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# THE SPRINGBOK

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Volume 2, No. 6. November/December, 1954



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" THE SPRINGBOK "  
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Hon. Editor:

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

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

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Closing date for publication Volume 3, No. 1. will be January 31st, 1955.

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



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The Editor's Chair.

And now we come to the end of the second volume undaunted and still gathering strength.

Twelve months ago we see that we heralded the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1/3d and 1/6d stamps then issued as the commencement of the new definitive set but of course we know now that this was not so. It would almost seem that they were issued in the nature of trials to ascertain reaction to such "revolutionary" designs although of course there was a use for such values so from that aspect their issue was necessary but after talk for so many years of a new set, a few more months waiting might not have been either here or there!

Talking of this new set reminds us of the criticism we have heard both for and against, mainly against we are afraid and we wonder if we can ascertain the reactions of the Society generally. With this in mind we offer a complete set of this issue to the member who lists the first seven designs in order of popularity according to general opinion. Will you therefore all please join in, so that we can find out what you think, and let us have a list of your first seven and just for fun add the worst in your opinion? Results, if any, to be published in the next issue, contest null and void if less than 20 entries received.

Specimens of this magazine are now included in the Philatelic Library of the City of Munich. The Society has been invited to contribute two frames for the National Stamp Exhibition 1955 and will endeavour to do justice within the small space available. From Pretoria we have news of "TEPPEX" 1855-1955, the code name of the Pretoria Centenary Philatelic Exhibition to be held 29th Oct. to 5th Nov. Special souvenir cards bearing reproductions of the early Transvaal stamps, in black and white will be available at 6d each from the Hon. Secretary, Box 514, Pretoria. We hope to receive and announce further details later.

We are informed that the Supplement to the 1952 Handbook/Catalogue will be going to press shortly and it is hoped to publish in the first half of 1955, containing 200 pages, profusely illustrated, a volume the same size as the original Handbook, bound in full cloth. The publishers make a PRE-PUBLICATION offer at 17/6d plus 1/-d registered postage.

Members will read elsewhere that a most successful exhibition was held by the London Group at which we were pleased to meet friends old and new from various parts of the country. The Annual General Meeting was well attended and undoubtedly serves a very useful purpose. The Glasgow and London Groups seem to be well established now and it is hoped that they will continue to be well supported as they so richly deserve.

A Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to one and all, be we early or late!

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CONSTANT PLATE FLAWS AND VARIETIES - PART II

by

H. A. STEWART and E. LAUDER

First of all we would like to thank all those members who were so good as to write to us about our previous effort published in Vol. 1 No. 6. Many of those who wrote were kind enough to give helpful advice and several sent illustrations for our inspection and consideration. Outline sketches of course predominated and were we to adopt that method we could certainly cover the ground more quickly and equally important, more economically. Against that there is no doubt that an enlarged illustration taken from the actual stamp has much to recommend it, especially for those members who wish to obtain an extra copy of the photographs for mounting in their collection. Anyway at the request of many members who attended the A.G.M. last October we have prepared a further page of varieties for this issue and we trust that you will find it equally useful. We have found space for 15 varieties, which together with the 13 illustrated in the previous article, give members information about 28 varieties not already illustrated in the Handbook.

1. "Split Tree" This is an uncatalogued variety on the unhyphenated 6d. S.A.H. No.41A and is stamp No.12 of Row 2. We have included this variety in order to show the difference between it and the one catalogued as the "Split Tree" variety which is illustration No.3.

2. "Scratches in Tree" (retouched foliage) which is stamp No.10 of Row 16 of the Unhyphenated 6d. and is catalogued as No.41A Vf. This is a popular variety which should not cause any difficulty.

3. "Split Tree" This is the variety catalogued as No.41A Vg and is stamp No.11 of the last row. Compare with illustration No.1.

4. "Extra Green Top to Tree" which is stamp No.10 of the first row and is found on the Hyphenated 6d. Die 1 (Plate III).

5. "Split 'd' variety" to be found on the 2d. Typographed printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons and is stamp No.2 of Row 8 (right pane) being catalogued as No.24B Va and 24C Va. Note that according to the Handbook it does not occur on the first printing (No.24 A).

6. "Dropped Pearl" a more modern variety which is found on the 2d. Coronation of 1953 Cylinder No.98 and is stamp No.3 of Row 3. Perhaps it will find a place in the forthcoming Supplement.

7. "Diaerasis" variety, another uncatalogued item which consists of two dots over the last 'A' of 'Africa'. It is a constant variety and appears to occur on all printings of Group 1 of the Unhyphenated 2d. S.A.H. No.38 A, B, C, and D. It is stamp No.6 but unfortunately we have not yet located the row.

8. "Snail on Buck's Breast" found on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. unhyphenated and catalogued as No.36D Vb being the first stamp of Row 12. This variety is of course found on the stamps of Plate III with the 'sea green' frames and is quite distinct once you know what you are seeking.



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9. "Line from left horn through 'IC' of 'Africa'". This is a very nice retouch which is to be found on the hyphenated  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Plate V and is stamp No.1 of Row 18 the catalogue number being 44A Vc.

10. "Large L at top of stamp" another variety occurring on the unhyphenated  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from Plate III being S.A.H. No.36D Vd. See note under No.8 above.

11. "Swallow in flight". This is the first variety on a Postage Due stamp that we have illustrated but we shall certainly include others in later editions. It is catalogued as No.D 46 Vc and is stamp No.8 of Row 16.

12. "Mouse opposite 'S' in 'Suid' occurring on stamp No.1 of Row 4 of the 1937 Coronation  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. value. Catalogued in the S.A.P. Supplement as No.66 Vi.

13. "Broken Knee" variety which must be well known to most members. Found on the 4d. Cape Triangular Centenary issue and is stamp No.4 of Row 20 being on the stamps from Cylinders 66/86 only. The variety was later retouched and in this state the variety takes the form of a slight indentation of the knee. It should be noted that for reasons detailed in the S.A.P. of July, 1953 the variety can be plus or minus 10 rows out in the numbered position as recorded.

14. "Rain at rear of Wagon" another fairly recent variety found on the 5/- value from Cylinders 36/6925 and is the last stamp in the sheet. S.A.H. 52A Ve.

15. "Dot over 'FO' of 'Postage'" another variety in the Cape Triangular Centenary set, this time on the 1d. value. It is found on stamp No.2 of Row 5 and is one of the clearest varieties on this denomination.

We are advised by the Editor that with the increase in the subscription it may be possible to include a photographic picture page at more frequent intervals so we repeat our previous offer to photograph any constant variety for the benefit of our members. Just write and let either of us know what you want and we will do our best to include it in a future article if it is suitable for illustration.

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PRESS REFERENCES

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST (September 1954): "Union Notes" refers to: Deep Blue Shade of current 3d Pictorial; Watermark Variety on OF.S.2d; Printing Flaws on 1d from cyls.54/48. Other items of interest are further chapters in "A History of the Darmstadt Trials", "Anglo-Boer War Censor Marks and Labels", "Aerogrammes of Southern Africa", and "Swaziland - Postal History and Stamps".

PHILATELIC MAGAZINE (AUG. 27th). J.H. Rathbone adds to the known history of some Boer War markings in "Postmarks of the Boer War".

STAMP COLLECTING. (OCT. 29th). Under the title of "Good Show, Springboks", K.F. Chapman reports the London Group Exhibition at the Cora Hotel on 16th October.

STAMP COLLECTORS' FORTNIGHTLY (NOV. 13th). A report of the London Group Exhibition by "A Viewer" under the title "South Africa in London" is given prominence on the first page.

A.J.B.



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LONDON GROUP MEETING

The meeting of the London Group held at 246 Stockwell Road, S.W.9 on Tuesday 12th October, was devoted entirely to the selection of material for the Exhibition, held in conjunction with The Annual General Meeting of the Society. The Selection was by no means an easy task due to the fine lot of material brought along by members who once again turned up in quite good strength.

The next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 9th November, at 7.30 p.m. when the subject will be the "2d. Values".

W. A. P.

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LONDON GROUP MEETING

It was agreed at the November meeting to accept the request from the Junior Philatelic Society, to fill two frames at the forthcoming National Stamp Exhibition, at Westminster, in January. The two frames will show the story of the definitives, with their various changes throughout the years of issue.

The main part of the meeting at which 19 members were present was devoted to viewing various members' selections of the 2d. Union Buildings issues. The show included fine representations of the Bradbury Wilkinson London printings with both perforations and imprint pieces. The anhyphenate Rotogravure printed issues brought a whole host of shades and varieties plus several shades of the well known 'Blue and Violet' (SG44B) and some fine photographic enlargements (illustrations of the plate flaws in the accompanying stamps). The two aeroplane and the balloon flaws saw some discussion which left in no doubt to all those present as to which is which! Another unusual item in this section was the rarely seen Sepia and Dull Mauve shade.

The hyphenate series were well represented by innumerable flaws of major and minor category in both large and small format, together with a complete selection of Cylinder blocks in the case of the later printings.

Dr. Gordon Ward gave a short discourse on his recent findings with the 3/6d booklets; illustrating his talk with actual booklet panes and diagrams showing the make up of the sheets before cutting. He had noticed that it was possible to find the booklet panes with different language settings, which suggested that there had been two separate printings. He also showed a number of the main varieties of the 1/2d values although he had as yet been unable to find the same varieties in the alternate language settings. Two panes of 1/2ds (one on cover) showed a very interesting variety with traces of the stamp appearing on the binding margin of the pane, where the design had been incompletely masked out in the production of the printing cylinders.

The next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 7th December at 7.30 p.m. when a Christmas Auction will be held.

W. A. P.



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ADVISORY PANEL

From time to time members have great difficulty in the identification of various printings or varieties, due to inadequate information appearing in the Handbook/Catalogue. With this in mind the matter was discussed at the Annual General Meeting and volunteers were called for to undertake to assist members to identify various items.

The following details should cover most members requirements and the only stipulation is that they should bear the cost of the postage by providing an addressed envelope suitably stamped, including registration, if you think it necessary, for the return of the items submitted for information. Every effort will be made to give the required information but it must be emphasised that no responsibility can be accepted for any inadvertent mis-identification.

Stamps should be mounted on the blank side of an ordinary plain post card, leaving the remaining space available for the panel member to write his notes. The reverse side of the card should contain the member's name, Society membership number, and address only. In the case of large blocks of stamps, these should be placed in cellophane envelopes and affixed to the post card in a similar manner.

The following members have agreed to advise:-

Mr. E. Lauder.	-	De La Rue Georgians
Dr. Gordon Ward.	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Values.
Mr. F.C. Abell &	.	
Mr. R.H. Merson.	-	1d Values.
Mr. R.H. Merson.	-	$1\frac{1}{2}$ Values.
Mr. F. Squire &	-	
Mr. H.J. Anderson.	-	2d Values.
Mr. A.J. Brown.	-	Anhyphenate series.
Mr. H.A. Stewart.	-	Any Rotogravure Issues.
Mr. R.P. Jonas.	-	Silver Jubilees.
Mr. R.H. Merson.	-	Postage Dues.
Mr. E. Kinsey.	-	Officials.

In the event of any items not being covered by the above, they should be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary, who will endeavour to answer the query or route it to a suitable source.

Any offers of assistance in this work, from members willing to undertake the identification of varieties, etc., for adding to the list will be most welcome and appreciated.



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A MILESTONE IN THE SOCIETY'S HISTORY

The display of Union issues staged by the members of the London Group in the Cora Hotel on Saturday 16th October proved to be a most successful venture. It was the first "All Union" exhibition in the Metropolis and extended to nearly 200 sheets covering all issues except the commemoratives. Many members and visitors too, took the opportunity of viewing this material and even those who had travelled a considerable distance to do so, counted the journey well worth while.

Opening with a few sheets of the inter-provincials the display continued with a nice study of the King George's V heads, which included examples of the Mackay essays, die proofs and "specimen" overprints. The memorable pieces included a mint pair of the 1d. from Plate II showing the two "nicks" in the bottom jubilee line and a control pair of the £1 green and red. The air mail section followed and included plate proofs of both the 1925 and 1929 sets as well as a nice selection of first flight covers. Among the varieties one noticed a side pair of the 9d. green with left margin imperforate.

The London and Pretoria typographed series commenced with an extremely nice study of the Harrison "Springbok" essay showing the various colour trials and also examples of the Van Riebeck ship and Table Bay essays which are rarely seen. This was followed by  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. proofs of the issued stamps and the 2d.-10/- values handstamped in violet "specimen". The normal stamps as issued, were of course shown with a selection of the more prominent varieties and the tete-beche pairs from the special sheets prepared for booklets, complete panes of the latter being shown both mint and used.

The difficulties of distinguishing the many printings of the Rotogravure series were made easier by specially mounted and extremely well illustrated sheets, showing how to tell one from another. The stamps were then taken, value by value, and one can only say that everything was there that mattered. All the scarcer printings were included and most of the better known and much sought after varieties which are so dear to the heart of many members. Needless to say several choice pieces were exhibited and included examples of the stamps printed on double paper, arrow blocks from the earlier printings as well as an extremely nice block of the large  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. gold mine with shading missing on mine dump. Prominent among the earlier sheets in this section were a number of pages showing the different printings from the Darmstadt trials, each example being carefully annotated to show the progress of the work. Mention should also be made of the sheets showing examples of the roll and booklet series which attracted much attention.

The war effort series followed and was representative of the various different printings. Among the Bantams one noticed a pair of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. value imperforate between and two large blocks of the 6d. with marginal inscription partly printed on the stamps.

The display concluded with selections of the Postage Due and Official stamps as well as examples of Union stamps used abroad, the latter sheets being distinguished by a copy of the 1910  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. commemorative used on day of issue in Basutoland. As an added attraction there was one frame showing a study of the Shipping Postmaster and Assistant Shipping Postmaster marks of Cape Town and Durban including a few examples on cover.



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This review is of necessity extremely sketchy but perhaps sufficient has been written to show that in the members of the London Group the Society has a most enthusiastic body of members who are capable of putting on a most attractive display for which they are due our thanks and congratulations.

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 GLASGOW GROUP MEETING  
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Owing to unavoidable circumstances the October meeting which was to take the form of a dinner had to be cancelled as our guest from South Africa, Professor J. N. Watt was unable to be present.

The meeting on Friday November 12th. was devoted to a general display of varieties on the Hyphenated issues. Contributions were tabled by Messrs. Archer, Kenneth, Lauder and Stewart and a wide selection of the different varieties was on show. Perhaps the most original contribution was that presented by Mr Archer who displayed sheets showing the varieties to be found on the 1953 4½d. 1/3 and 1/6 stamps. His exhibit included original essays and examples of the issued stamps signed by the artist responsible for the design, as well as examples in both mint and used condition. Another interesting item shown was the new animal set used with the special cancellation of the Kruger National Park and an example of the miniature sheet issued by the Park Authorities which apparently provided the inspiration for the new set.

Will Glasgow members please note that the next meetings of the Group will be held in Room A of the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street at 7.30 p.m. on the SECOND FRIDAY of the month. Members are invited to bring suitable contributions to these meetings which will be sponsored by the following members:

Friday, 10th. December, Coronation Issues of 1937 and 1953 by Mr Archer.  
 Friday, 14th. January, Air Mails by Mr H. A. Stewart.

E.L.

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 TABLE SHOWING STAMP SHEET NUMBER AND LANGUAGE SETTING  
 OF MULTIPOSITIVE FLAWS OF ½D,  
 Groups 5 to 7.  
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Plate	A	B	C	D
XV	3 x 4A	1 x 3E	9 x 12A	14 x 1A
XVI	3 x 4A	1 x 3E	9 x 12A	14 x 1A
XVII	3 x 1A	- -	9 x 9A	- -
XVIII	3 x 4A	1 x 3E	9 x 12A	14 x 1A
XXIX	3 x 4A	1 x 3E	9 x 12A	14 x 1A
XX	3 x 4E	1 x 3A	8 x 12A	13 x 1A
XXI	2 x 4A	- -	8 x 12A	13 x 1A
XXII	- -	1 x 3E	9 x 12A	- -

- A - Tag in Springbok's ear.
- B - Vertical line down Springbok's right horn.
- C - Green mark top of top right square.
- D - Green smudge bottom of left bar.

Autolyous.



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SOUTH AFRICAN ANIMALS - NEW ISSUE - PLATE VARIETIES

by PROFESSOR V. W. DIX.

HALFPENNY

4/6	Spot on snout
6/1	Blob in left margin near top
8/8	Dot under D of FOSGELD
8/11	Dot over N of REVENUE
10/4	Spot on horn on right
12/1	Spot between POSTAGE and head
12/12	Smudge below U of SOUTH
13/10	Spot above and to left of SUID
14/10	Spot above and to right of A of AFRICA
15/2	Spot above K of AFRIKA
17/2	Prominent doctor blade marks on left
17/11	AF.RIKA
17/12	Dots on snout and over A of AFRIKA
19/9	Blurred E of REVENUE, with dot over it

PENNY

1/2	Dots below AFRIKA
1/3	Stop after D of "1d"
1/8	Spot over D of SUID
3/1	Spot below VE of REVENUE
6/4	Wavy hairline under neck
8/3	White spot between "1d" & R of REVENUE
	Spot under D of FOSGELD
9/6	Spot over "1" of "1d"
12/6	AF.RIKA
12/8	SUI.D
12/10	Dot over INKOMSTE
14/11	Spot in front of SOUTH
16/10	Dot under D of SUID
17/11	AFRICA with mark over A thus
18/3	Spot near left horn
18/4	AF.RIKA
19/3	AFR.ICA

THREE-HALF PENCE

3/1	Stroke over I of AFRICA
3/12	Dot over A of KA and dot in right margin
6/3	Dots below and in front of snout
9/5	Dot below "1" of "1½"
10/4	AF.RICA
16/12	Dot above FO of FOSGELD
17/12	Dot below A of AFRICA
18/4	Flaw on A of AFRIKA



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

- 3/2 Spot on nose
- 3/4 Spot on "2"
- 3/8 AFRIK.A
- 5/1 Dot on K of AFRIKA
- 7/9 Spot in D of SUID
- 8/3 Spot in front of A of AFRIKA
- 11/9 Spot over FO of POSGELD
- 12/3 Dot under SU. of SUID
- 13/3 Dot at edge at level of S of SUID
- 13/4 P & O of FOSTAGE joined
- 14/4 Stroke under CA of AFRICA
- 18/10 Spot on nose
- 19/2 Spot below FO of FOSTAGE
- 20/10 Second vertical stroke of H of SOUTH prolonged

THREE PENCE

- 1/5 Spot over S of SOUTH
- 1/8 Spot near ear
- 2/14 Spot between "3" and S
- 4/20 Spot below S of SOUTH
- 5/1 Spot on rump
- 6/7 White spot in top left corner

FOUR PENCE

- 1/6 A of AFRIKA broken
- 1/16 Spot on leg
- 2/8 Two dots over I of AFRIKA
- 2/7 AF.RICA
- 4/16 S.UID

FOUR PENCE-HALF PENNY

- 2/1 White spot over A of AFRICA
- 3/20 Flaw on T of FOSTAGE
- 5/5 Dot in front of P of FOSTAGE
- 5/12 Dot above snout
- 6/6 Dot near middle of left edge
- 6/9 Dot below O of SOUTH

SIX PENCE

- 2/3 Smudge near top left corner
- 16/2 Spot over rump
- 16/6 Spot under F of AFRICA
- 17/4 Spot over G of POSGELD
- 20/5 Spot over ID of POSGELD



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ONE SHILLING

3/3 Spot on horn  
3/15 Spot to right of horn on right  
5/7 Spot on rump  
6/2 Spot on shoulder  
6/3 Dot over "1" of "1/-"

ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE

11/1 Dot between legs  
18/2 Dot at top right of background

ONE SHILLING & SIXPENCE

6/5 Dot to left of A of AFRICA  
2/12 Dot over S of SOUTH  
5/16 Dot in lower part of S of SOUTH

TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE

4/6 Dot on knee  
4/9 Stroke over TA of POSTAGE

FIVE SHILLINGS

1/3 Black spot over TA of POSTAGE  
5/4 Dot over E of FOSGELD

TEN SHILLINGS

6/2 Dot below horn  
6/5 D of FOSGELD broken

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W A N T E D

Mr R. P. Jonas, 78 Alleyn Road, London, S.E.21 wants sets of panes from the 3/-d booklets, numbers 3,4,5,8,20. Offers in exchange from 1,2,7,10,12,14,15,16,17,18,21.

Mr M. D. Sibson, Heavitree, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Som., wants used pair or block of the Bradbury Wilkinson 2/6d. (S.G.38). Prepared to pay decent price.



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REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The third Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 19th. October, 1954, at the Cora Hotel, London, coupled with which the London Group staged an exhibition of Union stamps. This is reported fully elsewhere in this issue.

Members heard the report on last year's A.G.M. and the resulting formation of active Groups in London and Glasgow. It was noted with regret that the proposed Group for the West Country had not been possible due mainly to lack of support.

Of the various matters raised the greatest time was devoted to the organisation of the Society which brought about some lively discussion. Mr E. Lauder, speaking for the Glasgow members, said that some re-organisation was necessary as in the event of sickness or similar occurrence there was nobody to take over the duties of the Secretary or the affairs of the Society. The discussion which followed culminated in a proposal by Dr Gordon Ward, supported by Mr F. C. Abell that Mr C. E. Sherwood should continue to act for the Society in the capacity as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer. This motion was carried by the meeting.

Members then discussed at some length the matter of appointment of other officers and it was proposed by Mr Merson that the Society should annually elect a Chairman. This proposition was supported by Mr A. J. Brown and was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr S. Dudman then proposed that the Society should now be put on a similar footing to other Specialist Societies with the usual officers. The question of a constitution was raised but it was generally agreed that at this stage this was not really necessary and it would mean deferralment of the whole re-organisation until the next A.G.M. Dr Gordon Ward then suggested that the set up should consist of Chairman, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer plus a Committee of Three members.

A formal proposition was then put forward by Mr A. J. Penn that as the Society had carried on all right so far it should continue on the same basis as at present. This was supported by Mr F. C. Abell. Following more discussion Mr F. W. Randall, having first obtained the views of Mr C. E. Sherwood, the Honorary Secretary, put forward an amendment to the proposition to the effect that the Society should have a committee of three. Mr S. Dudman supported the amendment and it was carried by the meeting.

The election of the officers was then proceeded with. Two nominations were received for the Chairman's post, Mr R. D. Allen. Snr., and Mr W. A. Page, the former being elected. The committee nominations were Messrs. F. C. Abell, E. Lauder, W. A. Page and A. J. Brown, the first three named being elected.

Mr Sherwood, speaking on the finances of the Society and the increased subscription, said that this, together with slight reductions in the printing costs of the 'Springbok', brought about by a slightly different method of production, had assisted the economics of the Society.

At this stage in the proceedings there was a short break for tea.



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Calling the meeting to order the Chairman, Mr R. D. Allen, then asked Mr F. C. Abell, the London Chairman and Mr E. Lauder, the leader of the Glasgow Group, to report on the activities and progress of their respective Groups.

Mr Allen, speaking on the facilities offered for members, asked for volunteers to undertake to identify varieties etc. for other members and quite a number of members agreed to assist. Full details of this advisory scheme are set out under a separate heading.

In conclusion a vote of thanks was proposed to those responsible for the exhibition and also to the chairman of the meeting. It was also agreed that greetings should be conveyed to all overseas members from the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m. and following a short break members re-assembled for the auction when some 150 lots were offered for sale in the capable hands of Messrs Abell and Sherwood. Quite a large number of the lots were sold by the time the auction ended shortly after 7 o'clock.

A number of those present then adjourned to the Dining Room where they joined for an informal dinner party.

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CONSTANT VARIETIES IN ORANGE FREE STATE CENTENARY ISSUE

1d. VALUE.

1. Hole in Top Arrow
2. Dot over d of Posgeld 1/2
3. Dot over "A" of Afrika 1/3
4. Red line over O.V.S. 1/4
5. Two dots over "e" of Posgeld 2/2
6. Dot under S of O.V.S. and Mark on Shield. 2/3
7. Posgeld and Postage smudged 8/2
8. Red Spot on Left Bottom of Shield 10/3
9. Screen line Flaw 11/6
10. Dot over "A" of Africa 20/6

There are other small flaws which are more apparent on the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  value, e.g.

- a) Dot right of Plume 1/6
- b) Other half of Screen line Flaw 11/5

C.C.S.



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THE OFFISIEEL DIAERESIS E VARIETY

by A. J. BROWN.

The discovery of certain issues overprinted for official use with a diaeresis, or two dots above the second E in OFFISIEEL created a great deal of interest in the early part of last year. Since no fresh facts seem to have come to light in the past few months, it has occurred to me that a summary of the known facts regarding these varieties may be of some interest. The information which has been published is scattered over various periodicals and has not so far been collated as far as I am aware, although of course all the values known with this variety have now been catalogued both by Gibbons and Commonwealth, and will no doubt be included in the supplement to the Union Handbook now under consideration.

The four values concerned which were overprinted in this way are the 1½d medium-sized Gold Mine, the 2d of 1945 with photographic centre, the first hyphenated 1/-d, and the unhyphenated 2/6d, and it will be convenient to consider these in turn.

1½d (SG.032a). The basic stamp is from plate VI of the Union Handbook, and apart from the diaeresis, this printing is similar to that listed as 071 in that publication, as the shades are almost indistinguishable, and the size of the overprints the same. It differs from 080 in the shade, and the paper, which is cream instead of white.

Sheet positions definitely known are:

- Row 1, no.1. (but not row 1, no.2.)
- row 2, no.1. (but not row 2, no.2.)
- row 3, no.3.
- row 3, no.4. (the stamp with the "gold blob" variety.)
- row 12, no.1.
- row 12, no.2.

Also known on blocks of four on all stamps, from at least two different sheet positions.

From this it seems probable that the variety occurred widely over the sheet, but as I have seen no report of a complete sheet with diaeresis varieties, it is impracticable to formulate any general picture of how many times it can be found on a sheet.

Blocks exist containing row 3, no.4, the stamp with the "gold blob on headgear" flaw, overprinted OFFISIEEL both with and without the diaeresis, demonstrating that two different forms of type must have been used.

Used copies are known with a range of dates, the earliest of which is 29th April, 1946.

I myself have a horizontal mint pair with the diaeresis on both stamps, but as there is no margin attached, nor any flaw on the stamp, this does not add any new sheet position, as it could either come from row 12 above, or some other position.

2d (SG.027aab). The basic stamp is from plate VI of the Union Handbook, but whilst the spacing between the overprints is 20½ mm. as in 072 of the Handbook, the shades are lighter and more close to 081 which comes from plate VII, and in addition the type used comes from a "mixed fount" as in the case of 081. The diaeresis printing may therefore come from a printing different from either 072 or 081.



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In this value the positions of all the stamps with diaereses are definitely established, as it was reported in the South African Philatelist that a complete sheet of 120 was available for examination, and that the diaereses occurred only on:

Row 1, nos. 5 and 6.           :       row 11, nos. 5 and 6.

It is clear that there were two settings of the "mixed fount" formes used to overprint the 2d. In both cases there were two different sizes of type used for the words OFFISIEEL and OFFICIAL; in one fount OFFISIEEL measured 16½ mm. in length, and OFFICIAL 15 mm., and in the other fount OFFISIEEL measured 15 mm., and OFFICIAL 14 mm. In one printing however, the shorter OFFISIEEL (15mm.) had a diaeresis on the second E.

This is demonstrated by the following two tables which show the setting of both printings. The setting of the printing without diaeresis is taken from the table published in the South African Philatelist of October 1948. As I happen to have a block from the diaeresis printing containing rows 1 and 2, stamps 3 to 6, to save space I have compared blocks from these positions only, as this shows quite clearly that two settings exist with mixed sizes of type. The letter A indicates short Afrikaans overprint (15mm.), the letter E the short English overprint (14 mm.), both without diaeresis, the letters AD indicate the short Afrikaans overprint with the diaeresis, and a dot indicates the longer, or normal overprint in both languages.

Table I.

	Stamp no.			
	3.	4.	5.	6.
Row 1.	.	.	.	A & E
row 2.	.	.	.	A & E

(The printing listed as 081 in the Union Handbook, setting from S.A.P. Oct.1948, and confirmed by a corner pair in my own possession from top right.)

Table II.

	Stamp no.			
	3.	4.	5.	6.
Row 1.	.	.	AD & E	AD & E
row 2.	.	.	.	.

(The diaeresis printing, from a block in my own collection.)

I have seen no report of any used copies with clear dates which would indicate the period of use of the 2d value. However, the printing which followed, 093 in the Handbook, in the "violent violet" shade was in use by August 1948.

1/-d (SG.029aa). The basic stamp is from plate III of the Handbook. The shade of the diaeresis printing is reported as being light brown and milky-blue, as compared with the dark purple-brown and milky-blue of 074 of the Handbook, the other 1/-d "mixed fount" issue. A block of four is known used on cover dated 20th October 1948 on which the overprints are spaced 20½ mm., and the diaeresis occurs on an English stamp, the remaining stamps having the longer OFFISIEEL overprint. Also known is a pair on which the left-hand (English) stamp had the long OFFISIEEL without the diaeresis, and the short OFFICIAL, while the right-hand (Afrikaans) stamp had short OFFISIEEL with diaeresis, and long OFFICIAL. From these it will be seen that the arrangement of the overprints on the 1/-d value with diaeresis differed from the corresponding 2d, as on the latter the stamps with diaeresis had the short overprints in both languages.

The only date I have seen reported is 20.10.48 quoted above, and no definite sheet positions have been established as far as I can trace.



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THIRD DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The following list of cylinder numbers and other information may be of interest.

½d	cylinder number	84,	4 red sheet numbers	4 arrows,	wmk. upright
1d	"	"	12, 4 "	"	"
1½d	"	"	36, 4 "	"	"
2d.	"	"	56, 4 "	"	"
3d	"	"	16/107, 5 black	"	left
4d	"	"	53/93,	"	"
4½d	"	"	76/47,	"	"
6d	"	"	1/121,	"	upright
1/-d	"	"	94/104,	"	left
1/3d	"	"	106/38,	"	upright
1/6d	"	"	21/78,	"	left
2/6d	"	"	66/23,	"	2 side arrows
5/-d	"	"	118/4,	"	"
10/-d	"	"	44/6,	"	"

The interior cylinder number is quoted first and it will be noted that according to the numbers quite several used for the previous issues have been employed again.

C.E.S.

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THIRD DEFINITIVE SERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS

Not everybody will have been so fortunate as to receive a copy of a pamphlet issued presumably by the South Africa Post Office but, with grateful acknowledgments to them, we are reproducing certain information which must be useful to our readers.

"Paper; Photogravure.

Watermark; Springbok's head.

Perforation; ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 15 x 14.

3d, 4d, 4½d, 1/-d, 1/6d, 2/6d, 5/-d, 10/0d, 14.  
 6d, 1/3d, 14.

Designs and Printing; Government Printing Works, Pretoria.

This leaflet also contains "Some Facts about the Wild Animals" by R. Bigalke, M.A.; Dr Phil.; C.M.Z.S.; Director of the National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria. Chairman: Scientific Advisory Council for National Parks and Nature Reserves and again with grateful acknowledgment we reproduce.

½d WARTHOG (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*). Of the two species of wild pigs found in the Union of South Africa, the Warthog is better known than the Bushpig. This is due to the fact that the Warthog is a diurnal animal, whereas the Bushpig is mostly nocturnal in its habits.

The adult Warthog takes its name from the two pairs of large warts on the head. the larger pair lies below the ears and behind the eyes and the smaller pair behind the two large tusks.



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With the exception of a fringe of bristles at its tip, the animal's tail is naked. When the Warthog is alarmed, it runs away at a rapid trot with the head raised; the tail is held erect and the tuft hangs down.

Unlike the adults, baby Warthogs are attractive little animals. As a rule there are from two to four in a litter and the piglets have the same habit as the adults of raising their tails in flight.

1d BLACK WILDEBEEST OR WHITE TAILED GNU. (Connochaetes gnou).

A century and a half ago the Black Wildebeest was very abundant on the plains of the interior of the Cape of Good Hope and of the present-day Orange Free State, where it was often found together with True Quaggas and Ostriches. Today the Black Wildebeest is one of the rarest of South African antelopes. A census taken in the year 1945 showed that there were slightly more than 1,000 Black Wildebeeste left in the Union at that time.

The Black Wildebeest looks rather like a small ox. The long hair on the face and chin and the well-developed mane and long tail give the animal a grotesque appearance. On the veld it carries out amusing antics which are well described by R. G. Cumming and other early travellers.

It does not occur in the Low Veld of Transvaal, where its place is taken by the Blue Wildebeest or Brindled Gnu.

1½d LEOPARD (Panthera pardus).

The largest kind of spotted wild cat found in the Union, second in size only to the Lion, is the Leopard. It is beautifully marked with black spots that are arranged like rosettes on the sides of the body and neck. Each rosette consists of from four to five black spots around a yellowish centre.

The Leopard is often confused with the Cheetah but it is not a difficult matter to distinguish between the two kinds of animals. The Cheetah is a more lightly built animal that stand somewhat higher at the shoulders than the Leopard. In the Cheetah the body is covered with single black spots not arranged in rosettes.

The Leopard is a wary and active animal and an agile climber. It often drags its prey up into a tree where it fixes the head in a suitable fork. It is widely distributed over Africa and also occurs in India and other parts of Asia."



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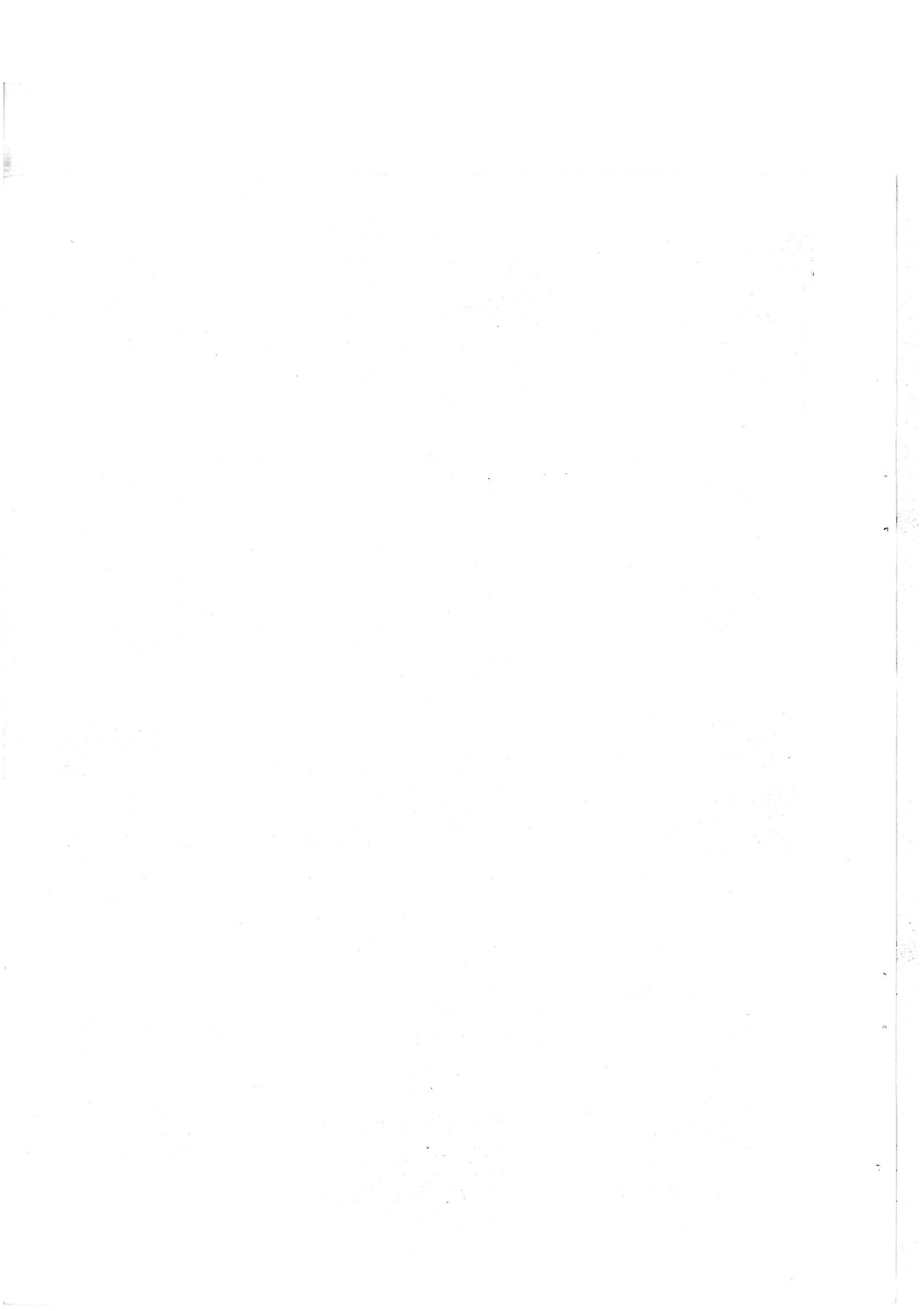


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CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

I must add my congratulations to all concerned in the production of the magazine but also I must voice my disappointment in the apparent lack of live interest by many members. I have had a few scraps published but not one person wrote pointing out I had made several errors and that the printer had made some too.

Do let us have some articles from fresh writers as well as the old ones. I appreciate some members may be afraid their knowledge is too limited - they should remember we all had to make a start and I know I had to grope along in the dark. Now we have the magazine and I would like to see lots of letters in it - they are so much more human than advanced articles, although of course we need both. Members, have a try at seeing your name in print.

Would any member like to mount up stamps of interest (not for sale) for all to see in the exchange packet? I, for instance, would like to see the shilling brown arrows and lots and lots and lots of the 1<sup>d</sup> springbok and the 1d ship with plate numbers, arrows, etc.

A. C. Adams, Leeds.

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We are indebted to the Publicity Officer, G.P.O., Pretoria for the following information -

"With reference to your enquiry of the 25th. August, 1954, I have to inform you that all Travelling Post Office services in South Africa were withdrawn in 1950.

"Post Cart" is the term applied to the vehicle whereby mails are conveyed from head post offices to postal agencies or sub-offices, usually situated some distance out of town. Formerly the vehicle was usually a two-wheeled cart seating up to four persons and drawn by one or more pairs of horses, mules or oxen. It has, however, been largely superseded by motor transport. There is no special postmark for letters conveyed by this service.

Pretoria, 21st. September, 1954.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

- No. 297. E. A. Parsons, 49 Harland Way, Cottingham, Nr. Hull.  
298. V. Ialande, 14 Saltoan Road, London, S.W.2.  
299. J. Clarke, 71 West Mill Road, Hitchin, Herts.  
300. M. R. Cluskey, Highfield House, 53 Mill Road, Marlpool, Heanor  
Derbyshire.  
301. Dr T. B. Davie, "Glenara", Burg Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town,  
South Africa.

Members Rejoining:

85. F. D. M. Lowry, 19 Craven Hill, London, W.2.  
192. I. E. Wunsh, P.O.Box 3561, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Change of Address:

49. E. B. Dane, 229 Lutterworth Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire  
117. F. H. Dann, 68 South Road, Hailsham, Sussex.

Resignations:

36. Lt. Col. C. L. E. Drake-Brockman, Yeovil.  
174. D. C. Carruthers, Johannesburg, S.Africa.  
262. P. A. Prismall, Basingstoke.

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

In September, the Publicity Officer, of the G.P.O., Pretoria, issued Philatelic Bulletin 21 as follows:

CIVIC CENTENARY : PRETORIA 1955.

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS

"It is notified that two commemorative postage stamps will be sold at all post offices in the Union for a period of approximately three months from the day on which the Pretoria centenary celebrations begin in 1955.

From the 31st October 1955 to the 5th. November 1955 a stamp exhibition will be held under the auspices of the philatelic societies in Pretoria. On that occasion a specially designed date-stamp will be used at the temporary post-office which will be in operation at the exhibition.

Details of the denominations, designs, colours and size of the postage stamps and the wording of the date-stamp will be announced later."