
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 1 No. 6. Nov./December, 1953

" THE SPRINGBOOK "

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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, Volume 2, No.1 will be December 31st, 1953.

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The Editor's Chair

With this issue we bring to a close the first volume of the Magazine, giving pause for reflection particularly as the end of the year approaches when one is inclined to survey the passing year and what it may have brought, be it good or bad.

We think we can say that 1953 was a good year for collectors of Union of South Africa stamps, as it saw the birth of this magazine which according to our correspondence was received with open arms filling a long felt want. Membership of the Society soared immediately and is still increasing as can be seen by the information on the last page, where it will be noted that yet further new territory has been opened with members in Germany and South West Africa bringing the total membership to well over 200, and in fact, an increase of 100%. Alas, death has not passed by without exacting some toll again, as we have to record the sad fact that Mr H. W. Hutchin, of Southport, is no longer with us. A pleasing feature of the membership is the number of overseas collectors who have joined, and particularly so in South Africa. From time to time we do learn of collectors who have not heard of the Society, and it is hoped that members will do their utmost to give the Society the widest publicity.

Articles for the magazine continue to come along somewhat slowly, and we require yet a wider field of contributors as the magazine is available to any member to express his views, but many have not taken advantage of the facility. Please try to submit articles on quarto size paper, typed one side only for preference, with names and figures most clearly indicated. Our heartfelt thanks to those members who by their efforts have contributed to the success of the Magazine.

The Exchange Packet continues to make excellent sales, but as always, there is a great shortage of contributions. Remember, the packet is sent out on three separate circuits and there are about 120 members receiving the packet - all potential buyers. Do please do your utmost to assist by sending in your sheets as often as possible so that regular circuits may be maintained.

At long last, the new definitive set has started with the issue of $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ stamps in new designs and colours. Popular opinion seems critical of all three emissions, but maybe that is because we have been "fed" on the old designs for so long we automatically revolt against the new! Incidentally, the most criticism seems to be directed against the $\frac{1}{6}$ stamp with talk of Christmas Labels, but we must confess that as we look at the stamp in the sheet we find it growing on us by reason of its clean colouring.

Arising from the Annual General Meeting, which was most interesting, and where we were very pleased to meet a number of members then unknown to us, was the very constructive desire for the formation of a London Group, which was received with acclamation. As will be seen in this issue, arrangements have been made for the first meeting, and we are happy to report efforts are being made to form other Local Groups which we hope will meet with all the support they do deserve.

In conclusion we are looking forward to 1954 with every confidence of increasing membership and growing interest in the stamps of the Union of South Africa, with the development of the Local Groups.

A little early for some, and probably a little late for others, a Very Merry Christmas and a Most Prosperous, Happy New Year to each and every Member.

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CONSTANT PLATE FLAWS AND VARIETIES

by H. A. STEWART and E. LAUDER

Judging from the recent correspondence columns of "The Springbok", it is clear that there is a demand for an article, or rather a series of articles, on the various plate flaws and varieties met with on South African stamps. Even when the collector does come across such an item it is not always easy for him to decide which of the many catalogued varieties he possesses or indeed whether he has discovered a new one. It was with these difficulties in mind that we set about solving the problem. We appreciated from the beginning that no amount of written explanation could take the place of a clear illustration, and we accordingly decided that although it would take a much longer time to cover the ground we would have every variety photographed and enlarged suitable for illustration in our magazine, so that fellow members could be left in no doubt as to which was which.

We decided that for a start we would describe and illustrate some of the more prominent varieties to be found on the unhyphenated issues. This will be followed by other issues in due course, including commemoratives and postage dues. Should any member wish an illustration of a particular variety to be included in the series, perhaps he would write and let either of us know when we will do our best to comply should the variety be available and suitable for photographing. Meantime we are taking items from our own collections which, between them, include most of the prominent varieties catalogued in the Handbook. In this connection we would like to acknowledge the helpful co-operation of Mr R. D. Allen, who is tabulating the many varieties for us, value by value.

And now a word about the illustrations themselves. We have had these printed on fine art paper in a form suitable for cutting out and mounting in one's collection. For those who do not wish to spoil their favourite philatelic magazine by cutting out the pictures, the Editor has made arrangements for additional copies of the illustrations to be available to members at a cost of 1/6 per page, including post and packing.

We have not the space here to go into the question as to how these constant varieties arose as this would take an article in itself. Members are asked to bear in mind, however, that so far as the Rotogravure printings are concerned, a variety can arise from the MULTOPOSITIVE (DIAPOSITIV), which is used to transfer the design via a sheet of carbon tissue, to the copper printing cylinder, or from the CYLINDER itself. Where more than one cylinder is made from the same multopositive, which is usual in the case of South African issues, then you find variants in the original flaws and even the appearance of new ones which arose in the making of the new cylinder. Let us now consider the varieties illustrated:

1. "PCSTAGE" for "POSTAGE". This is variety No.23 Va and occurs on the first stamp in the sheet on the London printed typographed stamps. Pairs and blocks may be found showing stamp No.1 without the variety and from this it would appear that the variety developed after the plate had been in use for some time and, when found, was corrected as it does not appear on the Pretoria printings.

2. "SEARCHLIGHT" variety. For some unexplained reason, this interesting variety does not appear in the new Handbook. It occurs on the Unhyphenated 1d. value, Plate 7 (No.37 J). The variety was catalogued as No.38 Vi in the 1946

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Catalogue by Basden and Simenhoff. Care should be taken not to confuse it with variety No.37 KVf (White lines due to creased paper). It will be noticed that the "Searchlight" does not extend through the vignette as it would do if it were No.37 KVf and of course there is no trace of any crease in the paper.

3. "EXTENDED PENNANT". This is another variety to be found on a typographed stamp, this time on the Pretoria printing of the 1d. value. It is catalogued as No.34 Vg and occurs on Plate 3 and is stamp No.12, but we do not know of which row. Perhaps some other member could help us here?

4. "GELATINE FLAW", on the Unhyphenated 2d. Plate 1A being No.3 of row 17. This is thought to have been caused by the gelatine upon the intermediate positive becoming damaged by a knock which pushed out of position a small portion of the photographic film and left it adhering a little higher up on the glass plate. The usual print on carbon tissue would be taken from the positive, laid down upon the copper cylinder and etched, so perpetuating the flaw. It is of interest to note that this was the first variety of this kind to be recorded in the philatelic press and was discovered by the late Mr A. J. Sefi.

5. "AEROPLANE" variety. It might truly be said that more confusion arises over this variety than any other on the 2d. value of the Unhyphenated issues. It has been variously described as the "Bird", "Balloon" and "Screw driver" variety, although why it is difficult to explain, for as the illustration shows, it is not unlike an aeroplane. It occurs on Plate III and is found on both English and Afrikaans stamps, being catalogued as No.38 Dvr.

6. "BALLOON" or "BIRD" flaw on stamp No.6 of row 9 of the 2d. value. Catalogued in the Handbook as No.38 Dvc it is easy to distinguish from No.5 above.

7. "MONKEY IN TREE" to be found on the 4d. Unhyphenated issue in the redrawn design. Catalogued as No.40 AVa it occurs on stamp No.2 of row 2. The illustration has been slightly touched up to make it clearer as the colour of this stamp makes it difficult to photograph. It is of interest to note that a similar variety is to be found in the same position on the current 4d. value. There are minor differences which a photograph would not show up.

8. Crack in plate on second "A" of "SUIDAFRIKA". This is another uncatalogued variety to be found on the 2d. value. In so describing it we are not overlooking the fact that the coloured line through the "A" which gives the impression of a cracked plate may be due to some other cause. It appears to be constant however, although unfortunately we cannot quote the position in which it is to be found. Can another member help us here?

9. "CLOUD" left of tree. This is stamp No.11 of row 20 of the typographed 6d. and occurs in both the London and Pretoria printings. The variety is catalogued as No.28 Vb (London) and No.35 Vb (Pretoria). Comparison with the adjoining stamp makes it quite clear.

10. "GREEN MARK on 6d." This occurs on Plate 2 and is stamp No.9 of row 15. The illustration makes it perfectly clear. It is of interest to note that this variety appears to be illustrated in the Handbook at the top of page 100 although it is not so described.

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11. Dot between "P" and "O" of "POSTAGE". This is another variety to be found on the Unhyphenated 2d. value. It occurs on Plates IA and IB and is stamp No.1 of row 11, the catalogue number being 38 Vb. The variety is sometimes found with at least a part of the marginal arrow which assists in identifying the plate from which it comes.

12. "BROKEN FRAME" under "POSTAGE". Here is another interesting variety on the English unit of the 3d. Unhyphenated issue. It occurs in both the black and red and the blue plates being stamp No.1 of row 5. The catalogue Nos. are 39 Va, 39 AVa and 39 BVa. According to the catalogue it does not occur on Plate IV.

13. Broken "R" in "AFRICA". Another variety on the 3d. Unhyphenated issue, which occurs on all four plates being stamp No.2 of row 20. The respective catalogue numbers are 39 Vc, 39 AVc and 39 CVa.

Members will appreciate that it will take a very long time indeed before we can adequately cover all the varieties listed in the S.A. Handbook, not to mention the recording of many interesting varieties which do not find a mention in the catalogue. We have in mind an alternative method by which we would illustrate a normal stamp in half or quarter plate size and mark upon it the various varieties. While this would not of course be a photographic record taken from the actual variety, it would enable us to cover the ground more quickly. Against this, members would not have the benefit of a suitable illustration for mounting alongside the variety in their collection. Any suggestions will be welcome and carefully considered.

PRESS REFERENCES

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (September). Official Notes of Printings from 22/4/53 to 21/7/53. Cape Centenary Issue described. A most interesting symposium of various aspects of the famous Cape triangulars contributed by the late A. A. Jurgens, D. Alan Stevenson and other experts, covering Forgeries, Specimens, Proofs, "Finds", etc., etc.

STAMP COLLECTING: The issue of Sep.4th was A Cape Centenary Number. "Fyndem" tipped the Union 4d Triangular (S.G.33) as an investment - a long-term policy, I feel. He also recommended all the Official "Diaeresis" varieties on Sep.18th, when, as he says, you can find them. This issue contained South African News, including a description of varieties on the current booklets, contributed by A. C. Adams. An article on "The Ocean Post Office, Cape Colony" by Peter Belfast is to be found in the issue of October 2nd. Those interested in Air Mails may find some new information in "Notes on the Air Race to South Africa" (which took place in 1936)(Oct.9th).

STAMP COLLECTOR'S FORTNIGHTLY: publishes a further instalment of "The Post in South Africa", by E. G. Ardouin, this time dealing with the Orange Free State (Sep.19th).

STAMP MAGAZINE: "Sagesse" thinks the monocoloured 1d coil (S.G.106) will prove worth buying (October issue) - another one for Methusalehs?

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY: C. P. Rang refers to the existence of the "Double image" variety on the earlier cylinders of the 2d Postage Due (October).

A. J. BROWN.

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THE HA'PENNY STAMPS (cont.)

by P. D. Haigh

Whole Stamp Screened

Sheets.

Four Plates (XIX - XXII) have so far appeared in this most interesting group, produced from combinations of three vignette cylinders and three frame cylinders. These are easily separated from one another in accordance with the information given in the catalogue, and the only possible confusion is between the first and the last.

These two Plates each have diagonal cross-lined screening of both vignettes and frames. Generally speaking, the centres of Plate XIX show a slightly brownish tinge when compared with those of Plate XXII, and the frames are somewhat brighter in appearance. Used copies with dated postmarks will definitely identify Plate XIX if such date is before December, 1951, while, owing to the lapse of time between the periods of currency of these two Plates, if after that date it will be a pretty fair indication that the stamp is from Plate XXII. This will probably be confirmed by comparison of the shades.

Plate XX has diagonal cross-lined screening of the vignette in conjunction with irregular grained screening of the frame. Even under a good magnifier the irregular grained screen is none too easy to detect at first glance, and a cursory examination may lead to the impression that there is no screening present. However, whereas in the unscreened stamps the outline of each individual line of shading in the frame is sharp, and there are frequent and sometimes quite long white areas within such lines (caused by the drawing out of the ink from the relatively large recessed areas of the Plate by the doctor-blade), in the irregular screened version the outlines are more blurred and indistinct, but the inking is more even, and under a magnifier one can just detect tiny white spots here and there. This Plate was overprinted "Official" with the old, small lettered, type of overprint.

Plate XXI is entirely screened with the irregular grained version. This Plate was current for nearly two and a half years, and exists in a number of minor, but definite, shades. Stamps of this Plate were overprinted "Official" with the recently introduced large lettered overprint.

Booklets.

Booklet Plate VII has diagonal cross-lined screening of both vignette and frame. These stamps were issued in 3/6 booklets in panes of six with blank margins at each side, but none at top or bottom. The centres are very black compared with all sheet printings of this group seen so far. Used copies should be easily spotted by this feature, and confirmed by the guillotined perforation teeth at either top or bottom.

Monocoloured Coil Stamps

Three Plates have so far been employed for this group. For the purpose of these notes the writer has designated these Coil Plates VIII, IX and X, although strictly Plate VII came before the bi-coloured coil issue which has been designated Plate VII.

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Plate VIII (Cylinder 6911) is stated in the catalogue to have a fine mesh screen, Plate IX (Cylinder 39) a coarse mesh with wider spaced lines, and Plate X (Cylinder 6045) a much sharper, well-defined screen. This is all, no doubt, very true, but it does not seem to help from a practical point of view in separating the Plates, except in the case of the last-mentioned which is the only one on which the construction of the screen is at all clearly visible even under a magnifier. On stamps of the two earlier Plates all that can usually be seen of the screening is an irregular muddle of innumerable white patches, which one would take to be an irregular screen were it not that occasionally, in the lighter printed portions of the design, the cross-lined feature is just barely visible.

A more sure guide to identification seems to be in the shades, without reference to screening. Plate VIII is in blue-green of varying intensities, the design having a clean appearance. Plate IX is in a very deep blue-green (the same as the deepest shade of the previous Plate) and has a rough appearance, with white patches visible to the unaided eye. Finally, Plate X is in a very distinct unmistakable shade of pale green, with very minor variations from one printing to another.

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS CONTAINED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN G.P.O. BULLETIN. PHILATELIC 16, DATED SEPTEMBER, 1953 -

In order to meet the need for stamps of denominations suitable for the payment of various tariffs which have been increased in recent years, it has been decided to augment the present pictorial series by three new denominations, namely 4½d, 1/3 and 1/6.

The stamps will be placed on sale at all post offices in the Union during October, 1953, but there will be no fixed date for the first day of sale. Consequently, there will be no servicing of first-day covers.

Details of the stamps are as follows:-

Value	Designs	Colours
4½d	Merino Ram and landscape	Purplish-brown and yellow.
1/3	Springbok and landscape	Reddish-brown.
1/6	Aloes and landscape	Reddish-orange and dark green.

The stamps, each of which will be bilingually inscribed, and will measure 24.2 by 30.2 mm., will be printed in horizontal format in sheets of 120.

Orders from stamp collectors or stamp dealers for unused stamps of the new denominations may be sent to the address given below and must be accompanied by a postal order, money order or bank draft, the value of which must include the return postage on the order. Cheques and foreign coins will not be accepted.

PHILATELIC AGENCY, G/O POST OFFICE PUBLICITY SECTION, G.P.O. PRETORIA.

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REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - LONDON

October 3rd saw the Society holding its second Annual General Meeting at the Hotel Russell, when members heard a report on the first meeting in London, a review of the year's activities covering the issue of "The Springbok" and the influence on the membership which had practically doubled in the twelve months.

Among the many points discussed the following should be noted. The possibility of including advertising matter in the magazine was deprecated generally, unless it became absolutely necessary. It was considered that copies should be available to members only, as prospective members always received a specimen on application so that they might decide whether membership would be helpful.

A proposal by Mr D. V. Parker that a "Wants" column should be included in the magazine with a nominal charge of 1/- per entry, found approval in general after Professor V. W. Dix had supported the proposal, but a "For Sale" column was not considered desirable.

Professor Dix asked if it would be possible to include in "The Springbok" a set summary of information concerning all new printings to make for easier reference and as this seemed to be welcomed when Mr A. J. Brown supported the suggestion, three volunteers - and they were volunteers - Professor Dix, Mr Brown and Mr W. A. Page undertook to act as scrutinisers of any sheets of new printings which could be provided by the Secretary, to further this end.

When the possibility of a London Group being formed was mooted by Mr R. D. Allen, he found enthusiastic response on all sides and Mr Page made a formal proposition that a London Group be organised, Professor Dix supporting immediately. After further discussion, Mr Allen undertook, most nobly, the necessary work to bring about an early meeting in London during December, with the promise of support from the room. The Secretary pointed out that the logical sequence would be efforts to create other groups and indeed steps had already been taken in this direction.

Mr F. R. Squire asked that it should be put on record how very much appreciated was the magazine, "The Springbok", and he commented on the excellent standard created and maintained, which remarks were endorsed most heartily by the meeting, after Mr F. C. Abell had supported the statement.

After being introduced by the Secretary, Professor Dix was called upon for his paper on the Darmstadt Printings, which was excellently supported by a display of material which forms a collection the like of which probably does not exist elsewhere. The short, but lucid talk was very much appreciated and cleared up quite a number of doubtful points which had been puzzling various members. Mr G. M. Whitten led the applause which followed the paper, and was supported by Mr S. C. Nunneley. (The paper appears in this issue).

A second paper from Mr R. D. Allen proved quite a contrast, being a display of interesting items not recorded in the Union catalogue, but which through tireless search, Mr Allen showed to be worthy of such status by dint of the fact that several examples of each item were exhibited. After discussion, Mr Squire indicated the appreciation of the meeting with support from Mr R. H. Merson. (This paper will appear in the next issue.)

When the meeting closed, several members adjourned to the Restaurant Frascati for dinner, enjoyed to the full as usual, regret being expressed that it might well prove to be the last held at these premises.

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LOCAL GROUPS

Following the A.G.M. in London, Mr R. D. Allen, Snr., has convened a meeting at St Michael's Church Hall, Stockwell Park Road, at 7.30 p.m., on Tuesday, 8th December. The nearest tube station is Stockwell - first turning on left in Stockwell Road, by the Swan Public House will lead into the back entrance to the Hall. Members who can attend are urged to do so, particularly as it is understood there will be quite a number present so that the Group may be off to a really good start. Mr Allen will be only too pleased to supply any relative information, his address being 82c Hackford Road, London, S.W.9.

Mr M. D. Sibson, Heavitree, Pilton, Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset, is working hard to try to organise a Western Group, having circularised a number of members in his area. Please make a point of contacting Mr Sibson should you be willing to support a Group as it will be to your own advantage to be able to meet other members for discussions, talks, etc.

In Glasgow, Mr E. Lauder is arranging a meeting of members with the possibility of forming a local Group, and again any request for information addressed to 137 Marlborough Avenue, Broomhill, Glasgow, W.1. will be assured of a prompt reply and the utmost co-operation.

If members in other parts of the Kingdom are willing to undertake the formations of Groups, please write immediately to the Secretary, who will be very pleased to render any assistance possible.

Mr A. Hilton Sydow, Cape Town, sends us a copy of a letter from Mr W. H. Coetzer, the South African Artist, who designed the stamps of the Third Voortrekker issue of 1949, namely the 1d, 1½d and 3d denominations.

"Dear Mr Sydow,

Many thanks for your letter, which I have received in a very roundabout way. I very much appreciate your interest in my design of the 3d stamps. The symbolism of the stamp is as follows. In the left-hand panel a Voortrekker mother and child are looking toward the Drakensberg Mountains (Cathkin Peak). It also includes an ewe and her lamb. In the right-hand panel, a Voortrekker on horse-back accompanied by his faithful dog, also looking towards the stormy Drakensberg background. The central panel comprises the open Bible in the foreground which symbolises the belief of the trekkers. To the left and right of the Bible are the ploughshares as used by them symbolising culture, etc., which the Trekkers took with them. At the back of the Bible a candle and candlestick is shown surrounded with shields and assegais in the usual Zulu attack (pincer movement). The symbolism here is the light brought into the darkness of the interior. The candlestick is the same as was used by the Voortrekkers and was drawn from one housed in the Museum. My idea was to use only those objects and implements which were actually used by the Voortrekkers and so I could not very well use the lamp as you suggest. Your suggestion is no doubt a beautiful one, but I could not use it for the reason I have mentioned. I do hope that my design will bring home to all people who will see it the power of Almighty and the power of belief in the Bible. Again many thanks for your kind interest and suggestions. Yours sincerely,
Johannesburg, 6.11.49. (signed) W. H. COETZER.

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THE EARLY PRINTING TRIALS OF THE FIRST
ROTOGRAVURE PENNY POSTAGE STAMP
OF SOUTH AFRICA

by

Victor W. Dix, F.R.P.S.L.

(Paper given at the Annual General Meeting, 3rd October, 1953)

Introduction:

In 1929, the halfpenny, penny and sixpenny stamps of South Africa were printed by typography in Pretoria from plates supplied by Messrs Waterlow & Sons, who had previously printed the stamps in England. The other values were recess-printed by Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., in England.

At some time previous to 1929, it was decided by the South African Government that all the stamps should, in future, be printed by one process, in South Africa. The process selected was photogravure and a machine for printing by this process from a cylindrical plate was ordered from the firm of Goebel A-G of Darmstadt. This machine was the third of its kind to be made, the other two having been supplied to the Italian Government. The particular type of gravure process chosen was "screenless", then a secret process of the N.V. Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij, of Leiden and the cylinders were made by this firm. The penny stamp was selected for the printing trials and it was also the first stamp to be printed by the new process in South Africa where it was issued on May 1st, 1930.

The Material:

The present history of the early printing trials is based on a large collection of proofs and on the correspondence relating to them. The proofs illustrate every phase of the trials, the final proof being the one accepted by Messrs Hunter-Penrose on behalf of the South African Government.

The collection is made up as follows:-

Dummy cigarette duty labels.....	18
Dummy stamps.....	15
Head-plate of postage stamp.....	7
Frame-plate of postage stamp.....	11
Complete postage stamp.....	20
Total.....	71

The dummy cigarette duty labels and the dummy stamps are so called in the correspondence and I have therefore retained these names. The labels measure 13.2 x 1.7 cm. and are inscribed "Hunter-Penrose Ltd., 109 Farringdon Road, London, E.C.1." The dummy stamps measure 22.4 x 28.4 mm. and consist of a portrait sketch made for the occasion with "I" and "M" in the upper corners and "Hunter-Penrose" below.

The sheets were contained in a portfolio and in most cases complete sheets were available for examination. The incomplete sheets were among the proofs of the cigarette labels and dummy stamps and there were also one or two among the head-plates and frame-plate proofs. The correspondence covers the period during which the trials were made and is complete. The first letter is dated August 6th, 1929, and the last October 11th, 1929.

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The Contract:

In order to understand the history of the trials it is necessary to know something of the contract.

Messrs Hunter-Penrose were the agents of the South African Government, empowered to accept the Goebel machine if the trials were satisfactory. In addition to the postage stamps, printings were to be made on the machine of dummy postage stamps and of dummy cigarette duty labels. For the stamps themselves Messrs Hunter-Penrose laid down certain strict criteria. Before the machine was accepted, 1000 sheets had to be printed, and one sheet had to be selected at random from each batch of fifty. The twenty sheets selected in this way were to be sent to Messrs Hunter-Penrose for approval. They laid down also that the printings from which the sheets were selected had to be on official watermarked and gummed paper and in English inks.

Cylinders, Papers and Inks:

Four cylinders were supplied by the N.V.Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij of Leiden for testing on the Goebel machine in Darmstadt. They were all made by screenless gravure, then a secret process. The four cylinders were: one for printing dummy cigarette duty labels; one for printing dummy stamps; and one head-plate and one frame-plate cylinder for the postage stamps.

During the process of fine etching the frame-plate cylinder was damaged and new head-plate and frame-plate cylinders were made by the N.V.Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij.

It has not been found possible to make a complete separation of proofs of the first pair of cylinders from those of the second pair except in the case of certain head-plate and frame-plate proofs. One head-plate proof and four frame-plate proofs were sent to Hunter-Penrose on September 26th, when the second pair of cylinders was in use. The other head-plate and frame-plate proofs are probably from the first pair of cylinders. One proof of the complete stamp from the first pair of cylinders was presumably made at Leiden before the cylinders were sent to Darmstadt since it was labelled "Proof ex Leiden" in the portfolio. All the other proofs of the complete stamp are probably from the second pair of cylinders.

The Papers:

During the trials, five different papers were used:-

Ungummed Paper: This was supplied by Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., It is ungummed and without watermark. It was intended by Hunter-Penrose to be used for testing and for the final run of the dummy cigarette duty labels. In the correspondence and on the trial sheets it is called "Jones Paper" by Hunter-Penrose, Goebel A-G., and Pegler. (The latter was a technician of the S.A. Government watching the trials.)

Ungummed Coated Paper: This is an ungummed paper without watermark, apparently supplied at an earlier date to Goebel A-G by Hunter-Penrose. It was made by the maker of the official watermarked paper and is incorrectly called "Harrison Paper" or "Coated Harrison Paper" by Goebel A-G and Pegler.

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The creases seen on many of the proofs on this paper were explained by Goebel A-G as the result of long storage before use.

Watermarked and Gummed Paper: This was also supplied by Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd. It is gummed and the watermark is a clover leaf. It was intended by Hunter-Penrose for test runs of the dummy stamps and postage stamps.

It is called by Hunter-Penrose "paper with dummy watermark", or "paper with conventional watermark". By Goebel A-G and Pegler it is called "Leiden paper" for the following reason: Goebel A-G mislaid two rolls of the paper sent to them by Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., and used instead similar paper transferred from Leiden, where it had been used for trials by the N.V. Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij, the makers of the cylinders.

The complete sheets show two varieties: one has the watermark on the whole sheet; the other, only on the three or four right vertical columns. Apparently, the watermark did not reach the edge of the roll of paper and some sheets were printed partly on the unwatermarked part of the roll.

Official Watermarked and Gummed Paper: The maker of this paper is not named. It is gummed with the official South African gum, and watermarked with a springbok's head. It was to be used only for the final test printings of the postage stamp.

Gummed Espart Paper: This paper was supplied towards the end of the tests by Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., when the other papers had proved unsatisfactory with the inks in use. It is gummed, but not with the official South African gum and it is without watermark.

The Inks:

English Inks: These inks were supplied by Shuck, Maclean & Co., Ltd., in the following colours: black, red, green and orange. They were all used for test printings of the labels and the dummy stamps. The same black and red inks were used also for the postage stamps. The black ink, after some trials, proved satisfactory; but the red ink remained unsatisfactory to the end of the tests and the final run was made with English black and German red ink.

German Inks: The following German inks were used: black, red and brown.

The Printing Trials:

The first letter in the correspondence is from the N.V. Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij to Hunter-Penrose, Ltd. It is dated August 6th 1929 and even at this time, about a month before the real trials began, there is an indication of the technical difficulties which were to prolong the trials at Darmstadt for so long. The red and the black inks were both unsuitable for the screenless process.

Although the printing machine was ready on August 21st, and the cylinders for the postage stamp had arrived, it was not till a week later that the two dummy cylinders were ready for the preliminary trials.

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It was then found that the dummy stamps had been made of the wrong size. Apparently the N.V. Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij had used an inaccurate measuring device which produced a discrepancy in size of 1.2 mm. for ten stamps. As a result of this error in size, it was impossible to perforate the dummy stamps after they had been printed.

It was again found during the trials with the dummy stamps and dummy cigarette bonds that the inks were unsuitable for the printing process. The ink for the screenless process should be thicker than the ink used in the screened process, and neither Hunter-Penrose nor Shuck, Maclean had been informed of this fact. The inks supplied therefore gave unsatisfactory impressions and dried much too slowly. It was at this stage that Goebel A-G suggested the use of German inks, and many of the proofs of the dummy stamps and cigarette bonds are printed in German inks. There can be little doubt that the German inks gave better impressions than the English inks, and this is not surprising in view of the failure to give the English manufacturers information about the inks required for a process which was at the time new to English printers.

On September 13th the machine was running with the two cylinders for the postage stamps in operation, after some supplementary etching had been done. It is not certain that there are any proofs of the complete stamps printed at this stage in the collection, although there are certainly proofs of the head-plate and frame-plate cylinders separately. It appears however, that the proofs were not entirely satisfactory, since the frame-plate cylinder was damaged during the fine etching on September 16th, and had to be discarded. After the accident to the original cylinders, new cylinders were made at Leiden and brought to Darmstadt on September 19th.

On September 20th a run of 1000 sheets of the complete stamps was made from the new cylinders and Goebel A-G forwarded twenty of these sheets to Hunter-Penrose in the hopes that they would be accepted on behalf of the South African Government. It was at once obvious that these sheets did not fulfil the conditions of the contract. They were printed on unwatermarked and ungummed paper and not on the official gummed and watermarked paper; and German inks had been used instead of the English inks supplied by Shuck, Maclean & Co. In their reply of September 23rd to Goebel A-G Messrs Hunter-Penrose enumerated the points in which the twenty proof sheets did not satisfy the terms of the contract.

On September 26th, after receiving Hunter-Penrose's letter of the 23rd, Goebel A-G made further tests as follows:-

1. Complete stamp, English inks. Official watermarked and gummed paper.
2. Complete stamp, English black and German red ink. Official watermarked and gummed paper.
3. Head-plate. English black ink. Ungummed coated paper.
4. Frame-plate. German red ink. Ungummed coated paper.
5. Frame-plate. English red ink. Ungummed coated paper.

As a result of these trials it was agreed by Hunter-Penrose and Goebel A-G that the official paper was unsuitable for the inks and cylinders in use. The proofs on the coated paper was satisfactory, but it had already been decided not

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to use coated paper in South Africa. The only solution, therefore, appeared to be the use of a new paper and Samuel Jones & Co. were asked to supply a gummed esparto paper. This paper was used for the rest of the trials. At the same time a new supply of red and black ink was sent to Darmstadt by Messrs Shuck, Maclean & Co.

At the end of September preliminary trials with the new inks and paper were complete and everything was ready for the final run. The English red ink was still found to be too thin for the process, and the frame cylinder was becoming badly worn. Hunter-Penrose, therefore, on October 3rd, authorised Goebel A-G to use German ink if necessary and no longer insisted on a continuous run of 1000 sheets since it was recognised that the machine would have to be stopped for cleaning of the cylinder during the run and that this would produce at the time of stopping and starting sheets unsuitable as samples.

The final run took place on October 8th. On October 11th, the sample sheets were received by Hunter-Penrose and were accepted. They were printed on the gummed esparto paper, English black ink and German red ink being used.

THE FOLLOWING IS A CHECK LIST OF THE PROOFS

Proofs of the 1d. value printed at Darmstadt by the firm of Goebel A.G. from cylinders made by the N.V. Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij of Leiden. Sheets of 240 (20 horizontal rows of 12).

Head Plate

Printed in black.

1. Ungummed paper. Imperforate.
2. Ungummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.
3. Ungummed coated paper. Imperforate.
4. Watermarked (clover leaf on 3 or 4 columns at right of sheet) and gummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.

Frame Plate

Printed in red.

1. Ungummed paper. Imperforate.
2. Ungummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.
3. Ungummed coated paper. Imperforate.
4. Watermarked (clover leaf on whole sheet) and gummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.

Complete Stamp:

Printed in black (head plate) and red (frame plate)

1. Ungummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.
2. Watermarked (clover leaf on 3 or 4 columns at right of sheet) and gummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.
3. Watermarked (clover leaf on whole sheet) and gummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.
4. Official watermarked (springbok's head) and gummed paper. Perforated 15 x 14.
5. Gummed esparto paper. Perforated 15 x 14.

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Trial Printings:

Before the above stamps were printed, the following trial printings were made:-

1. Labels measuring 13.2 x 1.7 cm. and inscribed "Hunter-Penrose Ltd., 109 Farringdon Road, London, E.C.1."
These labels were printed in black, red, green, orange, and brown, on un gummed paper, un gummed coated paper, and watermarked (clover leaf) and gummed paper.
2. Dummy stamps measuring 22.4 x 28.4 mm. and bearing a portrait sketch with "1" and "M" in the upper corners and "Hunter-Penrose" below.
These stamps were printed in black, red, green, orange, and brown, on un gummed paper, un gummed coated paper, and watermarked (clover leaf) and gummed paper.

(This article first appeared in "The London Philatelist", October 1950 and we acknowledge the kind permission of the Royal Philatelic Society, to reproduce this condensed version.)

"Cracked Plate" marks in recent printings

Following the most interesting report in the "South African Philatelist" for October 1953 on the subject of "cracked plate" varieties on the Coronation and Centenary stamps, several members have been busy studying their sheets - as has your Editor - and from their reports the following list can be tabulated, as showing the same markings in each case. For the benefit of those who may not have read the "S.A.P." three white scratches of different length represent the "cracked plate" which actually is most likely to be scratches on the glass screen used in the photographic process.

GORONATION: Cyl.98, rows 1 to 3, stamps 1 and 2.
Cyl.98, rows 1 to 3, stamps 11 and 12.
Cyl.66, rows 4 to 6, stamps 9 and 10. (Here the marks are
Cyl.66, rows 4 to 6, stamps 19 and 20. ("inverted.")

CENTENARY: 1d-Cyl.19/107, row 9 and 10, stamps 1 to 3.
4d-Cyl.66/86, row 19 and 20, stamps 1 to 3.
4d-Cyl.106/90, row 11 and 12, stamps 4 to 6 ("Inverted")

NEW ISSUE: 1/3 - Cyl.30, row 1, stamps 5 and 6 with
row 2, stamp 3.

What remains to be seen is whether the Centenary printings can be found with the markings in the opposite halves of the sheets as in the case of the Coronations and in this connection news will be welcomed from all and sundry.

It also remains to be seen whether anyone can find these marks on the other two new values, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1/6 printings as they are most difficult stamps to study by nature of their design and colouring. (Appreciation to Dr B. Wasserstein and Messrs R. P. Jonas and J. Hunter for their information, amongst others.)

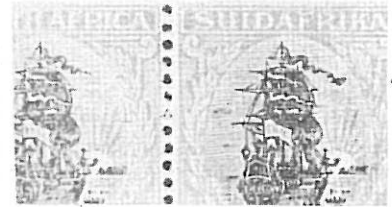
VARIETIES



↑ 1



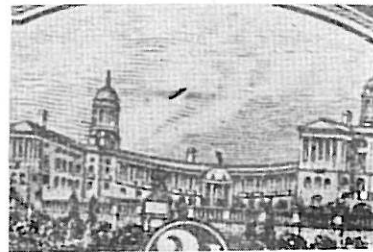
↓
2 ↑



←
3



→
↑ 4



5



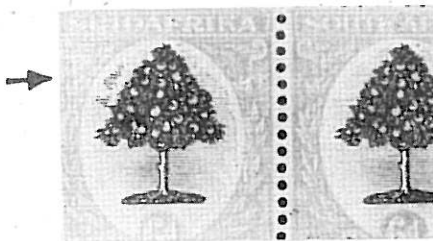
6



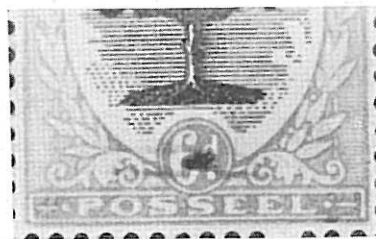
7



8



→
9



10



↑ 11



↗ 12



←
13 ↑

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CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

While I must congratulate you on the excellence of the third number of your magazine, I trust you will allow me to comment on three matters therein.

The first two are mistakes which I think should be pointed out for the benefit of those of your readers who do not have access to other sources of information.

At the top of page 48, under the heading "Coils" - Mr P. D. Haigh writes - "There are also three different plates for the coil stamps of this group, namely, Coil Plates III - V, etc." As he is referring to the Hyphenated - Redrawn (Large Size) Group of Halfpenny Union Stamps, he is wrong, because there are only two Coil Plates, III & IV in this Group; the third one he mentions, No. V, belongs to the next Group of "Intermediate" sized stamps.

In his summary on Page 51, to his Combinations Nos. 11, 12 and 13, Mr A. Hylton Sydow allocates Exterior Cylinder Numbers 60, 49 and U (Unpublished) and Interior Cylinder Numbers 21, 60 and 60 respectively as those published in the "S.A. Philatelist" from time to time. The Honorary Editor, in the "Union Notes" published in that magazine on several occasions between June, 1941 and June, 1942, referred to ¹/₂d Ordinary Union postage stamps printed from Interior Cylinder 60 and Exterior Cylinder 21, following his - the customary - procedure of quoting the interior cylinder number first. As Mr Sydow, for the purpose of his article, referred to the exterior cylinder numbers first, it was necessary for him to reverse the order of the cylinder numbers quoted in "Union Notes" from time to time, and this he accomplished quite successfully in all the combinations except that of 60 interior and 21 exterior mentioned above, where he apparently nodded. The effect of this slip on his article was disastrous, as otherwise, he would have seen that the combinations of 21 exterior and 60 interior, and 49 exterior and 60 interior, could not have been allocated to any but his numbers 12 and 13, which, as he brings out in the body of his article, had a common interior cylinder. He would also have spared himself the necessity for inventing a combination "U" and 60; and blaming the long-suffering Honorary Editor of "The S.A. Philatelist" for not having reported it. Tut-tut, Mr Sydow!

Finally, I must disagree with Mr H. J. Anderson when he concludes his article on "Some 2d Roto. Varieties" by suggesting at the foot of page 53 "that what the Handbook states is Plate IIa or III is, as far as the vignette is concerned, the original Plate I, perhaps in a retouched state." As my reasons would take up a great deal of space, and this letter is too long as it is, I do not propose to set them out here; but I am quite willing to do so in a separate letter should you think that they would be of interest to your readers.

Johannesburg, S.A.

S. J. HAGGER.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

- No. 246. W.L. Freshwater, The Old Parsonage, Frilsham, Hermitage, Newbury, Berks.
247. W.A. Matthews, 30 Pavilion Gardens, Staines, Middlesex.
248. D.I. Nayshail, 6 Ellesmere Ave., Hunter's Hill, N.S.W., Australia.
249. J.M. Smart, 5 Northfield Ave., High Harrington, Workington, Cumb.
250. Adv. P.F. O'Hagan, Q.C., Advocates Chambers, 239 Pretorius St., Pretoria, S.A.
251. H. Davidson, 8 Clifton Gardens, Low-Fell, Gateshead 9, C. Durham.
252. F.R. Squire, 35 Cornwall Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
253. K. Mueller, Box 158, Windhoek, South West Africa.
254. Jarl-Ludwig Meyer, Frankfurt /M. -Schwanheim, Am Siechen 23, West Germany.
255. M. Methven, c/o. Barclays Bank Ltd., 56 Boundary Road, Hove, Sussex.
256. Lloyd T. Hayward, 25 Marvin St., Montpelier, Vermont, U.S.A.
257. Lt Col S. Smith, Customs House, Beachley, Nr Chepstow, Mon.
258. Miss M. Etchells, c/o Flat 4, 1 Calverley Park Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Changes of Address:

3. Dr H.M. Georgeson, 5 Vauban Drive, Salford, 6.
14. B.R. Powell, 19 Shendon Way, Sevenoaks, Kent.
32. W.J. Cordrey, 41 Peppercombe Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
150. F.L. Billings, 1231 Riverdale Ave., Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
164. P.S. Roots, 5 Fitzmaurice Road, Christchurch, Hants.
190. L.E. Orkin, P.O. Box 1650, Pretoria, South Africa.

Resignations:

135. R.S. Gibbs, Guildford.

Deceased:

60. H.W. Hutchin, Southport.

=====

Anent the query raised by Mr Breach-Smith in issue No.4 regarding picture post-cards flown for a 1/2d anywhere in the world, Mr E.K. Gibbs has submitted one posted at the Empire Exhibition, Johannesburg and dated "6.XI.36", the picture showing "Arrival of Air Mails" from Europe and Intermediate Countries - interesting note, the aircraft AMALTHEA of Imperial Airways has the words "ROYAL MAIL" over a crown over the letters "ER". The other card is posted from the International Philatelic Exhibition at Johannesburg and postmarked "-2 XI A33" the picture being of the Post Boxes, G.P.O., Johannesburg with Illuminated Map of Principal World Air Routes.

Regarding the 1d Centenary stamp, Mr A. Hilton Sydow writes pointing out that the stamp depicts only the words "Posseel" and "Postage" and not the words "Inkomste" and "Revenue" as on the "van Riebeck ship" type 1d. He quotes two official notices which appeared in the "Cape Times" September 22nd and October 13th respectively:-

"The 1d stamp now being issued to commemorate the centenary of postage stamps in South Africa may be used to denote payment of stamp duty on documents liable to a duty of 1d, says a Government notice gazetted on Friday, 18th Sep., 1953."

"Pretoria - The 1d centenary postage stamp may only be used for revenue purposes in cases where the duty is one penny, as on receipts, proxies and security documents up to £10 says the Post Office Bulletin yesterday.

Where higher duties are payable, the centenary stamp is not valid. It may not be used, for example, in connection with a revenue stamp to meet a total duty of 7d says the Bulletin."

Mr Sydow remarks he has seen the 1d centenary used on receipts and on proxies, but not on any other documents of security.