

THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 1 No. 2. March/April, 1953

" THE SPRINGBOK "

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Editor's Chair	Page 25.
The Royal Philatelic Collection by E.L.	26.
Second Thoughts on Cylinder Numbers, by E.R.Gunstone	27.
The Ha'penny Springbok continued, by P.D.Haigh.	29.
New Issue Record, by C.E.S.	30.
My South African Collection, by F.W.Rendall.	31.
A Resume of Auction Prices at H.R.Harmer's Sale on 27th January, 1953, by Voortrekker	33.
Press References, by A.J.Brown	35.
The Redrawn 2d (Plates V to VIII S.A.Handbook), by K.A.Green	37.
Correspondence.	38.
Quoting You	40.
Picture Page	41.
New Members, Changes of Addresses, etc.	42.

Editor:

C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester, U.K.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor, who does not accept any responsibility for views published, but invites correspondence for publication.

Closing date for publication of Volume 1, No. 3., will be April 30th, 1953.

The Editor's Chair

When I first canvassed the idea of issuing a Magazine for the Society, there were doubts expressed in one or two quarters as to whether it would be justified. The plunge has been taken and the results have furnished the evidence. Membership has bounded upwards and is still increasing. Not a discordant note struck and indeed so many congratulations offered on all sides that I have felt compelled to include a few extracts as an acknowledgement to the many who wrote so kindly.

I am taking the first opportunity to thank the "Old Guard" who by their continued support have made the venture possible and to welcome the many new members whose interest in the philately of the Union of South Africa has moved them to join the ranks. Also to thank again the contributors to the first number and Mr Lauder for the very fine frontispiece which has aroused much admiration. We have also been fortunate in finding printers who take a pride in their work.

One or two readers have expressed the hope that "the very high standard set in the first number can be maintained." This should not be at all difficult if members will co-operate in submitting articles, letters, queries, replies and information generally. The Magazine is issued for your benefit, so please do make the utmost use of it.

For a start, we are aiming at a membership of 250 by the end of the year. It stands now at 131 so that if each member introduces one friend there should be no difficulty and quite one or two new members have been enrolled through this medium. As will be seen, this issue contains the names of a number of overseas collectors mostly in South Africa which I think will be agreed generally is a good point. You will note also that we have with us Mr C. P. Rang, the Editor of the "G.S.M.", whose recent columns on the diaeresis overprint have aroused so much interest.

The large membership brings its own problem in the Exchange Packet. There are now over 100 collectors who will be receiving it and all hoping and wanting to acquire some items to add to their collections. To assist in the quicker circulation of the Packet, it is being sent out on three separate circuits and very shortly a fourth will be required. Lists of names have been revised and compiled geographically, but if anyone can improve on them I shall welcome assistance. It will be seen that it is a matter of vital importance and the utmost urgency that there should be a steady flow of contributions to the Packets and the Society expects every member to do his duty!

Regarding the illustrations of articles it is proposed to group them all on one page so that any sketches should be drawn double size preferably in black indian ink on white paper or as near to as is possible. Many articles will be needed and I invite other members to emulate Mr Rendall's example in giving us a few details about his collection. There must be a tremendous wealth of Union collections ranging from that in the Royal to the constant succession of beginners who, judging by my post, are turning to South Africa as a country in which to specialise. Mr Gunstone gives us a rather novel aspect in his article on cylinder numbers and Mr Green should have given us food for thought on the 2d values.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION

Only the fortunate few of our members are likely to possess a copy of this latest addition to the Philatelic Library. While I number myself among the great majority, I was privileged to have the loan of a copy for a few days and it occurred to me that many members would like to learn something about the "Union" stamps in the collection of his late Majesty King George V.

The 1910 2½d Commemorative is represented by a Die Proof in black on white card and imperforate plate proofs on watermarked paper (rosettes) in the issued colour. There is also a block of twenty-four overprinted "SPECIMEN".

The 1913/22 issue is well represented and starts with essays for the ½d (purple), 1d (brown), 3d (yellow), 4d (black and also in red), 5/- (black). Incidentally, the 4d (black) and 5/- essays are the only "Union" items illustrated in the book. Thereafter, we have the proofs of the 2½d without the head, in imperforate pairs printed on paper watermarked Springbok's head, in seventeen colours. Following on this we have the same stamp with the head, again in pairs, in a variety of colours, viz., with head in black, four colours of frame; head in blue, seven colours; head in orange, three colours; head in green, four colours; head in purple, eight colours; head in brown, two colours. Added to this are pairs of the 1d in fourteen different colours (all mono coloured). As regards the stamps as issued there are panes of sixty of all values overprinted "SPECIMEN", including plate I of the 1d and £1 pale olive green and red. Plate II of the ½d appears to be missing but there is a mint copy of the 2d without watermark. Needless to add that all these stamps are represented also without the overprint, generally in blocks of four.

The London recess printed issue of 1927/28 is in mint pairs overprinted "SPECIMEN" while the ½d, 1d and 2d tete-beche varieties of 1930/33 are represented in blocks of four. Oddly enough no mention is made of the 1926 Typographed ½d and 1d being included, in tete-beche pairs. The rotogravure 1d is included also in a vertical pair, one stamp showing the error centre omitted.

The only thing of note among the hyphenated issues is an illuminated card postmarked 10th February, 1935, bearing various values from ½d to 1/-, with the special cancellation of the Imperial Press Conference. There is a similar card with the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values together with a set of "Voortrekkers".

Among the postage dues there is a mint block of four of the 1/- and an imperforate block of four of the 2d (1922/26 issue), while as would be expected the 1932/33 London printed 1/- and 2/6 officials are both represented in blocks of four showing the no stop variety.

E.L.

SECOND THOUGHTS ON CYLINDER NUMBERS

by E. R. Gunstone

When the system of recording, in the margins of sheets, the numbers of the cylinders employed in the printing of Union stamps was introduced it was immediately used as a means of differentiating between the different cylinders employed for printing stamps of the same design. The system first employed in this recording was to give both cylinders a similar number, adding the letters "A" and "B" to differentiate between the "interior" and "exterior" cylinders respectively if two were employed. Very soon, however, this was replaced by inscribing in the margins the actual numbers of the cylinders used.

This substitution did not affect the ability to distinguish stamps printed from cylinders, but, at least as early as 1951, a new use of such information became apparent. In 1949, the screened, hyphenated 2/6 value printed from cylinders 6919/17 was issued. Two years later, in March, 1951, a new 3d value, printed from a single cylinder number 17, came on the scene. Did this foreshadow a new cylinder (or cylinders) to be used for the next printing of the 2/6 value? We had to wait a year for this next printing but two new cylinders (numbers 3/51) were used.

The numbers of cylinders in use have been abstracted from the January, 1953 number of "The South African Philatelist", and earlier numbers until they linked up with the Union Handbook and Catalogue.

In order to be able to note when cylinders in use for printing stamps of one value are used to print those of other values it is essential to obtain particulars of all cylinders in use for all purposes. These are reproduced below (four cylinder numbers that I cannot trace are represented by question marks; if anyone can supply the actual numbers I shall be pleased.) It will be seen that the number of cylinders in use is not large and there is always a chance, of course, that one or both of the cylinders previously used may be re-etched. While this should still be classified as "new cylinders", detection may prove difficult.

STAMPS	Cylinders employed		
	Prior to 1951	1951	1952/3
From sheets			
1/2d		31/70	
1d		(6925/36) 3	53/54 (Feb.1953)
2d	6927/50		30/18; 27/46 (Oct/Dec.1952)
3d		17	
4d	(19)		103 (Oct.1952)
6d	6930/6		
1/-	6926/6935		
2/6	(6919/17)		3/51 (May 1952)
5/-	(36/6925) 2		
10/-	(6918/6934) 1		
Booklets			
1/2d		6912/58	

" THE SPRINGBOK "

STAMPS	Cylinders employed		
	Prior to 1951	1951	1952/3
Booklets 1d		(55/38) 4	
2d		6934/64	
Rolls ½d	6045		
1d	24		
Postage due ½d	?)		
1d	39)		
2d	53) 33		44 (Dec.1952)
3d	?)		
6d	56)		
Air letter card	18		?
Pictorial postcard			
Special issues			van Riebeck; ½d 7018/6923 1d (53) 30. 2d (46) 36. 4½d (38) 44. 1/- 27 "SATISE" 4 "SADIPU" 6922

From this list it will be seen that:

- (1) The current 10/- stamp was issued in August 1939 from cylinders 6918/6934. Cylinder 6934, the last "unscreened" cylinder apparently in use for printing the current postage stamps, was used to produce the 2d value of the 1951 3/6 booklets.
- (2) The current 5/- stamp was issued in September 1949 from cylinders 36/6925. Both these cylinders were later used in producing the redrawn 1d value, issued in February, 1951.
- (3) The interior cylinder of this redrawn 1d stamp (36) was used, at the latest, early in 1952 to print the 2d value of the van Riebeck Tercentenary issue. New cylinders have only been recorded for printing this very much used 1d value in February 1953, indicating the very large stocks that must be held by the Printer.
- (4) Cylinder 38, used as the exterior cylinder for the 1d booklet stamp of 1951 was used (probably shortly afterwards) in the printing of the colour trials of the 4½d value of the van Riebeck issue.

It will be seen, therefore, that new printings of certain values can be expected from new cylinders. Those shown as outstanding are not in great demand so that they may not appear until the long promised new set is issued, but the noting of the use of fresh cylinder numbers can prepare us for new printings in many instances.

THE HA'PENNY STAMPS (CONT)

by P. D. Haigh

Hyphenated - First Type:

Sheets.

According to the catalogue, only one Plate was used for this issue (Plate IV), for which the Cylinders are given as 30 (Vignette) and 7016 (Frame). These stamps appeared in a wide range of shades, were perforated $14\frac{3}{4}$ x 14, had watermark both upright and inverted, and also appeared overprinted "Official" on both directions of watermark. The sheet format was of 240 stamps (12 x 20) with the usual white margins all round.

Booklets.

All booklet stamps with this design were from Booklet Plate 11 - Cylinders 30 (Vignette); 7016 (Frame). Perforated $14\frac{3}{4}$ x 14, the same as the sheet printings and with watermark inverted. These were issued in panes of six with advertisements in top and bottom margins of each pane, and are only definitely identifiable if the advert margins are attached, or the specimens are used with decipherable postmarks dated before September, 1936 (the date of issue of the sheet printing). These stamps were also overprinted "JIPEX" and issued in miniature sheets of six, for which purpose they were trimmed with equal margins on left and right in order to take the side-marginal inscriptions, instead of having the right-hand margin almost trimmed off as is the case with the booklet issue.

Coils.

Only one Coil Plate appeared in this design, namely Coil Plate 11, and once more the Cylinders quoted for this issue are 30 (Vignette) and 7016 (Frame). These stamps were printed in continuous rolls twelve stamps wide divided into two continuous panes six stamps wide by a vertical gutter margin narrower than the width of a stamp. A surplus quantity of these stamps was issued in sheet form, and both the coils and the sheets are easily recognisable by the perforation, which gauges $13\frac{3}{4}$ x 14. The watermark is listed as both upright and inverted, but the writer has only seen the former. Does any member possess these stamps with inverted watermark?

General.

It will be noted from the above that the same numbered Cylinders are given for the sheet, booklet and coil issues, and this is in accordance with all the standard works on the subject. However, in view of the fact that each of these three issues had a different setting of the stamps in the printed sheet and therefore of the impressions on the cylinder, can this really be the case? Accepting as a fact that the Union Government Printers use their cylinders over and over again in the course of time, by grinding off the old images, resurfacing and finally re-etching, is it really possible that these two cylinders were so treated and used for three different settings of the same stamps which were printed within so short a period? This seems too great a coincidence to believe, but if we reject it what then is the explanation?

NEW ISSUE RECORD

On February 2nd. 1d definitive, new cylinders 54/53 in a lighter or paler shade than from cylinders 6925/36. Numbers appear at the bottom of the right margin, first stamp English, red four figure sheet numbers, normal watermark, usual four broad red arrows. Varieties:

- Row 5/10. Afrikaans. Spot to left inner frame. (N.B. Due to misalignment, this spot on some sheet merges into red oval surrounding ship.)
Row 16/11. Afrikaans. Pink sun, protruding from red oval, over Devil's Peak.

Although this printing is recorded as a lighter shade, specimens have been received in quite a rich red making the recorded shade look anaemic!

$\frac{1}{2}$ d official overprinted in large fount on cylinders 31/70

2d official overprinted in large fount on cylinders 30/18

2/6 official overprinted in large fount on cylinders 3/51.

5/- official overprinted in large fount on cylinders 36/6925. The first overprinting of this value in the screened issue.

C. E. S.

1d van Riebeck variety, page 14. Note that this is on the 1d 1949 Voortrekker issue and NOT the van Riebeck.

East London Indo-Native Office, page 10. Mr. Lichtenstein informs that this is one of the many post offices in South Africa extensively operated for admission of non-Europeans (Indians, Natives, Coloureds, etc.) An old example of the established "segregation policy now called "apartheid".

Mr Sibson has shown the Editor another example postmarked at PRETORIA "3 Mar 27". Any more to add to the list?

4d Large War Effort variety, page 16. Mr McGeeney writes to say that Union cat. 85Va "Double A" occurs on both shades row 4/19 and 20.

Mr Lichtenstein adds that it is quite constant on all printings of this value (including S.W.A. overprints) but 85Vb is known as the "gun smoke" variety and also quite constant.

MY SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTION - by F. W. Rendall

It is now some twenty years since I decided that if my collection was to ever reach any degree of completion, it would be necessary to concentrate my philatelic activities on a single country. Even then, for a youth with a very limited purse, the catalogues could be a bit disheartening. It was surprising how few countries there were without a considerable number of items priced in pounds.

After careful consideration, I decided that it should be comparatively easy and inexpensive to form a collection of Union issues omitting only the major rarities. Alas for the dreams of youth! Like countless other collectors no doubt, I started off by obtaining all the very low-priced items and leaving the high values, and even now after all these years anything like completion seems almost as remote as ever.

It is perhaps interesting to recall that in the 1934 edition of the Regent Catalogue, S.G.24a was quoted at 26/- mint and 10/- used, while the 1927-28 pictorials complete in pairs could be had for 4/6 mint and a mere 14/9 used. Needless to say when I did finally get around to buying these, and similar items, the prices had rocketted.

In course of time, my collection outgrew the one album in which it had commenced and had to be transferred to two - one for mint, the other for used. Since then it has further expanded and is at present housed in four "Savoy" albums and a folder. These are arranged as follows:-

Volume I. The title page consists of an outline map of the Union, around the edge of which are various stamps, each with the postmark of a different town; a frame surrounds each stamp and a line joins this to the position of the town on the map. This does provide something a little out of the ordinary as a frontispiece. Next come selections of the issues of each of the four states comprising the Union, commencing with a page of Triangular Capes and including several complete sets, particularly of the K.E.VII issue, the high values of which I find quite attractive and colourful. Interprovincials follow, with four sections for the issues of each of the four countries concerned. These are followed by essays; proofs; booklets; S.A. used abroad, including K.G.V $\frac{1}{2}$ d to £1 used in S.W.A., mostly in pairs; fiscals; Air Mail labels; meter franks; Christmas seals; special postmarks and sundry other "odds and ends".

Volume II. This comprises General Issues, mint and used, arranged in chronological order. The "highlights" here are a block of four of the 1910 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d with day-of-issue postmarks, the K.G.V. £1 mint and used shades, the 1927-28 set mint and used, and the 5/- of this set mint perf. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Volume III. Contains the Commemorative Issues, mint and used; the normals are complete and there is quite a sprinkling of varieties, but nothing particularly outstanding.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

Volume IV. This houses mint and used Postage Dues and Officials. Here again the normals are just about complete - by S.G. listings, and there are many of the usual varieties, including all the "Postade" in mint blocks of four.

The folder I use for Entries, and these include a number of First Flights and First Day Covers.

I am one of those people who believe in keeping writing-up as brief as possible, and mine usually consists merely of the date of issue and notes regarding varieties, etc. This is not just laziness, for I never have been able to see the point of laboriously copying a lot of information from handbooks regarding perms., wms., etc., which information any philatelist viewing the collection knows where to find quite readily if he is sufficiently interested, and which does not mean a thing to the non-philatelist; nor have I ever comprehended the attraction of perforation varieties - except, of course, their monetary value. Watermarks are bad enough, but you can at least see them - sometimes! - if you take the trouble to turn the stamp on its hinge. I defy anyone to detect the difference between, say, perf. 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ and perf. 14 in mounted stamps with the naked eye without the aid of a gauge.

What of the future? Apart from plenty of room for further expansion of my collection of Union proper by way of more detailed specialisation of various issues, there is always the prospect of branching out still further with the territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland and the like. One thing is quite definite, there is ample scope to keep me quite happily busy for at least another twenty years, and by the end of that time I shall be too old anyway to want to transfer my affections.

Certainly never for a moment have I regretted choosing the Union as the country to collect and its stamps have provided me with many, many hours of enjoyment and relaxation.

Lucky Mr Allen! Why? Bought an assistant Shipping Postmaster cover showing three strikes - date 1937 - price 3/6!! Alas, Mr Allen reports the seller did not have any more.

Regarding the Exchange Packet, DO please pass it along quickly and DO NOT FORGET to post the advice card! This is most important as the whereabouts of the Packets must be known at all times. DO remember to sign all spaces in the books and DO NOT FORGET to sign your name with the value taken on the front of the book.

Fresh membership lists will be circulated as soon as practicable, present stocks having been exhausted with the influx of new members.

Do not forget to take out that subscription to the "South African Philatelist" nor to renew it, either direct or through the Editor.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

A RESUME OF AUCTION PRICES AT H. R. HARMER'S SALE

on 27th JANUARY, 1953

by Voortrekker.

It is not the intention of this Magazine to devote space in every issue to auction realisations, but the offer of a specialised collection of the stamps of the "Union" at a London Auction is so rare an event that no apology is made for making it the subject of a special article. In the last issue, I commented on the fact that there had been a noticeable fall in the prices realised for the more expensive material. This statement was, of course, based on material actually offered during 1952 and was particularly evident among the prices realised for the tete-beche pairs of 1930-1945 vintage. This was confirmed on 27th January, and it is now obvious that these are much over catalogued. Against this, it is equally clear that the prices of the more important errors will require revision in an upward direction, the more outstanding making twice catalogue and over.

If I were asked to select the "bargain of the sale", I should undoubtedly vote for lot 260, which was the Halfpenny King's Head doubly printed and in used condition but discoloured and creased at top. Even allowing for its imperfections, it was surely a bargain at £11. The mystery is where this came from as only five copies have been previously recorded and these are all in mint condition. Another good buy in the same issue was a set $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to £1 (S.G. 24a) all original gum and from top of sheet with control which only made £12. 10. 0. The top value alone is good value at this price. A lower right hand corner block of the 1d. showing two rounded nicks in the bottom marginal line realised £25 in spite of a faint crease, while the same stamp in a vertical pair, one without watermark but with perf., short and a little creased (only 48 said to exist) realised £6. 15. 0. The 2d. value without watermark made £7. The co-extensive Jubilee line varieties did not make much above half catalogue on average, but the exceptional block of 30 of the 6d. showing fine examples of the shifted medallion variety realised £22 against a catalogue value of £15. (I think this must be the piece illustrated by Lobdell on page 44 of his book on the De La Rue Georgians.)

As regards Air Stamps, a very fine used block of six of the 9d. with variety imperf. at left and showing the "strut" flaw realised £29 while a single copy imperf. at bottom used on registered cover made £12. 10. 0. and a set of five plate proofs of the 1929 1/- in blocks of four brought £22.

The 1926 London and Pretoria printings contained some attractive items. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. plate proofs in blocks of four in red and black made ten guineas while the 1d. value, again in blocks of four, in blue-green and carmine on thick paper and green and orange on thin paper, the latter slightly creased, realised £8. 10. 0., while a block of four 6d. grey and orange, tied to registered entire (the right hand verticle pair having blue crayon mark) only made six guineas. A part original gum block of six of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. perf. 14 (S.G. 30b) realised £6. 15. 0., while a block of four 1d. with left hand vertical pair variety imperforate on three sides made £12. 10. 0. The triangular 4d. (S.G. 33) offered in mint sheets made approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. a copy. The 1927-28 set mint in horizontal pairs, some with imprint, made £10.

The various rotogravure printings of 1930-45 offered keen competition except for the tete-beche blocks. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. each containing four tete-beche pairs realising £28 and £44 respectively against a catalogue valuation of £200 each.

=====

" THE SPRINGBOK "

=====

The ½d. in two vertical strips of seven from rolls, one with variety three "South" stamps together and the other three "Suid" stamps together made £16 while a block of forty (2x20) 1d. from left of sheet, four pairs frame completely missing, two pairs frame partly missing realised £90 against a catalogue value of £53. The rare 1d. from Plate II B (SAH 37 BCa) showing top right hand stamp with broken mast variety realised £22. A vertical strip of six 2d. one pair with frame completely omitted, two other stamps frame partly missing realised £75 against a catalogue value of only £21. 10. 0. The same stamp in a block of forty-eight with misplaced perforations, imperf. edge at top made £14. 10. 0. against an estimate of £5. A block of six 1/- showing joined paper variety went for £14 while a collection of IIIIO coil stamps and booklet panes estimated to realise £15/20 actually brought £40.

Other cover catalogued items were lots 347 and 348 being the hyphenated 1d. with joined paper, in blocks of eight and thirty respectively catalogued at £30 and £100 they only realised £4. 4. 0. and £12. On the other hand a block of four 1½d. JIPEX one stamp shading omitted from mine dump on JIPEX cover with special cancellation and a part original gum pair with variety gold centre omitted realised £12 although only catalogued at £5. 5. 0. In this section a collection of 996 ½d. 1d. 1½d. and 6d. values some showing printing flaws and other minor varieties, estimated to realise £7 brought the excellent figure of £29.

Many varieties of the 1942-44 Bantam issue were on offer the most interesting being a block of six 1d. with roulettes omitted which realised £15. 10. 0. in mint condition, but only £5. 5. 0. used on registered cover, the lower strip being creased. The 1½d. in a block of four with same variety brought £12 and a pair of the 2d. £10. 10. 0, the same in a block of eight showing joined paper making only £2.

The most interesting item among the Postage Dues was a cover with a pair ½d. King's Head marked "insufficiently prepaid", and bearing two ¾d. Cigarette Tax stamps on the front with 1913-21 ½d. on reverse used as a Postage Due postmarked "Fordsburg 11th December, 1922" which realised £6. 6. 0., while a block of four 1922-26 2d. imperforate made £15. Oddly enough no one bid the reserve price for a used block of four 6d. Official (1926) with inverted watermark catalogued at £16, but the 1932-33 1/- and 2/6 both in blocks of four, one stamp of each with "stop" variety realised £13. 10. 0.

In all, 155 lots were on offer and realised a total of £1640, which on average represented just over 50% of catalogue or estimated valuations. Considering the greatly over valued tete-beche pairs the total amount realised is extremely satisfactory, as excluding these errors the amount realised represents some 60% of catalogue valuation.

=====

1910 2½d commemorative, page 3. Mr Lauder advises that he has a mint copy in what might fairly be described as a "Royal Blue". He has seen a similar copy used and Mr Lauder feels the colour is sufficiently distinct to be worthy of catalogue status as it does not appear to be common.

=====

Typographed halfpenny, page 8. The only pair in Mr Lauder's collection with inverted watermark is perforated 15 x 14½ from a booklet.

=====

King's head ½d coil, page 14. A similar pair with join as described by Mr Peters is owned by Mr Lauder, the overlap being equally distinct to that shown in the illustration.

PRESS REFERENCES

My appeal for a volunteer to submit a regular report containing a review of articles on South African philately contained in world journals has brought a ready response from Mr A. J. Brown, 17 Wimbledon Park Court, Wimbledon Park Road, London, S.W.19, who will undertake to keep us duly informed. Overseas readers would assist by drawing his attention to such information appearing in their "locals", just in case one escapes the eagle eye!

Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, January/March, 1953.

Mr E. Jagger includes references to South and East African Airgraphs in an article "Airgraphs and V-Mails".

In the same number, Mr A. L. Pemberton describes an apparently unrecorded Boer War marking, F.P.O./13 in the crude wooden or cork type of handstamp known for F.P.O./43.

Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, 21st February, 1953.

The appearance of current 2d stamps printed from three new cylinders is discussed by Mr B. Wasserstein. Little new information for readers of the "South African Philatelist" or the Editor's monthly South Africa Notes.

This number contains also the third in a series of articles on "The Post in South Africa - Natal", a description of postal communications in the region from the earliest recorded period, of considerable interest to the postal historian.

Weekly Philatelic Gossip (U.S.A.), 15th November, 1952.

The issue as dated above includes an article entitled "The Air Mail Labels of the Union of South Africa" which appears to be a complete listing of the various types of labels issued by the Union Post Office from 1925 to date.

Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, March, 1953.

In "Through the Magnifying Glass", Mr C. P. Rang records the discovery of the 1/- stamp (SG.029) official with the diaeresis over the second "E" of "Offisieel" occurring on two adjacent stamps, the "Afrikaans" being on the left of the horizontal pair of a block of seven. Postmark is "8 Mar 47".

It is confirmed that the 2d value official showed the diaeresis appearing on only four stamps out of the one hundred and twenty in a sheet, row 1/5 and 6, row 11/5 and 6.

So far as the 1½d official is concerned, it would appear that there was a definite issue of 071 (Union catalogue) each stamp showing the diaeresis according to information from Mr A. Lichtenstein.

THE "SCOTTISH MEETING" AT BRIDGE OF ALLAN

During the weekend 6/8th February, several of the members resident in Scotland were joined by the Secretary and spent either the Saturday or the weekend in the Allan Water Hotel, Bridge of Allan. Only four members were absent through illness or business reasons and their place was taken by a guest and two collectors who joined on the spot. Our hard working Secretary arrived in time for dinner on the Friday evening and confessed that he was looking forward to a well earned rest. That hope was soon dispelled for the ardent Scottish fans insisted on him producing the "goods" just as soon as he had time to finish his meal.

It was such a fine sunny morning on the Saturday that we unanimously agreed to start off by cancelling the pre-arranged programme and set out for the Wallace Monument, although even that was temporarily delayed while we hunted the shops in Edinburgh Rock for a certain Englishman. Still the effort (of climbing the monument) was well worth while because we had a magnificent view from the top as well as an animated discussion as to the number of steps which we had climbed. The caretaker at the foot said that there were 242, while Mr Lauder only counted 236, but the others were of opinion that 1000 was nearer the mark.

On getting back to the Hotel we were joined by Mr Anderson and later by Mr Wilkie. The business of the afternoon started off with a talk by Mr W.H.S.Ferguson, a philatelist and master printer, who was responsible for printing the cover of "The Springbok". He illustrated his talk with the original stamp and rough sketch given him by Mr Lauder together with the photographs, artists drawings, proofs, colour trials and the actual line blocks used in the production of the cover. This was followed by a talk and display by Mr Anderson on the flaws to be found in the 2d rotogravure which formed the basis of his notes in the "South African Philatelist". This created much interest and Mr Anderson was invited to contribute an article to "The Springbok" on his "discoveries" and this will appear in a later issue. We were also scheduled to have a talk and display from Mr H. A. Stewart on Air Mail Stamps and Covers. Owing, however, to the cancellation of the morning session, there was not time for this, but Mr Stewart very kindly agreed to prepare a paper on this subject for publication in the Magazine.

The evening was enlivened by two members getting "lost", but fortunately not for long. After dinner we had an informal session looking over Mr Wilkie's collection of, believe it or not, early G.B., including pre stamp covers and an album of Southern Rhodesia. We realised afterwards that this was a clever move on Mr Wilkie's part as while we were looking over his albums he was having another look through Mr Sherwood's stock books for any bargains that we had missed. Anyway, he added to his collection and we added to our knowledge of G.B. and S.R. In the wee sma' hours we got to bed, but it wasn't the stamps that kept us so late but the "stories" in the cocktail bar which Hamish insisted on closing at midnight. Perhaps just as well.

What a change in the weather on Sunday. Snow several inches deep on all roads but that didn't prevent Mr Robertson travelling with his wife from Dundee to meet us and enrol as yet another new member. Regretfully Mr Sherwood tore himself away after lunch and set out into the blizzard protected by an ancient Ford 8. The adventures of his journey over Shap would make an article in themselves, but he did get home - at 3 a.m. on Monday morning. He now knows better than to come north for a restful weekend.

THE REDRAWN 2d (PLATES V to VII S.A. HANDBOOK)

by K. A. Green

In the following article, the numbering of plates is taken from that adopted by the S.A. Handbook, for reference purposes Plate V is SG107, Plates VI and VII SG107a and Plate VIII SG116.

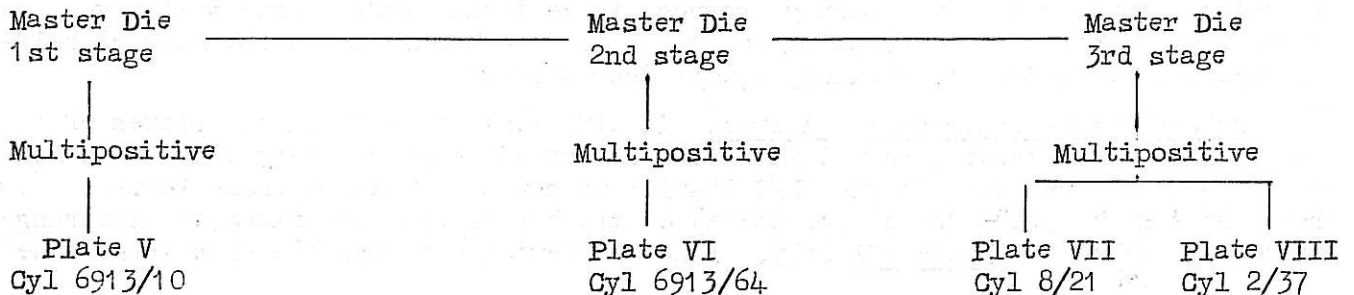
A note in the S.A. Handbook referring to Plates VI and VII states "A characteristic of these two plates consist of a minute dot opposite the centre of outside left and right frame lines on all stamps." The S.A. Summary by P.D.Haigh mentions no dots Plate V and referring to Plates VI and VII states "Minute dots outside vertical frame lines to left of A. stamps and right of R. stamps." Neither of these statements goes far enough, dots appear to both left and right of A and R stamps on all plates of the redrawn twopenny (Plates V, VI, VII and VIII).

These dots could be either marks used in the making of the multipositive which have not been completely erased or marks on the Master Die, if the first case one could expect to see evidence of such markings on other issues but as none is known it is reasonable to assume the markings appear on the Master Die and such being the case a single die must be common to all four plates.

Attention is now directed to the value tablet and the numeral 2; in Plate V (SG107) the top curl of the 2 is joined to the enclosing circle. In subsequent plates the 2 is not joined to the circle, the die must therefore have had its value tablet redrawn and a new multipositive made prior to Plate VI. The S.A. Handbook puts Plates VI and VII together, as do Gibbons under SG107a, and to the best of the writer's knowledge no information on distinguishing features between them has been published, close examination of the value tablet does however reveal that whilst some copies show a rather crudely drawn top curl to the 2 others conform to the figure appearing on Plate VIII (SG116) lack of material prevents any firm date being fixed for the changeover, but dated copies put the crudely drawn 2 as Plate VI. It therefore appears that at some time between the issue of Plate VI and Plate VIII the value tablet on the master die has again been redrawn, and it is perhaps reasonable to assume this was with the introduction of Plate VII.

As a supporting argument reference to the S.A. Handbook gives no frame varieties common to Plates V and VI or to VI and VII, but VII and VIII have three in common, one to VII, a, b, c and VIII and two to VII b, c and VIII.

Flaws may exist in these assumptions and any information both for and against, or any criticism, would be most welcome to the writer.



CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

With reference to Mr Haigh's article on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Springbok; in reply to his request regarding further details relating to separation of the first rotogravure printings I hope the following may be of some use.

- Plate I -- The centre is jet black with the unshaded portions standing out very clearly. Frame is very deep green.
- Plate II -- (First state). Centre black, frame green. The colouring of this printing is very similar to that of the booklet.
- Plate III -- (Second state). Easily recognisable by the horns, colouring is similar to Plate II.
- Plate IV -- (Third state). This printing cannot be mixed with any other as the centres are a soft to a smoky grey. Frames are shades of middle green.
- Plate V -- Centre grey-black though somewhat darker than Plate III (second state) and frame has a little more blue in it.

Aldershot.

K. A. Green.

=====

Dear Sir,

The first instalment of Mr P. D. Haigh's article on the HA'PENNY SPRINGBOK was very interesting, and I find myself in agreement with his experience in many respects.

Typographed issues. Pretoria printing with inverted watermark from sheets - I have one used pair of this variety but it is not common, and I should think undercatalogued in the 1952 Union Handbook/Catalogue (hereinafter referred to as UH/C). The Pretoria booklet printing perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ is over-catalogued both in UH/C and Gibbons in used condition and a fair market price based on auction realisations would be 20/- to 30/- for a used pair, in my opinion. Mint, it is a different matter, however.

I have been wondering when someone would raise the question of the perforation of the London booklets. I have never found a London booklet stamp gauging anything but $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$; presumably whoever listed these perforations must have taken the nearest half-perforation above $14\frac{3}{4}$ for the booklets and the nearest half-perforation below for the ordinary stamps from sheets!

Rotogravure - Unhyphenate Issues. To differentiate between the plates of these without reference to marginal arrows is not all together easy and one is not helped by some confusion in the UH/C listing of certain flaws on these issues. Take for instance, the "snail (or comma) on the buck's breast" listed as appearing on row 1, number 12, Plate III only. I have a part sheet from the right-hand side

with marginal arrows as the illustration of Plate II and on row 1 number 12 of this the "snail" is present. Thus the presence of this flaw is no certain guide to Plate III.

The same thing applies to the variety which Mr Haigh possesses, described as "a thick irregular line from left of "S" of "South" up to the top left corner." This is the variety listed as 36D.Vc in UH/C and although again listed as appearing only on Plate III, also is present on the pane mentioned above, row 5/8. Mr Haigh's example also is evidently not from Plate III as he classifies it as either Plate I or Plate II (first state); moreover his has the watermark inverted whilst Plate III according to the UH/C exists only with upright watermark.

Booklets - Can anyone say what plates were used for the printing of these? Mr A. H. Sydow, in an article on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d rotogravure booklet stamps in the "S.A.P.", August, 1951, states that they were printed from a Frame Diapositive prepared and used for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ d rotogravure roll stamps, but no plate number is indicated. I mention this because the flaw 36D.Vc "green arrow" also occurs on the booklet sheets but owing to the arrangement of these (see the 1946 Standard catalogue for illustration) it appears in the booklet sheets as row 5, number 4 and on the "economy" strips of 60 (3 x 20) as the third stamp in from the margin of the fifth horizontal row.

Incidentally, I think it is a pity that the excellent explanation with diagram of the arrangement of these booklet sheets and "economy" strips in the 1946 Catalogue was omitted from the 1952 Handbook/Catalogue. When I first came across one of these strips of 3 x 20 not long ago, I was at a loss to understand how the "green arrow" came to be the third stamp in from the margin when it was listed in the UH/C as row 5 number 8 and this was only solved by reference to the 1946 catalogue.

London, S.W.19.

A. J. Brown.

Dear Sir,

I have a little information for you about the South African overprint with the diaeresis. I have many blocks from the printing SG.032a, $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm. overprint on SG.87 and one pair with the diaeresis on each stamp. This pair also has the gold blob and is therefore composed of 3/3 and 3/4.

I have one pair of the 2d with the diaeresis, also in an arrow block. My pair is 11/5 and 11/6 and in my block 59 and 60 have the ordinary overprint without the diaeresis. I have all the arrow blocks but no diaeresis is to be seen although an upper right corner block shows it on 1/5 and 1/6.

Tunbridge Wells.

V. W. Dix.

The current 1/- has been found with perforation missing at crossing of vertical and horizontal perforation. See Picture Page.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

QUOTING YOU

"I have read and re-read the Springbok and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. It is such a treat to be able to study and understand the technical articles. The narrow perf. and isolated perf. articles are most clear." M.D.Sibson, Pilton.

"After a glance at "The Springbok" I feel I must write to congratulate you on a really magnificent effort. Good Luck." F.E.Metcalf, Liverpool.

"May I say what a very nice job it is." C.P.Rang, London.

"Congratulations on the issue of No. 1. Very good indeed." A.J.Children, Brighton.

"I was very impressed with the first issue. My hearty congratulations to all concerned." W.J.Cordrey, Eastbourne.

"May I be permitted, as a new member, to offer my congratulations. I hope it will be a great success - it deserves to be." R.S.Gibbs, Guildford.

"I would like to congratulate you on the first issue which I think should attract more members to our Society, of which I have the pleasure of being so early a member as No. 6." R.H.S.Cook, Bedford.

"I do hope that you will be able to maintain the very high standard you have set for the "Springbok". F.W.Rendall, Romford.

"I should very much like to take the opportunity of adding my congratulations to the many you must have received. It is undoubtedly a very fine publication and has been much admired by my philatelic friends." E.B.Dane, Stoke-on-Trent.

"My hearty congratulations on the first number arrived today and it is a most pleasing, attractive and interesting production. It should prove a boon to the increasing number of Union collectors. Good Luck." W.N.Sheffield, Johannesburg, South Africa.

"Thank you for the first issue just to hand. A very good effort. Congratulations." G.N.Gilbert, Westminster, South Africa.

"Congratulations on the splendid production of your first "Springbok". Please send me further issues." A.Lichtenstein, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

"Hearty congratulations on your excellent production. May it have a long and successful career. I look forward to receiving further copies." Dr T.B.Berry, Bryanston, South Africa.

"Must congratulate you on this first number which I found very interesting." H.McGeeney, Belfast.

"I was delighted with "The Springbok" and imagine it is just what is needed." K.A.Green, Aldershot.

=====



Thinned Frame

Normal

Union 47 C.V.1. Pl. VII.c



VERTICAL ROWS
4 - 5 - 6
Missing Perforation.

6926

6935

NEW MEMBERS, CHANGES OF ADDRESSES, RESIGNATIONS

New Members:

- No. 123. Mrs F. Baird, 2 Blatchington Flats, Upper Belgrave Road, Seaford, Sussex.
124. H.E. Tester, 373 Whitton Dene, Isleworth, Middlesex.
125. J. Russell, 3 Templeton Close, Upper Norwood, London, S.E.19.
126. P.J. Browne, 6 Curzon Road, Maidstone, Kent.
127. J. Hunter, Bready, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland.
128. V.C. Singleton, 4 St Luke's St, Beeston Hill, Leeds, 11.
129. S. Dudman, 29 Brookland Rise, London, N.W.11.
130. S.A. Shingler, 351 Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom, Manchester.
131. H.J. Anderson, Sans Souci, Lenzie, Glasgow.
132. A. Robertson, 34 Strathmore Street, Barnhill, Dundee.
133. J.C. Arkless, 9 Crompton Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 6.
134. R. Botha, 33 Manor Drive, Wembley Park, Wembley, Middlesex.
135. R.S. Gibbs, 65 Guildford Park Road, Guildford, Surrey.
136. Captain C.H. Greenwood, Cornerways, Uplowman Road, Tiverton, Devon.
137. E. Breach-Smith, 4 Clinton Terrace, Landkey Road, Barnstaple, N. Devon.
138. K.H. Giles, 75 Percival Street, Peterborough, Northants.
139. G.P. Rang, Editor G.S.M., 391 Strand, London, W.C.2.
140. Miss D.M. Spear, 3 Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol, 8.
141. H.J. Entink, 38 Nerissa Street, Burwood, E.13, Victoria, Australia.
142. R. Hetherington, 1 Clifton Drive, Morecambe, Lancashire.
143. Dr W. Hosie, 337 Fleetwood Road, Anchorsholme, Blackpool.
144. Dr T.B. Berry, P.O. Box 31, Bryanston, via Johannesburg, S. Africa.
145. J.P. Shingler, P.O. Box 82, East London, C.P., South Africa.
146. E.F. Taylor, "Ridgeway", New Barn Lane, Seer Green, Barnstaple, Bucks.
147. F/Lt R.F.A. Wren, 15 Derby Avenue, North Finchley, London, N.12.
148. G.E. Puddle, Bodnant Gardens, Tal-Y-Cafn, Denbighshire, N. Wales.
149. J.T. Burrell, P.O. Box 303, Krugersdorp, Tvl., South Africa.
150. F.L. Billings, 2044 Quilchena Place, Vancouver 13, B.C., Canada.
151. A. Lichtenstein, P.O. Box 576, Bloemfontein, O.F.S., S. Africa.
152. D. McK. Malcolm, c/o University of Natal, P.O. Box 1525, Durban, South Africa.
153. Philatelic Society of the Western Rand, 5 Nerissa Street, Florida, Tvl., South Africa.
154. L. Hellman, P.O. Box 15, East London, C.P., South Africa.
155. J.B. Levy, P.O. Box 670, Bloemfontein, O.F.S., South Africa.
156. Colonel E.P. Dickson, H.Q., B.T.E., M.E.L.F. 14.
157. J.M. Kenneth, 12 Braefield Drive, Thornliebank, Glasgow.
158. Inst Lt Cdr C.A. Sinfield, R.N., 18 Chilgrove Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Correction of Address:

116. R.D. Allen, Snr, 82c Hackford Road, London, S.W.9.

Deceased:

- No. 120. H.C. Runnals, London, S.E.6.