
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 2, No. 1. January/February, 1954

" THE SPRINGBOK "

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

Closing date for publication Volume 2, No.2, will be February 28th.

The Magazine is available only by subscription to the Society - 10/- per annum.

The Editor's Chair

Our first issue of 1954 finds the membership still rising, and although the 1953 target of 250 members was not reached, in actual fact the strength was 232 at the end of the year which you will agree was not very far out. Can we increase that to 350 members by the end of 1954?

Reports are that this year should see quite a fair amount of activity in Union stamps and a good start has been made with a reprinting of the 2/6 stamps from new cylinder combination 5/51, a coming issue of a 2d and 4½d stamp for the O.F.S. Centenary commemorations and as this is written news has come through of a new printing of the 5/- screened from cylinder combination 8 Interior and 72 Exterior which may have involved a new multipositive. During June there will be celebrations in Durban by way of a Centenary Exhibition, so perhaps this will involve a small issue. Further information is that the 4½d, 1/3 and 1/6 stamps issued a little while ago are NOT the commencement of a new set but merely new values to meet existing demands. It is rumoured that the definitive set will be replaced entirely with sets of flora, fauna and birds! The only consolation may be the hope that the stamps will be bilingual. By the way, an interesting point about the new 5/- stamp is the fact that they are being printed in self-contained panes of 60, i.e. with top and bottom margins and cylinder numbers.

Touching on the subject of the Exchange Packet, there are one or two members who just will not send along the advice card to indicate when they have sent the packet on. To say the least, this is not helpful and we may be compelled to withdraw the Exchange Packet from those who will not co-operate. Another failing of some is the retaining of the packets for unreasonable amounts of time - here again in fairness to other members, the packets will be withdrawn. Now can we have many more books, as the need is desperate with a continually increasing membership and there are not nearly enough coming along.

In this issue you will see a report of the establishment of a London Group, which should prove most helpful, and we hope that as many members as possible will take advantage of their regular meetings at which everyone will be very welcome.

Many subscriptions will be due with the receipt of this issue, and it is hoped members will remit accordingly to avoid unnecessary expense in reminders. The costs of production of this magazine and distribution are very heavy, and we had to give considerable thought to the question of an increase in subscription, but after a "headache" the decision was taken to maintain the present rate for 1954 at the end of which the matter will be considered further. Meanwhile, please do make every effort to introduce that new member which will be of great assistance. Should your subscription be due you will find a cross in your copy of monthly notes - 12/6 if the latter are to be air-mailed.

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The OFFICIAL Stamps of the Union of South Africa listed in Basic Order.

by A. C. Adams.

The Union Handbook/Catalogue states that it was impracticable to adhere to a strictly chronological order of listing the "Officials", with the result that stamps of the same denomination are listed on different pages; as an instance, the 2/6 stamp, Plate 1, has been listed on pages 265, 266, 268, 270, 272 and 273.

The whole of the Union Stamps overprinted "Official" and "Offisieel" have, in the following list, been set down in order of basic number. If further details than those contained in the last column are sought, the basic stamp details should be perused.

Overprint type 3 may cause confusion, but if the overprints type 3 on various stamps are very carefully compared as to thickness, clarity, etc., the difficulty should disappear; it should be noted that type 10 has appeared "heavy", "not so heavy", "shiny" and "not so shiny".

Only one stamp is listed with diæresis (Basic No.44A - 0.77) - it has been established that some stamps from sheets of 1½d small mine having black sheet numbers (0.71) have also been overprinted with the second "E" of "Offisieel" having the diæresis as have stamps 5 & 6 of row 1 and stamps 5 & 6 of row 11 of the 2d basic 47C - 0.72 (plate 6) and perhaps some of the 1/- 20 m.m. spacing, but these are very rare and further information is sought concerning them.

Union of South Africa - Officials

In order of number allocated to Basic Stamp in Union Catalogue

Basic No.	Value	"Official" No.	O/p No.	Spacing of o/p (m.m.)	Further details to assist Identification.
5	2d	1	1	12½	Geo.V purple. London printing.
22	½d	2	1	12½	London Printing.
23	1d	3	1	12½	London Printing.
24	2d	8	2	17½	London Printing. Perf.14. Plate 1.
24Aa	2d	10	2	19	London Printing. Perf.14. Plate 2.
28	6d	4	1	12½	London Printing. Perf.14.
29B	1/-	15	4	17½-19½	London Printing. Perf.14 x 13½.
30	2/6	16	4	17½-19½	London Printing. Perf.14.
30A	2/6	28	5	17½-18½	London Printing. Perf.14 x 13½. Plate 1
33	½d	5	1	12½	Pretoria Printing.
33a	½d	12	3	13½-15	Pretoria Printing. Plate 2. Jet black and green.
33b	½d	11	3	13½-15	Pretoria Printing. Plate 2. Grey black & green, O/p varies in thickness & depth of colour.
34	1d	6	1	12½	Pretoria Printing. Plate 1.
34b	1d	13	3	13½-15	Pretoria Printing. O/p thin & lettering defective.
34b	1d	13a	3	13½-15	As last but O/p thicker than 0.13.
35	6d	7	1	12½	Pretoria Printing.

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Basic No.	Value	"Official" No.	O/p No.	Spacing of o/p (m.m.)	Further details to assist Identification
35b	6d	9	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pretoria Printing.
352	6d	14	3	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15	Pretoria Printing. O/p thin & lettering defective.
352	6d	14a	3	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15	As last but O/p thicker than 0.14.
36	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	17	3	9 -12 $\frac{1}{2}$.	Plate 1. Wmk. normal.
					Mixed spacings of O/p.
36A	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	22	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 2. Wmk. normal.
36B	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	33	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 2. Wmk. inverted.
					Heavy shiny O/p.
36C	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	40	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13	Plate 2b (cleaned plate) Wmk. normal.
					Clear bold O/p.
36d	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	29	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 3. Wmk.normal. Clear shiny O/p.
37A	1d	18	3	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 1 with B control. Wmk.normal.
37J	1d	19	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 7 (no control letter). Wmk. inverted.
					Wmk. inverted.
37J	1d	23	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 7. Wmk.inverted.
37L	1d	34	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 8. Wmk.normal. O/p shiny.
38	2d	20	4	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ -22	Plate 1/A. Wmk.normal. Black sheet numbers.
					Plate 1/B. Wmk.normal. Black sheet numbers.
38A	2d	24	5	21 -22	Plate 2/A. Wmk.normal.
38B	2d	30	4	21	Plate 3. Wmk.inverted. O/p shiny.
38D	2d	35	3	21	As last but Wmk.normal.
38D	2d	36	3	21	Plate 3. Wmk.normal. Deep slate grey & purple.
38D	2d	42	4	21	Plate 3. Wmk.normal. Dull bluish slate & pale violet.
38Da	2d	42a	4	21	Plate 3. Wmk.normal. Indigo & violet.
38 Dc	2d	49	4	20 -21	Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. Dull or glossy heavy O/p.
41	6d	21	4	12 -13	Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. O/p not as thin as 0.22 or 0.23.
41	6d	25	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. O/p shiny. Dull green & pale orange buff.
41A	6d	37	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 2. Wmk.inverted. Deep green & brownish orange buff.
41A	6d	43	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 2. Wmk.normal. Deep green & pale brownish orange buff. Heavy O/p.
41A	6d	50	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 2. Wmk.inverted. Dark green & pale reddish orange.
41A	6d	51	4	12 -13	Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. Thin smudgy O/p.
42	1/-	26	5	19	Plate 1. Wmk.normal. O/p thin.
42	1/-	27	5	21	Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. O/p thin.
42	1/-	31	4	21	Plate 2. Wmk.normal.
42A	1/-	38	4	20 - 20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Bottle green & deep chocolate.
43	2/6	32	4	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Pale blue green & pale chocolate.
43a	2/6	39	4	21	

" T H E S P R I N G B O O K "

Basic No.	Value	"O" No.	O/p No.	Spacing of O/p (m.m.)	Further details to assist Identification
43	2/6	44	4	21	Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. Dull dark green & reddish brown.
43	2/6	59	4	20 -21	Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Turquoise & deep brown.
43	2/6	68	4	19 -20	Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Pale Ultramarine & pale chocolate brown.
43	2/6	84	4	19	Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Deep blue & chocolate.
43f	2/6	95	4	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mixed format as on 0.74 (Basic No.50) Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Stamps clearly shew signs of wear of Cylinder.
44	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	45	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 4. Wmk.inverted. Cyls.30-7016. O/p shiny.
44	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	46	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 4. Wmk.normal. Cyls.30-7016. O/p shiny.
44A	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	52	3	11 -13	Plate 6. Wmk.normal. Cyls.6934-26. Clear thin O/p. stamps 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.m.
44A	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	62	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 10. Wmk.normal. Cyls.25-7019.
44A	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	69	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 12. Wmk.normal. Cyls.60-21.
44A	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	77	9	10	Plate 12. Wmk.normal. Cyls.60-21. Diareisis on second E of Offisieel.
44A	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	78	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 12. Wmk.normal. Cyls.60-21. Heavy shiny O/p.
44B	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	87	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 12. Wmk.normal. Cyls.6912-7019. Stamps 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.m.
44D	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	88	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 16. Wmk.normal. Cyls.48-6933. Stamps 18 x 22 m.m.
44G	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	89	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 20. Cyls.7020A-11B. Stamps all screened 18 x 22 m.m.
44H	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	97	10	10	Plate 21. Cyls.11A/B.
44J	$\frac{1}{2}$ d	97A	10	10	Plate 22. Cyls.31-70.
45	1d	41	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 10. Wmk.inverted.
45	1d	47	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 11. Wmk.inverted.
45	1d	47b	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 11. Wmk.normal. Olive black & carmine 1939.
45	1d	47a	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 11. Wmk.normal. Black & deep carmine.
45	1d	53	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 12. Wmk.normal. Brownish grey & carmine.
45	1d	54	3	11 -13	Plate 12. Wmk.normal. Pale olive black & bright rose carmine.
45	1d	63	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plate 13. Wmk.normal. Deep olive black & bright carmine. Yellow gum.
45	1d	63a	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13	Plate 14. Wmk.normal. Sepia grey & carmine.
45A	1d	70	3	11 -12	Plate 15. Wmk.normal. Stamps 18 x 22 m.m. Pale sepia grey & bright carmine. Yellow gum.
45B	1d	79	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12	Plate 16. Wmk.normal. Stamps 18 x 22 m.m. Sepia & bright rose carmine.
45B	1d	90	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12	Cyls.6A/B. Brownish grey & rose pink.
45B	1d	98	10	10	Cyls.6A/B. Clear dead black O/p.
45B	1d	98a	10	10	Cyls.6A/B. O/p thicker than 98.
45C	1d	99	10	10	Cyls.76/14. Heavy shiny O/p.

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Basic No.	Value	"O" No.	O/p No.	Spacing of O/p (m.m.)	Further details to assist Identification.
45C	1d	99a	10	10	Cyls.70/14. O/p not as shiny as 99.
45D	1d	107	10	10	Cyls.6925/36. Heavy shiny O/p.
46	1½d	48	4	20 -21	Cyls.6933/62. Plate 1. Wmk.inverted. Large mine.
46	1½d	55	4	20 -21	Cyls.6938/62. Plate 1. Wmk.normal. Large mine.
46B	1½d	64	4	20	Cyls.15/62. Plate 2. Yellow ochre & slate green. Large Mine.
46B	1½d	64a	4	20	Cyls.15/62. Plate 2. Olive brown & slate green. Large Mine.
46D	1½d	71	8	14 -14½	Cyls.31/6925. Plate 6. Yellow buff & deep slate green. Yellow gum. The overprinted words are 14 & 15½ m.m. long. Small mine.
46D	1½d	80	8	14 -14½	Cyls.31/6924. Plate 6. Bright orange yellow & bluish slate. The overprinted words are 14 & 15½ m.m. long. Small Mine.
46E	1½d	91	8	15 -16½	Cyls.5/33. Plate 7. The overprinted words are larger and longer than on 0.71 and 0.80, being 15 & 16½ m.m.
46E	1½d	92	2	16½	Cyls.6919A/6919B. Plate 9.
46E	1½d	100	10	14½	Cyls.6931A/B. Plate 10. Yellow buff & dark greenish slate.
46E	1½d	100a	10	14½	Cyls.6931A/B. Plate 10. Yellow ochre and bluish slate.
47	2d	56	4	20 -21	Cyls.29/43. Wmk.normal. Blue & violet.
47A	2d	65	7	18½-19	Cyls.29/43. Wmk.normal. Grey & purple.
47C	2d	72	4	19½-20½	Cyls.6913/64. Plate 6. Deep bluish grey & dark purple. Heavy O/p.
47C	2d	81	4	19	Cyls.8/21. Plate 7. Grey blue & dull violet. Shiny O/p. Mixed format as for 0.74 (50).
47Cd	2d	93	4	19	Cyls.8/21. Dull blue grey & violent violet. Clear thin O/p.
47E	2d	96a	2	16½	Cyls.6927/50. Slate blue & plum. Clear shiny O/p. Plate 9. Format 21½ x 17¼ m.m.
47E	2d	101	10	14½	Cyls.6927/50. Light slate blue & plum.
47E	2d	101a	10	14½	Cyls.6927/50. Deep greyish blue & deep vivid purple.
47F	2d	101b	10	14½	Cyls.18/30. Plate 10.
49	6d	57	3	11½-12½	Cyls.52A/51A. Plate 3. Die 1.
49A	6d	66	3	12 -12½	Cyls.6919/53. Plate 4. Die 2. Clear to heavy O/p.
49B	6d	73	3	11½	Cyls.9/6935. Plate 5. Die 3. Heavy shiny O/p.
49B	6d	82	3	11½-12	Cyls.9/6935. Plate 5. Die 3. Clear O/p.
49B	6d	94	3	11½	Cyls.9/6935. Plate 5. Die 3. In this instance the cyls. are badly worn. The stamps shew more white than do previous printings.
49C	6d	102	10	10	Cyls.6930/6. Plate 6. All Screened.
50	1/-	58	4	20 -21	Cyls.6925/38. Plate 3. Sepia brown & dull blue. O/p clear.

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Basic No:	Value	"0" No.	O/p No.	Spacing of O/p (m.m.)	Further details to assist Identification.
50	1/-	67	4	19	Cyls.6925/38. Plate 3. Deep olive brown & pale grey blue. O/p clear.
50	1/-	74	4	19	Cyls.6925/38. Plate 3. Dark milky brown & chalky blue. Mixed format of type. In the large format "Official" measures 15 m.m. & "Offisicel" 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.m.; in the smaller format 14 & 15 m.m.
50A	1/-	83	4	19 -20	Cyls.14/6027. Small mark in front of GNU (Brown arrows. Plate 4. thin O/p with poor lettering.
50B	1/-	94a	4	18 -19	Cyls.6926/6935. Plate 5. All screened.
50B	1/-	103	11	19	Cyls.6926/6935. Plate 5. All screened.
51	2/6	104	11	19	Cyls.6919/17. Plate 2. Dull blue green & cinnamon (not screened).
51A	2/6		10		Cyls.3/51. Plate 3. Bright green & light brown.
52	5/-	60	6	18	Cyls.6924/41. Plate 1. Black & pale myrtle green.
52	5/-	75	6	18	Cyls.6924/41. Plate 1. Black & deep bottle green.
52	5/-	85	4	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ -20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cyls.6924/41. Plate 1. Black & deep green. Thin clear O/p.
52	5/-	96	4	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ -20.	Cyls.6939/41. Plate 1. Jet black & bright green.
52	5/-	105	11	19	Cyls.6929/41. Plate 1. Jet black & dull green.
52A	5/-		11	19	Cyls.36/6925. Plate 2. Black & blue green.
53	10/-	61	6	19	Cyls.6918/6934. Plate 1. Electric blue & sepia. Clear O/p.
53	10/-	76	6	19	Cyls.6918/6934. Plate 1. Ultramarine & olive sepia. Clear O/p.
53	10/-	86	4	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ -20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cyls.6918/6934. Plate 1. Bright violet blue & olive sepia. Clear O/p.
53	10/-	106	11	19	Cyls.6918/6934. Plate 1. Ultramarine & grey black.

Some interesting queries are submitted by Mr K. H. Giles, the answers to which may be helpful to most members.

1. $\frac{1}{2}$ d King's Head with red circular Durban pmk. dated Feb.1925.
- Q. Are coloured pmks. known on other values used in the Union and if so what nd which and where?
2. 10/- King's Head - Cancellation - Thick (1 m.m.) single circle 25 m.m. diameter with large figure in centre 14 m.m. high. Numbers seen 1, 4, 6.
- Q. Is this a fiscal cancellation of some kind? Noted on this value only.

Some Uncatalogued Varieties of South Africa

by R. D. Allen, Snr.

The following paper was given at the Annual General Meeting in London

We all know that it is impossible to catalogue all the varieties on the stamps of South Africa, some being of such minor importance and make-up that they can only be used for plating purposes, others, of minor matter, are included in the catalogue and again, others that do seem to warrant inclusion are omitted but the Editor's decision is final. I agree that a line must be drawn somewhere (or we have no use for a line). Some varieties that do not need the use of a glass are omitted, and it is these that I am showing and where consistent, proof that they are worthy of listing. Where not consistent you may help to prove they are worthy of catalogue status by examination of your own collections.

- (i) The first 2½d Commemorative. Two copies of what another member calls "Stewart Blue". They have been "expertised".
- (ii) The hyphenated 2d vertical pair with misplaced perforations. The vertical perforations are out of alignment in each stamp. Is this a fault of the perforating machine which gave us the small stamps? Maybe, but neither are "small".
- (iii) Coronation ½d G.VI. Smudged throughout the bottom of the first and into the second across the lower part of the stamp with mark on edging.
- (iv) Coronation 1d G.V.I. Perhaps I am asking for trouble but I call it a re-entry which seems to consist of work on the part of the printer to correct what is commonly known as the "frozen breath" variety. Under a lamp it does not show any signs of interference in the paper.
- (v) Coronation 3d G.VI. Mint strip of four, the second stamp showing part of the hair missing on the parting.
- (vi) Blind perforations. 1d and 2d panes from the current 3/6 booklet position G2. Top perforations include a portion of a "blind". The Editor has since sent me for examination a complete booklet showing the same two panes only. Also a strip of three 1ds and a single with "blind" all appearing identical and another strip of three 1ds the "blind" being over the central stamp.
- (vii) 3/- booklet - 1½d pane, medium mine. Panes bearing serial number show top of mine to left of shaft is in the air. Three panes exhibited and others seen.
- (viii) 4d Large W.E. single used. Bottom of stamp to frame, in sloping direction, shading of brown.
- (ix) 1½d Large Mine, Official. Overprint is 19, 19¼ and 19½ but I cannot find it listed although it is stated mixed founts were used. Four pieces shown with above combinations thereon.

Here also are three pages from my collection which I mentioned in an article in issue No. 5; a picture of van Riebeck as on 4½d stamp, a picture from which the 1/- value was taken and also one, which I think and others concur, was used as a basis for the 2d value of the same series.

POSTMARKS. Assistant Shipping Postmaster marks: the composite piece shown was purchased for a few pence and is the earliest recorded date. There is also a Shipping

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Postmaster mark on complete cover bearing a different mark from the same office and another complete cover with three strikes, not as far as I know, ever recorded:- "Shipping Postmaster, Capetown" with five pointed star on either side of Capetown, centre has date "23 Jul 1928" and "3" under date. The size of the mark is 55 x 35 mm. and appears to be made with a rubber stamp, the colour of ink being bluey-violet.

Also exhibited are some stamps used at the Point Capetown and Natal with a complete cover used in the "Docks - Capetown". A short article on "Ocean Post Office, Cape Colony" in "Stamp Collecting" 2.10.53 page 77 suggests that only Cape stamps were used but here is a pair and single of Orange River Colony used in that office.

After giving the above talk, Mr Allen appealed for information regarding Shipping and Assistant Shipping Postmaster marks asking for members to send to him, or the Editor, details including a true tracing of any of the above marks - even a half a mark would be useful as it may pair with another half from someone else. Mr Allen is of the opinion that all the information concerning these marks is not known as he recently found what he thinks to be yet another mark! A suitable list will be published in the magazine with due acknowledgments of sources of information. Do not send him photographs unless they are actual size.

Can any member loan to Mr Allen a copy of Cockerill's work dealing with maritime marks, to assist him?

One of our members has recently won his Society's Annual Competition with a display of Union of South Africa stamps.

Although all the stamps shown were the 1/2d Springbok the theme of the display was an introduction to the Rotogravure method used by the Union Printer with illustrations of the use of the "Doctor Blade"; the cause and effect of Roto flaws; the transposition of the flaws consequent on the changing of language settings, etc. with emphasis on the interest that arises therefrom.

Tribute is paid to the great assistance derived from the articles which have appeared from time to time in the "South African Philatelist" and an article in the "Springbok" was just in time to avoid the member committing himself to showing "un-screened" issues. A compromise was made by referring to them as the issues "known as Unscreened".

Congratulations are offered to member Mr W. Colling White of Leeholme, Bishop Auckland on the award of a bronze medal at the Lisbon International Exhibition with a display of a portion of the Unhyphenated Roto section of his collection despite assurances to the contrary that "Union of South Africa" was not an "International" country!! Mr White also scored a success with a silver medal for the best exhibit at the Annual Convention of the North of England Philatelic Association earlier in 1953 with a study of the 2d value of the unhyphenated Roto.

LONDON GROUP

At 7.30 p.m., December 8th, 1953, some dozen members of the parent body assembled in St Michael's Hall, Stockwell, London, S.W.9., with the object of forming the London Branch of the South African Collectors' Society. Tea and sandwiches were available to those who had made longish journeys and had come straight from business.

By common consent it was decided at the inaugural meeting, the chair be taken by Mr R. D. Allen (Snr). It was agreed

- 1) To formulate a Study Group, to make interest of others to S.A.C.S., to give displays, etc., etc.,
- 2) After a general discussion and after an offer from Mr F. C. Abell for the use of a room rent free, it was agreed that the meetings in future should take place at 246 Stockwell Road, S.W.9, the entrance being in Stockwell Avenue, the next meeting to be on Tuesday, January 12th, 1954 from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. All members present were of the opinion that Brixton or Stockwell were quite accessible from all parts of London.
- 3) (a) Mr F. C. Abell was duly elected as Chairman of the Group.
(b) Mr D. Parker and Mr W. A. Page both volunteered for Hon. Secretary - a most unusual and enterprising state of affairs. Mr D. Parker withdrew his offer and Mr W. A. Page was duly elected.
(c) Members of the Committee - Mr D. Parker, Mr A. J. Brown and Mr R. D. Allen. The committee have agreed to meet at 7.15 p.m. to deal with matters which may arise to enable the meeting to take full benefit of the two hours.
- 4) To have a levy of 2/- per member present to pay postage expenses, etc., and further that the subject of Finance be brought up at the next meeting and that the Hon. Secretary be appointed Hon. Treasurer.
- 5) That the Group shall be known as the London Group of the South African Collectors' Society.
(b) Item for the next meeting. It was decided to try to work through the SAC/H and that the "Interprovincials" be the subject for the next meeting.
(c) The Chairman of the meeting then asked for a general discussion of the method of describing varieties in the present issues of the "Springbok", mention being made by him of correspondence with the Editor. It was the consensus of opinion that the photographs were not really as good as they could be and that they could be improved by bleaching of the film after the photograph was taken and marking with ink (over-writing) the actual variety, the whole result being that the variety would then stand out clear and precise. The best method was suggested to be a drawing four times normal, composite showing all the varieties with actual SAC/H numbers around it.
(d) Meetings may be every two months to be decided at the next meeting.
(e) The Chairman explained how it was intended to produce in the "Springbok" lists of varieties and produced a listing of the King's Heads which it was thought would be helpful provided it could be stated what were constant.

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(f) Mr J. Hammond then showed an album of varieties and the examination of these lasted until the meeting closed at 9.30, by which time there were 15 members present.

(Comment by Editor: as I believed was remarked at the meeting, "It is nice to see someone to whom you have been sending the packet for years!" Precisely, and one of the main reasons for Local Groups.)

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LONDON GROUP MEETING

The second meeting of the London Group was held on Tuesday, January 12th, 1954, at Stockwell Road, the subject being "Interprovincials".

After a short informal "get-together", the Chairman, Mr F. C. Abell, started the proceedings with a paper introducing the various aspects of collecting "Interprovincials". He then showed selections from his collection which included many desirable items among which were Ocean Mail Post Office and Shipping Postmaster - Cape Town cancellations on piece, together with a fine representative from all four territories.

A further varied selection was then shown by Mr R. D. Allen, Snr., from his collection to be followed by Mr A. J. Brown whose display was particularly strong in entires. These included combination covers and a "sunset" cover from Basutoland.

A short Committee meeting was held before the General meeting and it was resolved to hold regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday in the month. The next meeting was fixed for Tuesday, February 9th, 1954 (7.30 p.m.) A general plan was made to work through the Catalogue and the subject for the February meeting is the 2¹/₂d Commemorative of 1910 and the 1913 definitives.

W. A. PAGE, Hon. Sec.

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Further queries from Mr K. H. Giles

3. 1d Ship H/C 34 Pretoria print cancelled 1929 with retouched frame entire R.H. side. Right frame line is missing - is this a worn plate? Extra vertical line at right. Does not seem to be recorded in H/C. May be 34Vn but does not appear to be a re-entry.
Q. Any information or views?
4. 1d Ship 1948 printing, plates 16-20 - variety thick horizontal red line 3 mm. long in headplate below "AF" of AFRICA.
Q. Is this variety constant?

AUCTION REALISATIONS DURING 1953

A RESUME BY VOORTREKKER

As H. R. Harmer's specialised sale of the W. J. Giovanetti and W. D. Harris collections last January, formed the subject of a special article in Issue No.2, the various lots then offered are not included in these notes.

The demand for unusual material and scarce varieties continues unabated. Anything out of the ordinary offered has realised an excellent price and even the normal definitive issues continue to fetch a fair percentage of catalogues. The commemorative issues, by and large, are out of favour but there has been a marked revival of interest in the "Official" issues. While H. R. Harmer Ltd. and C. E. Sherwood appear to offer more South African material than any of the other Auction Houses, it is still well worth while to keep an eye open for the occasional item offered by other Auctioneers as they too have offered a number of interesting items during the past twelve months.

Four exceedingly choice P.O.W. covers from Bermuda were offered by Robson Lowe on 16th September. One, dated 11th March, 1902 from Brakfontein, addressed to Darrells Island, Bermuda was franked by a 1893 C.G.H. 1d (S.G.58) and realised £17, another cover of the same date, used at Durbanville fetched £13. A local, Hamilton, Bermuda, cover was sold for £7. 10. 0. and one addressed to a prisoner at Burtts Island, Bermuda, franked by a 1d. Natal and cancelled "P.O.A./73" made the good price of £16. 10. 0. Turning to more recent events, Hadfield Craven sold a small collection (66 items) of Army P.O's. 1939-45 of the East African Campaign on 9th May for £4. 10. 0.

The King's Head issue of 1913 is still in fair demand, especially the high values. It was noted that approximately three o.g. copies of S.G.24 were offered for every copy of S.G.24a, yet on average the latter only realised £11. 10. 0. as against £10 for S.G.24. Hadfield Craven got 44/- for the mint set to 5/- on 12th December, while a small lot of seven singles $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. and 2d. from various plates was sold at Sherwood's March sale for 15/-, 12/6 being realised for a corner block of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In October Sherwood obtained £3 for four stamps overprinted "Specimen" (1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-).

Turning to the pictorial issues, Sherwood sold a 1926 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Waterlow Die Proof in red and black for 90/- at his March auction while Harmer's offered a marginal block of the 6d grey and orange-red, imperforated colour trial on thick unwatermarked paper at their 29th September auction, it realising only £4. 10. 0. Harmer's also sold the Hunter-Penrose Essays for £4 each on 14th April and at their 14th December sale, various plate proofs of the vignette and frame of the 1d. Van Riebeck's ship were on offer, averaging 47/6 a pair.

On 5th December, Hadfield Craven got 63/- for the 1927-28 mint set to 2/6 in horizontal pairs and 45/- and 63/- for the 5/- and 10/- respectively, Sherwood obtaining £8. 17. 6. for the complete mint set at his March sale. In May he sold an imprint pair of the 2d. for 15/-, pairs of the 3d. and 1/- values realising 10/- and 20/- respectively. The 1926 1d. perf.14 fine used with perforation all round was sold for 30/- at Sherwood's March sale while on 29th September, Harmer's sold the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. perf.14, both in booklet panes of six with margin at left and imperforate at bottom, for £8. 10. 0. At Harmer's 14th April sale, they obtained £4

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for an o.g. block (3X5) of 1926 $\frac{1}{2}$ d from left of sheet, margin folded and showing Jubilee lines printed on reverse, the same firm obtaining £21 each for the 1926 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. in tete-beche pairs.

Sherwood offered many varieties in the unhyphenated issues obtaining 20/- in July for mint pairs of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "retouch between horns" together with 3d. blue "shuttered window" variety and in May a used arrow pair of the 3d. red and black showing the same variety and with INVERTED watermark realised 27/6. Not bad for something that is said "not to exist". Harmer's had many interesting stamps on offer from this group. On 6th January, the 3d. blue part o.g. in a horizontal pair with the frame partly printed (S.A.H. 39 BVi) brought £29 while on 24th March an o.g. pair of S.G.44b only made 95/- but in September £16 was obtained for a horizontal o.g. pair of the 1930-45 1d. with frames completely missing (S.G.43b).

Among the hyphenated issues two particularly attractive items were sold. At Harmer's 6th January sale an o.g. strip of four 1941 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. showing centre pair with background completely omitted and two outer stamps background partly omitted fetched £21 and in February, Brighton Stamp Auctions sold an imperforate pair of the 1933-48 3d. blue for £24. At Sherwood's March auction he obtained £4 for a bottom corner block of 5/- screened showing arrow and cylinder numbers and the "rain" variety. In May 21/- was paid for a mint marginal pair 6d. Die I and in July 30/- for a block of four 1952 1/- (S.G.120a) showing missing perforation while at the next sale in October, 55/- was paid for a used vertical strip of three 2d. slate-grey and purple showing join, a used pair of S.G.58 making 15/- while the three bottom rows of the 1941 2d. pale grey and purple realised 30/-. Finally a mint block of 12 2d. from plate VIIc showing thinned frames made 32/6 in December.

Turning to the "special issues" Sherwood obtained £5 in May for a mint set of the 1935 Silver Jubilee in blocks of four showing "cleft skull" variety and Harmer's offered on 6th January a complete sheet of 120 1d. Coronation (in two o.g. blocks of 84 and 36) showing joined paper which realised £27 while Sherwood sold in May a small collection of 25 Jubilees showing various plate flaws for 17/6 and in July obtained 11/- for the set of Coronations on registered cover showing "cracked temple" variety.

The Bantam imperforate varieties continued in demand the 1d. (3 units) realising £8 at Harmer's on 14th April and a pair of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. £6, Sherwood obtaining £7 for a similar pair the following month while the 2d. made £15 at Harmer's 6th January sale.

Air Stamps got a fill up by the sale of Sir Lindsay Everard's Air Stamp collection by Harmer's in October. The following lots are worth noting: September, 1936 Portsmouth - Johannesburg Air Race; written up collection with souvenirs and six covers, some pilot signed (£20); "Africa Airway", an extensive collection of 197 flown covers from and to G.B. also African Internal flights in three F.G. De Luxe albums (£32); the 1925 set in o.g. control pairs (£4); and an o.g. collection including 1925 9d. "broken strut" and 9d. Block of four imperforate at left (£42). The same House sold the 1929 set in corner blocks on 14th December obtaining 40/-. Many interesting covers were offered at Sherwood's May sale, a small collection of five 1929-31 flights making 21/- and another with six covers the same amount.

Few "Official" stamps were on offer but Sherwood obtained £5 for a mint block of four 1931 1d. roto with double overprint although only 5/- was paid for five pairs of the 1931 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on registered cover offered in July. At the same sale,

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however, a mint block of 1935-45 5/- made 30/- and in December, a used block of seven of the 1926 London printed 6d realised 20/-.

It is worth recording that Sherwood obtained 30/- for a copy of H. E. Lobdell's book on "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" in his May sale and 25/- in October for S. G. Rich's "Philately of the Anglo-Boer War". While on 16th September Robson Lowe sold volumes from the library of H. R. Holmes, including "The South African Philatelist" various unbound numbers 1895-1949 and Volume 1 bound (1910-12) which realised £5. 10. 0. They also got £4. 15. 0. for three bound volumes of the same journal containing Volumes XV (No. 10) to Volume XXII inclusive.

DATA ON RECENT PRINTINGS

1d Official on cyls. 54/53. Issued September 1953. Diagonal screen. Sheet 12 x 20. First stamp English. Wmk. upright. Perf. 15 x 14. Cyl. nos. 54/53 on right opposite rows 19 and 20. Central Solid red arrows in each margin. Red serial nos. opposite rows 3/4 and 14/15. Perf. junction between rows 10 and 11. Overprint OFFISIEEL/OFFICIAL (type x).

Overprint varieties. row 8/2 broken "O" in Official.
13/2 damaged "C" in Official.
20/2 dot in "F" in Offisieel.

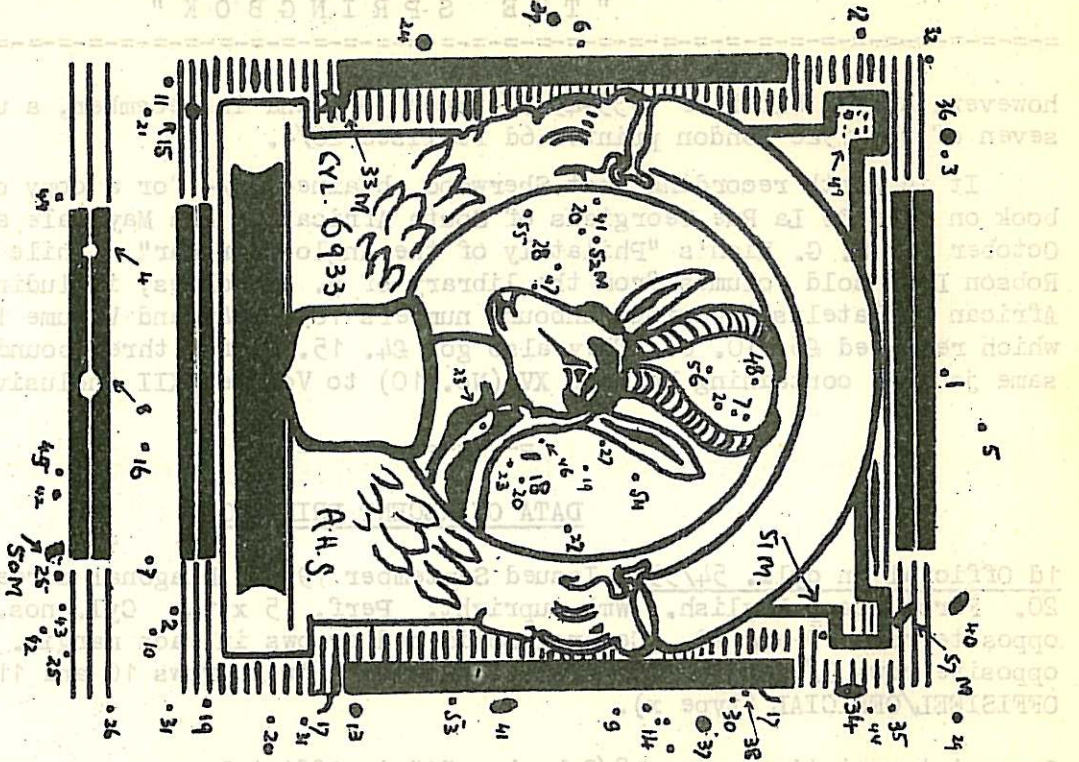
1/- Group 4 Plate VI cyls. 3/66. Issued September 1953. Diagonal screen. Sheet 6 x 20. First stamp Afrikaans. Wmk. upright. Perf. 14. Cyl. nos. 3/66 on right opposite rows 19 and 20. Central solid blue arrow in each margin. Red serial nos. opposite 3/4 and 14/15. Perf. junction not identified.

Plate varieties. row 1/5 brown horizontal line over horn.
5/1 diagonal blue line to top right-crack?
10/3 white band on neck of gnu.
14/5 diagonal blue line over lower gnu's horn.
19/3 blue mark below "SS" of Posseel.
19/5 two vertical blue lines top R.H. value tablet.
20/5 retouched top left corner.
20/6 blue mark across inner right frame line.

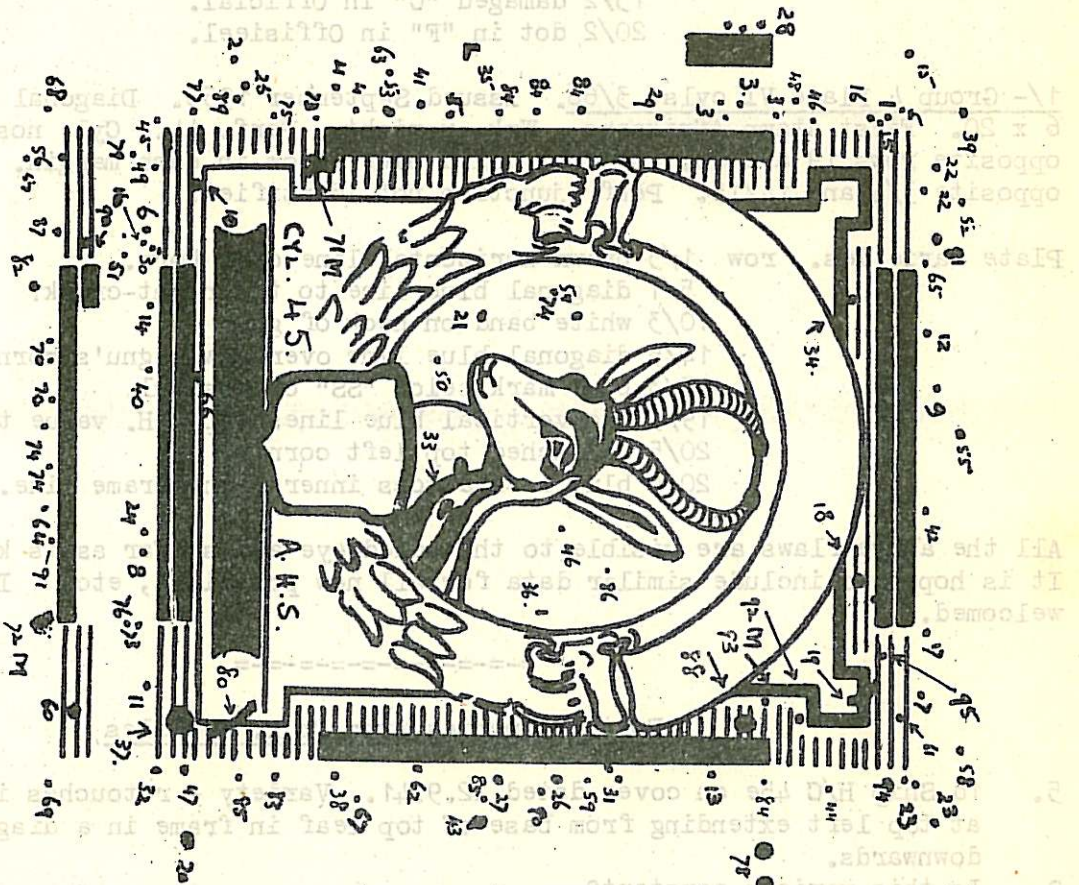
All the above flaws are visible to the naked eye and so far as is known are constant. It is hoped to include similar data for all new printings, etc. Information welcomed.

Further Queries from Mr K. H. Giles

5. 1d Ship H/C 45e on cover dated 22.9.41. Variety - retouches in sky to headplate at top left extending from base of top leaf in frame in a diagonal direction downwards.
- Q. Is this variety constant?



SKETCH Nº 1



SKETCH Nº 2

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Frame Cylinders Nos. 6933 and 45 of the hyphenate Half-penny Rotogravure (Design Four) Postage Stamps of the Union of South Africa

by A. Hilton Sydow, A.S.A.A., C.A.(S.A.)

The main differentiating characteristics of the Half-penny Rotogravure Frame Cylinders Nos. 6933 and 45 etched at the Union Government Printing Works in Pretoria are illustrated and their sheet positions tabulated ut infra:-

(A) - Frame or Exterior Cylinder No. 6933. (Sketch No. 1)

1. - 1/5	13. - 5/9	26. - 10/6	39. - 18/4
2. - 1/8	14. - 6/1	27. - 12/2	40. - 18/7
3. - 1/9	15. - 6/3	28. - 12/3	41. - 19/9
4. - 2/1	16. - 6/5	29. - 11/3	42. - 20/3
5. - 2/5	17. - 6/12	30. - 12/4	43. - 20/4
6. - 3/6	18. - 7/7	31. - 12/8	44. - 20/8
7. - 2/12	19. - 7/10	32. - 13/4	45. - 20/10
8. - 4/8	20. - 8/2	33. - 14/1	46. - 19/6
9. - 4/11	21. - 8/5	34. - 14/6	47. - 19/2
10. - 5/4	22. - 8/12	35. - 15/11	48. - 18/8
11. - 5/6	23. - 9/3	36. - 16/9	49. - 5/8
12. - 5/8	24. - 9/5	37. - 17/11	50. - 18/11
52. - 1/1	25. - 9/11	38. - 18/2	51. - 17/12
53. - 20/7	54. - 14/9	55. - 14/11	56. - 14/11
57. - 9/12			

Nota Bene

- (1) Not depicted on Sketch No. 1 - Row 18 No. 6. - Malformed "STA" of "POSTAGE".
- (2) Multipositive characteristics depicted on Sketch No. 1 and included in Table "A" ut supra - 33, 50, 51 and 57.

(B) - Frame or Exterior Cylinder No. 45. (Sketch No. 2)

1. - 1/1	23. - 3/1	46. - 7/7	67. - 12/7
2. - 1/1	24. - 3/2	47. - 7/10	68. - 13/3
3. - 1/4	25. - 3/9	48. - 8/2	69. - 13/7
4. - 1/4	26. - 3/8	49. - 8/11	70. - 13/8
5. - 1/4	27. - 3/8	50. - 8/11	71. - 14/1
6. - 1/4	28. - 4/3	51. - 9/1	72. - 18/11
7. - 1/5	29. - 4/4	52. - 9/3	73. - 14/3
8. - 1/7	30. - 4/8	53. - 9/5	74. - 14/4
9. - 1/7	31. - 4/8	54. - 9/8	75. - 14/12
10. - 1/8	32. - 4/10	55. - 9/9	76. - 14/12
11. - 1/8	33. - 5/1	56. - 10/2	77. - 15/9
12. - 1/11	34. - 5/1	57. - 10/5	78. - 15/12
13. - 1/11	35. - 5/1	58. - 10/6	79. - 16/6
14. - 1/12	36. - 5/4	59. - 10/9	80. - 16/8
15. - 2/1	37. - 5/7	60. - 10/9	81. - 16/9
16. - 2/1	38. - 5/9	61. - 11/1	82. - 16/11
17. - 2/5	39. - 5/11	61. - 11/3	83. - 16/11

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18. - 2/5	40. - 5/2	62. - 10/12	84. - 17/7
19. - 2/5	41. - 5/7	63. - 11/12	85. - 18/5
20. - 2/6	42. - 5/8	57. - 12/4	86. - 18/6
21. - 2/11	43. - 6/6	64. - 11/4	87. - 18/8
22. - 2/12	44. - 6/7	65. - 11/7	88. - 18/12
49. - 18/7	45. - 7/1	66. - 11/8	89. - 20/1
90. - 20/2	89. - 20/9	90. - 20/11	91. - 20/12
92. - 17/12	93. - 5/8	94. - 9/3	95. - 11/12

Nota Bene: Multipositive characteristics depicted on Sketch No.2 and included in Table "B" ut supra - 71, 72, 92.

(C) - Frame or Exterior Cylinder No.45. (Sketch No.3)

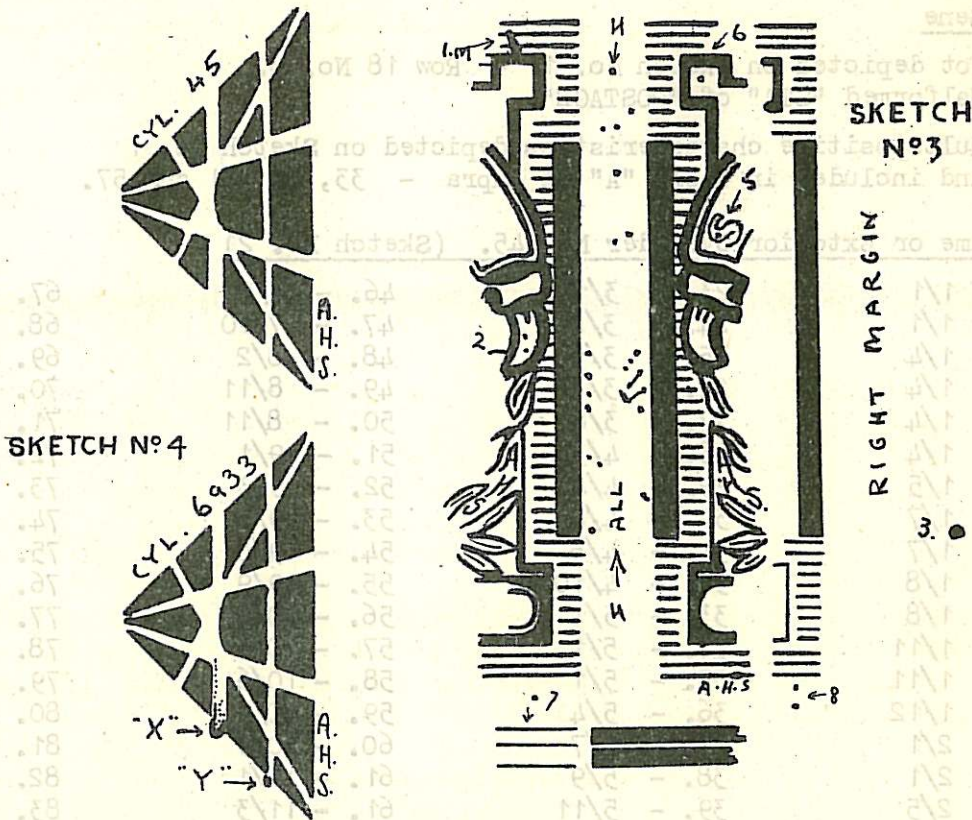
- | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|----------|
| 1. - 9/12 | 2. - 5/1 | 3. - 12/12 | 4. - 1/5 |
| 4. - 1/6 | 5. - 13/4 | 6. - 15/12 | 7. - 9/4 |
| 8. - 20/5 | Multipositive Characteristic - 1 - 9/12. | | |

(D) - Right Lateral Arrows - Cylinders 6933 and 45. (Sketch No. 4)

1. Cylinder No.6933 - The right lateral arrow shows two minute projections marked "X" and "Y" on the sketch.
2. Cylinder No.45 - No minute projections. A large green dot appears on the right lateral margin below the said arrow opposite stamp 12 of row 12.

(E) - Bottom Arrows

1. The base of the bottom arrow of Cylinder 6933 measures 7 mm.
2. The base of the bottom arrow of Cylinder 45 measures 9 mm.



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THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS CONTAINED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN G.P.O. BULLETIN, PHILATELIC 17, NOVEMBER 1953 -

CENTENARY OF THE ORANGE FREE STATE

Two special postage stamps of 2d, and 4½d denominations will be issued on the 23rd of February, 1954 to commemorate the Centenary of the founding of the Orange Free State. They will be on sale at all Post Offices in the Union for a period of approximately three months.

One design will be used, with different colours, for the two denominations. The design consists of the coat-of-arms of the Orange Free State, with a quill pen and a scroll bearing the dates "1854-1954", symbolising the signing of the Bloemfontein Convention on the 23rd of February, 1854. The stamps will be printed in horizontal format, 21 x 37 millimetres and in sheets of 120.

COMMEMORATIVE DATE-STAMP

On the date of issue of the commemorative postage stamps, a date-stamp specially engraved for the occasion will be in use at the temporary Post Office to be opened at the festival camping site, Bloemfontein. The engraving shows a post bugle, as used in the early days of the mails service, the inscription "Bloemfontein-konvensie - Convention 1854-1954" and the date 23 FEB.

FIRST DAY COVERS

Addressed envelopes should be sent to The Postmaster, (Philatelic), Bloemfontein before 22nd February, accompanied by postal or money order to cover cost of postage stamps affixed. Orders for stamps should be addressed to the Philatelic Agency, Publicity Section, G.P.O., Pretoria, and must include an amount for return postage and registration.

Mr L. H. Twiss writes an interesting note to the effect that he has now got all the van Riebeck issue on toned paper mint, excepting the 1d and 2d unoverprinted which are used, but the difference is indicated in the white parts of the design such as Maria's face and collar on the 1d and the Cliffs on the 2d.

The toned paper appears to be a cream paper and is to be found on the current small 2d cyls. 6927/50, 18/27 and 18/30 the degree of cream toning varying. The same remarks apply to the 1d cyl. 36/6925 and 54/53. Reverting to the van Riebecks whilst the toning is very distinct one gets the impression that the Government Printer has ample stocks of both white and cream paper and uses either indiscriminately.

Your Editor hopes to attend the Scottish Philatelic Congress at Bridge of Allan week-end April 16th-18th, and looks forward to meeting many of the Scottish members. Make a note of the date now, please. Further information from Mr Edward Lauder, 137 Marlborough Avenue, Glasgow, W.1.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

- No. 259. J. H. E. Baker, The Hill House, Esher, Surrey.
260. J. M. Meijs, Beatrixstr.28, Arnheim, Netherlands.
261. John J. Keenan, 129 Celtic Park Avenue, Donnycarney, Dublin, Eire.
262. P. A. Prismall, 16 Chequers Road, Basingstoke, Hants.
263. C. Theron, Box 10, Cradock, South Africa.
264. A. E. Cunnew, 203 Lynton Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
265. Douglas G. A. Whitten, 207 Lower Morden Lane, Morden, Surrey.
266. D. B. Stanton, 33 Rosemont Street, Wollongong, N.S.W., Australia.
267. G. Bini, 185 New King's Road, Fulham, London, S.W.6.
268. Dr M. Wulfsohn, 9 Park Lane, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
269. Dr J. de Ville Mather, Calder House, Todmorden, Lancs.
270. Wm. H. S. Ferguson, 8 Woodburn Avenue, Clarkston, Glasgow.

Changes of Address:

40. Sgn. Cdr. G. J. Potts, R.N., 29 Capel Road, East Barnet, Herts.
160. S. Legator, Box 133, Brakpan, Tvl., South Africa.

Resignations:

78. A. C. Harrison, Bath.
30. I. Parker, London, S.W.19.

PRESS REFERENCES

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (October 1953): "Union Notes" covers new 4½d, 1/3, 1/6; varieties on Centenary stamps; shades on current 1d; missing cyl. no. on current ½d; the "cracked plate" on Coronation and Centenary stamps etc. The Editorial is devoted to "Commemorative Postmarks" and certain shortcomings of the South African Post Office in that direction.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (November 1953): "Union Notes" describes and illustrates some interesting and quite clever forgeries of the 1925 Air Mail stamps, in addition to notes on the 1/- from Cyls. 66/3; the two printings of the ½d cross-hatch; the 1d official from cyls. 54/53; further "Cracked Plate" varieties etc. A valuable article is devoted to the identification of the three plates of the small 2d issued 1952 (from cyls. 30/18, 27/46 and 27/18). Supplement no. 8 to the Handbook/Catalogue lists the 1953 Coronation stamps with their varieties, the additional plate of the ½d cross-hatch together with other information of a minor nature.

THE STAMP MAGAZINE (January 1954): Another article - this time describing the 6d Orange Tree - in Mr Page's able series, appears.

THE PHILATELIC MAGAZINE (December 16th, 1953): "South African Interprovincials" by N. Snowden. "Philatelia" refers, not for the first time to the desirability of the 6d Die I (SG.61) from the financial angle.

GIBBONS STAMPS MONTHLY (November 1953): Comment is made on the appearance of the Cape Centenary stamps postmarked earlier by some days than the official date of issue.

STAMP COLLECTING: Dr Gordon Ward's article on Photogravure screens is reprinted from "The Springbok" in the issue of 20th November, whilst the Cape Centenary 1d and 4d form "This week's Good Find" for 26th December, 1953.