
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 2, No. 2.

March/April, 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.3, will be April 30th.

The magazine is available only by subscription to the Society at 10/-d per annum.

The Editor's Chair

In membership we are still short of the 250 total but we continue to break into new territory and this issue notes our first member in Switzerland.

We are pleased to report that a Group has been started in Glasgow, the first meeting having been held and you will find the reports of the proceedings in this issue. We are sure that all members will find a hearty welcome should they drop in on our friends north of the Border. It is pleasing to note the steady attendance at the London Group meetings although we feel certain that more could take advantage of this opportunity to meet collectors with their common interest. Why not go along and get acquainted? Your Editor has met most of the London "regulars" and emerged unscratched so they must be quite normal people!

On the subject of the Exchange Packet this is now broken down into four circuits. Again we emphasise that sheets for the Packet are most urgently needed and we look for the co-operation of every member who is keen to see these Exchange Packets to help keep them alive. Members in the U.S.A. and South Africa who would be interested in an Exchange Packet in their respective countries please advise the Editor accordingly.

Contributions of articles for the magazine have been very few of late and indeed there is a serious shortage so that here again assistance and co-operation is sought from those who look forward to receiving their copies.

A little to our surprise only one member commented on the "collectable" shade of this year's cover and indeed we are given seriously to wonder just how many members do read their magazine! Frankly we are somewhat taken aback by the number of members who sent along 2/6d as their subscription to the Society for the present year despite the final paragraph appearing on this page in the previous year - there has been no lack of optimists! With this issue further subscriptions are due at 10/-d or 12/6d if Monthly Notes are to be airmailed, a blue cross at the foot denoting this fact. Please remember, no subscription renewal - no magazine.

Considering our very large membership it is astonishing how very little information comes to hand about members' activities. We have never known such a shy gathering and wonder what can be done to improve matters. We do know some members correspond with one another and quite regularly but there are probably many who do not. If you are willing to exchange correspondence on certain subjects or wish to contact members of similar interest to yourself, let us know and we will duly advertise the fact in these numbers. There must be quite a number of members travelling the country and it occurs to us to wonder whether there are any who would extend an invitation to others to drop in on one them if they are in the neighbourhood maybe on business or even holidays. Any takers?

Finally we remind you again that we shall be at the Allan Water & Spa Hotel, Bridge of Allan for Easter week-end and shall be very pleased indeed to meet any member who calls on us there.

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ANIMALS ON NEW STAMPS

The following cutting from the South African newspaper "Star" dated March 3rd, 1954 was forwarded by both Mr J. Robertson and Dr B. Wasserstein -

"Cape Town, Wednesday. - A new issue of postage stamps featuring South African animals is being considered by the Post Office, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr Naude, said yesterday.

If the new issue is accepted, it will permanently replace stamps at present in ordinary use.

In the Assembly yesterday, the Minister showed his colleagues original photo-drawings of the proposed designs, as well as their reproductions in stamps size.

He said; "Nothing has yet been decided, but there is no doubt that these designs are more attractive than the ship and the buildings and so on at present in use".

The designs were made by different artists working from photographs of game in realistic poses.

The proposed $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp is to be a buffalo; the 1d a giraffe's head; the 2d a zebra; the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d a leopard's head; the 6d a lion; the $\frac{1}{3}$ d a cheetah; the 2/- a springbok (chewing a sprig of grass); the 5/-d a crocodile and the 10/-d a sable antelope."

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

We are asked by Mr Sam Legator of P.O. Box 133, Brakpan Tvl., South Africa to bring the following information to the notice of all Members -

"You will no doubt have read in the S.A. Philatelist that we intend issuing a Supplement to the Union Handbook/Catalogue. This will be a good production and I will be glad if you would insert a small notice in your press asking any enthusiast to let me have a rewrite of sections or any information which might help us with the Supplement.

It must, however, be understood that we will not be entering into any correspondence as we want to get on with the work and publish same with as little delay as possible.

I know you will be only too prepared to give us this assistance which will benefit Union of South Africa collectors."

No doubt, many readers will seize this opportunity to get put right those points which they feel could be bettered and I hope that Mr Legator can look forward to being "snowed under". This is your chance - take it or forever hold your peace!!!

KING'S HEADS - SOUTH AFRICA

By R. D. ALLEN SNR.

A List of VARIETIES, exclusive of the obvious, (Tete-beche, etc) compiled from SAC/H and Lobdell's King's Heads. The numbers quoted are SAC/H. The sub heading refers to that part of the common type.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d Serif to 'N'
Dot on 'F' of 'OF'
SoJth 2vc
Short 'I' in Africa.
Full stop after Africa.
- 1d. Serif to 'N'
Missing centre stroke of 'F' in 'OF'
SoIth 3vp
SoJth...
Retouched 2nd 'A' in Africa.
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d AIrca 4vd
SQuth 4vh
- 2d Hyphen between 'OF' and 'SOUTH'
Horizontal dash between upper limb of 'F' in 'OF' & 'S' in 'SOUTH'
Vertical stroke through 'S' of South (Dollar Sign)
SoutA
SoutF 5vo
SCuth
Long left limb in 'U' in SOUTH
Line over 'TH' in SOUTH
AErica 5vg
AIrca 5ve
ATrica
AFrica 5vf
'OE' & 'OP' for 'OF'. 5vv
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d SÜuth
AIrca 6vb
'OP' & missing stroke in 'F' of 'OF' 6ve
- 3d BLACK & ORANGE.
Missing centre stroke in 'F' of 'OF' 7 vb
second 'A' of AFRICA without crossbar.

BLUE & BLUE.
Retouched 'A' row 1/1
Missing centre stroke in 'F' of 'OF' 7Avb
- 4d Long upper serif to 'N'
'OI' and missing centre stroke of 'F' in 'OF' 8ve
SoIith 8vf
SoIth
SouIh 8vf
AIrca 8vb

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- 6d 'OI' for 'OF' 9vk
 Missing centre stroke in 'F' of 'OF'.
 South 9vl
 Africa 9vi
- 1/- Hyphen over 'O' of 'OF'.
 Missing centre stroke of 'F' in 'OF'. 10ve.
 Africa.
 Full stop after Africa.
- 1/3
- 2/6 Missing centre stroke in 'F' of 'OF'. 12vg
 Africa 12vb
- 5/- 'OE' for 'OF'.
- 10/- 'GF' & 'OP' for 'OF' 14vd

UNIE VAN ZUID AFRIKA.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d Zoid 2vj
- 1d Part 'Z' missing 3vq
 'N' & 'I' of Unie joined at top.
 Dot over 'I' of 'ZUID' 3vh
 Afrika 3vo
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Broken 'V'
- 2d Missing 'E' in 'UNIE'
 Missing 'E' of 'UNIE' ALSO Missing 'VA' of 'VAN' known as EVA.5rt
 'E' of UNIE & 'V' of VAN joined at top.
 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot.
 'N' of 'VAN' & 'Z' of 'ZUID' joined at top.
 Zoid 5vp
 Crossbar of first 'A' in Afrika extended to LEFT touching 'D'
 Serif to 'N' 5vm.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d 'A' & 'N' of VAN unjoined at foot.
 Long arm of 'U' to ZUID' 6vd
 ZuiN.
- 3d. BLACK & ORANGE.
 Missing crossbar in 'A' of 'VAN'
 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot.
 BLUE & BLUE.
 Retouched 'V'.
 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot.
 Retouched 'K'.
 Retouched 'A' in 'AFRIKA'.

- 4d 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot.
Short 'I' in 'AFRIKA'
AIrika
Missing centre stroke of 'E' in 'UNIE' 8vg
- 6d 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot.
Partly missing 'Z' (PROGRESSIVE) 9ve
Missing 'Z' 9vf
- 1/- 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot. 10vb
- 1/3 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot. 11va
- 2/6 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot. 12vc.
Broken 'N' of 'VAN' 12vd
- 5/- 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot. 13vc
'VAN' missing. 13vd
- 10/- 'A' & 'N' of 'VAN' unjoined at foot. 14vb.
-

POSTAGE.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d Missing letters 'O' 'E' 'G' etc.
Defective letters.
Stop after postage.
Dot before 'P'
Dash before 'P'.
- 1d Missing letters 'O' 'E' 'G'.
Defective letters.
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Dot before 'P'.
- 2d Thick 'O'
Defective letters.
Accent grave over 'E'
- 4d
- 6d Defective letters.
- 2/6 Defective letters.
Broken 'S'
-

POSTZEGEL.

- 1d White circle under 'Z' 3vm
Large flaw after Postzegel.
No 'O' 3vg
- 4d Postzegel.
- 6d defective letters. 9vj
- 2/6 Broken 'S' 12ve.

THE CROWN.

- 2d. Broken frame at the left of it.
White line at left of it.
white line at right of it.
- 4d Four jewels instead of SEVEN.

VALUE TABLETS. L = left R = right.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d L. figure of value broken at upper left.
L. broken '2' in the fraction.
broken 'D'
circle over fraction.
- 1d broken 'D'
L. long serif to numeral '1'.
R. flaw in 'D'
L. line over '1D'.
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ d dot over numeral '1'.
dot between numerals '1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' & 'D'
'1' of $\frac{1}{2}$ thicker. 4vf
- 2d white dot in front of numeral 5vb
broken 'D' on control stamp. 5vc
hairline through tablet.
R. large blob under 'd'.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d circle over fraction. 6vc
R. short fraction bar.
- 3d
- 1/- dot in front of numeral.
2 vertical dashes, one above the other, in front of numeral '1'
- 1/3 larger top curl to '3'. 10vb.
R. long serif to numeral '3'.

MEDALLION PORTRAIT.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d strong retouch to the temple.
 white beard.
 loop to beard.
 broken front of beard
 notched front of beard
 broken front of neck
- 1d white 'EARRING' 3vl
 white beard
 loop to beard
 broken front of beard
 notched front of beard
 strong line on neck (watermark is inverted)
 broken front of neck
- 2d White 'EARRING' 5vn
 line extended from 'mouth to nose'
 loop to beard.
 broken front of beard
 notched front of beard
 broken front of neck
 white blob on head. 5vd
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ white beard
 loop to beard
 broken front of beard,
 notched beard.
- 3d BLACK & ORANGE
 white forehead
 loop to beard
 notched front of beard
 broken front of neck
- 4d loop to beard
- 6d loop to beard
 white beard
- 1/- loop to beard
- 1/3 stroke through beard llvc
- 2/6 loop to beard
 broken front to beard.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cracked plate. 1/2d 1d 2d
Shading missing lower right corner, between value tablet and frame. 1/2d 1d
Double strike. 1d 2d 6d 2/6.
 5vh
1d InXomst.
 Horizontal shade line missing in top LEFT corner.
 Dash between 'UNION' & 'POSTAGE'. 3vj
1 1/2 Outer frame line missing at RIGHT.

It is not known if the above are 'PLATE' flaws or 'SHEET' flaws. Should you be able to assist in this matter, please pass your information to the Compiler c/o The Editor, Springbok.

WANTED

For the small sum of 1/-d, a reasonable list of wants may be detailed in the magazine, as space may permit.

Member 138 (K. Giles, 75 Percival St., Peterborough) wants Active Service Letter cards, Air Mail letter cards, Airletters, unused and used, Union only.

Member (Wm. F. Charlton, 18 Furnivall Road, Balby, Doncaster) wants pair 1/2d mint Plate XIV and 1/-d pair mint brown arrow issue.

Member (A. Grantzow, 149 Brookside Ave., Irvington 11, N.J., U.S.A.) wants mints singles Union Cat.D.17,18,19,20,21, on TONED PAPER. 0.13,13a,23,24, 26, 27,35,36,42,42a,44,48,51,59,67,68,71,76.

Offers should be made direct please and NOT through the Editor.

Seven Years With Unions

(A Reflection)

By W. A. Page

Whatever made you choose a country like Union of South Africa? So ask my many collector friends! This may well be answered and attributed in the first case to the War years, when I was fortunate enough to spend several months in the Union.

In the early stages of the War my collecting interests were general and world wide and to buy stamps was against my ideals and pocket. I was no doubt spoilt by the almost inexhaustible supply from a London business house - oh! for some of those blocks of Unions now!

In September 1942 I landed up in Cape Town as a member of the R.A.F., but did as most service folk - had a jolly good time and philately didn't come into the picture at all. I next journeyed into Durban where I met a fellow collector and we were lucky enough to be able to pay a couple of visits to the Durban Philatelic Society. It was here that my first real interest in Union stamps was born. Thanks to a leading member of that Society, I was able to borrow the then current Union Catalogue, chapters of which I very religiously copied into a notebook, thus providing my first reference book. I did a little in the way of collecting material by purchasing the Large War Effort series which were then being replaced by the Bantams. My knowledge at that stage was nil and doubtless I lost many treasures.

By the end of 1942 I was on my way to India and for the next $3\frac{1}{2}$ years the Union was but a pleasant memory. My collecting interests, still varied, fitted themselves into the local surroundings although I picked up various Union issues, without paying much attention to them; my notes having been sent home for safe keeping!

I finally turned up in England again in 1946 and one of the first things I did was to join my local Philatelic Society - I had not previously been a member of any society. Meanwhile I was still collecting generally although I had acquired quite a large number of Union issues.

My first attempts to do anything serious with them came towards the end of 1946 when I attempted to arrange two or three sheets of 1ds, not very successfully, and only to be corrected by a helpful colleague of the Society. Working in the dark without a catalogue was indeed a handicap and I hunted for miles to find a copy of the 1946 Catalogue. I was finally successful although I had to buy it at a premium.

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I then began sorting and mounting mainly the general issues in used condition which were then very cheap and plentiful. They have been remounted several times since. I was fortunate enough to get hold of several large bank accumulations at very low cost - so small was the interest in Union issues at that time. Try and find similar lots today! I also browsed over many dealers' stocks, picking up anything that looked a little different. The outlay was relatively small and it has proved a very sound policy as many of these items are now really worth having. With a limited purse I concentrated on used issues only and was fastidious enough to only collect in pairs or blocks. I often wish now that I had collected the older Mint items first - however, in 1947 I was put in touch with someone returning home from Rhodesia, via Cape Town so out went an order for all the current issues, including the Royal Visits. My friend went to a great deal of trouble although not entirely successful. The Union Post Office Officials proved most courteous and helpful and a sub-postmaster promised to get missing items and send them on for me.

This started a correspondence that is still flourishing although stamps really form a relatively small part of the subject matter.

The material obtained from these sources and the help I've obtained since joining the Collectors Society in 1947 have been responsible for maintaining interest and increasing my knowledge.

My collection has now grown to ten volumes, four of general issues including one each of $\frac{1}{2}$ ds and 1ds, one of De La Rue Georgians, three of other issues including commemoratives, one containing booklets - with a nearly complete lot of 3/- slogan booklets - and one for postage dues, officials, etc. The collection, some 5,000 strong, contains no real rarity although there are many quite desirable items. In most cases all issues are complete Mint and used from a straightforward point of view. I have yet to obtain the De La Rue £1s and London Pictorial 5/-, 10/- Mint plus, of course, many shades of Pictorials and the 1926 issues perforated 14.

Among the many items of interest are entires from Tristan da Cunha carried by the "Pequena" - cover with Royal Tour Cancellation of Duke of York in 1934. A recently obtained curio is an envelope bearing several stamps one of which is over-printed South West Africa and posted in Cape Town in 1952. The general issues contain many of the well known flaws and a couple of joined paper varieties.

Reflecting on seven years of serious collecting of Union issues - this has been great fun - I have learned a lot and have much more to learn.

In concluding these reminiscences, a word or two to the new student. Ask through your magazine - ask what you wish to know about your Union issues however simple - you'll be surprised how many other people wish to know the same things! My own experience has shown that there will be a member willing to pass on some helpful explanation.

GLASGOW MEETING

A meeting of the Glasgow members took place within the rooms of the Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders, 39 Elmbank Crescent, on Friday 12th February. In spite of a very bad night with several inches of snow on the ground six of the nine members in Glasgow turned out.

It was agreed that in view of the small number of members in the area it was not necessary to form a committee. It was also agreed that starting from the next meeting a levy of two shillings per member should be made at each meeting to cover local expenses.

After some discussion it was agreed that monthly meetings should be held from October to March and that when possible the Scottish meeting should take place in April. The next meeting was arranged for Friday 19th March in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street and it was agreed that the subject for discussion would be the Two penny value of the Unhyphenated Rotogravure Issues.

After the business was completed the following members passed round a few sheets from their collection:

Mr Archer: Recent commemorative issues in large blocks showing varieties, some signed by the designer of the stamps.

Mr Conning: An early Transvaal cover, a selection of Boer War cancellations and a few sheets of the King's Head issue of 1913-21.

Mr Lauder: Examples of the King's Head issue used abroad, including the Camel Post cancellations of Kalkfontein and a set of the 1925 Air Mail forgeries referred to in the South African Philatelist of November, 1953.

INFORMATION WANTED

Mr Lauder reports the finding in a local collector's album a joined strip of four coil stamps, typographed printing, showing the London and Pretoria printing se-tenant. They were the halfpenny value being S.A.H. Nos R5 and R7. The owner explained that he had acquired them in South Africa nearly 25 years ago from a collector friend who was then specialising in South African stamps. The two printings are quite distinct and Mr Lauder would like to learn of any similar strips in members' collections or alternatively strips of the one penny value.

Mr Lauder also reports the finding of a 2½d Commemorative used on a first day cover, 4th November, 1910, cancelled Nottingham Road, Natal. According to Prof. H.E. Lobdell in his book "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" first day cancellations of Natal offices are especially rare, the only reported cover being that of Mr Rich postmarked at Malvern. Can any members add to this number?

(Editor's Note: Yes, I have one cancelled at Pietermaritzburg).

LONDON GROUP MEETING

The February meeting of the London Group on the 9th at 246, Stockwell Road, London, S.E.9., embraced the issues of 1910 2½d Commemorative and the 1913-1922 definitives in a joint effort by six of the twelve members present. Those contributing to the excellent display were Messrs. Abell, Brown, Burkin, Nunnally, Page, and Whitten.

Starting with the 2½d commemorative, a truly complete selection of mint and used shades and blocks also first day cancellations were shown. The definitives were taken in ½d to £1 order and included mint, used, plate flaws, control blocks, booklets and coils not forgetting Essays and Die Proofs. Among the outstanding items were the 1/-d value showing crease in paper, control blocks of the scarce ½d and 1d and high values including the £1. Scarce shades of ½d (mossy green) and 2d (plum) were to be seen. A comprehensive study of various stages of the missing "Z" in "Zuid" in the 6d values was complete with photographs.

A interesting query piece was a vertical strip of three ½ds showing a deep bronze green band across the centre stamp.

Two copies were shown of the 2d with missing watermark and bearing in mind that only 52 copies are known it would be interesting to find out where the remaining 50 are and how many are held by members of the Society.

The next meeting was fixed for Tuesday, 16th March, 1954, the subject being ½d springbooks, when all members will contribute outstanding items. This meeting will also have a short auction.

W. A. PAGE, Hon. Sec.

Replying to queries from Mr K. H. Giles in the last issue, Mr D. D. Smythe writes from San Francisco to the effect that he has coloured postmarks in RED S.A. Philatelic Exhibition, Durban 3JULc28; in RED large single circular Paquebot on large war issue, no town name, cover addressed to New Zealand, opened by censor and sealed with regular label; in dark VIOLET-BLUE in triangular East London Stamp Exhibition 5-1-27 postmark, in BLUE and also in BLUE-BLACK - M.V. City of New York Sea Post (undated); in VIOLET Shipping Postmaster, Capetown 5 Aug129 a large horizontal oval postmark.

Mr Smythe also points out that thick single circles with large figures in centre on G.V. issues (also on Edwardians, particularly of Transvaal) indicate telegraphic use as it is a counter clerk's mark (see "The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa" by Lobdell, pp. 62, 63). This monograph also shows other telegraphic markings which are easily confused with postal markings. Lobdell remarks that "The majority of used copies of the £1, and also of the 10/-d, however, resulted from other than postal usage." Mr Smythe comments that in his own experience many of the high value Georgians show identifiable telegraphic markings. Others coming from towns which presumably had no special telegraphic cancel may very well have been used telegraphically but off cover there is no way of telling.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

Captain L. J. Gilbert-Lodge, Hon. Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, London mentioned to me the other day that you had approached him regarding the display of the Society's collection of South Africa (L.A.B. Sharpe bequest). Captain Gilbert-Lodge asked me to mention that the Society's displays are not open to the general public and normally he is not able to give information regarding the Society's activities to other than members of the Society.

Visitors to the Society's displays can, however, be introduced by members and if any one wishes to see the display of South Africa they should communicate with me or any other "Royal" members so that the necessary arrangements can be made. The display is, in fact, fixed for the 20th of May commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Richmond.

A. F. Cuddon-Smith.

Dear Sir,

Members may be interested in a flaw which I have found in the roto hyphenated 1d Ship, Union Handbook 45 AF, of which I enclose an enlargement (see picture page).

The flaw, as may be seen, consists of a white line beginning at the left hand side of the frame at a point level with the centre of the scroll and running in a slightly downward direction straight across to the opposite margin at a spot four lines below the right hand scroll. The effect is that of a "crack" in the plate. The variety is constant as I have found five copies of it. Four of them among four hundred stamps dated 1939/40. Of the two decipherable dates one is 7/11/39 and the other Aug, 1940. There are two shades a deep and a pale carmine.

Perhaps some member will be able to plate it for me. It seems probable that it will be plate 14.

I, also, enclose an enlargement of what is surely the variety mentioned in Mr K. H. Giles's query number 5 in the Jan/Feb "Springbok", "Retouches to sky at left". Yes, Mrs Giles, it is constant. My date is July, 1940 and Mr Wilkinson of Enniskerry has another. I do not know the plate number but Mr Wilkinson points out that it is very similar to the retouch above pennant in Plate 14. Actually the strokes of the two retouches are so similar that they could be said to be in the same "handwriting" and it is quite possible that the "toucher-up" was so pleased with his work on Plate 14, row 20/7 that in a fit of enthusiasm he had a go at a nearby stamp. I will be interested to have the theory tested.

Dublin.

John J. Keenan.

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Dear Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter which I received from the Postmaster-General in 1945 in connection with the rotogravure postage due stamps - the 3d denomination of the first anhyphenate issue 1932-1934. I submitted three postage dues, namely,

1. 3d Black numeral and Prussian Blue frame.
2. 3d Deep Blue numeral and Blue frame.
3. 3d Deep Ultramarine and Ultramarine frame.
No. 3., which showed the absence of the serif
of the "d" - the pence symbol.

Quote -

Post Office,
Pretoria,

14th May, 1945.

"Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 3rd ultimo, addressed to the Government Printer I have to inform you that all three stamps were printed from the same cylinder by means of the rotary photogravure process but at different times with different colours and shades of ink.

The absence of the serif of the "d" in specimen No. 3 is due to the fact that at a certain stage in the printing process, the ink became too thin this resulting in a loss of details.

The numerals were printed without the use of a screen.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. C. Harris,
for Postmaster-General."

Mr A. H. Sydow,
Sydow Street,
Maitland.

Note the words - "The numerals were printed without the use of a screen".

An examination of the numerals through a magnifier will reveal that the numerals were not printed with serrated edges nor with sharp edges and solid colour. Diagonal white lines were discerned on the numerals. The master numeral was white lined. In many instances, however, these white lines were not perceptible owing to the spread of the ink.

Compare Dr Gordon Ward's remarks anent the "unscreened rotogravure stamp", in the "Springbok" No. 5, page 89.

Capetown.

A. Hilton Sydow.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF WALVIS BAY

By

E. LAUDER

This article does not pretend to contribute much that is new about the postal history of Walvis or Walfish Bay, meaning Whalefish Bay, which is 735 miles from Cape Town by sea and 20 miles south of Swakopmund. It may rather be regarded as an attempt to collate much that has already been written about this interesting part of South West Africa which was formally Union territory. Due acknowledgement is made at the end to the many sources of information which form the basis of these notes.

On April 24th, 1884, the German Government proclaimed as being under their protection the possessions which the Bremen merchant Luderitz had obtained by treaties with the native chiefs in the neighbourhood of Angra Pequena (later renamed Luderitzbucht) in the southern portion of the future German South West Africa and on August 7th of that year the German flag was hoisted for the first time in Luderitzland. In a communication to the British Government on September 7th, 1884, the German Government claimed as a Protectorate all the region northwards from Luderitzland as far as the border of the Portuguese colony of Angola.

The definition of the frontier on the side of the British colonies was only settled on July 1st, 1890, by the so-called Caprivi Treaty. By this all territory north of the Orange River and westward of Long. 20'E, of Greenwich was allotted to Germany. The Walfish Bay enclave and a line of small islands off the southern coastline of G.S.W.A., however, remained as British possessions, which they had been since 1878.

Administrative Headquarters for G.S.W.A., were set up at Otyimbingue in Hereroland at the beginning of July, 1888. Owing to the menacing attitude of the Herero chiefs, however, the German Postmaster, von Goldammer, betook himself and all his postal outfit to British soil at Walfish Bay where he remained for seven months, returning to Otyimbingue on July 8th, 1889 after a small detachment of German troops had reoccupied the place. Further disturbances took place however and the Administration was moved to Windhoek at the end of November, 1890.

During the period the German Post was at Otyimbingue the carrier service between that place and the British P.O., at Walfish Bay was the only postal communication in the Protectorate; it served mainly for the forwarding of the official post, particularly during the first period when postal administration and government, through common management, were closely combined.

Letters from other parts of the Protectorate to Germany or to foreign countries, and also German stamped post cards were usually franked with British (Cape of Good Hope) stamps so that they could be directly dealt with by the British P.O., either at Walfish Bay or in Cape Colony.

The only communication with Germany up to the middle of 1893 was via Walfish Bay to Capetown and thence to England and even the communication between Walfish Bay and Cape Town was at first only by occasional steamers or even sailing ships, later by the more regular sailings of the Cape steamer "Nautilus". Even the institution, through the German Colonial Co., of occasional direct sailings between Hamburg and Swakopmund, beginning about the middle of 1893, brought about very little change in these primitive postal conditions.

Under the provisions of the "South West Africa Affairs Act" the Governor-General fixed October 1st, 1922 as the date from which the port and settlement of Walvis Bay, which formed part of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope, should be administered as if it were a part of the mandated territory of South West Africa.

Walvis Bay was never developed and served only as a detached Magistracy and Police Post for the protection of British interests until Col. Skinner landed there on Christmas day 1914 to make it the northern base of operations for the campaign in South West Africa. It has a natural and well sheltered harbour and was considerably developed from 1914 onwards, especially after the neighbouring harbour of Swakopmund was closed as a port. A whaling station was erected in 1916 and was in use up to 1930, when owing to the migration of the whales, whaling operations ceased. It was later taken over by the Interessentkapet, a concern of Norwegian Whaling Companies, as a repair depot. Prior to the reopening of the shipping route via the Mediterranean and Suez in 1943 the port facilities at Walvis Bay played an active part in alleviating the severe war time congestion in Cape Town and other Union harbours.

Walvis Bay cancellations appear to be extremely scarce and should be looked for on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope up to the time of the Union on 31st May, 1910 and on the stamps of the four provinces comprising the Union from then until the definitive issue made its appearance on 1st September, 1913. Union stamps ceased to be valid for postage in Walvis Bay on 31st January, 1923 after which date the stamps of South West Africa were of course in current use.

The earliest canceller had the serial number "300" in an ellipse of bars (Fig 1.) and later the name of the enclave is included in the wording of the postmark. During the first world war however the following types were in use:

- (a) Army Base P.O. No. 5 (Fig 2.)
- (b) ditto (Fig 3.) En route Northern Army.
- (c) Metal die, Walvis Bay (Fig 4.) Diameters 20/28 mm.
- (d) ditto as Fig 4., but inner circle 16mm. diameter.

In my own experience the type most usually found on the low value stamps of the King's Head series is that illustrated as Fig 4. There is still a further type which appears to be somewhat scarcer (Fig 5.) an example of which I have in blue cancelling a copy of the 2½d Commemorative of 1910. This particular example is clearly dated 8th April, 1913 and I should be pleased to learn of any further examples which members may have in their collections.

Two different types of Paquetbot mark have been recorded in both of which it will be noted that the new spelling of Walvis Bay is used (Fig 6.) and Fig 7.) It is not improbable that a mark exists with the old spelling of Walfish Bay. Perhaps members would keep a look out for such a mark and, if found, advise the Editor so that it may be recorded in these pages.

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THE POSTMARKS OF WALVIS BAY



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

The illustrations have been taken from tracings with the exception of Fig. 1. which has been reconstructed from the oval type cancellations of the Cape of Good Hope.

Retouched Sky at Left. Plate 14 ?
Date. July '40.

"Cracked" Plate. Probably Pl.14.
Four copies in four hundred
stamps. Dates 7/11/39 - Aug.1940



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members.

- No. 271. P. B. Evans, 23 Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Teed, Co. Durham.
272. C. Clement, 20 Reservoir Road, Kimberley, South Africa.
273. H. W. Luke, 20 Charldane Road, London, S.E.9.
274. Henry G. Reckleff, 7201 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn 9, N.Y., U.S.A.
275. C. W. Abbott, 215 King Edward Avenue, Scotssville, Pietermaritzburg,
Natal, South Africa.
276. Mrs D. Reinecke, 21 Garvock, 18 Umbilo Road, Durban, S. Africa.
277. J. McNicol, 1 Ashwood St., Sunderland, Co. Durham.
278. E. G. Kinsey, 68 Sheen Court, Richmond, Surrey.
279. R. J. Lawrence, 36 Woodleigh Gardens, Streatham, London, S.W.16.
280. Dr. A. Guggisberg, Seidenweg 62, Berne, Switzerland.
281. D. Lamont Smith, 6 Hume Road, Dunkeld West, Johannesburg, S.A.
282. John M. Snyder, 37 Temple Avenue, Winthrop 52, Mass., U.S.A.

Change of Address.

93. W. H. Jago, 38 Garrison Lane, Felixstowe, Suffolk.
152. D. McK. Malcolm, 63 Bath Road, Glenwood, Durban, South Africa.
195. L. Feinstein, c/o. West End Pharmacy, 542B Jules Street,
Malvern, Johannesburg, South Africa.
241. E. S. Jones, c/o. Mr E. S. Redstone, Resident Engineer's Office,
The Government of Qatar, Doha Qatar, Persian Gulf.
265. D. G. A. Whitten, 297 Lower Morden Lane, Morden, Surrey.

Resignations.

134. R. Botha, Wembley Park.
136. Capt. C. H. Greenwood, Tiverton.

PRESS REFERENCES

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (December 1953): "Union Notes" covers plating of Marginal Arrows on 2d Roto Unhyphenated; Forged "Official" overprint double on current 2d; Cape Centennial varieties; etc. Continuation of table of identification of plates of 1952 2d and of Dr Harvey Pirie's serial on Swaziland.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (January 1954): "Union Notes" covers Official details of Recent Printings 22.7.53 to 21.10.53; missing horn in watermark varieties on King's Head Coils; Flaws on current 1d; etc. Interesting article on the current type of Official overprint with positions, etc., of varieties, by T. B. Berry and Historical Notes on Basutoland contributed by G. N. Gilbert.

STAMP COLLECTING (February 12th, 1954): 1910 2½d tipped for a rise, mint by Fynden.
(February 19th) O.F.S. Centenary - varieties by B. Wasserstein. (February 26th) Perforation varieties on recent South Africans by the same writer.

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