

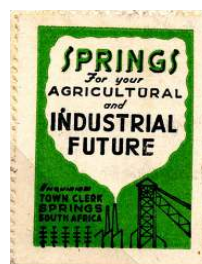
# THE SPRINGBOK

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS'  
SOCIETY QUARTERLY

[www.southafricacollector.com](http://www.southafricacollector.com)



Volume 65 No. 4



Membership Subscriptions are now DUE

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**SACS Meetings for 2018**

**Carlisle**

*County Hotel Carlisle 10am.*

**Sat. 17th March 2018**

**Sat.22nd September 2018**

Subject for both "Bring something"

**Letchworth Meeting**

*Mrs Howard Memorial Hall*

*Letchworth Garden City 2 pm.*

**Sat. 31st March 2018**

Subject "Bring something"

**London**

*Calthorpe Arms 2pm.*

**Sat. 24th February 2018**

Subject "Pictorials"

**All Members and Non Members are invited to attend and display**

**UK Events for 2018**

York Stamp Fair - 19th - 20th January 2018

Spring Stampex - 14th - 17th Feb 2018

York Stamp Fair - 20th - 21st July 2018

Autumn Stampex 12th - 15th Sept 2018

**International Events**

World Stamp Championships Israel: 27-31 May 2018

Nordia 2018: 8-10 June 2018

Praga 2018: 15th Aug 2018

Malaysia 2018: Cancelled

Italia 2018: 23-25th Nov 2018

Stockholmia 2019: 29th May-2nd June 2019

London 2020: 2nd - 9th May 2020

## Editorial

*The Springbok* is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors' Society.

It is not available to non-members.

Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor.

All correspondence including a SAE will be acknowledged.

*The Springbok was awarded a large vermeil medal at Stampex 2017*

### Editor

R W Ross

### Editorial Panel

T. Howgrave-Graham

C. Oliver

J.L. Shaw

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Collectors' Society,  
2017

Vol. 65 Iss. 4 Whole No. 340  
Founded 1947

Our Webmaster Otto Peetoom has been busy and if you look on our website you will now find all the Homelands stamps and postal stationery listed. It was an area of collecting that was not very popular except for the thematic collectors. In a few years we may all regret not buying the stamps.

A number of members have sent me emails with articles for this issue which are most welcomed and appreciated. Please keep it up as without them the Springbok would be rather dull. I am sure most of you have a question or require more information about our stamps. Send them into me and I will publish them. No need to put the words and pictures together as I am always more than willing to do that especially during the winter months.

The Library continues to grow and in this issue there is a list of new books our librarian Malcolm Risdale has purchased recently. If you are short of information for your research send him an email he may just have what you are looking for.

It is with sadness that I have to report that our distinguished member, Mike Tonking's wife, Sandra, died recently. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

It is that time of year again when we are all thinking of Christmas. Whether you are having it in a sunny climate or in this wet damp country of the UK, I wish you all a Merry one and a Happy New Year.

The next Issue of the Springbok will be printed at the end of January 2018

## Membership

**Membership renewals are now due for 2018. Renewal forms are included with this Springbok**

Those members wishing to pay via PayPal can transfer the money to our treasurer David Osborn [david@clouders.co.uk](mailto:david@clouders.co.uk). Please remember that members accept the PayPal fees when transferring the money.

### Welcome to new members

S.C. Cooper from Isle of Wight 1206

Joof van der Merwe from Bloemfontein 1207

## Carlisle Meeting Notice

**Carlisle Sat. 17th March 2018.** The usual venue the County Hotel Carlisle is about to undergo some well overdue refurbishments and there is a possibility that they may not be complete before the next meeting in March.

Please check with our Northern events organiser David Haig before travelling.

David Haig - Tel: 01698 292672 [dh009c6362@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dh009c6362@blueyonder.co.uk)

The Editor will also be able to give details closer to the meeting date

## New Study Collections

### SACS Study Collection No. 32

A detailed and comprehensive study of the early Maritime history of South Africa from 1823 to 1914. Volume 1 includes pre-stamp covers with details of ships, postal markings and ephemera. Essential for the early Maritime collector.

Colour copy of 60 double sided A4 pages. Author: Tony Howgrave-Graham

**Price: £18.00**

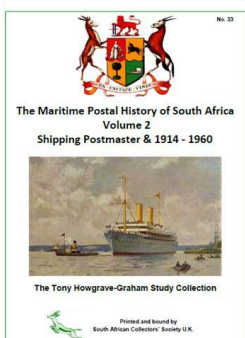
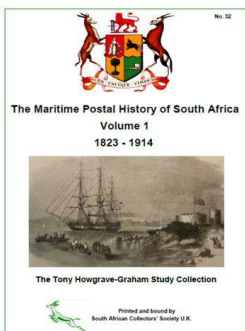
### SACS Study Collection No. 33

This study collection compliments No. 32 continuing the Maritime history of South Africa from 1914 to 1960. Shipping Postmaster and Ocean Post Office date stamps and details complete this in depth analysis and collection.

Colour copy of 64 double sided A4 pages. Author: Tony Howgrave-Graham

**Price: £18.00**

Any member wishing to buy a copy or any of the Study Collections on our Website should Email [Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Lyn28lester@hotmail.co.uk) to register their interest





## THE PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

On Indolence Day 2017 I had a most enjoyable lunch with our own Bas Payne and Professor Alex Visser, who was on a short visit from South Africa and collaborating with Bas on postmarks. Now Alex was a co-author of the recent authoritative handbook on Swaziland (Peter Van der Molen is the principal author) and Alex wrote the postmark section of this book. It was a real pleasure to meet him again.

In my days as a “junior” in the society we had a group of philatelists each specialising in different aspects of Union Stamps; there was Alec Page with War Train and South Atlantic, Robert McDougal with ½d springboks and 2d Union Buildings, Roland Jonas for Silver Jubilees, Robin ((Robbie) Merson for postage dues and 6d orange trees, Jin Nunnely for KG V Heads and officials and my mentor, Bob Lawrence for everything. I became good friends with all of them and, after giving a display at Sheffield, was approached by Tony Merson, Robbie’s son, who sold me some of his late father’s stamps that had been unsold by Harmers. On moving to London I later met up with Tony and his sister, married to another local philatelist, but, sadly, Tony died quite recently and his collections are being sold by T&T Auctions of Tunbridge Wells. Tony was also a world authority on ancient coins, which is where all his money went and why his stamp collection was described as “budget limited”.

The group described above would often discuss matters of rarity and two I remember especially were “What are the rarest ten Union stamps?” and what are the rarest ten officials?” and it was a recent article by Otto that reminded me of this. The discussions would always exclude items such as missing colours, double print and inscriptional and control pieces; there was considerable discussion on the officials and I do not want to dwell on these at present, so I shall give you what I recollect as our joint top ten rarest Union stamps which are:

- KG V 5/- inverted watermark
- KG V 10/\_ inverted watermark
- 4d Recess inverted watermark
- 2d unhyphenated tête-bêche
- 2d Recess inverted watermark
- Pretoria typo 6d official inverted watermark
- 2/6d unhyphenated official inverted watermark
- 6d official unhyphenated upright watermark
- ½d typo tête-bêche
- 1d typo tête-bêche

Now note that proofs, essays and the likes of the missing centres and frames, and the KG V ½d KG V double print are excluded from the list, albeit some are scarcer than some quoted above.

No doubt this list will generate some discussion, not least from Otto, on the merits or otherwise of this list, not least because some, such as the Pretoria 6d inverted watermark deserves its place for a mint pair but not really for used. Also, I know we did not specifically exclude such as the diaeresis varieties, but neither did we really discuss them. For the officials several of us looked at what we had, according to SAC/H, and what we were missing from our own collection.

— O —



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## THE "OFFICIALS" OF SOUTH AFRICA

Written by Dr Robert W Hisey and Dr Ian A Matheson

### A Review by Tony Howgrave-Graham

The authors are both senior members of The Society and experts on "officials". They should be congratulated on this excellent work which comes in a very smart 8gb cassette and provides a lot of new information. They have retained the traditional handbook method of set numbering introducing a new one to accommodate the rarer diaeresis printings and have also discovered many new printings within previously individual ones. It does raise the question of how suitable this "set" method is and whether things aren't better looked at in terms of value, especially as some of the dates are suspect, particularly regarding the 1/-s. The set method does, however, have benefits when looking at the overprint formes and their development and that is, of course, what is of most importance to the officials expert. The overprint varieties are displayed pictorially which is very helpful and specialist additions include side margin dimensions, serial numbers, colour analysis and notes from the S.A. Archive



It is thus a must for anyone interested in officials but it also has much broader appeal. For a start it commences with an electronic copy of the 1986 Hagger which is a must for every Union collector. It is becoming difficult to obtain used copies of this book and if you do find one it's very likely to cost you more than this entire cassette! It also has some good general appendices with an excellently simple explanation of the Goebel Press and details of how the overprint formes were put together. It has an interesting discussion of security at the Government Printers concluding that they accept all the issues that some of us are a bit dubious about. I confess to being rather more cynical. Motivated people are very good at finding

ways round "systems". They, in fact, quote the case of Callard who was prosecuted for swapping a bought normal sheet for a sheet of colour trials. True, he was caught, but would he have tried if it had not previously been a simple and successful method?

After the handbook and notes there are 114 pages laying out details of the officials with very fine colour illustrations and there follow 79 pages of identification by value. This, I suggest, would be extremely helpful to the non-specialists including dealers and auctioneers.

So, all in all, a wonderful and impressive addition to S.A. philatelic literature which I thoroughly recommend to anyone capable of managing the cassette.

Copies are available from Bob Hisey ([bobhisey@comcast.net](mailto:bobhisey@comcast.net)) for US\$30 + P&P (recommended for anyone not living in South Africa) and from Joh Groenwald if you live in South Africa for R400 + P&P ([johgroen@mweb.co.za](mailto:johgroen@mweb.co.za)).

— O —

### An Interesting Perforation

By Roy Ross

The stamps shown are from the same printing 9cent April 1974. Cylinders 595 596 597 Single pane. SACC 332. Note the bottom margins, one perforated and the other not. The issue appeared with some sheets with the bottom margins perforated and others with the bottom margins imperforated.



The difference depended solely upon which way the sheets were fed into the Grover perforator.

← Faint green line on right margin is the Guillotine guide line. These can be seen on a number of the first definitive issues.

## Report on the Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### By Malcolm Ridsdale

Attendees – David Haig, Roy Ross, Colin Moore, Eric Hammond, Peter Dix and Malcolm Ridsdale with apologies from Max Whitlock. David Haig welcomed everybody to the 51st meeting.

#### Items through the Chair

The next meetings will be held on the 17th March 2018 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 at the County Hotel, Carlisle. The topic of the next meetings would continue to be “open house” which was proving to be a varied and entertaining choice.

#### Around the Table

Before the displays were set up for the following session the attendees spent time discussing a range of SA philatelic topics. The attendees enjoyed a lively debate across a spectrum of Union and Republic areas from their own particular interests as well as issues in recent Springbok and other specialist SA philatelic publications.

#### Displays

*Roy Ross*

RR's display included a range of mint RSA commemoratives from the period 1981 to 1984 including some control blocks, miniature sheets and FDC's.

*David Haig*

DH's display was of RSA mint Protea cylinder blocks of various denominations and sizes.

*Colin Moore*

CM displayed a selection of FDC's from SWA, GB and the Falkland Islands.

*Eric Hammond*



EH's display was of the early Union material in mint condition including the KH's up to £1, the triangular issues, air mails and the first pictorial issue printings of various values. He also displayed some Cape Town ppc's showing early mail ships and some high face value blocks of the provincial stamps used in the interprovincial period and covers used in the same period.

*Peter Dix*



PD displayed a number of SA and Namibia mint miniature sheets from the 2000 – 10 period showing some of the imaginative designs that had been issued.

*Malcolm Ridsdale*

MR's display was of a number of covers that he had purchased at the last couple of SACS auctions including FDC's, first flight covers, ship covers and an SWA censored cover from WW1.

The meeting closed at approximately 2.30pm.

#### Editors Note:

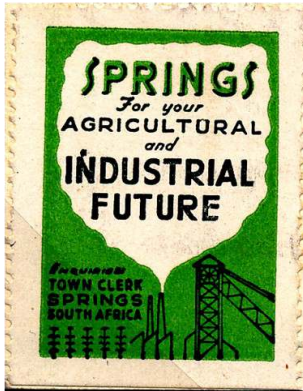
*Please check with David Haig before travelling to the next meeting 17th March 2018. See page 119 for details.*



## Report on the London Meeting 23rd September 2017 – “CINDERELLA” By John Shaw

Seven members attended this meeting at the Calthorpe Arms, just off Grays’ Inn Road, Holborn. They were John Archer, Tim Harrison, Tony Johnson, Rob Lester, Christopher Oliver, David Paige and John Shaw; there were apologies from Bob Hill, Tony Howgrave-Graham and Lyn Lester. We were treated to wonderful showings of, mainly, labels, many of which I had not seen before.

Rob Lester opened the proceeding with a lovely display of labels, starting with large coloured 1938 Seventh Philatelic Congress of Southern Africa and Eucharistic Congress labels, then a 1942 Young Men’s Muslim Association cover. There was a delightful 1944 postcard calendar depicting General Smuts on the front and on the reverse, an etching of Hitler and the caption “Hitler’s most severe headache”. None of us had seen the 1956 Worcester Deaf and Blind Institute label, nor the Springs “Agricultural and Industries Future” publicity label, the latter intended to boost the economy in a declining area. The 1925 Natal Industrial Exhibition and 1933 Johannesburg First National Exhibition labels are also believed to be very scarce.



Rob’s 1907 Somerset Hospital blue triangular labels, unused and on cover are also rare and there was a lovely selection of the 1910 triangular pageant labels, an 1899 Boer War censor label (as opposed to handstamp) and then the brown farm dairy butter label where the stamp is perforated through the centre and one half retained by the sender as a receipt.



Next Rob showed World War I & II labels including lovely “War Markets” and “Big Push” items and “Enemy in our Midst” I had not seen before. World War II included a lot of different “V” labels and the large 4d “Gifts & Comforts Fund” label which proclaimed;

*“This donation to the Red Cross pays for personal comfort for one sick or wounded soldier for one day”*

“MOTH” is nothing to do with butterflies but is the initials for the Memorable Order of Tin Hats, which I think we learned from Ian Shapiro some time ago and is an organisation founded in 1927 for service personnel who had served in the front line; Rob showed two 1945 covers with labels. The “Medical Aid for Russia” labels are

well-known in Red, but less common in the other colours shown. Finally the 1945 Empire Day Appeal label showed the portrait of the airman depicted on the Overseas Tobacco Fund cards which is similar to the 1½d War Effort stamps. All in all this was a fine showing by Rob.

Chris Oliver showed an interesting and eclectic mixture, starting with a scarce 1929 Christmas seal tied to cover, then the 1952 and 1953 “Help Cripples” booklets; back in time, we saw an 1867 Cape compulsory registration cover, the compulsion due to the fact the letter contained coins. There was a 1951 invitation card for the Governor General’s garden party and then a National Party political publicity leaflet. Finally, there was a 6<sup>th</sup> May 1941 War Train cover which also used a national savings stamp as postage; beautiful, and a cover which would sit very comfortably in my own War Train collection.

David Paige concluded the displays with the TB – tuberculosis – theme and explained this is a disease that still has not been conquered. He started with fore-runner TB fund items from a variety of countries, including Sweden, Cuba, Colombia and Cyprus; in some countries these stamps are catalogued and represent an obligatory tax, ie and extra element of postage over certain periods. Profits from South Africa Christmas seals went towards overcoming TB and David showed the first SA item, from 1929, very nicely tied, but on a 1930 cover; the scarce 1931 seal was shown used on an Imperial Airways 1931 “Christmas Flight” cover, David having family connections with the recipient. The early Union seal booklets were sometimes produced both left and right handed, thus avoiding the need for tête-bêche sheets, and reminiscent of the first KG V Union postage booklets. I had not seen before the 1945 3/- seal booklet and do not recall this in the late Bill Fincham’s collection. Finally David showed the 1954 booklets and the many varieties in the inside and back covers with variations of the English and Afrikaans inscriptions inverted.

Overall, this was a most enjoyable meeting for those attending and the meeting concluded with a thank you to Eileen, John Shaw’s wife, for preparing the sandwiches and a unanimous commendation to Otto Peetoom for his production of the society 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication.

## From the Editors Desk.

Articles in the last Springbok No. 339 have generated a number of replies from members and I would like to thank all those people for their emails.

**Correction:** There was a Typo error in the article I wrote about the Emerald Green 10cent stamp, page 114. The date of issue should read 1962 and not 1972

### Delisting of the RSA imperforated stamps by Mike Tonking.

In connection with your reference of the delisting of various imperforated varieties in the SACC 35<sup>th</sup> edition I would comment as follows :

At the time of the issue of the 4<sup>th</sup> definitive Building series I, together with the late G.de Swardt , were doing the plating at the Philatelic Bureau. I can well remember that at that time, one day, we were offered various imperforated Building stamps by a man who took some out of his wallet. They included various gutter pairs and other abnormal examples. We smelt a rat as we knew they could never have been purchased over the Post Office counter. Needless to say we declined the offer. Soon this type of material was listed and offered by various dealers and auctions.

What is surprising is that it has taken so long for the SACC to remove them from their catalogue.

### Minerva Stamp: an email from Hendrik Geyer



Concerning the Minerva piece in the last Springbok. No 339 page 112. You may be interested to know that Richard Johnson currently offers an essay at [http://www.filat.ch/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=132\\_21&products\\_id=5949](http://www.filat.ch/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=132_21&products_id=5949) described as

“1894 De La Rue Minerva Head AFRICA Essay: Imperforate example taken in 2½d duty in carmine-rose & olive-green on gummed unwatermarked paper. Superb UM, most attractive, scarce”

with the added information:

*De La Rue proposed this keyplate design to the Cape, OFS, Natal & Transvaal with the intention of making stamp production more economical. Agreement could not be reached with the Transvaal and OFS.*

Richard may be able to shed some light as to the origin of this information.

### 10cent Emerald green stamp: an email from Hendrik Geyer

I read with interest your piece about the “RSA First Definitive 10cent Emerald Green” in the latest issue of The Springbok where you quote from the South African Study Newsletter 32/2 “that from the 42,260 sheets of the Feb 1972 printing only approximately 2060 sheets had the emerald colour. The sheet serial numbers with this colour are between 26900 to 31700. “

Having acquired some two years ago an extended control block of 10 which includes both the left hand control 101 114 and sheet no 29662, I delved into the history of the quoted sheet numbers and discovered what seems to me to be a discrepancy in the information.

I do not have a copy of the South African Study Newsletter 32/2, but I presume Dr TB Berry’s SA Notes in the SA Philatelist are probably taken (almost) verbatim from this Newsletter. In the SA Philatelist of May 1964 (page



Image from Mike Tonking  
This is in the range of sheet numbers quoted  
29640 - 31700

scan attached) he first quotes the range 29640 to 31700 and concludes that this gives a range of “approximately 2060 sheets” (literally this should have been 2061 sheets, of course, but he does say “approximately”). He then continues to state a range “falling within 26900 to 31700” “allowance being made for a slight variation in shade”. He concludes by again mentioning “2060 sheets” (twice).

When reading this, I was struck by the inconsistency between the two given ranges which extends the original calculation from 2060/2061 sheets (and repeated again at the end) to 4801 – i.e. more than doubling the range, and hardly consistent with the idea of “allowance for a SLIGHT variation in shade”.



I took this up with two philatelists well known in SA circles indicating:

*"It seems to me that there is some confusion about the sheet numbers which has been perpetuated since: the first mention of the range gives it as 29640 to 31700, explicitly doing the correct arithmetic that there should be 2060 (actually 2061) sheets. Somewhat further in the note the range is now given as 26900 to 31700 without any indication as to why the first entry has been changed (except if this is the allowance for "a slight variation in shade") which begs the question as to where that information came from (and why the top range was not extended)".*

*Could this be the result of a typo (interchanging 6 and 9, i.e. the extended range should read 29600 (instead of 26900) to 31700, either at the stage of writing the note, or during the subsequent typesetting/printing of SA Philatelist. I wonder if anybody has commented on this apparent discrepancy, or if any further clarification has emerged since – would like to hear your opinion."*

*Unfortunately I did not receive any satisfactory response at the time, but I hope readers of The Springbok may weigh in with their information/opinion.*

*By the way, the range 26900 to 31700 is also quoted in the 1973 RSA catalogue of 1973, edited by Dorn and Slagt (notes on p 38) but is not mentioned again in Slagt's 1979 Arcade Stamp Catalogue (indicated to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the catalogue).*

### Editors reply:

I keep bits of information on RSA stamps in a small notebook for easy reference and this is what I used for the Springbok article without a thought of doing the maths for the numbers.

Having spent the past two nights trawling through SAP's and old Study notes and I have found absolutely nothing more to add to the original statement made in the SAP which you have quoted and which I have a copy of a well. The Study News Letter has exactly the same statement. I find this very common for most of the early RSA years as the authors of the Newsletters supplied much of the material for the SAP.

Initially it does look like it was a typo error with the 6 and 9 being the wrong way around but I cannot see the typist at the SAP and the News letter making the same mistake. So did Dr Berry make the mistake? Having now read the information over and over I don't think that he did. It is my opinion that he wrote the first few paragraphs and then gained some additional information, or had second thoughts, and wrote the last few paragraphs. In doing so he did not alter his initial number of sheets.

As you say one can make allowances for the numbers with "slight variation of shade" but not over 2 thousand. If we can get enough scans of the range 26900 to 29640 it may help us to determine whether these are indeed Emerald.

Since my reply I have found the following statement : Study circle News letter 49/3. The number for Emerald green 26,900 to 31,700. This would confirm that the start number is therefore 26,900. Ed

### A Comment for Otto Peetoom:

**The Springbok** No 339, page 114 'RSA 10c Emerald Green definitive' SG 217a

Over a period of many years, as a professional dealer, there are certain stamps whose characteristics are imprinted in my mind. I will not bore the reader with further detail on the foregoing.

Having dealt extensively in RSA issues it is in my interest to thoroughly familiarise myself with the complexities of the 1961 - 1974 definitives. The 10c Emerald has such a distinctive shade that I believe I could spot it without comparing it to the other two shades. As a single (priced at £50 by SG) it is not that difficult to secure an unmounted mint example. However it is not an easy stamp to come by in fine used condition and is probably underpriced at £18.

**Blocks and other multiples** of the 10c Emerald are a bit more difficult to come by, but not that impossible. My son Simon has one on offer on his website and I share with you 'another' block in my possession.



Sepia and Green



Emerald

**10c Emerald Cylinder blocks of ten** (101 114) with sheet No's Welz offered at least two of them during 1992. 23 March sale lot 458, sheet No 29794 and 21 October sale lot 620, sheet No 29661. The foregoing lot included a matching 'Green & sepia block SACC 216 with sheet No 28055.

### Third Definitive - 20c Issue 2 - Perforation Problems

By Mike Tonking

The Second issue of the third definitive 20c value, first printing, was plagued with perforation problems. Some 635,900 sheets were delivered against an order for 600,000 sheets with the first delivery dated 16.2.78 and the final delivery on 10.4.80.

It was printed on the 841 press which was equipped with an in-built perforator which unfortunately was out of order and use had to be made of the Grover two row perforator to gauge 14 x 13,75. This is where the problems started. The perforator had alignment pegs to position the sheets correctly for perforation. It was necessary to drill a single punch hole in the top and bottom margins of the 'B' pane in order to fit the perforator alignment pegs. Figs. 1 and 2. It is reported that these holes were drilled with a paper drill. This method of perforating was slow and unsatisfactory and was soon abandoned in favour of the second Grover perforator which used a cradle for sheet alignment. In this case the perforation gauge was changed from 14 x 13,75 to 12,5 x 12,5. Figs 3,4 and 5.

Despite the change deliveries were below the required rate and in order to meet demand the Walter Kroll single perforator, gauge 12,5 x 12,5 was brought in operation. Fig.6

Examples are known of both the Grover and Walter Kroll both with gauge 12,5 x 12,5 with the 'B' panes having punch holes in the top and bottom margins. It is surmised that when perforation by the Grover 14 x 13,75 was abandoned a number of punched sheets were left over which were then perforated on the Grover and Walter Kroll perforators to gauge 12,5 x 12,5. Thus after numerous perforator problems the final delivery of this issue was completed which must have been a relief to the Government Printer.

#### References

*Proteas third printing series - V. Sorour 1977*

*The South African Stamp Study Circle NL 221/5, NL 223/6*

Fig. 1 Grover two row perforator gauge 14x13,75  
Pane 'B' with punch hole in bottom margin between rows 6 and 7

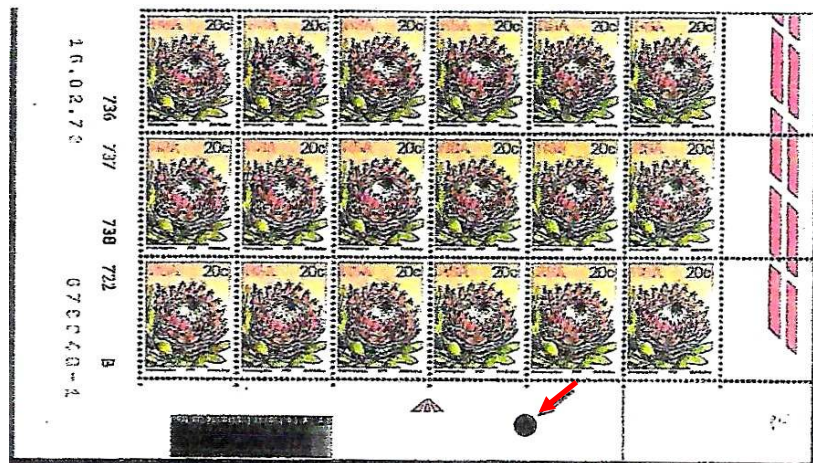


Fig. 2 Grover two row perforator gauge 14x13,75.  
Pane 'B' with punch hole in top margin between rows 6 and 7

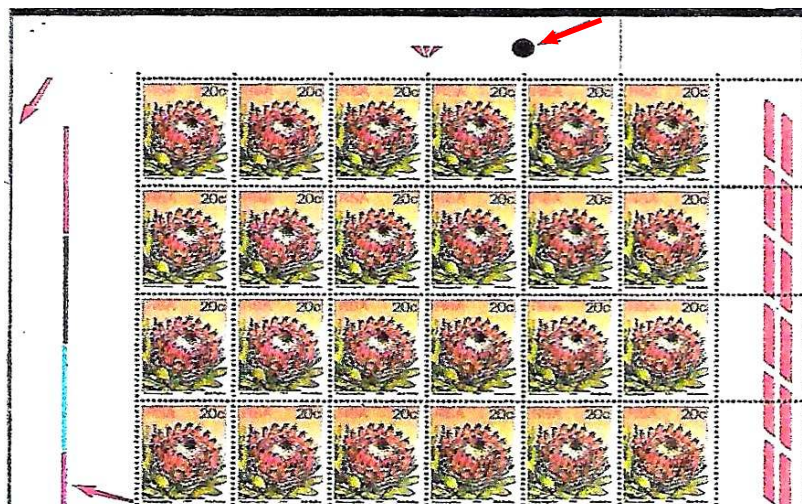
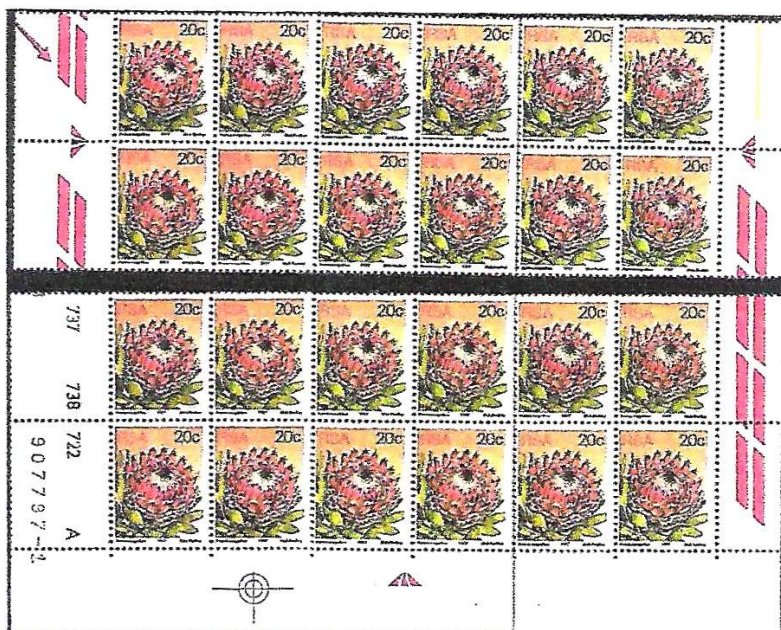




Fig. 3 Pane 'A' Grover two row perforator gauge 12,5x12,5



Figs. 4 and 5 Pane 'B' Grover two row perforator 12.5x12,5  
Two types of perforation recorded

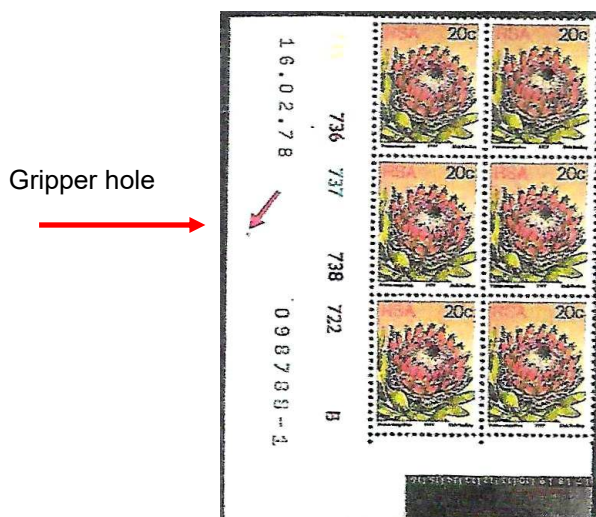
Type 0.1



Type 1.1



Fig. 6 Pane 'B' Walter Kroll perforator 12,5x12,5





## 4 Cent Wool stamp information needed

By Roy Ross

The first Definitive interim 4 cent wool stamp  
SACC 322 Cylinders 466,465,464 and 463

Date of issue 15th May 1972.

Sheets printed in A and B panes and rows of 5 x 20 stamps.

This stamp issue has 7 small cartoon type coloured pictures around the margins at intervals. I have never seen a full sheet of these and you can see from the stamps shown that I am missing one of the cartoons. It would be probably be opposite stamps 7 or 8.

If anyone has this piece would they please send me a scan.

The 'B' panes have the cartoons on the right, bottom and top margins as these are larger and the 'A' pane has them on the larger left, top and bottom margins.

SACC 322a Cylinders 482-479 also has the cartoon pictures. The cartoons and wool emblems were not on any of the next wool stamp issues.

I have noted that on all the 'B' panes, that I have in my possession, the wool emblem positioned on the lower right corner is broken on the left hand lower edge. It is not listed in the Stamp Study Handbook as a variety. To determine whether or not this is a constant variety would members check their stamps and let me know if theirs have the same broken emblem. Cylinders 466,465,464 and 463. It is not on the next similar issue Cylinders 482-479 in the stamps in my collection.

From my memory these two issues of South African stamps were only the second to have adverts on the margins. The previous being the 1935 booklet and JIPEX stamps. Does anyone know of any others?



Missing rows 5-10



Wool tailors easily



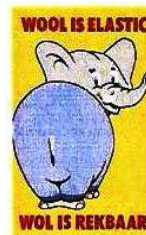
Wool is washable



Wool holds its shape



Wool is smart



Wool is elastic



Wool is comfortable

# 2017 Website News, Upgrades and Additions

By Otto Peetoom

## In General

Member participation continues to be virtually zero; additions and improvements are made on my own initiative. Providing a 'picture show' of all RSA commemoratives from 1961 to date was started during 2016. In February this year I added another page covering all commemoratives from 2011 to the end of 2016. This RSA section includes around one thousand images.

Pages that were developed for 'Member participation' have been scrapped due to lack of input. By the middle of the year I simplified the layout and modified the menus on each page.

**March, April and May** - All the Primary Pages have been updated and/or revised. The *Home Page* has been modified allowing access to pages included under: *Collect Southern Africa* - Library Listing Updated - *The Springbok* & Publications have been subdivided into two separate pages.

Two new pages have been added being SWA Commemoratives (Work still in progress, currently on offer 1935 Silver Jubilee to 1977 Namib Desert) and *Pioneering South African Philately*. The latter has more information on obsolete journals published from 1910 to 1917 and further additions are to follow.

There is another addition to 'Articles & Research'. 1910 Cape Town Pageant page revised plus a new section of Envelopes and Postcards has been added.

The 'About Us' page became somewhat stagnant and subsequently I revised it so that all the society's activities may be viewed on one page. Major items such as the 'Library' and 'The Springbok' both have their own page and may be accessed either from the 'Home Page' or from 'About Us'.

The bi-Annual Auction has its own page leading up to each sale and after each auction the link to the page will be removed as there is nothing of interest on said page.

The 'News Desk' page was made redundant and the latest news and/or announcements now feature on the 'Home Page'.

**July, August, September** - A page celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society has been added to the website. A 'Special Souvenir edition of *The Springbok*' may be downloaded as a PDF and printed copies were distributed mainly to UK members.

## Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion

Another page which charts the history of the Medal and records its recipients since 1981 was added in September.

Within less than a week, a search via Google for *Manfred Weinstein*, found its way to page One No 1. The 'search by image' enjoys the same status. Thanks to the assistance of Colin Fraser in the USA, I have been able to make contact with Mrs Hylde Weinstein, the widow of Manfred Weinstein and she wrote...*My family and I are greatly appreciative at your interest in the Man behind the medallion...*

## October 2017

At the beginning of the month another project got underway 'South Africa the Ten Rarest Stamps', inviting people to name the ten rarest Union and ten Rarest RSA items. As usual the response from the members is patchy, thus I simply forged ahead on my own. The idea is to review Union and RSA philately and on completion I will provide a summary of the foregoing.

The 'rarest stamps' page has proved popular and it is noticeable that the website has enjoyed more 'hits' than normal.

Our Librarian Malcolm Ridsdale submitted his annual update on the available literature and this has been added to the relevant page.

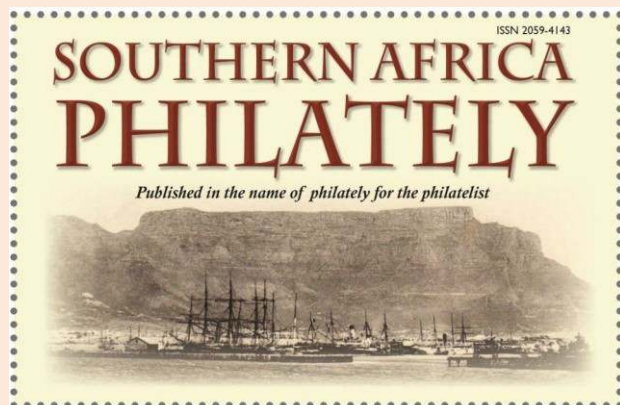
In the *Collect Southern Africa* section the Union SG 1 has been completely revamped and six pages converted into one, the foregoing took two days of my time to achieve.

Also much additional material has been added to SG 1 such as multiples used on the first day plus covers to unusual destinations. Initially there was a claim that only one cover, with SG 1, to Turkey was known and now there are two. Other 'new' destinations added are covers to Bohemia and Persia. A block of 18, used on the first day at Kimberley, is another fine addition to this page.

**Basutoland** - This page is also being added to and a 'picture show' of its stamps is in progress.

As time permits other pages in the 'Collect' section will be modified and revamped. My initial page width was 1050 and that has been increased to an optimum of 1200.

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# A Review of Early South African Stamp Exhibitions

By Otto Pectoom

## Introduction - My own Research

I have an interest in the *Pioneers of South African Philately*. Besides the usual published material, my approach is to source information from old or defunct journals which are not readily available to others.

It allows me to compare and cross check the accuracy of other work and it is not surprising to find errors, omissions and/or contradictions. I have published some of my research in issues of *Southern Africa Philately* and also added it to the appropriate website [www.southafricacollector.com](http://www.southafricacollector.com)

## 1903 to 1913 Stamp Exhibitions

I have gained sight of two efforts which attempt to document all the Philatelic events in South Africa and it is disappointing that the era prior to 1913 only takes up half a page.

It suggests that the authors are not aware of or do not have access to the necessary source of information.

### Observations on past Articles, Information and Authors

Until 1923 South African Philatelic journals tended to have a short lifespan. Some of the fledgling South African Philatelic Societies submitted reports to overseas Philatelic Journals such as the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (SGMJ) that made its debut in July 1890. Such reports are usually factual and an excellent source of information.

The contributors hark back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and include the likes of Emil Tamsen. Some of the subsequent reports appear to rely on recall rather than fact and lead to others repeating said information and presenting it as fact.

**Emil Tamsen - South African Letter** by Tamsen, was effectively a 'current philatelic affairs' letter that appeared in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* from time to time.

### 1910 'Afrikander'

November 1910 in *The Postage Stamp*, article entitled **Philately in South Africa** by 'Afrikander' - the author wrote... *A philatelic society was formed in Pretoria... This society held a highly successful exhibition on December 2nd and 5th, 1903, but since then it has been dormant.* (Wednesday and Saturday)

**1916 The South African Stamp Collector** - November issue, page 157...*Pretoria, 2 December 1904* (A year later on a Friday) *staged under the auspices of the Pretoria Philatelic Society, held in the (then) local Museum Buildings...*

Above is a typical 'Historical Error' which intimates that the Pretoria Philatelic Society staged an Exhibition in consecutive years...but that is not possible as the society became defunct in 1904 and did not get going again until May 1905.

**Sylvester Crozet** - His articles in the SAP always creates an impression that they are factual and well researched. Crozet presented an article in the August 1963 SAP on the 1913 Durban Exhibition. More of this later...

### Hasso Reisener

Published a book *The Special Commemorative Postmarks, cachets & covers of South Africa* (1975) His information is revered by some as impeccable and I have made reference to his work on numerous occasions. I found untold number of errors in the text and often his SAP reference are incorrect...this makes me wary of anything published in the book.

**Reisener** continued - For instance the 1925 Royal Tour, the author includes an 'Official Itinerary' problem is, it proved to be the 'Proposed' and not the 'actual' itinerary. This in turn has led to others making ridiculous statements due to accepting Reisener as being 'correct' (see SAP 2001 February & April).

**Wilhelm Grütter** - Presented a summary on the 1913 to 1960 exhibitions in the August 1998 SAP.

**Pauw Steyl** - The author of numerous articles relating to the early history of South African Philately, this has included early Stamp Dealers, personalities, Philatelic Societies and Stamp Exhibitions. Whilst he has presented a host of interesting information, it is invariably written in Afrikaans. There is nothing wrong in that, but unless one can read the 'Taal' (language) it requires a translator.

Having lived in the United Kingdom for the past 50 years, my Afrikaans is perhaps somewhat 'rusty' but I cope! I have not met Pauw, but his contribution to the subject is commendable and he is a recipient of the *Manfred Weinstein Medal* (1998).

**Die Ontwikkelingsgeskiedenis van Posseëluitstallings in Suid-Afrika** by Pauw Steyl being a supplement to the December 1991 SAP (written in Afrikaans) and translates as the 'Development of Stamp Exhibitions in South Africa'.

I am surprised and disappointed that there are only a few lines covering 1903 to 1913 stamp exhibitions.

**December 1903 in Pretoria** - A Factual report submitted by the Pretoria Philatelic society published in SGMJ (30.1.1904) ...*An Exhibition of Stamps was held, under the auspices of the Pretoria Society, in the Pretoria Museum, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 1903...This was the first Exhibition of Stamps held in Pretoria...*

**Pretoria December 1904** (False report) Society defunct! It is meant to be the 1903 exhibition.- (see previous column)

**Durban 6 August 1906** Reported in the *The Natal Mercury* and SGMJ (29.09.06)...*The first ever promoted in the Colony was held yesterday, in the YMCA Buildings, under the auspices of the Durban and District Society...*

**December 1906 Pretoria - A second Exhibition in Transvaal** Stated as held in Hotel Imperial on 15 and 16 December (SAP October 1970) being Saturday and Sunday. The 16<sup>th</sup> appears to me as a strange day for a stamp exhibition in Pretoria, in a highly religious city on a Sunday that includes Dingaan's day?

The source of this report is attributed to *The South African Stamp Collector* (November 1916) being the same party who stated the 1903 Pretoria exhibition was held in 1904 instead of 1903! If another show took place, perhaps in a different year?

It should also be noted that the same publication makes no mention of an alleged exhibition in Pretoria during 1911.

The *Pretoria Philatelic Society* report for 1906 appeared in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* 28 February 1907 and there is no mention of any exhibition.

**Pretoria October 1911** - Noted by Pauw Steyl, I am sceptical of this report as the Pretoria Society had ground to a halt in 1909 until 19 October 1911 (Source SAP February 1942). They would hardly be in a position to stage an exhibition.



# A Review of the Earliest Stamp Exhibitions held in South Africa

**Pretoria 1911** continued - At the time a 2<sup>nd</sup> version of *The South African Philatelist* was published by the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society...from October to December 1911 there are no reports about any exhibition in Pretoria.

The December 1911 SAP included a report from the newly 'resurrected' Pretoria Society... no mention of an exhibition. I also searched the appropriate issues of the SGMJ and drew another blank there as well.

## **1913 Durban Stamp Exhibition** (30 June to 5 July)

I produced an article on this exhibition in *Southern Africa Philately* No 4 (October 2016) and drew on contemporary information published in the SGMJ plus a summing up by Emil Tamsen in the August 1913 SGMJ.

In an October 1970 SAP it is hailed as...*was undoubtedly the leading one*... This show may claim to be the first 'Union' exhibition as I discount the alleged 1911 show.

At the time, the first competitive Stamp Exhibition in the Union took place; there were six philatelic societies in the country. Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Bloemfontein, East London, Cape Town plus one in Rhodesia. This exhibition took place, thanks to the initiative of the *Philatelic society of Natal*, thus it was not a 'National' show let alone '*the first international philatelic exhibition*' as incorrectly intimated by Reisener.

At least two British dealers made it to Durban, Bright & Son and Whitfield King, but their attendance does not turn it into an international. Subsequent to Reisener's idea that 'Durban 1913' was an international, other authors have followed suit.

## **Exhibits and Gold Medals** (Durban 1913)

The alleged number of exhibits is another bone of contention. In 1913 Tamsen in his SGMJ report wrote... *Personally I had not expected that the Natal Philatelic Society would have got so many exhibits together as they did; over sixty were sent in, besides more than twenty of philatelic literature*...

*The South African Stamp Collector* No 4, October 1916 in an article *The Philatelic Society of Natal - Its Genesis and Work* it notes...*the Society should promote an Exhibition during the 1913 Durban Gala season...The entries numbered about 200... The South African Philatelist* (August 1963) by S. Crozet ...*A total of 115 entries were received and of these 49 received awards, ten of which were gold medals*...

According to Tamsen there were only 19 awards (six Gold) ...my own research later added another Gold medal to the count e.g. Six Gold Medals are said to be awarded for Sweden, CGH, Transvaal x 2, Malta and Transvaal Forgeries. In the March 1920 edition of *The Union Philatelist* an obituary for Mr G.C. Herbert appeared and includes...*his collection of Mauritius was awarded a gold medal at the Durban Exhibition of 1913*. Thus the number of exhibits ranges from 60 to 200 and the awards from 19 to 49...

## **Researching and Philatelic Writing**

The above demonstrates that writing about the early South African Stamp Exhibitions is far from easy. Piecing the past together from contemporary information has its pitfalls as what was published at the time is not guaranteed to be accurate. The other problem has always been around...there are plenty of 'readers' but researchers and writers are thin on the ground!

## **Does it exist - A R1 Inverted Watermark?** By Otto Peetoom

The R1 Sterilizzia (Redrawn) watermark RSA from cylinders G11 4 6 is listed by Stanley Gibbons as SG A251w and also by the South African Colour Catalogue as SACC 243a.



In both instances unpriced, I have never seen an example and neither has Mike Tonking. Question is does it exist?

An opinion ventured suggests that someone may have mistaken a R1 with a Tête-Bêche watermark as having an inverted watermark. Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Editor, Hugh Jefferies has promised to look into the matter in due course.

## **Late Website News by Otto Peetoom**

Our member Errol van Greunen contacted me and made me aware of a document he compiled on *Philatelic Exhibitions in Southern Africa*. It currently runs to 354 pages, I am informed that the Postal History Society were supposed to publish said work, but that was six years ago.

We discussed certain options and I suggested that an immediate step forward is to make it accessible on the website...to this end I constructed a new page on 25 October which includes my own work and research into early SA Exhibitions...this page went live on 26 October and is now incorporated into the system.

Errol's 354 page PDF document has been converted into a 'word doc' and in due course will be split into relevant sections that will make it more user friendly.

## **Topics in Errol's document include**

- 1) National - International Philatelic Exhibitions in S. Africa
- 2) Exhibitions in other Southern Africa Countries
- 3) Exhibitions Organised at a non-National Level
- 4) Youth Philately
- 5) South African Philatelic Dealers Association - SAPDA
- 6) Stamp Shows - Exhibitions



My Website offers a  
comprehensive  
range of  
Southern Africa Stamps  
and specialized items



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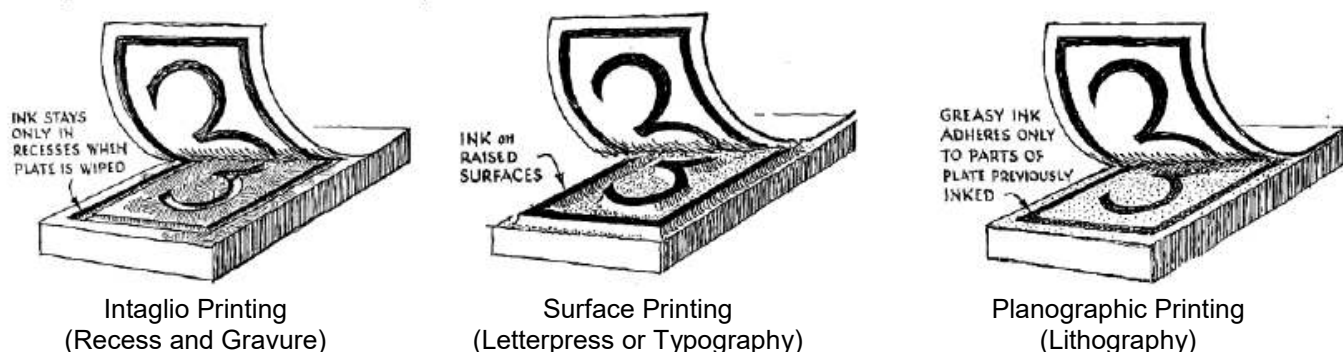
# Stamp Printing Part 1

By Tony Johnson

**INTRODUCTION.** In this article the printing processes used for printing postage stamps are discussed and examples taken from my collection of Canadian, New Zealand and South African stamps are shown. New Zealand stamps will be the primary focus. In this first part the primary focus is on Recess printing and Letterpress (Typography); later parts will cover Photogravure, Lithography and ancillary processes.

The main processes used for high volume printing can be divided into 3 categories, depending upon the relative positions of the image and non-image areas. Intaglio processes (Recess and Gravure) are those in which the image area is recessed with respect to the non-image area and after ink has been applied the non-image area needs to be cleaned prior to the printing impression. Surface printing processes (letterpress - often known incorrectly by philatelists as typography) are those in which the image area is raised relative to the non-image, and only the raised area is inked. In the Planographic process (lithography) both image and non-image are in the same plane but are differentiated chemically during printing. Although, as a printer, I don't like to use typography as the term for letterpress I will use it in this display as it is aimed at philatelists!

The figure below illustrates the various processes.



In the 19th century, when high volume stamp printing was started following the initiation of the universal postage system, the two most widely used processes were Recess and Typography. Following the invention of photography, which radicalised printing, both processes have largely been replaced by Gravure and Lithography today but given the technology of that era Recess printing, although slow, produced the highest quality, in particular it's ability to reproduce very fine lines. It is really only used today in the production of bank notes and in that usually only for the colours in fine detail.

One of the problems faced in postage stamp production in the early 19th century was how multiple images could easily be produced to increase the efficiency of the printing. The master image was produced by a highly skilled engraver, but it would be impractical for that same engraver to make as many as 100 copies, and they would almost certainly not be identical, so some other technique was required. The solutions chosen had to be different for each process but in general it required the production of a secondary image and then the use of this to make a series of other images in sheet form ready for printing.. Since each of these stages reversed the image left-to-right, as did the printing process itself, an odd number of steps (e.g. secondary master, printing image, printing) meant that the engraver had to produce the engraving back to front.

## Recess Printed Stamps



The printing surface for recess printed stamps is usually made of steel. Jacob Perkins had developed a technique whereby steel could be hardened and so the hardened hand engraved master could be pressed into another piece of steel at high pressure. By using a roller for the softer steel, and rolling it onto the master it could then be hardened in turn to provide a 'right-reading' secondary master, in which the image areas are in relief, that could then be rolled at high pressure many times on the same sheet of steel. to produce multiple 'wrong-reading' recessed copies of the same image ready for printing. The photograph to the left shows the last image being transferred to the printing plate as described. The printing plate can then be hardened and when the recessed areas are filled with ink, and

the surface cleaned it can be pressed against the paper to provide multiple right-reading printed copies of the master image.

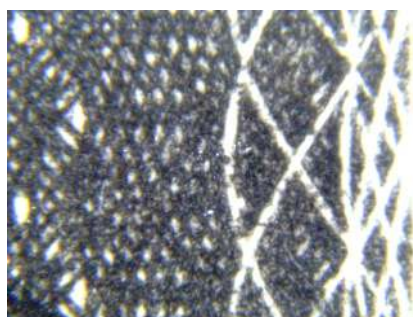
No display of Recess printed stamps would be complete without inclusion of the first, and many would say best, stamps printed. The British penny black, two penny blue and penny red (all printed inevitably by Perkins, Bacon as they were the 'owners' of the steel hardening and transfer roller technique) were produced initially in 1840 and 1841. Examples are shown below.



1840



1841



The fine white lines of this design (enlarged in the diagram to the left) show the strength of the process. Such fine detail would have been difficult to reproduce consistently by typography given the technology of the era. However, the printing process was slow. Having applied the highly viscous ink to the plate the surface needed to be cleaned and the best way found to complete this this was with the palm of the hand. Then the paper had to be dampened prior to printing which involved pressing the damp paper hard against the plate. The viscous ink then transferred to the paper with very little spread and, unlike all the other processes described earlier, produced a slightly raised image on the surface of the paper. These reasons make it a

valuable form of printing in defeating forgers, at least to those experienced in spotting such characteristics.

Unlike many other countries New Zealand decided to follow the same path as Britain in using Recess printing for its early issues and the first Chalon Heads were produced Recess by Perkins, Bacon in 1855. Various values of this image were produced (either by Perkins, Bacon or the Government Printing Office in Auckland) until 1873/4 when the Typographed side faces were introduced. However, they returned to Recess for the definitive issue of 1898 (first pictorials) and continued to use it intermittently with typography initially and occasionally lithography or photogravure later until the early 1960s. The introduction of photography revolutionised all the printing processes at the turn of the century, and mechanical improvements to presses speeded all the processes up substantially, but recess remained the slowest process

A number of examples of recess printed stamps are shown below from the Chalon Heads to the 1961 health issue. A few stamps were produced by recess after this but very rarely. In 1988 the circular \$1 stamps were introduced and in 1994 a \$20 stamp was recess printed (with gold embossing added). Apart from a part printing in 2002 this was the last use of recess.

#### 'Chalon Head' definitive issue (1855-72)



#### 'First Pictorial' definitive issue (low values) - (1898-1903)





'Second Pictorial' definitive issue (low values) - (1935-1936)



All issued 1935

George VI definitive issue (high values) - (1947)



QEII definitive issue - (1953-58)



All issued 1/3/14 (except 1½d issued 12/12/53)

1961 Health Issue



1988 \$1 definitive issue



1994 \$20



Canada and South Africa issued stamps as separate provinces until they came together as unified countries, In Canada some provinces formed the Colony of Canada in 1840 and they were joined by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1867, to form the Dominion of Canada. Over the ensuing years they were joined by the other provinces with Newfoundland being the last in 1949. The South African provinces came together to form the Union in 1910. The examples below show some of the recess printed stamps from each of these countries .



Colony of Canada (1859)



New Brunswick (1860-63)





Newfoundland (1868-73)



Newfoundland (1938)



Nova Scotia (1863)



Prince Edward Island (1870)

Canada, after unification, rarely used typography except for overprinting and largely used Recess printing until they started to switch to Lithography in the 1960s. A few issues also used photogravure but not many. Examples of just a few of their Recess printed issues are shown below

#### Dominion of Canada



QV first definitive issue (1870-88)



George V second 'Admiral' definitive issue (1922-25)



QEII 'First Pictorial' definitive issue (1972-77)

Very few stamps were printed recess by South Africa. The provinces used typography almost exclusively with the exceptions shown below. The Union printed only 3 issues by recess and examples of these are shown below, After this they switched to gravure and used this almost exclusively (apart from overprinting by typography) until the mid-1970s when lithography became the dominant process.





Natal (1859-65)



Cape of Good Hope (1853-63)



Transvaal (1878-80)



Union  
commemorative  
(1910)



Triangular issue (1926)



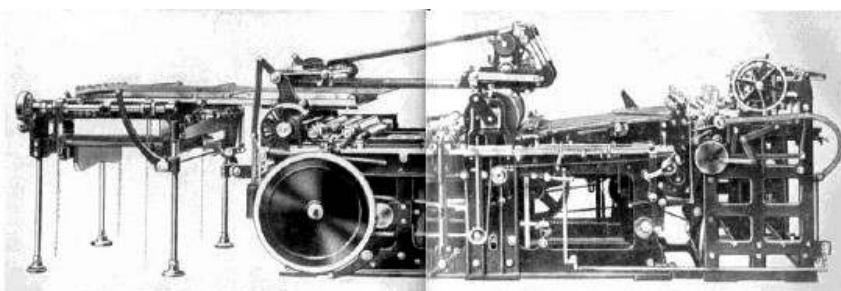
'First Pictorial' definitive issue (Higher values)  
(1927-30)

## LETTERPRESS PRINTING OR TYPOGRAPHY

This process was used by the Chinese around 1000 years ago for printing from woodcuts (engraving in wood). However, it was revolutionised by Gutenberg in 1450 when he invented movable type that dramatically reduced the time and skill required for printing books and pamphlets. This eventually led to improvements in the technology of the printing process (paper feeding, higher speed presses and improvements in ink and inking systems) which speeded it up dramatically. Thus in the early 19th century, particularly following the introduction of cylinder presses, it was undoubtedly the most productive method of printing. Although it could not produce the consistent quality of recess printing it was still of sufficient quality for many stamp printers and many countries first issued stamps produced by this process.

To produce multiple copies stereotypes and electrotypes could be employed. Both techniques employ a mould which is pressed into the wrong-reading master die. For stereotypes this is a wet paper/paste combination known as a flong that is dried after moulding and then used to cast a metal copy of the master die in as many copies as are required. These can then be assembled in order to produce a sheet of stamps. Often a row or part row or column are assembled and then the process repeated to make the number of images required for the sheet of stamps. Electrotyping is a more complex and slower process, but tends to produce higher quality than stereotypes and wears less quickly during printing. To produce electrotypes a molten wax is poured onto a metal plate and then allowed to partially set. The combination is then pressed at high pressure onto the master engraving and allowed to harden completely. On removal it is black leaded and a metallic powder dusted on the surface. This provides the cathode in an electro-depositing bath in which the anodes are made of copper and the liquid is copper sulphate. When a current is passed a film of copper is built onto the surface of the mould and sufficient time is allowed to produce a thickness that provides a durable shell when removed from the wax. The surface that was in contact with the wax becomes the face of the plate and a molten metal is poured onto the back to bring it up to the required height. Multiple copies can be produced and assembled to produce the printing forme that could then have a viscous ink applied to the surface and the paper pressed against the plate to produce the print. Until the

19th century the press consisted of a screw mechanism to press against the paper against the printing forme, but early that century a cylinder design was introduced in which the printing forme oscillated back and forth, being inked on each pass of the forme, under a rotating metal cylinder to which the paper is affixed.





New Zealand first used Typography, printed by the Government Printing Office for their side face issue in 1873/4 and the second side face issue of 1882-1900 but reverted to recess until the first commemoratives in 1906. Examples of these early printed stamps are shown below. Between 1908 and 1931 typography was the usual process used but only occasionally thereafter.



All issued 1874



For Canada and South Africa the first stamps produced by typography were usually issued by some of the provinces or states and examples of each of these are shown below for both countries. After unification Canada only used the process for overprinting and South Africa used it for only a few issues. The main South African issue printed this way (the GV 'Kings Head' definitive issue) is also shown.



Vancouver Island  
1860



British Columbia  
1867 1868



Prince Edward Island  
1862-69



Cape of Good Hope (1864-77)



Natal (1874-99)





Orange Free State (1868-94)



(1870-75)



(1885-93)



Union of South Africa 'Kings Head' definitive issue (1913-24)

*Part two to follow in a future Springbok - Ed*

## The Revenue Stamps of South Africa

Additional information to an article written in the Springbok Vol. 64 No.4 Page 136

By **Tony Howgrave Graham**

**Fig. 1** a rather nice interprovincial cut-out from a deeds document which I got from New Zealand. It has an ORC £2, a Union £1, a CGH 5/-, a TVL 2/- & a TvI post&rev 6d. All very nice but more importantly cancelled 27 Aug 1913 which is before the official date of release of the Union issue. The shortage was meant to apply to £1, 6d & 3d and permission was given for early usage if needed. I've seen a few £1's now but 6d's are rare and here there's use of the small 6d postage & revenue which is cancelled 3 days later (30 Aug). So Cape Town, at least, appears to have had 6d's available. I've still to see a 3d used early.



Fig. 1



**Fig. 2.** I've eventually managed to get hold of a mint copy of a rand value from the 1978-91 series printed on both sides with the illustrated 1987 R10. I'm not sure of it's origin, possibly a reject as the alignment isn't quite correct. The paper seems a bit thicker than usual and the portion printed on the back doesn't show through as well as normal. The back is very clearly printed with the value reversed as is the "87" and the year dot appearing to the right of the top left rosette.





# A Tale of Two Villages

By Errol van Greunen

For postal historians collecting items such as cancellations and other items of two like named cities/towns has great scope, because of the large number of towns or cities named by settlers in new countries.

One can think of South African names such as Hannover (Germany). In Australia we get Perth, Adelaide, and in New Zealand. Names in most of the British Commonwealth countries.

I would like to talk about two small villages with the name Hermannsburg. One in KwaZulu – Natal in South Africa and the other in Australia. My association with these two villages is that my brother and his family lived in the Natal village, while he worked at the Natal Tanning Extract factory. The Australian one was by chance.

My wife and I went to Australia at the behest of friends, Ian and Lyn Corrans to “do” the Gunbarrel Highway. Other friends Pete and Maud Lowe and their friends Fred Ettlinger and Brian Waller were in the second vehicle. It was toward the end of the trip that we came across the Australian mission station, which struck a chord and influenced me to read more about it. This led to a most interesting philatelic discovery too.



Hermannsburg is a small hamlet located in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Hermannsburg was established in 1854 as the first station of the Hermannsburg Missionary Society based in Hermannsburg, Germany.

Postmark of Hermannsburg - Natal

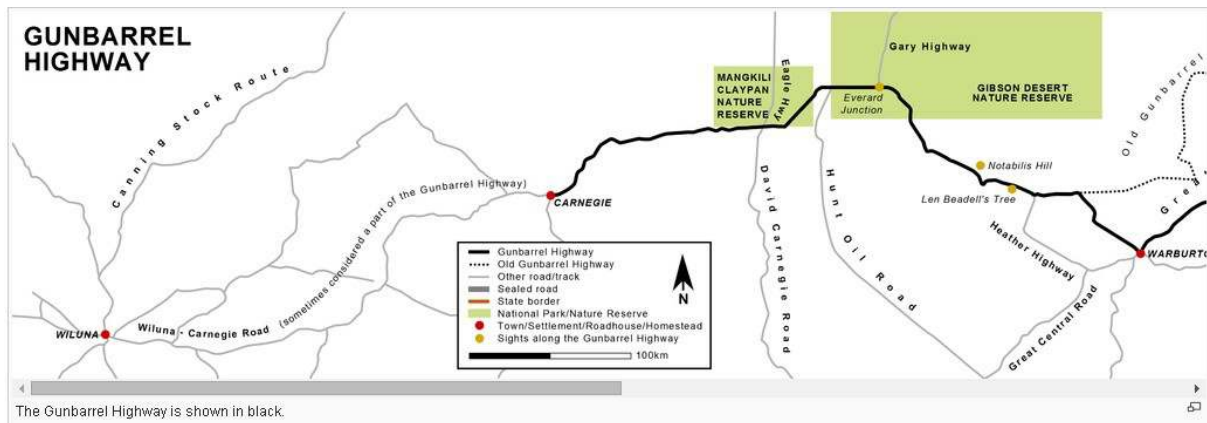


The missionaries who had planned to reach Ethiopia but were forced to turn back, decided to start a mission in South Africa. They bought the farm Perseverance on the edge of Zululand near Greytown as Mpande the king of the Zulus would not allow them to settle in his land.

After arrival at the new mission station, the missionaries constructed a large house (the Mission House), which was converted to a museum in 1981. In 1856 the missionaries started a boarding school, which is still in operation as a private boarding school. (*Deutsche Schule Hermannsburg*).

Moving across to Australia we find some interesting facts touring items.

The Gunbarrel Highway is an isolated desert track in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. It consists of about 1,350 km (840 mi) of washaways, heavy corrugations, stone, sand and flood plains. The Gunbarrel Highway connects Victory Downs in the Northern Territory to Carnegie Station in Western Australia. The road was built as part of Australia's role in the weapons research establishment called Woomera which included Emu Field and Maralinga, both atomic bomb testing sites. The name comes from Len Beadell's Gunbarrel Road Construction Party so named as his intention was to build roads as straight as a gunbarrel.



There were three main reasons for the construction of the Gunbarrel Highway. The first was to provide access for a future meteorological station which was needed to forecast upper winds prior to the testing of atomic weapons in South Australia. The second was for instrumentation along the centre-line of fire for rockets launched from Woomera, and the third was to allow surveyors from the National Mapping Council to continue the geodesic survey of little known areas of outback Australia. A consequence of the construction was the completion of the first east-west road link across the centre of Australia.

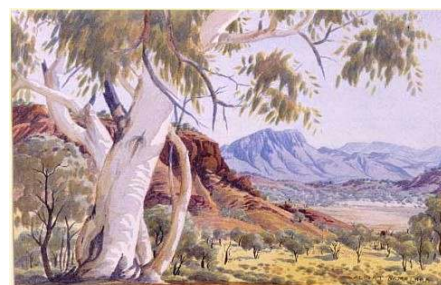
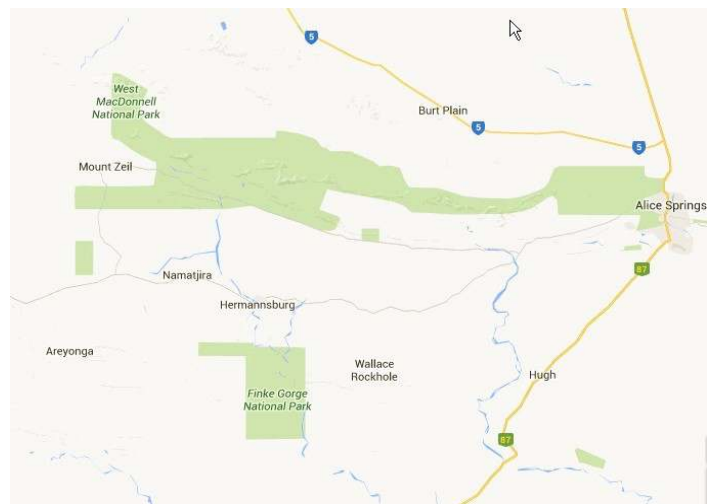
By any standard, this is a long and tough haul through very remote territory. Its isolation requires travellers to be totally self-sufficient with water, food and fuel (the longest distance between fuel outlets is 489 kilometres), between Warburton and Carnegie Station. The route passes directly into Aboriginal reserves and it is a legal requirement for travellers to hold a valid transit permit at the time of travel.

One of these reserves had an outpost named Hermannsburg which was established in 1877 as a religious mission for Aboriginal people. It became a refuge from the frontier conflict (violent conflict between pastoralists, the police and Aborigines) for the Arrernte people. It was the home of acclaimed Aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira.

A brief summary of Albert's life from Wikipedia

"Although spending time in his early formative years at the Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission, Albert Namatjira was initiated as a young man into the sacred tribal ways, and was taught the tribal customs and ancient laws of the Western Aranda. He greatly respected his tribal laws, and seldom travelled far from his ancestral home. The majority of his watercolour works were landscapes of areas that he had known throughout his life, for they fell within the tribal land of the Western Aranda.

His works captured the vibrant colours of the Western MacDonnell Ranges in the north, and the Krichauff Ranges to the south. They also captured the crater-like mountain mass of the circular Gosse's Range to the west, the tributaries of Ellery Creek and Hugh River to the east, and in many works the broad bed of the Finke River that ran through the heart of his tribal land. He also painted the mauve hues of Mount Sonder, the white ghost gums against Glen Helen's red escarpments, and the blue waterholes of the Ormiston".



The left stamp depicts the ghost gum and the painting on the right is the original, to be found in the Art Gallery of Southern Australia - Adelaide(?)





This is also the area where the famed Ayer's Rock now known as Uluru also is to be found. A major tourist spot in Australia!

#### References:

[Albert Namatjira - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Namatjira)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_Namatjira](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Namatjira) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermannsburg, Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermannsburg,_Australia)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermannsburg, KwaZulu-Natal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermannsburg,_KwaZulu-Natal) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uluru>

Stamps of Australia 1993

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## SACS Library – Latest Additions

By Malcolm Ridsdale Hon. Librarian

In the last few months the Library has expanded quite considerably. Additions have been made to both philatelic and non-philatelic sections and catalogues. The Library expansion has been due in the most part to the generosity of some of our members and some modest purchases as opportunities have come about. I would particularly like to thank the family of the late John Ahmad who have made some very high-quality books available to us and Otto Peetoom who is always on the look out to find books for us. All other members of the SACS who have donated or made available items for the Library are also warmly thanked. Members will have also noted that over the last few months the hard work of Lyn and Rob Lester has resulted in the printing of a large number of specialized books on a range of topics produced by some of our illustrious members. Copies of all these books are now in the Library.

Below is the list of new additions. If any member wishes to borrow any of these titles or needs help with further information I will do my best to assist. My details are amongst the SACS Officer details at the front of any recent Springbok.

#### Non – Philatelic Books

Tristan Da Cunha - Ships visits 1901 to 2016

Robin William Taylor

Standard Encyclopedia of Southern Africa Vols 1 - 12

Various Editors

#### Catalogues

The South African Stamp Colour Catalogue 1989

Unknown

The South African Stamp Colour Catalogue 1998

Unknown

The South African Stamp Colour Catalogue 2017 /18

SG Elizabethan Postage Stamp Catalogue 1965

SG British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue 1972

SG Stamp Catalogue 1937 Part 1 British Empire

SG Stamp Catalogue 1949 Part 1 British Empire

SG Stamp Catalogue 1952 Part 1 British Empire

SG Stamp Catalogue 1960 Part 1 British Empire

Handbook/Catalogue Union of South Africa Stamps Combined Handbook 1979

Berry/Hagger/Legator/Sheffield

The SA Christmas Stamp Booklet Catalogue 2016

Ian Woodliffe

*Cont'*

## Latest Library Additions continued

### Philatelic Books

Southern Africa Mails - Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806 - 1916	Brian Trotter
The Boer War in Postcards	Ian McDonald
Union of South Africa Roll Stamps 1913 - 1960	Mike Tonking
South West Africa The De La Rue Georgians 1923 - 1931	Mike Tonking
An Analysis of SA's Homelands	Paul van Zeyl
South West Africa Postage Dues	Mike Tonking
Republic of South Africa Postage Dues	Mike Tonking
Union of SA 1/2d and 1d Unhyphenated Rotogravure Pictorial Stamps	Mike Tonking
RSA The High Values of the 4th Definitive Building Series	Mike Tonking
Union of SA 1d Hyphenated Rotogravure Pictorial Stamps	Mike Tonking
Union of SA 1/2d Hyphenated Rotogravure Pictorial Stamps	Mike Tonking
Union of SA 3d Groote Schuur Stamps 1927 - 1954	Mike Tonking
Union of SA Officials Stereo Process Block Overprinting	Mike Tonking
RSA Third Definitive Protea Series 1c to 4c Values	Mike Tonking
Union of SA 1941 War Train	John Shaw
The Official Stamps of SWA	Mike Tonking
Postal Markings of The Cape of Good Hope	Robert Hill
RSA Third Definitive Protea Series 5c to 2R values	Mike Tonking
The Postal Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope (Barred Oval Cancellor 1864)	Franco Frescura / Michael Nether-sole
The Barred Oval Cancellor of the Cape of Good Hope 1864	Franco Frescura
The P.O.A. Cancellers of Natal	B. A. Kantey
Handbook of Postmarks of German SWA / SWA / Namibia	Ralph F Putzel
The Postal History of the Canadian Contingents Anglo Boer War 1899 - 1902	Kenneth Rowe
Stamps of the Orange Free State Part 1, 1854 - 1900	GD Buckley / WB Marriot
The Postmarks of SA and Former States and Colonies Vols 1 - 10	Ralph F Putzel

I look forward to hearing from members in due course. Malcolm Ridsdale. Hon Librarian

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## NOVEMBER AUCTION REPORT

By Nick Arrow

This report is being compiled almost immediately after completion – therefore please accept that the detail will be very sketchy!

However, what are not sketchy are my sincere thanks to the Team who so selflessly support me at the Auction itself, helping the administration in the auction to run so smoothly, Susan Oliver, who ensures that I offer the next lot and don't jump all over the place, Tony Johnson, who records all the lots on the computer and saves me hours of work when I get back home, and of course the Chaps, Mike Berry, Bob Hill and Rob Lester who handed out of sold lots – thank you all very much indeed!

I felt that it was a good auction. As it was for the November meeting, when the Society combines with all the other Study Groups interested in South African material, it was deliberately skewed in favour of the pre-Union period, with about 50% of the Auction lots, and much of the Literature, being intended for those who collect the early periods. Sadly, this did not seem to produce the result that was hoped for in that, of the total sales, less than 20% came from the 120 or so lots that were aimed at the pre-Union collectors.



There could be several reasons for this. For a start, the material may have been “ordinary” so that nothing was wanted by any of the collectors, or of course the reserves may have been too high. I suspect that perhaps a mixture of both may have contributed, but there is also the fact that I do not collect this material and do not get into the minds of the collectors who do, and am unable to offer material so that they are interested in it.

However, the Literature section and of course the post 1910 lots established the overall success of the Auction - the total sales were a little over £8,000, which means that there will be plenty in the coffers for the hospitality at the next November Convention!

And finally, it is only right to point out that the Hotel facilities at the Strawberry Bank Hotel were excellent, far and away more enjoyable than those at the hotel in Leamington Spa, and I would like to express my personal appreciation to Simon for all his efforts in finding such a great location, and I am sure all those who attended enjoyed the facilities in Meriden, which contributed to such a marvellous Convention.

A list of the sold lots sold is set out below and any of the unsold lots are available on a first come, first served basis.

Finally, I have decided against trying to mount a small postal auction for January. For a start, there is insufficient time to prepare a decent auction list, and secondly, I fear that to mount a really good postal auction would necessarily reduce the availability of good lots for the next public auction which, I suspect, will be in early June 2018.

And to end this report, I would wish all those who support the Auction the very best for the forthcoming Festive Season and 2018, and Happy Stamping!

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	£36.00	62	£12.00	141	£5.00	176	£80.00	217	£10.00
2	£32.00	64	£44.00	145	£15.00	178	£50.00	220	£46.00
3	£20.00	66	£12.00	146	£270.00	179	£70.00	221	£200.00
4	£16.00	67	£44.00	148	£820.00	180	£12.00	222	£70.00
5	£8.00	68	£38.00	149	£250.00	181	£80.00	223	£150.00
6	£10.00	69	£34.00	153	£25.00	182	£150.00	229	£25.00
7	£10.00	70	£20.00	154	£40.00	183	£30.00	230	£75.00
9	£5.00	72	£130.00	155	£150.00	184	£10.00	231	£320.00
10	£16.00	74	£50.00	156	£30.00	187	£36.00	233	£75.00
11	£30.00	85	£18.00	157	£32.00	190	£25.00	234	£40.00
12	£40.00	90	£30.00	158	£42.00	194	£30.00	238	£560.00
13	£15.00	95	£25.00	159	£56.00	195	£50.00	240	£40.00
14	£85.00	96	£35.00	160	£320.00	197	£200.00	241	£200.00
15	£3.00	97	£34.00	161	£42.00	199	£80.00	242	£5.00
16	£4.00	98	£34.00	162	£40.00	200	£65.00	243	£21.00
18	£58.00	106	£8.00	163	£40.00	202	£40.00	244	£16.00
19	£55.00	109	£6.00	164	£25.00	203	£50.00	245	£36.00
20	£100.00	112	£11.00	165	£15.00	204	£230.00	256	£120.00
31	£46.00	117	£29.00	166	£75.00	205	£18.00	260	£20.00
38	£52.00	121	£60.00	168	£25.00	207	£90.00	261	£100.00
40	£60.00	126	£54.00	169	£25.00	208	£40.00	264	£20.00
41	£90.00	127	£60.00	170	£32.00	209	£80.00	268	£25.00
47	£120.00	128	£60.00	171	£50.00	210	£15.00	270	£12.00
52	£60.00	134	£10.00	172	£46.00	211	£10.00		
54	£11.00	135	£12.00	174	£34.00	214	£10.00		
60	£5.00	138	£25.00	175	£85.00	215	£12.00		

# 1967 2½c Definitive with Inverted Watermark - SG A242w

Collated by Otto Peetoom

## Introduction

In the past I have related that this 2½c watermark error is one of the most elusive RSA varieties in as much that it is very rarely on offer. In all my years of trading, which include numerous trips to South Africa, I searched in vain for a copy of this stamp. Finally I was rewarded and bought a top marginal pair at a Stephan Welz auction in Johannesburg. They represent the only copies I have ever seen.

During October 2017, whilst searching through 1960's indexes for *The South African Philatelist* (SAP), I found four references to this variety in the February, June and July 1969 SAP.



Facing right

SG A242w

Facing Left

**Important note** - The following, written in 1969 means the watermark 'facing right' is *as seen from the front of the stamp*.

## *The South African Philatelist*

**February SAP** - Under 'South African Notes'...*If you should have the 2½c Constantia, from cylinders 17/23 with sheet numbers between 661,920 and 657,461...from a printing in September 1967, you may find the RSA watermark showing clearly facing right...one specimen has been seen with the sheet numbers in the required range but with its watermark facing left. It is thus obvious that the whole roll does not have its watermark facing right...*

**June SAP** - Under a heading 'The 2½c with RSA watermark facing right'...*The investigation into the printing of the 2½c definitive stamp on RSA watermarked paper in 1967 is nearly complete. This was the printing where the watermark faced right instead of left as usually found...*

**July SAP** - Includes two accounts by the Associate Editor H.J. Raubenheimer and R.B. Cronwright. The latter wrote...*at the end of 1968 a new development occurred which revived interest in the 2½c; this was the discovery of stamps with clear RSA watermark facing right...* Cronwright relates that a member of the RSA Study Circle showed a 'D' pane cylinder block with sheet number 659,705 bought around September 1967 at the Braamfontein Post Office. He continued to speculate as to how many sheets may have been printed with the watermark facing right. Cronwright said that he had found two used examples with the watermark error used at Jan Kempdorp and Thabanchu suggesting a wide distribution of the affected sheets.

Raubenheimer provided some background information to the 2½c with inverted watermark and wrote...*The finder stated that he had taken a few blocks from sheets at his office some months previously and had not looked at the watermark...*

When the Stamp Study Circle was involved in the RSA watermark the 'finder' examined his own material and at that point realized that his blocks had the watermark facing right. Besides his 'D' pane with sheet No 659,705 he also had a top right corner with a 'moon' variety.

According to Raubenheimer the stamp trade searched through large quantities of 2½c stamps without any success. At a later date another member of the Study Circle found that he possessed '*some strips of the top portion of the sheets of the 17/23 printings*'. The individual concerned had jotted down the sheet numbers that the strips originate from...that revealed that his number was about 340 sheets after the one quoted above.

## Information from the Government Printer

In the first instance they confirmed that no rolls of Harrison RSA watermarked paper had been re-reeled which creates an inverted watermark. The Printer provided a long list of printings made of cylinders 17/23, the reel and sheet No's plus dates. From the foregoing it was deducted that sheet No 659,705 was ex reel No 27 and printed on 11 September 1967. These sheet numbers ran from 661920 to 657461 making a total of 4459 sheets of four panes of which 3500 had been delivered.

Research into these sheet numbers revealed that the majority of sheets from reel No 27 had the watermark facing left. From the foregoing it was deducted that the paper manufacturer made at least one join in the roll with that portion inserted the wrong way round. From the available surviving sheet numbers the Study Circle ventured an opinion that the maximum number of sheets with the watermark inverted was 1365 sheets an thought that an estimate of 'at least 1000' was plausible...*that they were delivered to Post Offices in the Braamfontein and western areas of Johannesburg in September 1967 and that they went into general use...*

## Later Information

In 1969 it was estimated that 108 2½c stamps with an inverted watermark had survived. In a March 1973 'RSA Handbook', page 'H21' it states...*Less than 200 stamps from these sheets have been reported and they are exceedingly scarce...*

The foregoing is a minute percentage of those printed. There is no indication how many used copies were found. Another valid point is that most collectors specialising in the 1961 - 74 RSA definitives concentrate on mint and therefore the used comes a poor 'second'. We ought to bear in mind that around 200,000 of these stamps were used and a proportion of them must be out there...waiting to be found.

**Roy Ross** added a useful contribution to the story and informed me that he had worked his way through a substantial amount of Kiloware. He found several 2½c stamps with an inverted watermark which includes five pairs plus two strips of three. Usage at Bloemfontein 9 II 68, Richmond, Natal 21 XI 67 and Stutterheim 2 III 68. The foregoing proves that the distribution of these sheets was widespread and not restricted to the Johannesburg area as suggested above.

In my opinion it appears that the mint examples circulate from one collection to the next as they do not appear at auction or offered for sale by the stamp trade.



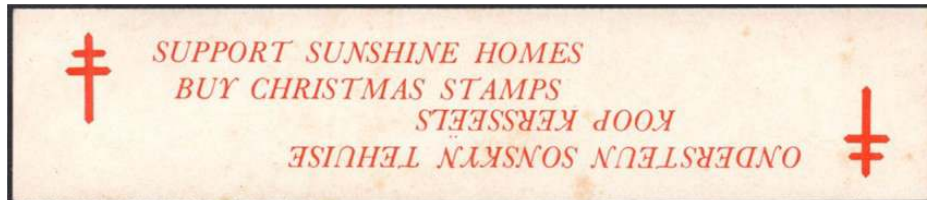
Illustrated above, a used pair of SG A242w (SACC 239a) still in circulation by February 1968 in the Cape, Natal and OFS.



## Sunshine Homes Christmas Stamps From The Editor

In the last issue of the Springbok, August 2017 Vol. 339 Page 115. Simon Peetoom mentioned the TB. Stamps and Sunshine Homes. Having heard of Sunshine Homes and having been unfortunate to get the disease when living in South Africa, I decided to look through past newsletters and found the following article written in around 1965. It first featured in the Springbok and copied in a Study Circle news letter.

The disease has no boundaries as to whether you are white or any other colour. There was no one any fitter than I at the time, it was just a case of wrong place wrong time. The SA Government paid for the 6 month treatment and seemed to be making headway in combating the disease but new strains have appeared in recent years and I wonder if it will ever be stamped out.



### Christmas Stamps of South Africa

It was on Christmas Eve in 1903 that a postal official in Denmark went on duty after he had helped entertain children suffering from tuberculosis. He was distressed at the tragedy he had seen. On the next morning, Christmas Day, seeing three million old letters awaiting distribution, the inspiration came to him just how much money could be collected to help fight the disease is a small levy, in the form of a Christmas stamp or seal, costing one Ore, could be affixed to each letter.

At the earliest opportunity the idea was discussed with his Postmaster and the outcome was that the first Christmas stamp in the world was sold in Denmark during 1904. The immediate success in that country was amazing. Within ten years sufficient money had been collected to build the first sanatorium; in the next ten years nine more were built. Today T.B. is practically unknown in Denmark and only preventative work is carried out. This postal official started a wonderful scheme which helped to stamp out T.B. in his country. Today the idea is used in most countries in the world in the fight against this disease and all Christmas stamps bear the International emblem, a double red cross.

In South Africa, a land of open spaces and sunshine, T.B. seemed impossible. At a Medical Congress in East London in 1929 for the first time South Africa learnt of the tremendous inroads the disease had made in her country. T.B. Hospitals were almost non-existent; there were only two small hospitals at Nelspoort near Beaufort West and in the Transvaal.

In Durban, at a public meeting of all interested persons and representatives of charitable organisations called by the Mayor of Durban, in 1929, the public were told of the serious position developing in South Africa with the spread of T.B. Suggestions were called for to raise funds to help fight this disease. Mrs Maja Christiansen, a visitor from Denmark, told the gathering what had been done in her country to help fight the disease and she offered to go to Pretoria, at her own expense, to interview the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and the Minister of Health in an endeavour to get the backing of the Government, and the postal department in particular, as had been done in Denmark. Needless to say, she received the whole-hearted support of the entire meeting, and her labours were rewarded with the blessing of the Government. The first Christmas stamps were on sale in South Africa at Christmas in 1929.

The secretary of Health had given the Fund a definite field of work in the fight against T.B. Prevention. To build homes where children who had been in contact with active sufferers could be given care and built up in health to withstand the disease. These homes were to serve children irrespective of race colour or creed.

By 1934, sufficient funds had been collected and the first Christmas Stamp Fund Sunshine Home or Preventorium, as it was known, had been built in Pietermaritzburg and opened by the Countess of Claredon, wife of the Governor General, Patroness of the Fund. Her opening address was an inspiration to all: "So often as children and even grown ups, we build fairy castles in the air, they are usual only dreams, but today we have a fairy castle of Dreams That Have Come True.

Since those days Sunshine Homes have been built at Belleville(3) for European, Coloured and Coloured babies; in Pietermaritzburg for European children; in Queenstown for coloureds and Africans; in Durban settlement Sunshine wards have been established for Indian children.

Cont'

All this has been done through the annual sale of Christmas stamps and public donations. The fund received no grant-in-aid from the Government, municipality or parents. The homes are built, equipped and maintained entirely by the Fund. No charge is made for any child who receives the advantages of a normal home, nor is any expansion of the Fund's activities authorised unless the Fund is satisfied that those commitments can be met.

The homes have fully qualified nurses on their staff and are supervised by an Hon. Visiting Physician. The education of the children is not forgotten, the Fund builds the schools to plans approved by the Education Department who in turn supplies the equipment and appoints teachers. In each of the homes the children are cared for by their 'Own Folk'

At present there are approximately 600 children of all races receiving treatment. Since the first home was built nearly 6,000 children have been treated and given a chance to become healthy happy citizens.

For the past four years the Christmas Stamp Fund sales have dropped and this is causing a serious set-back in the work of the fund.

The stamps are printed by the Government Printer and sold over the Post Office counters. The amount of the annual sales is published in the Post Office Progress Report each year. Although the South African Government does not give material aid in cash it does a valuable service by material kind.

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## South Africa – Circular Numeral Cancels.

By David Macdonald

Postal Cancellations on stamps are often incomplete and therefore, from a collector point of view, difficult to attribute to a particular town. On occasion the cancellation may not be a town cancel but some other postmark or cancel.

Cancels with the numbers 1 to 4, surrounded by a circle, can be found not infrequently on the higher values of the 1913 George V definitive issue. No mention of this type of cancel appears to have been made in the South African Postmarks by Dr. T.B. Berry published by The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. It is not known if Dr. Berry knew about these numeral cancels and excluded them for some reason.

Reference to the numbers within a circle is, however, made in Transvaal Philately published by Reijger Publishers (PTY) Limited, Cape Town in 1986. The cancel is referred to under the heading "Miscellaneous Oval and Circular Obliterators and Cachets" indicating that they are telegraphic cancels that are found most often on the Transvaal Edward VII higher values stamps. What is not known is the date on which the cancels were introduced; the date could have been prior to or during the interprovincial period. Additionally there is no indication if all four cancels were used solely at one office or if more than one office had the cancellers for telegraphic use.

To date this author has not seen the cancels used on Transvaal stamps, only on single stamps of the definitive values of the George V issue 1913 – 1924, to which reference has been made in Transvaal Philately. Interestingly one of my three examples, the number "3", is on a 1/3d stamp which is at the lower end of higher value; Transvaal Philately indicates that the author had not seen No. 3. All three stamps have, in addition to the numeral cancel, a portion of a postmark which regrettably is not clear enough to draw any precise detail.



It would be interesting to know if any other collector has information on the use of these numeral cancels.

— 0 —

**The Homelands Stamps and Postal Stationery are now ready to view on our website**



## Evolution of a legendary Emblem



19th August 2011


First Day Cover 8.20

These stamps SACC 2208 have been found with the stamps placed upside down on FDC 8.20

Has anyone seen one?



The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. For this occasion an international exhibition will be held in Stockholm. H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be the Patron.





# STOCKHOLMIA2019


29 MAY - 2 JUNE

## THE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

The exhibition will comprise philatelic dealers and auction houses from all over the world. The exhibition will have an extensive philatelic and social program. Only Fellows and Members of the RPSL will be allowed to exhibit. The competitive classes will be judged by an international jury appointed by the Council of The RPSL.

STOCKHOLMIA 2019 will be organised at "Waterfront Congress Centre", Nils Ericsons Plan 4. It is Sweden's newest and most versatile venue for large-scale meetings and events.



For more information: visit the website [stockholmia2019.se](http://stockholmia2019.se) or contact Jonas Hållström: [jonas@stockholmia2019.se](mailto:jonas@stockholmia2019.se)

### Forthcoming National Exhibitions

#### *Spring Stampex 2018*

**14-17th February 2018 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1**

A full National Exhibition includes a special display by the Channel Islands Philatelic Society as lead contributor. In conjunction with the Ephemera Society, we are also looking at introducing exhibits of ephemera at Stampex for the first time on an experimental basis. After Autumn Stampex we are hoping to enable on-line applications for Spring Stampex though this has still to be confirmed. Deadline for applications is Friday 8 December 2017.

Note that fees at UK National Exhibitions will be £25 per frame or Literature entry from 1st January 2018. This includes Spring Stampex 2018.

# RSA Watermark Blues and Ongoing Confusion

By Otto Pectoom

## Introduction

Generally speaking collectors view a watermark as seen from the back of the stamp. However the illustrations in the Stanley Gibbons (SG) catalogues depict them as seen from the front of the stamp. Up to 1980, in the introduction to a SG Part I catalogue, there was a specific note which stated...*they are always described as seen from the 'front' of the stamp...* The SG *Elizabethan* catalogue included watermark varieties that were omitted from Part I and their listing continued '*as seen from the front of the stamp*'.

## South Africa and South West Africa QEII Stamps

From 1963 a new multiple watermark in a triangle reading 'RSA' was introduced and in July 1967 a variation of the foregoing became watermark 'RSA Tête-Bêche' - See *The South African Philatelist* (SAP) October 1967. On the grounds that both watermarks were faint and difficult to detect...the SG policy was to simply 'lump' them together under one listing and compromise by including a footnote explaining why.

Another RSA and SWA variation includes printings on Swiss and Harrison papers. Under a UV light they respectively appear 'pink' and 'violet/blue' from the reverse.

## Watermark RSA - Sideways Orientation

On the horizontal designs the watermark is either upright or inverted and on vertical designs it is sideways. However what is termed as 'normal' is not consistent from one set to another.

This may be observed in footnotes in the 1984 *Elizabethan* catalogue under South Africa (SG 227 - 236) it states...*values with watermark sideways normally have the watermark pointing to right...* and under SG 238 - 251 it notes...*The normal sideways watermark shows 'RSA' facing left...*

South West Africa (SG 202 - 216)...*normal sideways watermark points to left so that in the inverted watermark it points to right...*

Each footnote concludes unanimously...*as seen from the front of the stamp*'...

After the SG *Elizabethan* catalogue was discontinued, the Part I continued its policy of not listing inverted watermarks, thus the RSA and SWA (*Elizabethan* footnotes) did not feature.

This 'no comment' policy continued up to and including the 1997 (99<sup>th</sup> edition) of Part I - From 1993 to 2002 the SG Part I was issued in two volumes.

## 1998 SG Part I Inverted watermarks, a change in Policy

The editorial in the 100<sup>th</sup> edition announced the inclusion of watermark varieties and new 'modified' footnotes appeared under South Africa SG 238 - 251 plus SWA SG 202 - 216 which conclude...*'as seen from the back of the stamp*'...

## 1998 Sideways Orientation

No comment under SG 227 - 236, under SG 238 - 251...*RSA to left*... and SWA SG 202 - 216...*pointing to left*...

## The South African Stamp Colour Catalogue (SACC)

Their initial policy for listing watermarks was not in line with Stanley Gibbons as they noted them '*as seen from the back of the stamp*'. I recall a conversation with Lutz Hefferman, the editor of the SACC, at one of the Rosebank SAPDA shows in Johannesburg during the early 1990's.

SACC continued - I pointed this difference in policy out to him and he informed me that he intended to change in line with SG...however it appears that by 1998 the accepted policy for watermarks was changed to '*as seen from the back of the stamp*'. When, how or why it changed I do not know and it is perhaps a policy adopted by ASCAT - *International Association of Stamp Catalogue, Stamp Album and Philatelic Magazine Publishers*.



From the front



From the back

## Historical Errors

Whilst the efforts of the respective catalogue editors are to 'get it right' there are errors in the listing that may be a result of the changing policy for viewing watermarks either from the front or the back of the stamp.

## 2011 SG Catalogue SG 227 - 236

A new footnote reads...*normal sideways watermark shows the top of the triangle pointing left...i.e. sideways inverted...*

On 1½c, 2½c (SG 230 & 230aw) and 5c...*the top of the triangle points to the right*...

## Current SACC Watermark Confusion

It appears they changed from the 'back' to the 'front' of the stamp...then they reverted again to '*as seen from the back*'...this is noted in the front of the current 2017 - 18 SACC but the actual listing has not been modified and their descriptions match '*as seen from the front*'... Considering that many collectors of the Republic and SWA frequently consult the SG as well as the SACC catalogue, this fuels a state of confusion!

A further complication with SA and SWA definitive reprints is that the 'RSA' watermark sideways on the vertical designs does not point in the same direction on the various values. In other words the 'normal' version rates as an inverted watermark (See 2011 footnote above) as pointing left = Inverted.

Because we anticipate that any 'first printing' ought to feature first and subsequent printings be denoted by an 'a' or 'w' after the number leads to even more confusion in the listings.

2015 SG Commonwealth Catalogue (117<sup>th</sup> edition) under 'Preface'...*The two 'RSA' watermarks of South Africa and South West Africa are now separately listed...*

## South Africa

The above was implemented by separating SG 238 to 251 by prefixing the number with either an 'A' (RSA watermark) or 'B' (RSA Tête-Bêche). A footnote states...*The normal sideways watermark shows the top of RSA to right 'as seen from the back of the stamp*'... This statement is incorrect as only the 2½c faces right whilst the ½c, 12½c and 15c all face left. Taking the SG criteria into account they are all 'watermark inverted' and ought to have a 'w' after their number.

The 'A' group includes an elusive watermark error being a 2½c inverted watermark with 'RSA' pointing left SG A242w...more of this later. The SACC listing has not been corrected and describes this variation as SACC 239a '*Wmk. Facing right*'!



# RSA Watermark Blues and Ongoing Confusion

## South West Africa

The SG Commonwealth catalogue lists the watermark 'RSA' reprints as A202 to A212. In the first instance the ½c and 2½c are horizontal designs and the watermark on the ½c is inverted and upright on the 2½c. Thus the ½c ought to have a 'w' after its number.



½c Watermark inverted



2½c Watermark up

Now the 'normal' sideways watermark is opposite to the Republic reprints. The footnote states...*The normal sideways watermark shows top of triangle pointing to left 'as seen from the back of the stamp'*, but there is no indication whether this foregoing is considered normal or inverted.

Remember that under Republic, as noted on the previous page, 'facing left' is regarded as 'sideways inverted'.

On the vertical designs the 3½c and 7½c (first printing) the triangle points right. Is it to be regarded as 'inverted'? On the 1c, 2c and 7½c reprints (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) 'RSA' points left (normal?).

The SACC listing is equally confusing as the watermarks are described as seen 'from the front of the stamp'. At the front of this catalogue under 'Watermarks' it states...*As seen from the reverse of the stamp...* It suggests that after falling in line with 'as seen from the front' it remained listed as such.

## SWA Printings with Watermark RSA

½c, 1c and 3½c one printing only, yet SG list the 1c with watermark left and right valued at £1.50 and £2.50.

This appears confusing, should an inverted watermark exist on the 1c it is either a major rarity or the 1c (80,300 sheets) was printed from more than one reel of paper...I have not seen an example of a 1 cent with an inverted watermark.

## Other Printings - 2c (2) 2½c (3) and 7½c four printings.

Faint and clear watermarks on the 2c and 2½c

The cylinder blocks on some reprints assist in defining which printing is which. For instance the 2c 1<sup>st</sup> printing has a faint watermark and the 2<sup>nd</sup> printing is clear.

2½c First two printings (clear watermark) and 3rd printing (faint watermark). There are two distinct shades on the third printing, listed in the SACC but not in SG.



2½c - Two distinct shades

## The Printings of the 7½c

**Initial (first) printing (1967)** - Sheet No is in black and a faint watermark faces right and not left (SACC), only 3,600 sheets printed. Should this be SG A212 or A212w? In addition the colours on the stamp are much deeper than the reprints.



7½c Watermark right - Black Sheet No's - Deep Colours

## Clear Watermark RSA facing left

On the reprints, the 1<sup>st</sup> (17,800 sheets) 2<sup>nd</sup> (22,500 sheets) and 3<sup>rd</sup> reprint (14,000 sheets) Thus the 7½c (Watermark right) is the only version with a faint watermark.

**Sheet No's on the Reprints** First reprint four figure red sheet No's. Second reprint dull red 'flat' sheet Nos.

Third reprint, smaller darker red sheet No's.

In addition the reprints reflect much lighter colours compared to the initial 1967 printing (watermark right).



7½c Watermark left - Red Sheet No's - Light Colours

**To Recap** - 7½c watermark right, 3,600 sheets printed.

7½c watermark left (three reprints) 54,300 sheets printed.

The foregoing suggests that the watermark right (inverted) ought to be much more valuable than watermark left. The SG value for mint reflects a 25p difference e.g. £3.50 (left) £3.75 (right) and the SACC has its pricing the wrong way around R120 (left) and R55 (right). Effectively the first printing is 15 times scarcer than the other version (watermark left).

Given that the 1967 (watermark right) is the first printing it ought to be listed first, but is it 'normal' or 'inverted'?

## A comment from Nick Arrow on the SAA Commemorative Flight Covers

The Springbok April 2017 Vol.65 No. 2 Page 72

When I was researching matters generally for the 2nd edition of my book, I was in touch with a South African collector who advised me that these covers were produced by SAA for one reason and one reason only, to get money from collectors. He had been on one of the flights which was apparently being commemorated and the crew knew absolutely nothing at all about the covers. What is worse is that every signature on every cover is the same, and in the same position. The general consensus of opinion in SA is that the covers were totally manufactured and that they never saw the inside of an aeroplane. They only flew from one office in SAA headquarters to another.

In my opinion, the damage was done for the marketability of the SAA covers when they upped the number of covers produced from the 1,000 of SAA 1 to the 2,000 of SAA2-3 then 10,500 of SAA 4 (which was roughly the number for some time) then up to the 30,000 of SAA 31, which is where it stayed thereafter. [One can only feel intensely sorry for the SAA clerk who mucked up the cancellation on the Athens flight (SAA 8), and who had to amend each and every one of the 8,000 covers, in his spare time and without any form of reward or help at all - he must have rued the day he started!]

I suspect that this is the reason that Roy got the very nicely produced album for a "ridiculously low" sum. I bought mine about 15 years ago and was, like him, delighted with them. However, my research led me to add a footnote to the end of the 2nd Edition of my book which I set out below.

All of which brings the aerophilatelic history recorded in this book to a rather sad and anticlimactic end. It seems probable that the distrust about the provenance of these covers resulted in the series of SAA covers being finally discontinued, with only another 6 covers (SAA 101 - 106 inclusive) being issued, the last (new SAA service - Cape Town to Hong Kong via Johannesburg and Bangkok - in October 1994

### Extracts from The South African Philatelist February 2017

#### A letter in response to David Wigston's August 2016 Book Review



*When the commemorative covers were issued in their natty blue albums, the number actually amounted to 44 flight covers and one Jan Smuts Airport cover - 45 in total; starting with number 56 and ending on 99 - not 60. Whether these covers were actually flown is questionable, but this was to commemorate 60 years of SAA flight and that was the important point. I don't know if these covers were given away or distributed to societies. The latest issues of these covers is not known to me but the numbers are now over 100, so they continue to be issued. In the meantime I shall keep my natty blue file as an historic item (flown or not).*

#### **A Response from David Wigton**

*Philatelic Services found it difficult to sell the albums at R200 a piece and eventually gave them away. It was not soon after that Philatelic Services stopped producing flight covers. The bottom line is that the covers that make up the SAA 60th anniversary set were never carried, as mail or as cargo, on the flights they purport to represent.*

*The complete in depth responses can be found in The South African Philatelist 2016 and 2017: Ed*



## New Stamp Issues April - August 2017

### Contemporary South African Architecture

20th April 2017

5 stamps showing Buildings of contemporary design in SA

5 x Standard Postage R3.90

Quantity Printed: 100,000 Sheets



### South African Bee-eaters

18th May 2017

2 Rows of 5 stamps

Self adhesive

Depicting 5 of the 20 species found in SA

The birds shown are the European Bee-eater, the Little Bee-eater, the Southern Carmine Bee-eater, The Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and the White fronted Bee-eater

Quantity Printed: 80,500 sheets

### Big 5 Booklet

9th June 2017

Airmail postcard rate R7.90

Self Adhesive

2 rows of 5 stamps

Quantity of Booklet printed: 201,100



### Bees for Africa

12th July 2017

3 x International small letter rate

R9.15

Self Adhesive

2 x 3 rows of stamps depicting 2 different species of bee found in SA

Quantity Printed: 50,000 sheets

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