the Mail coach covers with the view of including the information in a future reprint of Reisener's book, but the former passed away before the details had been recorded completely (Editor)



Map from the South African Philatelist April 1983 showing the principle Towns for each of the seven routes

This is a follow up on Nick's previous exploratory article published last year in issue No 314 and is aimed at filling in the background of what can best be described as epic journeys whereby seven Mail Coaches set off from various points in South Africa plus one from Windhoek in South West Africa. All the routes converged on Cape Town where they were scheduled to meet up for a grand celebration being held on the 31st March 1952.

I reiterate that the above map does not include all the stopovers, for instance route #1 passed through at least eighteen towns as against eleven on the chart and route #2 made transits of 56 towns with only 25 shown on the map. As so often is the case, the booklet in my possession merely indicates the planned and intended itinerary, the very nature of these trips suggest there were bound to be alterations, slight deviations or delays.

I have acquired a copy of a small sixteen page booklet with a detailed schedule of the Mail Coach events that informs us that:

The Mail Coach Organising Committee for the Van Riebeeck Celebration (1952) had a P.O. Box 4585 in Johannesburg

Written in Afrikaans it required translation (done by our Editor) and in the introduction it states:

Attention - The following is applicable to schedules on all routes.

- a) Herewith the date of the arrival for daily destinations and the local festivity committees can liaise with the mail coach personnel to determine the exact intended time of arrival, however consideration must be given to the trek animals and arrivals should not be later than 6/7pm. Coaches should not depart in the morning earlier than 6am.
- b) No deviation from the stipulated routes is permitted unless approved by the above committee or the duty route master.
- c) Whenever places described as 'between' other places the local festivity committees must find suitable local overnight accommodation to ensure that the journey will proceed as planned.
- d) At the seven starting points for the seven routes festivities will take place on the dates advised and the coaches will depart early the following morning, however if it is the wish on the evening of festivities a short route through the town may be planned as its official point of departure.

The rest of the brochure is taken up with a detailed description of the precise routes to be followed by the seven mail coaches. They all started on different dates, but were all scheduled to eventually meet up in Cape Town on the 31st March, 1952.

1952 Route map of the Mail Coaches in transit to the Van Riebeeck celebrations at Cape Town

The Principal Routes of the seven Mail Coaches And starting dates			Route 4	Route 5	Principal Routes of seven Coaches And starting dates	
			9 Jan- Sabie	3 January		
			Nelspruit	Ohrigstad		
Route 1	Route 2	Route 3	Barberton	Belfast	Route 6	Route 7
	11 January		Carolina	Germiston	7 January	
	Messina		Ermelo	Heidelberg	Amsterdam	
	Louis Trichardt		Middelburg	Standerton	Piet Retief	
	Potgietersrust	26 January	Vereeniging	Vrede	Volkesrust	
	Nylstroom	Groblerdal	Parys	Reitz	Newcastle	
16 February	Warmbad	Johannesburg	Heilbron	Warden	Utrecht	
Windhoek	Pretoria	Krugersdorp	Kroonstad	Harrismith	Vryheid	
Rehoboth	Rustenburg	Ventersdorp	Ventersburg	Bethlehem	Dundee	
Tsumis	Zeerust	Potchefstroom	Winburg	Ficksburg	Ladysmith	
Kalkrand	Mafeking	Klerksdorp	Brandfort	Ladybrandt	Escourt	13 February
Mariental	Lichtenburg	Wolmaransstad	Bloemfontein	Thaba Nchu	Greytown	Port St Johns
Gibeon	Delareyville	Bloemhof	Reddersburg	Dewetsdorp	P. Maritzburg	Umtata
Tses	Schweizer Reneke	Christiana	Edenburg	Wepener	Durban	Butterworth
Keetmanshoop	Vryburg	Warrenton	Fauresmith	Zastron	P. Shepstone	East London
Narubis	Kuruman	Windsorton	Philippolis	Aliwal North	Matatiele	King Williamstown
Grunau	Olifantshoek	Boshof	Colesburg	Burghersdorp	Maclean	Peddie
Karasburg	Upington	Kimberley	Hanover	Steynsburg	Eliot	Grahamstown
Warmbad	Kakamas	Jacobsdal	Middelburg	Molteno	Queenstown	Port Elizabeth
Springbok	Kenhardt	Hopetown	Graaf Reinet	Sterkstroom	Fort Beaufort	Humansdorp
Vanrhysdorp	Carnarvon	Britstown	Aberdeen	Tarkastad	Bedford	Knysna
Clanwilliam	Williston	De Aar	Willowmore	Cradock	Uitenhage	George
Citrusdal	Calvinia	Richmond	Oudtshoorn	Somerset East	Humansdorp	Hartenbos
Piketberg	Middelpost	Beaufort West	Ladismith	Pearston	Uniondale	Mossel Bay
Moorreesburg	Sutherland	Laingsburg	Montagu	Jansenville	George	Swellendam
Malmesbury	Tulbagh	Worcester	Worcester	Willowmore	See route 7	Caledon
Cape Town	Cape Town	Cape Town	Cape Town	See route 4		Cape Town

Routes #4 and #5 met at Willowmore and #6 and #7 met at George, each coach continue on the same track to Cape Town

However not everything went as per the carefully devised schedule in the booklet and in a paper read by a Dr Raubenheimer to the S.A. Stamp Study Circle in October 1969 and reported the following month in their Newsletter No 97 he stated that route #4 should have left Nelspruit on the 11th January but apparently Sabie wanted to join in so, to allow for the extra distance, the coach started from there on the 9th. For the occasion Sabie had ordered a special rubber cachet that arrived too late, thus the local postmaster contacted all subscribers offering to apply it at a later date.



An average mileage for day was about 25 – 30 miles, although some days involved journeys up to a maximum of 40 miles. It is worthy of note that many towns in the Eastern Cape are 50kms (31 miles) apart as that was considered a day's ride!

Intermediate stops in areas like the Karroo were necessary, for instance on route #3 the distance from Beaufort West to Prince Albert Road is 114kms (71 miles) and the remaining distance to Laingsburg is 84kms (53 miles).

Other hiccups that upset the steering committee's carefully planned routes maybe appreciated on Route #1 which was scheduled to set off from Windhoek on the 15th February

Due to the death of King George VI, that day was declared a public holiday thus the coach set off the following day, making up time en route. On another route, the minister of a town complained that as the coach was arriving on Ash Wednesday, feasting and junketing would be inappropriate during the Christian penitential season - in fact the schedule was not altered, but the outcome of this disapprobation is not known.

The Souvenir Covers

It appears that the commemorative covers for the mail coach are either plain or illustrated envelopes that were intended for the Tercentenary issue (SG 136 – 140) - most of the items seen appear to favour the use of pairs overprinted OFFICIAL.

A cachet, probably a rubber stamp, reads; A SOUVENIR OF THE UNION MAIL COACH TOUR AND THE LOCAL VAN RIEBEECK FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS at Afrikaans worded cachets were also produced that have the main message either in three or four lines, followed by 'te.....'

Covers seen with the foregoing cachets are struck in different coloured inks, including green, red and grey-black; there may well be other colours.

I believe the dotted line was intended to include the name of the town where the item was posted. Examples seen include: Dotted line left blank, town noted in manuscript or datestamp of town applied. Covers seen are either to an address in the same town, to another destination or to SATISE/SADIPU, Box 558, Cape Town.

Benje Joseph holding reported in the 1983 S.A.P. included a batch of 33 envelopes, all addressed to J.J.F. Britz in Parys, OVS and 28 of them were registered, they were franked with a mixture of 1949 Voortrekker & UPU stamps. The envelope illustrated in Benje's article does not include the above cachet, unless it was struck on the reverse.

His earliest cover cancelled OHRIGSTAD 4 JAN 52 at the start of route #5 was signed on the reverse by the Route and Coach Masters and some of Benje's other items also reflected the signatures of Coach Personnel.

For us to appreciate the importance of these epic journeys, in Ohrigstad the Prime Minister Dr D.F. Malan, officiated at the celebrations at the launching of the first departing mail coach.

What I find difficult to believe is the information that I suspect, came from Mr G.J. de Swardt, stating:

'None of the covers were carried by any of the coaches and the personnel in charge of each coach'

However if the above is true, it means that the local committees at every town on all the routes had to have a quantity of souvenir envelopes ready for posting on the arrival of each coach, is such a suggestion farfetched?

In 1969 Dr Raubenheimer in the S.A.S.S.C. Newsletter No 97 stated: *'The coaches carried mail and literally thousands of covers, official and other, were date stamped along the routes'*. Two opposing statements, the consistent use of pairs of officials does suggest that a large quantity of souvenir envelopes were prepared in advance and either carried on the coaches or sent to towns beforehand. It's a 'Catch 22' question that can only be solved if someone somewhere possesses a note or a letter that refers to the Mail Coach Commemorative covers.



My previous article published in *The Springbok* No 314 has had some feedback. To date I have only seen eight covers that are linked to the 1952 mail coach journeys, thus it is not possible to arrive at any positive conclusion and I hesitate putting forward any tentative suggestions. It did not occur to me to compare the cover illustrated at the end of the previous article with another in my collection that also has an Afrikaans cachet and it seems likely that this cover, with a three line instead of four, might be the exception rather than the rule.

One of our members, Graham Manning owns two similar covers, addressed in manuscript, one in English and the other in Afrikaans being examples of the special Exhibition envelopes. Both are franked with 1d pairs of Officials, cancelled at Boksburg, which was on route five.

The English cachet is in green and on the Afrikaans cover it is in a shade of greyish black. On arrival in Cape Town both covers bear an additional 2d Van Riebeeck commemorative cancelled at the Van Riebeeck Post Office (Reisener 97)



The English cachet is in five lines with the word 'at' centred below and on the four line Afrikaans cachet the word 'te' is immediately centred below the last line. In the case of the Afrikaans three line cachets the word 'te' is some 9mm lower and well off centre to the left. I am currently under the impression that the latter version maybe much scarcer.

Eric Hammond produced two covers, which are very similar to each other, but which are in a wholly different league. I reproduce one of them below - This was sent from Jansenville, which was also on route #5 - from Ohrigstad.



The other was sent from Springbok, which was on route #1 - from Windhoek. In fact Springbok was the first town in South Africa on this particular route.

Both are plain envelopes, again with a custom pair of official stamps.

Editors note

The remainder of Nick's submitted article consists of a lengthy debate about the differences observed on the cachets he has seen (8 in total)

I have not included this as the remaining space in this journal does not allow for that.

It is hoped that more material will come to light which will allow us to expand our knowledge of this subject.

In this article it brings to our attention the scale of the seven Mail coach journeys; it is therefore plausible that several souvenir cachets were made in different parts of the country and it would not surprise me that with time more examples will emerge.

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 31 March 2012

Attendees – 10 Members, Colin Moore, Bill Branney, David Haig, Max Whitlock, Roy Ross, John Ahmad, Ray Glanville-Jones, Eric Hammond, Albert Moffat and Malcolm Ridsdale - Apologies – Vaughan Stone, Peter Dix and David Briggs

David Haig opened the meeting in the Chair and welcomed everybody to the 40th meeting. In memory of Patrick Williams the meeting rose to reflect on his recent passing. **Items through the Chair** - The next meeting has been booked to be on the 29th September at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The topic of the meeting would be none specific with attendees encouraged to bring any aspects of S.A. stamp collecting that appealed to them.

Other Officer Report

Malcolm Ridsdale - Reported there continued to be a trickle of interest in the library contents and is working through the library lists to update them. He has received some additional Setempe and S.A. Philatelists following a request in the recent Springboks. Some new books had been purchased from the Leamington auction and the new lists will reflect these recent additions.

Max Whitlock - advised that he had enough material for four cover packets including some new stuff and repriced material that had previously been sent around. As always he was still seeking further new material. He is waiting to see what impact the newly proposed postal rates will have on the costing for the packet and the Springbok. He is giving thought to developing a system for internet communication as an alternative to postal sending and he is hoping to put this together by the A.G.M. in November.

Around the Table - John Ahmad reported that he was working in conjunction with the Anglo Boer War Study Society on P.O.W.'s in St Helena reprinting work including new information and adding colour prints of appropriate referenced items.

David Haig - advised that he had shown his Goldfields thematic display to the Paisley Philatelic Society.

Displays - David Haig displayed further Boer War material that he had recently acquired. These included period covers, stamps, post cards, cigarette cards and modern FDC's commemorating Boer War events.

Colin Moore - displayed some of his collection of Penny Ships, KGVI, Kings Heads and earlier stamps from the Natal, Transvaal and Cape Province.

Ray Glanville-Jones - showed JIPEX post cards sent to worldwide destinations commenting that he was missing one from North America and a range were shown with a number of different pictures.

Albert Moffat - showed a number of personal letters received by him during his WWII exploits. The covers showed censor marks, receiving post marks and transit marks from their journeys to North Africa and Italy.

Bill Branney - displayed Republic 1st, 3rd and 4th definitives showing a range of varieties.

Eric Hammond - displayed some post cards and others with mirror images of the same views and additionally some nice interprovincial period blocks of four stamps of varying postal rates.

The meeting closed at approximately 2.45pm

Your Springbok by Post – an in depth look at our current situation - by Otto Peetoom

With a radical increase of our postage rates, the question is, should we continue mailing the Springbok or email it in PDF format? The content of this page has already been conveyed to around one hundred people who have registered an email address and a good cross section of replies have been received from United Kingdom, European, Scandinavian and Overseas members. Several people indicated that they are prepared to accept either option; others have specifically expressed their wishes. Ours is a friendly society and no-one needs to feel that a method, not to their liking, will be forced upon them. Below I have collated the potential future cost of printing and posting *The Springbok*

The Springbok Costs	Subs	Subs	Under 100gms	Over 100gms	Per Year	Sub-Total	Total
U.K. x 98	£18	£1764	£2.75	£3.15	£11.40	£1117.20	
Life members x 4					£11.40	£45.60	
Europe x 8	£18	£144	£4.26	£4.98	£17.76	£142.08	
Overseas x 29	£21	£609	£5.35	£5.91	£21.96	£636.84	£1941.72
Complementary							
UK 5 -Europe & O'seas 7							£207.99
Totals		£2517					£2149.71

Notes: The above figures are based on a 28 page journal which costs £2 to print plus 5p for an envelope
 U.K. subscriptions calculated as 98 members (Four have not paid their 2012 subscription) and there are four life members
 Annual cost per head is based on the assumption that at least one journal will be over 100gms
 Complimentary + Life members total £253.59 subsidised by 135 members = £1.88 per head
 Potential advertising revenue is not included in the above figures, on page 40 under my 'Review' I provided figures for the nett benefits of Advertising in *The Springbok* which I anticipate will amount to around £350.

The above figures indicate that

U.K. subscriptions	£18 – 11.40 – 1.88 = £4.72 Surplus
Europe	£18 – 17.76 – 1.88 = (£1.64) Deficit
Overseas	£21 – 21.96 – 1.88 = (£2.84) Deficit

After taking the **annual cost** of *The Springbok* into account, from the above calculations I deduct:

U.K. subscriptions generate a	£462.56 surplus (£4.72 x 98)
Europe	£13.12 deficit (£1.64 x 8)
Overseas subscriptions have a	£82.36 deficit (£2.84 x 29)

Effectively the U.K. subscriptions subsidise the European & overseas members as their contributions do not cover their journal being sent by post. To date the feedback via email has indicated that several overseas members will be happy with either option and that they are prepared to pay a slightly higher subscription to cover costs. I have not had a negative response from anyone and no moans or groans, thus so far it's been a useful and satisfying exercise.

Based on the above figures, it is my opinion that sending the journal by post within the U.K. remains sustainable. Anyone who is prepared to accept it by email ought to be given an incentive by reducing their annual subscription by £8 per year making the basic annual subscription £10. This is very much in line with several other societies' who are conducting a similar exercise. Increasing overseas subscriptions substantially may result in the loss of members, however those individuals ought to appreciate that they are able to produce a hard copy at any high street printer for less than the Society's P+P cost.

The SACS includes fifteen members in South Africa and ten in North America; all could still receive their *Springbok* by post if one member in each location will volunteer to print and post locally. With the assistance of two members an estimate for printing & posting in South Africa is around R35 (£2.77) per person and that is almost half our cost of £5.35! However the foregoing is an option that I prefer not to get involved in.

Bulk Mailing Overseas – My thanks to Ken Southall, who is membership secretary and journal distributor of another society, for his input: *To send magazines in bulk to a volunteer member (say) in USA only saves pennies. Plus I would foresee various problems if, for example the bulk package got lost or the recipient is on holiday. I would have had all sorts of moans and groans from anxious members worried about their magazine!*

The Committee will no doubt fix the future subscriptions and until such time when we are able to assess the remaining expenses of the society, at this stage I anticipate it might be - Basic journal by PDF £10, by post UK £18, Europe £20 and Overseas £24.

The Wicks Medal for Articles in the Springbok – Previous recipients	
<p>2005 E. Bridges Union Pictorials</p> <p>2006 S. Payne 3d Hyphenated Pictorial Issue 5</p> <p>2007 Dr. A. Howgrave – Graham Auction report & Studies on the 1/- Pictorial issues (Springbok No 1 & No 4 with Morgan Farrell)</p> <p>2008 Dr A. Howgrave-Graham & Morgan Farrell jointly for studies on the 1/- rotogravure pictorials</p>	<p>2009 Nicholas Arrow - Flying Sixpence together with book on S.A. Airmails</p> <p>2010 Giovanni Palazzo - Revenue Stamps of the Republic of South Africa</p> <p>2011 Under consideration</p>

From the Hon. Membership Secretary's desk

We welcome new members:

1162 - Wallace Craig of California, U.S.A.
1163 - Trevor Ashman of Alberta, Canada

MEETINGS

We are concerned that meetings are becoming less well attended. It is intended that in 2013 meetings in March & September will be held in Carlisle; three meetings in London, a one day meeting in the West of England, possibly Salisbury again; one afternoon meeting in Letchworth, if this new venue proves successful this year, and a day meeting early June at Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa. Those of you who attend the Southern Africa Philatelic Conference weekend will know of this.

Can you let me know if you would support: Carlisle meetings [] London meetings [] A Meeting in Salisbury [] A meeting in Letchworth [] A day meeting in Leamington Spa []

I do not want to book venues at some cost to the Society if less than eight turn up.

Please send your email to olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

The last word from your Interim Editor

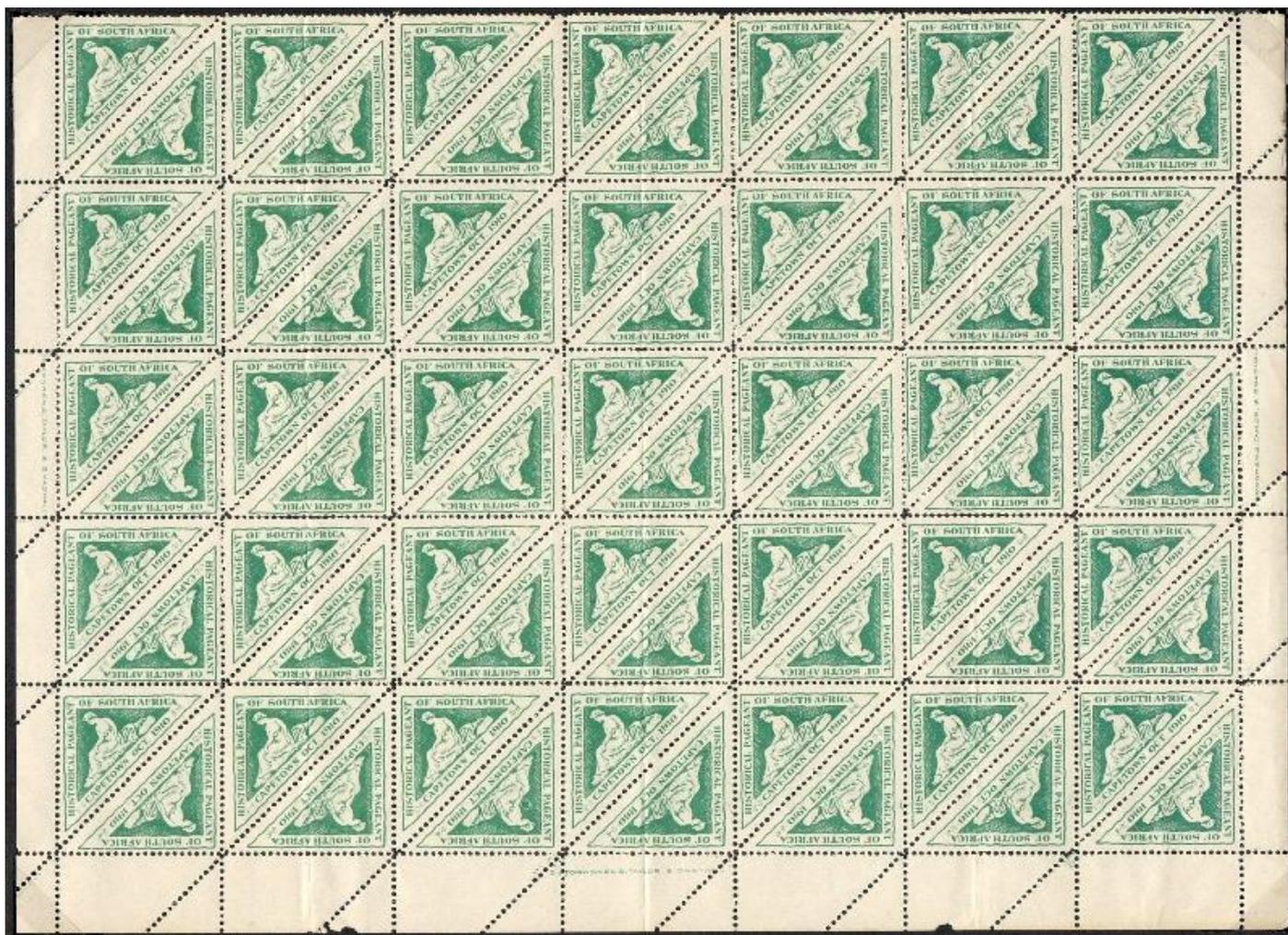
I draw your attention to Page 46 where our Chairman made the following comment:

So, we need a new editor and volunteers are welcome – please contact Chris Oliver

In the meantime, Otto Peetoom has offered to produce the next Springbok as Interim Editor - Thank you Otto

I have fulfilled my undertaking to produce the 'next Springbok' – thus I am presently unaware whose task it will be to do the next Edition. Should it be your wish for me to continue, then I need to know very soon as journals cannot be put together at the drop of a hat, the content of this edition hopefully demonstrates what I am capable of, but the decision must be made by the members. Thank you to all of those who have contributed and assisted me with the task.

This last page I had reserved for last minute items and the 2011 accounts, but as they have not materialized, I will fill it with something appropriate. Perhaps the largest known multiple of a green 1910 Cape Town Pageant Label.



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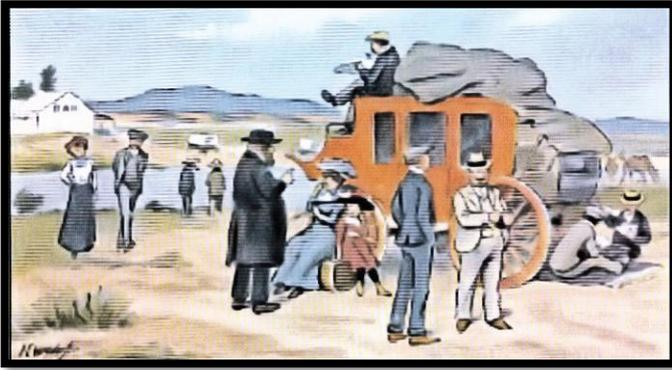
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