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# THE SPRINGBOK

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Volume 2, No. 5. September/October, 1954

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

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Closing date for publication Volume 2, No. 6. will be October 30th.

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The Editor's Chair

Glancing through these Notes, in our previous issue, we see we were wondering whether we should find this year's summer. We did not!

It is pleasing to note that several readers have considered it well worth their while to rejoin the Society and that our magazine continues to find its way to all parts of the globe. This month we welcome particularly Mr. A. R. Taylor, who sent his subscription from the Argentine Republic. We wonder which new territory we shall be breaking into next? It is most interesting to note that exactly one third of our present membership of 226 is overseas.

With this issue we commence the 15/-d. subscriptions and as we received but three comments on the increase, - all in favour - we must presume all our readers are well content. Thank you!

The London Group has recommenced its monthly meetings with a slight increase in attendance which is encouraging for as we have stated before we are quite sure that once a member does attend he will become a regular visitor and indeed, find the meeting something to which to look forward. So do, if you are within reach of the meeting place, make the effort to get along - you will not be disappointed, we can assure you.

Tempus Fugit - and time again for the Annual General Meeting in London about which there is a Special Notice in this issue. As will be noted this time, although the A. G. M. will only cover a short period, there is a full day's programme and we hope that everyone in a position to do so, will seize this opportunity to get acquainted with his fellow members and to view probably the very first exhibition of Union stamps only in this country. If any member desires to raise any subject at the Meeting, perhaps he or she would be kind enough to advise Mr. W. A. Page or the Editor in writing beforehand. We are looking forward to this day, October 16th., when we shall again renew many personal contacts and we hope make many new friends.

A cartoon in the "South African Philatelist" for August must depict admirably the deep regret which many collectors will feel at the thought of the ½d. Springboks and 1d. Ships disappearing from future stamp issues, as they have served to while away many a pleasant hour and, with their numerous shades and printings, have given many a knotty problem to solve. R.I.P. thou good and faithful servants - your successors, the ½d. warthog and 1d. black wildebeest will have difficulty in reaching your exalted status.

A last reminder - do come along to London on October 16th. - we would so much like to meet you.

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THE L. A. B. SHARPE COLLECTION (cont'd.)

Amongst the Bradbury Wilkinson 2d-1/-d values were the complete set overprinted "Specimen." Of particular interest were corner blocks and blocks from the centre of the sheet with gutter of the 2d in both perforations, seldom to be found from such positions nowadays. Both perforations were shown of the values from 3d to 10/-d, with a number of corner and imprint blocks, notably an imprint block of the 5/-d perforated 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ . An item rarely met with was a used block of six of the same stamp.

ROTOGRAVURE ISSUES. Many pages of the display were devoted to the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d stamps in this series, and particularly noted were arrow blocks of the unhyphenated  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, with large blocks and part panes showing the printing flaws such as the "cobweb" retouch, etc. A variety seen in the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d coil stamps was a strip with paste-up join showing SUID - SUID- SOUTH- SUID- SUID. The later hyphenated series were strong in the first types of 1935 in large blocks, those in the 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 14 perforation with gutter margins.

The unhyphenated 1d's were notable for a range of blocks showing the marginal letter controls A, B, D, E & F, and a complete range of arrow blocks from plates 4 to 9, the latter being in the scarce steel-blue shade. Many printing flaws in this value also were shown, including blocks on joined paper. A range of the later hyphenated issues were on view, and a range of booklet panes both unhyphenated and hyphenated. An interesting page showed the re-entered vignette on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d unhyphenated booklet panes.

The higher values from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 10/-d were fully covered, with arrow blocks for instance in the 4d plates 1 and 2, and the 6d Die 1.

A wide range of the varieties and printings of the Silver Jubilee and 1937 Coronation issues were included, as well as a complete range of the various printings of the large and small War Effort series, the latter in corner marginal blocks to show the slogans etc.

AIR MAILS.

L.A.B. Sharpe paid particular attention to the Air Mail section of his collection, with which he won many awards, and although only a portion of this section was shown, many rare covers were included.

Particularly worthy of mention were:

1911 Kenilworth-Muizenberg Flights: two covers from the outward flight, and one from the return flight.

1918 Red Cross Flights: three covers, one signed by the pilot.

An official souvenir card of the 1925 issue signed "E. A. Sturmer, P.M.G." - the souvenir card illustrated in the Handbook/Catalogue is signed "Thomas Boydell." (According to a note by Sharpe, only 30 such cards are said to exist).

1931 Crash cover.

Portsmouth-Johannesburg Air Race cover of 1936 carried and signed by Lt. T. Rose.

Two covers from the 1925 survey flights London-Cape Town carried and signed by Sir Alan Cobham.

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Amongst the Air Mail stamps were the 1925 issue in blocks with value in the margin, and the 9d value with the "strut" flaw, "broken R", "Stroke through value", and a pair imperforate at left.

POSTAL MARKINGS.

Scattered through the collection were many interesting cancellations. Several pages illustrated the postal markings of the South-West African Campaign and subsequent occupation 1914-23. A wide range of post offices were represented, and particularly interesting were the 1910 2½d, and blocks of Orange River Colony ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d and 6d values used interprovincially, all with Swakopmund postmarks, and a block of four £1 values used at Windhoek.

Many Exhibition and Commemorative cancellations made an interesting portion of the display, such as those of the Stamp Exhibitions at Durban in 1913, East London 1927, Durban 1929, and the Royal Tours of 1925 and 1934, as well as many others.

OFFICIAL AND POSTAGE DUE STAMPS. Only a comparatively few selected items were shown from the officials. Amongst these were large blocks of the first 2d, and part panes of the Pretoria 6d showing the "stop" varieties, and similar items in the ½d and 6d rotogravure. The "stop" varieties were also shown on the 1/-d and 2/6d recess-printed values.

A complete collection of all the postage due issues were shown, with many printing varieties, and proofs in different colours of the 1927 series. An interesting item was a copy of the 1927 3d postage due with the figure of value in blue, annotated by a press cutting from a South African newspaper describing the prosecution of an employee of the Government Printing Works in 1931 for abstracting such items, for which he received a sentence of four months imprisonment.

The final part of the display was devoted to a small part of the Boer War section of the collection and is beyond the scope of this report. It is understood that a further display will be held some time in the future of the pre-Union portion of the collection in its entirety.

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OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL

Notes and reflections on the errors and varieties to be found  
on Union stamps overprinted "Official".

by E. LAUDER

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Ever since I first started to collect Union stamps I have taken an interest in those overprinted "Official" or "Offisiseel" for government department use on correspondence addressed to territories outside the Southern African Postal Union. Even before the second World War used pairs were always more difficult to obtain than unused and the same holds good today. However, pre-war we were not plagued by the so called "errors" which have appeared upon the stamp market within recent years and it is chiefly about these that I want to make some observations.

About a year ago I remounted my collection in accordance with the Union Handbook published in 1952. This was not so difficult as it may appear as prior to this my collection of these issues had been arranged according to Mr. A. Lichtenstein's listing as published in the South African Philatelist of April, 1942. Mr. Lichtenstein, as the leading authority on Union "Official" stamps was invited by the Editors of the Handbook to write the Section dealing with these issues. The list that he produced was substantially the same as that which appeared in the Handbook, although there were one or two omissions which I shall mention later.

About eighteen months ago I purchased, through a well known London auction house, a block of what was described as O 23 Vb (1d. with double overprint, since corrected by Supplement No. 6 to "Shifted" overprint). On receiving same I found it to be O 34 V but was able to dispose of it to another collector. I mention this to show the difficulty of correctly classifying these issues, because some months later I was offered and purchased from a well known London dealer a strip of what was said to be O 23 Vb with the shifted overprint. I knew whenever I compared it with the normal overprinted stamps in my collection that it certainly was not O 23 Vb and accordingly sent it to the B.P.A. who were good enough to give a certificate of genuineness. I then decided to submit it to my good friend Mr. Lichtenstein, who confirmed that it was genuine and pointed out that the Handbook was incorrect. The "Shifted" overprint error occurs on O 19 and NOT O 23 which must be very confusing to those who have tried, like myself, to mount their collection in accordance with the Handbook listings. I decided there and then to go into the whole matter with a view to clearing up the difficulties. In this I had the most valuable co-operation of Mr. Lichtenstein who air-mailed me his original list as submitted to the Handbook Editors and carefully marked thereon any items which the Editors had seen fit to omit from the list, mainly, of course, the questionable errors about whose status they were doubtful. I was also fortunate in having several examples in my collection and through the kindness of Mr. C. E. Sherwood was able to examine others.

Now, apart from the "Stop" errors to be found on the stamps in Group V and others such as the "Dropped Official" in Groups VIII and IX, the only major errors listed in the Handbook are:

- O 23 Vb 1d. Roto Plate 7 - Shifted overprint (Should be O 19 Ve)
- O 34 V 1d. Roto Plate 8 - Double overprint

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both of which are illustrated on page 264. We must assume that the catalogue editors were satisfied that these errors were sold over the Post Office counter in the normal course of business when they decided to list these two and omit the others. Let us now consider those omitted from the list, which with the exception of No. O 42a were included in Mr. Lichtenstein's original list.

- O 18 Roto Plate I 1d. with "B" Control with transposed overprint
- O 21 Roto Plate I 6d. with transposed overprint
- O 22 Roto Plate 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. with double overprint
- O 25 Roto Plate I 6d. in pair, one stamp normal, se-tenant with inverted overprint reading up
- O 29 Roto Plate 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. with double overprint, one inverted
- O 40 Roto Plate IIb  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (a) with double overprint  
(b) with double overprint, one inverted
- O 42 a Roto Plate 3 2d. with transposed overprint

It will be noted that Mr. Lichtenstein refers to a "Transposed Overprint" (English left, Afrikaans right). This is, of course, merely another way of describing a shifted overprint, it being due to the shifting of the overprint to the right or left that the wording became transposed. A glance at the illustration on page 264 of the Handbook will make this clear.

Mr. Lichtenstein is of the opinion that all the errors should have been listed in the catalogue, their status being made clear. Personally I do not like the idea of listing doubtful stamps but I do think that reference ought to have been made to them, possibly at the beginning of the Section, in order to avoid confusion among collectors. I am, of course, aware that in their Introduction the Editors clearly state that there may be many items on the market which do not appear in the Handbook. They add however that it is highly improbable that any item not included is an officially authorised item and they warn collectors of Union stamps that unauthorised items have no philatelic interest or value. Every collector will not necessarily agree with this latter statement but it is only fair to remember that the Editors had to draw the line somewhere. I feel, however, that the matter would have been made clearer if a specific reference to these errors had been made under the appropriate Section, although not in the list itself but perhaps in the general introduction on page 259.

In a letter to me, Mr. Lichtenstein states that as far as genuineness is concerned these items are, at best, printer's waste which should have been destroyed, but which managed to leak out through the back door. At the worst they are the fabrications of some play boy in the Government Printing Works. They are, however, genuine stamps with an apparently genuine overprint but probably none were ever genuinely issued over the Post Office counter. In the original draft for the Handbook Mr. Lichtenstein advocated listing them for the sake of the information of collectors but made it quite clear that there was insufficient evidence available as to their origin.

The whole matter is of considerable interest as these items are not forgeries in the accepted sense of the word. They are genuine stamps with a perfectly genuine overprint but would appear in most, if not all, cases to be of the "made to order" category. Members will, however, have noticed in the South African Philatelist for December, 1953 there is illustrated a 2d. stamp O 101a, with double overprint, the second overprint being forged. I have not had the advantage of seeing an example of

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this forgery but it is a clear warning to collectors to be very careful before purchasing any of the overprint errors for their collection. Comparison with the normal overprinted stamp is essential, careful measurement of the overprint necessary and the use of a Quartz Lamp desirable. Fortunately this latter instrument is now available to many collectors through their Local Philatelic Society. If your local Society has not yet acquired one I suggest that you start agitating right away.

These notes are by no means exhaustive but sufficient has been written to let members see that there is plenty of room for further study and they will at least draw the attention of collectors to a somewhat neglected Section of the Handbook, although it is true to add that more interest is being taken in the Official issues today than was formerly the case. Should any member have seen an "error" which has not been referred to above I should be most interested to learn of it so that it may be recorded for the benefit of other collectors.

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THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS CONTAINED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN G. P. O. BULLETIN,  
PHILATELIC 20, AUGUST 1954 -

NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS

As already announced, the existing pictorial stamps of the Union of South Africa are to be replaced by a series depicting South African wild animals. The new stamps, details of which are given on page 2, will be placed on sale at all post offices as from the 14th. October, 1954. Postal agencies will receive supplies of the new stamps later.

FIRST-DAY COVERS.

Envelopes for use as first-day or commemorative covers will not be provided by the Post Office. Covers for registration or date-stamping, on the first day of issue, may be handed in at main post offices up to 3 p.m. on the 14th. October, 1954.

Order for the servicing of first-day covers which it is particularly desired should be dealt with at the Philatelic Agency, c/o Publicity Branch, G. P. O., Pretoria, should reach that address not later than 13th. October, 1954. The covers will be postmarked "Pretoria". Such orders must be accompanied by addressed envelopes of suitable size and a remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed to the envelopes.

Requests for more than one particular postmark on an envelope will not be entertained.



NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

Denomination	Animal depicted.	Animal	Colour.	Background
½d.	Warthog	Deep green.	(monocolour).	
1d.	Black Wildebeest	Brick red.	do	
1½d.	Leopard	Sepia brown.	do	
2d.	Zebra	Dark violet.	do	
3d.	Rhinoceros	Red-brown	Sky-blue	
4d.	Elephant	Black-blue	Light green	
4½d.	Hippopotamus	Black-blue	Blue-grey	
6d.	Lion	Brown	Orange	
1s.0d.	Kudu	Warm brown	Madder-brown	
1s.3d.	Springbok	Brown	Blue-green	
1s.6d.	Gemsbok	Red-brown	Light crimson	
2s.6d.	Nyala	Black-brown	Yellow-green	
5s.0d.	Giraffe	Sepia brown	Chrome orange	
10s.0d.	Sable Antelope	Black	Blue-grey	

NOTES:

- (a) The wording on each stamp will be in English and Afrikaans.
- (b) All the stamps will be printed in vertical format, except the 6d. and 1s.3d. which will be printed in horizontal format.
- (c) The designs for the 1½d. and the 6d. stamps will also be used for postcards and registered envelopes, respectively, when existing stocks of these items have been exhausted and fresh stocks are printed.

Philatelic Agency,  
c/o Publicity Branch,  
G. P. O.,  
P R E T O R I A.

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LONDON GROUP MEETING

Seventeen members, including several new faces, were present at the first meeting of the London Group's new season held at 246, Stockwell Road, Brixton, London, S.W.9, on Tuesday, 14th. September. The Meeting was preceded by a committee meeting when plans for the forthcoming A.G.M. and Exhibition were discussed in detail.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman, Mr. F. C. Abel, welcomed the new members and gave details of the arrangements for the 16th. October A. G. M. (see separate report) and asked members to supply material for inclusion in the show.

The Honorary Secretary then reported on a letter received from Mr. Sam Legator in reply to items submitted for inclusion in the proposed supplement to the Union Handbook/Catalogue. It was agreed that any further items, corrections and additions should be given to the Hon. Secretary at the next meeting for collation and forwarding to Mr. Legator.

A fair amount of time was then spent gaining ideas as to what material was available for the exhibition and plans were made to collect this at the next meeting. (Members not present please note - anything of an unusual nature or that you would like to show, please forward to Mr. W. A. Page, 6 Barnes Cray Road, Crayford, Kent.)

The remainder of the evening was taken up with a combined display of the 1½d. Gold Mine issue in all its phases. As in previous displays many outstanding items were viewed and most of the known varieties together with some not listed. Perhaps the most outstanding item was a fine used block of four of the large format with the shading on the mine dump completely missing. The medium format issues brought a deal of discussion on the coarse and fine screens used in their production, - a healthy sign and the solving of a very knotty problem for many.

The next meeting was fixed for Tuesday, 12th. October 1954 at 7.30 p.m. at the Brixton address, when the whole evening will be devoted to sorting and arranging the material for the exhibition.

W. A. PAGE

(Hon. Sec. London Group).

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SPECIAL NOTICE !!!

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FORTHCOMING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As members will have seen from their Newsletter, the usual Annual General Meeting of the Society, coupled with an Exhibition of Union stamps given by the London Group, will take place at the CORA HOTEL, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, W.G.1, on Saturday, 16th. October, 1954.

The general arrangements for this, the first full day's meeting to be held since the Society's inception, are as follows:

10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Exhibition Free to All
2.30 p.m.	Assemble for A. G. M.
3.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Meeting
4.30 p.m.	Tea
5.0 p.m.	Auction and finally, last look round Exhibition.

The exhibition, which will be open to non-members of the Society, will provide a complete representation of Union Stamps from 1910 and include the Interprovincial Period. If you have any would-be S.A. collector friends bring them along so that they may have a proper insight to the Union stamps. The meeting will, of course, be confined to members of the Society.

Lunch and tea will be available in the Hotel, of course, for those desirous of making a day of it and it is hoped that some members will wish to join in an informal dinner party at the close of the day's proceedings. In this connection it would be most helpful if those members wishing to do so, would advise the Secretary in good time, so that arrangements may be completed.

Members wishing to have lots included in the auction may forward same to the Secretary to arrive NOT LATER THAN October 11th. They should be described briefly and RESERVES if any, clearly stated. Commission 10%.

Above all, remember this is YOUR DAY and YOUR OPPORTUNITY to meet fellow S. A. collectors - putting forward your ideas and requests for the general improvement of the Society and airing your grievances, if any.

THE SUCCESS OF THE DAY DEPENDS ON YOU -

PLEASE HELP TO MAKE IT ALL WORTH WHILE BY GIVING YOUR SUPPORT !

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BILINGUAL OR UNILINGUAL STAMPS?

by C. Lee.

Before one can start considering the subject of whether the stamps of the Union of South Africa should be issued in bilingual singles or unilingual pairs, the question of whether two languages is necessary must be cleared up.

I am not certain of the history for the reason for the use of English and Afrikaans on postage stamps, but it seems to me that it is all tied up with the racial problems which occur in South Africa. My assumption here may be all wrong, and if any other collector can clarify or correct me on this point, I would be greatly obliged. Whether or not this system of using two languages is necessary or essential is a matter of personal opinion. For myself, I can see no harm in it and I hope it continues, as I think it will, for it makes the Union not only more interesting but also rather unique.

The examination of some facts and figures on the number of each type issued gives the following statistics. Since 4th. November, 1910, when the first Union stamp was issued, right up until the present day, there have been 104 different stamps issued. For the purpose of this article I have grouped all stamps with the same or very similar design, approximately the same format and same value as one. For example, all the ½d. Springboks, no matter whether typographed or rotographed, hyphenated or unhyphenated, screened or non-screened, are grouped together and classed as one stamp. The three formats of the 1½d. Gold Mine are classed as three different units, and the 1936 JIPEX panes are excluded because of their being a kind of miniature sheet. Of these 104 stamps, 43 have been in the bilingual setting, 56 in unilingual pairs and 5 have been oddments. These 5 are the 1935 Silver Jubilees and the 1926 4d. triangle. Although the Jubilees were bilinguals, the language setting was reversed on alternate stamps; the 4d. triangle was unilingual but had only one language on each sheet.

Up to 1926 all the 21 stamps to be issued were bilinguals. For the next 23 years we had, almost completely, (the triangle and Jubilee come in this period) an era of unilingual pairs being issued. The last 18 stamps to be issued, from the 1949 Voortrekker onwards, have all been in bilingual singles. From the chronological aspect, it appears that, after beginning with bilinguals for 16 years and then changing over to the use of unilinguals, there is a reversion to the bilinguals, which I think is permanent and my thoughts have further been substantiated by the announcement of the South African Philatelic Agency Bulletin (details given in the May/June issue) that the new series due at the end of 1954 will be bilingual.

What are the argument for and against the subject? I shall write on the pros and cons from each person who comes in contact with the stamps. With the production of postage stamps the initial problem is the design. After the motif for the stamp has been decided the next thing is the format and language setting. It is easy to see that on the small size stamp such as the 1d. Van Riebeck Ship the unilingual design is better, for I think that a bilingual design, such as the 1913 definitives gives a cramped appearance. The converse is not altogether true, however, for on the large format stamps, such as the Natal Settlers, the motif takes up most of the stamp and also the lettering is larger. On the medium format, such as the 2d. Union Buildings, one is as good as the other, comparing the 2d. with the new 4½d. Merino Sheep, the former being unilingual and the latter bilingual.

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In the printing of the stamps there are, as far as I can see, no difficulties. With the use of the modern rotogravure process, the designer's drawings are photographed. From the print a reversed negative is made which is put into a step-and-repeat camera. This special camera can be adjusted so minutely that it can project the required number of pictures for a complete sheet and at the same time, it makes the pictures the correct format for the stamp with the correct spacing between the stamps. When adjusted the camera is focused on to a plate or film of the size of a sheet of stamps. From this plate the cylinders are made by transferring the imprint on to a sensitized carbon tissue which in turn is used to transfer the design to a polished copper cylinder. The copper cylinder is treated chemically and then, apart from a few minor alterations that may be necessary, the cylinder is ready for printing. It can be seen that there are no problems for either language type so long as, when unilingual stamps are in preparation, the designer's drawings are to such a scale that, when they are reduced to the stamp format, the spacing between the stamps will be the required amount.

The Post Office will gain financially when unilingual stamps are in use, for the collector, in most cases, will collect them in pairs. But, for postal validity, one type of stamp is as good as the other.

When the dealer has to take in a stock of new issues, there will be a greater initial outlay when unilinguals come along. But this greater initial expense is offset by the fact that there will be increased takings, for, whereas the bilinguals are normally bought in singles, the unilinguals are purchased in pairs. When a unilingual sheet of stamps is being split up for distribution great care must be taken not to break it up into singles, because a mint single is not much use to the collector. The same also applies to used specimens of the unilingual type, for it is common knowledge that a used single is worth about a third of the price of the corresponding used pair. With the bilingual stamps the normal amount of care must be taken as when handling stamps of other countries. It can be seen that a slip, when both types are in circulation simultaneously, can cut the takings.

We have seen the aspects of this question from the views of all, from the designer up unto the dealer, now let's look at it from ours, the collector's, point of view. The premier problem is the cost of getting the stamps. It is a well known fact that the cost of the unilingual stamps in pairs is more than double, if not treble, that of a bilingual single. As with the dealer, and, in the collector's case, even more so, great care must be taken when handling the pairs, even more than usual. The unilingual pairs offer greater assistance in the plating of the stamps. For, on holding a corner block of the current 2d's, for example, depending on the language setting, one can establish whether it is Union 47E or one of the 47F's. More varieties are generally found on the unilinguals, but whether this is an argument for or against them I wouldn't like to say.

A problem that crops up with the collection of pairs is that of which way the pairs should be collected. Should one have them all the same way, i.e., in horizontal pairs, or is it better that the pair should be made as compact as possible by collecting all horizontal format stamps in vertical pairs and verticals in horizontal pairs. There is no difference nowadays, but some time ago horizontal pairs used to be the ones of value and vertical pairs used to be looked down on. It is all a matter of personal taste as to which way one collects the pairs. For myself, I like all horizontals and no verticals in my collection.

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In conclusion I will give my own opinion on the subject, and I should be very pleased to hear from other collectors as to what they think about it. One of the reasons why I started to specialise in the Unions was because of the peculiar language arrangement that existed, and also the fact that there were unilingual pairs at the time. This appeared rather fascinating, and still does. So, in all fairness, I must say that I support the unilingual stamps, if only out of thanks, as one might say, to them having made me start collecting seriously the Union of South Africa, and I would not change for anything.

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DATA ON RECENT PRINTINGS

1d. definitive, Group 7 Plate XXVII.

Issued April 1954. Diagonal screen. Sheet 12 x 20.  
First stamp English. Watermark upright. Perforated 15 x 14.  
Cylinder numbers (54/48) on right, opposite rows 19 and 20.  
Central solid red arrows in each margin. Red serial numbers opposite rows 3/4 and 14/15. Perforation junction between rows 10 and 11. An asterisk denotes the more important varieties.

Plate varieties.

- Row 3/11. red smudge in sun rays, in colour of sheet number, may vary according to position of sheet number.
- 5/9. white flaw breaking frame line under "r" of Africa.
- 5/10. black smudge on left edge of oval at top.
- 6/2. red mark on right frame level with bottom of upper tablet.
- 6/5. black dot near end of second yardarm.
- 7/7. chip in frame under first "e" of Revenue and red diagonal line projecting from bottom frame under second "e" of Revenue.
- 13/6. hook shaped mark outside top frame over "u" of South
- 15/3. break in white line over "h" of South.
- 16/1. red smudge in left margin near top of frame.
- 16/12. red projection from top of oval over top of mast, marks in margin between 16/11 and 16/12
- 18/2. chip in lower frame below "r" and "e" of Revenue.

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Mr. D. V. Parker writes pointing out that he does not seem to have noticed a multipositive flaw in Groups 5 and 6 being reported. This takes the form of a red diagonal scratch running down through the corner of the Afrikaans stamp number 11, row 20 and into the English neighbour on its right number 12. The peculiarity is very plain on the mint cylinder blocks and examination of cylinder blocks of Plates XXII and XXIV shows the same scratch but to a lesser degree (it is specially faint on cylinder 76/14).  
(Could this be associated with the recent find of "screen scratches?").

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I thought I would take this opportunity of writing to you to tell you that good progress is being made with the Supplement to the Union Handbook Catalogue. It appears that it is going to be quite a big book.

I have not had the support from overseas collectors that I thought I would have. You may know of some of your members who are preparing notes etc., and I would be pleased if you would ask them to hurry the matter along.

As time is very short I would be pleased to hear from you if there is anybody who intends writing to me of matters to be incorporated.

Kind regards.

Sam Legator, Brakpan.

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Dear Sir,

I find it difficult to realise that nearly seven years have elapsed since I first wrote to "C.E.S." and received the first exchange packet. Up to that date in December 1947 I had collected all and sundry, having one enormous album literally stuffed with 20,000 all world stamps - and what stamps!

I realised quickly the advantages of concentrating upon the issues of one country and the Union seemed to fill the role to perfection. Out went the "picture album" to be replaced by two and finally, five loose-leaf albums. The first contained the unhyphenated rotos, the second the hyphenated definitives, the third contained the Voortrekkers, Jubilees, Coronations etc. In for fourth album I had the more recent commemorative issues and in the last album, Officials and Postage Dues.

I found the articles contained in the original News Folders most helpful and I made typed copies of many of these to file away for future reference.

One most useful feature in those days was the "Have you Seen" page on which was mounted actual specimens of new issues, major varieties, etc.

Then, in January 1953, the Society really passed from adolescence to maturity by issuing its own magazine which was an immediate success.

It is now with very real regret that I am compelled, at least for a time, to give up this most interesting of hobbies. Even over this matter, the wisdom of collecting Union stamps has proved itself, for, thanks to the good services of our enthusiastic Editor and Secretary, I was able to dispose of my entire collection for a satisfactory sum.

I wish the Society all the best of good wishes for a most successful future.

H. P. Macdonald, Orpington.

(Editor's note. By the time this letter appears, Mr. Macdonald will be on his way to Australia where, I am sure, we all wish him a very successful landfall.)

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" THE SPRINGBOOK "  
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Dear Sir,

In connection with the list of post offices in South Africa, do you happen to know what exactly is a "Postal Order, Telegraph and Telephone" Office, (or sometimes just "Postal Order" agency). Does it really mean that you can buy a postal order but not be able to post it there? And if you come across the postmark, does it mean that it has been taken from a telegram or postal order and is really fiscal? I should be glad if anyone can cast light on this matter.

L. H. Lomax, Hyde.

We are indebted to the Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2, for the following information:

"Concerning your further enquiry, the Postmaster General states that the last of the Travelling Post Offices which operated in South Africa was withdrawn several years ago. When these services were inaugurated, the main line train services were restricted to one service a day, trains stopped at all stations and the towns along the route were small; consequently the Travelling Post Office staff could easily cope with the work. But as the towns expanded, the frequency of the train services were increased and speeded up and the different trains did not stop at all the stations. The volume of mail matter also increased to such an extent that more direct mails had to be introduced between the various centres along the line. Eventually only a number of villages benefitted directly by the service and it was decided that it was no longer justified as suitable alternative arrangements could be introduced to serve the latter places.

In a country like South Africa, with its vast and sparsely populated rural areas, the post-cart plays an important part in bringing the post within the reach of these rural communities. Post-carts operate between a given area and the nearest rail-head. These services are given out on contract for three years and the contractor is usually a person with a Government licence to carry other freight in the area concerned. In addition to the mails, which are conveyed to one or more post offices in the area, where the farmers from the surrounding farms collect their post, persons living along the post-cart route make extensive use of private post-bags for which they pay an annual rental to the Post Office. The outgoing bags are made up and the incoming bags opened at the rail-head office. The post-cart driver does not deviate from his route to set down or pick up the private post bags and the renters have to meet the post-cart at pre-arranged points on the route to exchange bags.

Very few animal-drawn post-cart services still operate; motor vehicles have been substituted in the course of time."



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" THE SPRINGBOK "  
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1½d. Gold Mine - Hyphenated - Group 1, Plates I-IV  
large format, pages 126/7 Union Handbook/Catalogue.

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A poser set by Mr. F. R. Squire relates to the dates of issue, as according to the Handbook/Catalogue, Plate 1 metallic gold and slate green (inverted watermark) was issued in 1936 and the same shades with upright watermark in 1939. The scarce Plate II (cylinders Interior 15 and Exterior 62) metallic gold and greenish slate with upright watermark was (vide page 127) issued in 1940.

But, says Mr. Squire, I have a vertical pair with upright watermark cancelled with a beautifully clear circular cancellation Johannesburg 704 and dated 22 X 38, 13.00. The shade is certainly not that of the inverted watermark stamps of 1936 of which I have many examples mint and used and although, to my eyes, the outer cylinder colours has a slight bluish tinge, I should say it is the greenish slate of Plate II, the centre colours certainly seems to be metallic gold, although paler and not so glistening as the 1936 inverted watermark stamps.

In any case even if it belonged to (say) the yellow buff and greenish slate of Plate IV this would make the date discrepancy even wider.

Can anyone help Mr. Squire to clear this query please?

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WANTED

Mr. Edw. Lauder, 137 Marlborough Avenue, Glasgow, W. 1., wants a mint or used pair of the small 2d. overprinted "Official" upwards, SG.035, S.A.H.096a catalogued 5/-d. pair used. Is willing to pay £5.

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" THE SPRINGBOK "  
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PROBLEM CORNER

The 1/-d. Gnus - Unhyphenated. Plates I and II, Group I  
pages 100-102 Union Handbook/Catalogue.

Mr. F. R. Squire writes "Working through the Handbook with the stamps in my collection I found myself in a dilemma when dealing with the above mentioned issues and having chatted recently with fellow member Milledge, who thinks as I do that there are discrepancies between the general description and the stamps listed, I feel the points need clearing up.

The description matter reads:-

"There were two plates of this value. The first appeared on 14th. September 1932 with long thin blue arrows in the margins, inverted watermark and the first stamps on the sheet inscribed in English. A later and scarcer printing of this same Plate I was produced in 1934 on paper with watermark upright. The colours of printings were brown and prussian blue." (Italics are mine).

"Two new cylinders were used in the production of the second plate which appeared on 27th. January 1938 with upright watermark but in colours of chocolate and indigo with the first stamp on the sheet inscribed in Afrikaans. The marginal arrows were broad splayed, and segmented" (Again my italics).

This seems clear enough but when we get to the stamps as listed there is little or no agreement. In the first place the colour under Plate I (for both inverted and the scarcer upright watermark) is given as brown and deep blue (not prussian blue.)

Under Plate II (which according to the description above did not appear until 1938 we get the brown and prussian blue and date of issue as September 1932 (inverted watermark) and the chocolate and indigo, upright watermark, with no date but presumably 1938.

Below I have set out side by side the details as they should be according to the description and as they appear in the list under plate numbers and I should be glad if fellow members would help by straightening out the matter, viz. (a) were there in addition to the brown and prussian blue (inverted and upright watermark) of 1932, also stamps in colours of brown and deep blue and (b) was there an issue from Plate II of brown and prussian blue (inverted watermark) besides the chocolate and indigo (upright watermark) which is in its rightful place but "relegated to the reserves" as it were.

<u>Description.</u>	<u>List.</u>
Plate I. Brown and prussian blue inverted watermark 14/9/32 Brown and prussian blue upright watermark 1934	Plate I. Brown and deep blue inverted watermark Sept.1932 brown and deep blue upright watermark no date but presumably 1934
Plate II. chocolate and indigo 27/1/38	Plate II. Brown and prussian blue inverted watermark Sept.1932 Chocolate and indigo upright watermark, no date but presumably 1938



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" THE SPRINGBOOK "  
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

- No. 291. A.R. Taylor, 2447 Sanchez, Marmol F.C.G.R., Argentine Republic  
292. Brigadier F.R.S. Gervers, Sloane House, Littleworth Ave., Esher, Surrey.  
293. John B. Sheblessy, 3345 Morrison Ave., Cincinnati 20, Ohio, U.S.A.  
294. R.G. Hubbard, Flat 1, 29 Beanacre Rd., Melksham, Wilts.  
295. F. Leonard, 9 The Crescent, Cobh, Co. Cork, Eire.  
296. Mrs. P.H. Raubenheimer, 77 Sprigg St., Cradock, S. Africa.

Members Rejoining:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 219. Miss M. J. Brick, Dublin | 111. Miss G. M. Thompson, Haywards Heath |
| 144. Dr. T. B. Berry, S.A.    | 202. Dr. G. I. Faerber, S.A.             |
| 226. J. Michelson, S.A.       | 238. C. J. Hardy, Burnham-on-Sea.        |

Change of Address:

49. E. B. Dane, c/o Boots, 11 Market Place, Nuneaton, Warwicks.  
84. A. W. Cousins, 57A, Temple Road, Cricklewood, London, N.W.2.  
95. H. Davies, 162 Stockton Lane, York, Yorks.  
147. F/Lt. R. F. A. Wren, Officers' Mess, R.A.F. Bassingbourn, Royston, Herts.  
255. D. Methven, 12 Park Lane, Southwick, Sussex.

Resignation:

58. Rev. D. S. Owen, London. N.10.

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PRESS REFERENCES

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (July 1954). "Union Notes" brings the details of Recent Printings up to 21/4/54; Inscriptional variety on 1d. Bi-coloured Roll stamps; missing perforation on 1/-d., etc. A Mystery of the V.R.I. Overprints of the O.V.S. by P. Smits, and more on "Swaziland" by Dr. Pirie.

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (August 1954). "Union Notes" refers to Pictorial Postcard Plate Variations; Transposition of Panes on O.F.S. Centenary issue; Different papers on current 6d; Joined paper variety on recent 1d., etc. "Anglo-Boer War Censor Marks & Labels" by J. D. Rossouw and Dr. Pirie. "A History of the Darmstadt Trials" by E. Schaiowitz. Still more "Swaziland" by Dr. Pirie, and "Aerogrammes & Their Precursors of Southern Africa" by I. H. G. Godfrey.

STAMP MAGAZINE (August 1954). "The 1/-d. Pictorial of South Africa" - further article by W. A. Page.

STAMP COLLECTING: (July 2nd.). The 1913 £1 (S.G. 24 and 24a) is recommended for investment.