

Volume 5 No. 3

May/June 1957

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Hon. Editor.

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

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May/June 1957

The Editor's Chair

From time to time, a member will write in enquiring why he or she has not received an exchange packet for some time, and if by chance the name has been omitted from the circulation list.

Usually the explanation is quite simply that sheets have not been received and therefore packets cannot be sent out. There are, as you know, four circuits each with up to 30 eager buyers and they call for a lot of sheets to have packets circulating regularly. We should like to see more sheets coming in from overseas, particularly South Africa. We can promise good sales as the few from S.A. who have assisted, well know. So far, we have been able to send out three packets on each circuit this year, but to even keep this up we must have a lot more sheets in, so please get busy now in making them up.

As you will see, this issue comprises chiefly one article, which features the 2d value, being the main theme of this year's Annual Exhibition in London. Mr Anderson or the "Tuppenny King" as we think of him, must have viewed thousands of such stamps to evolve so complete a study, although we think even now he has some amendments and additions in hand, so if you cannot get these 2d values you will know why - they are all in Glasgow!

By the way, fresh contributions for the magazine are needed most urgently and these need not have Picture Pages, but if the latter are included, for preference, they should be in black Indian ink, on slightly blued paper to get the best results in reproduction. Photographs should be of the dull matt type. If you cannot write an article, perhaps you can provide a few facts around which a story can be written?

Cur next issue will carry a review of auction prices over 1956, amongst other features which would have been published earlier but for unavoidable circumstances.

So far as membership is concerned, the number of "ins" seems to outweigh the "outs" on this occasion, which makes a pleasant charge, but does not allow room for complacency and we therefore still urge that you should enlist just one new member each year.

By the way, do not forget to advise your holiday dates in good time if you are on the exchange packet list, so that the necessary diversions can be made in order that packets do not get held up,

A MATTER OF SOME IMPORTANCE

The following item extracted from "Stamp Collecting" of April 12th, to whom due acknowledgement is made, is brought to your notice as a matter affecting every collector of stamps.

"The latest News bulletin of the North of England Philatelic Association spotlights a subject which all too many collectors seem afraid of. It relates to the disposal of their collections in the ultimately inevitable event of death. It is extraordinary how many philatelists with quite worth-while collections about which their family or their executors, are quite ignorant. leave no instructions about the disposal of their stamps. The ultimate realisation may well depend on how the sale is effected and it often calls for the experience of a professional in breaking up the collection, or collections in such a way as to sell each part to the best advantage. Every wise philatelist will leave clear instructions for his executors and the wisest will discuss the matter in detail with a trusted professional before even penning those instructions. Because they have been disturbed at the way some collections have not been properly handled after the deaths of members, the committee of the N.E.P.A. have authorised their Honorary Secretary to advise members on the choice of a philatelic executor, or, if it is too late to do this because death has intervened, to approach the next of kin immediately after death with a view to giving unbiased assistance should it be required. This is a service which the beneficiaries should certainly welcome rather than resent, because it is all too easy for the unwary to fall prey to unscrupulous "advisers" or to be misled by honest, but misguided, friends who do not appreciate the intricacies of the philatelic market. It is, in fact, a service which other federations could offer their members with advantage to all concerned."

The above is self-explanatory, and I ask all members of the Society to consider the above and to inform me whether it is desirable to appoint a member or a panel to give suitable advice on these matters. If you are in agreement, the matter will be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting, 1957.

R.D. ALLEN, Chairman.

Your Editor is in need of assistance! He has come into possession of a cover addressed to the "Capetown Municipal Pension Fund, City Hall, Capetown" franked with a single 1d Rotogravure stamp affixed at the top left and cancelled simply "1047" in a box in an oval cancellation three bars above the box, three below and three short bars either side of the box. Just that and nothing more. Who? What? How? When? Why? Where?

SPOTS ON THE 2d UNHYPHENATED ROTO by H, J. Anderson

The possession of some 2d roto with most noticeable flaws created in me the desire to plate and position them. I discovered on receipt of the 1952 Handbook/Catalogue that Plate II, postmarked 1932 were not issued until 1933, and that Plate III bearing dates of 1933 were issued in 1936. However, by glancing at the details under Officials I was relieved to see that the inform-

ation under that heading agreed very closely to the post dates.

The 1948 amendments severely amended the 1946 H/C and no guidance could be drawn from them, but from a friend I learned about Mr G. N. Gilbert's notes of Jan. 1935 and from these and friendly advice from correspondents, I have managed to position quite a number of my stamps and for the benefit of others interested I have recorded my findings. The list is lengthy, but is still incomplete, and I would appreciate information which will allow me to add to it. I would like to emphasise that as my records are for positioning stamps, some of the marks are often minute, but are proving. Readers will know that it is seldom possible to obtain 2d roto without flaws. The same glass multipositive was used throughout for making the various plates and as there is a great similarity in the shades of colour, the plate flaws are of some importance.

The ordinary issues were printed in 20 rows of six and booklet stamps were also printed in sheets of this size. To allow for cutting or binding, a margin on the left of each pair of stamps is required and so the last two stamps in each row are in an inverted position. As rows 1 and 2 have the required margin on the left, these two, inverted, were used to fill the 5 and 6 positions and thus the top row in each sheet would read 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 20/2 and 20/1 and the bottom one 20/1, 20/2, 20/3, 20/4, 1/2 and 1/1. For booklet purposes stamps in positions 3 and 4 were not used and were sold over the counter.

Cylinders for printing continuous roll or coil stamps were produced, two extra rows being etched in the space normally occupied by the top and bottom margins. Only sheets of 22 rows seem to have been produced and these were split into strips. Owing to them having no machine cut edge, it is not possible to recognise odd stamps as having come from rolls unless they have distinctive roll flaws. I have insufficient data to say which two rows were repeated to make up the 22.

Toned paper was used for some printings of Pl.II but is not mentioned in the H/C. Whether due to less pressure, the sky in these show little cloud shading and a similar sky effect is noticeable on some later Pl.III ordinary paper printings. A thought that perhaps another plate had been discovered had to be discarded.

Hair lines are extremely common and so I have noted one only in the record. This is that making the split d and creating a variety similar to that listed in the London Pictorials.

Certain marks which would usually be classed as frameplate flaws appear to be ink splashes or marks conveyed by some part of the printing press other than the cylinders. One, illustrated as mark A, appears at regular intervals round the cylinder and there are others for which I have only some positions.

The large "aeroplane" flaws from the booklet sheets have already been illustrated in "Springbok" and I have therefore omitted them from my list.

Dots on the extreme edge of a headplate can be seen only in off centre printings. I have endeavoured to use these to separate 1a from 1b and 2a from 2b, but if they form any clue to the puzzle I have not solved it.

		Flaws listed	in the	e H/C with	their numl	bers on chart
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38D	Va Ve Vr	A109 E 123 A 208	Vf	Vc A 208 E 154 E 18.	Vd. Vg	A 212 E 273 & 136

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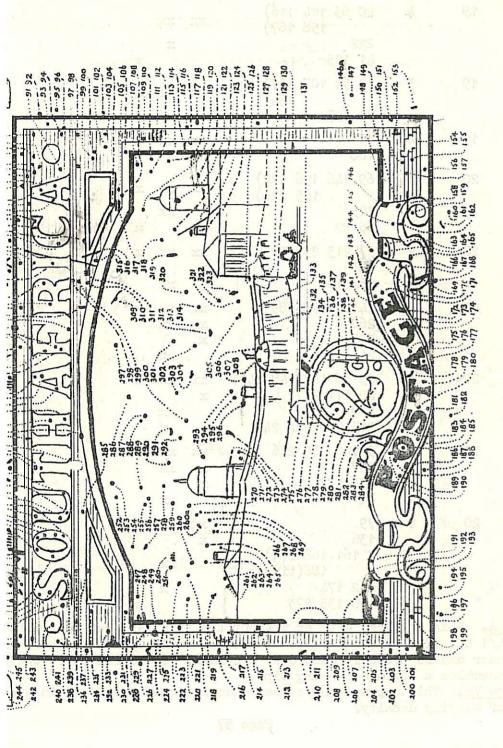
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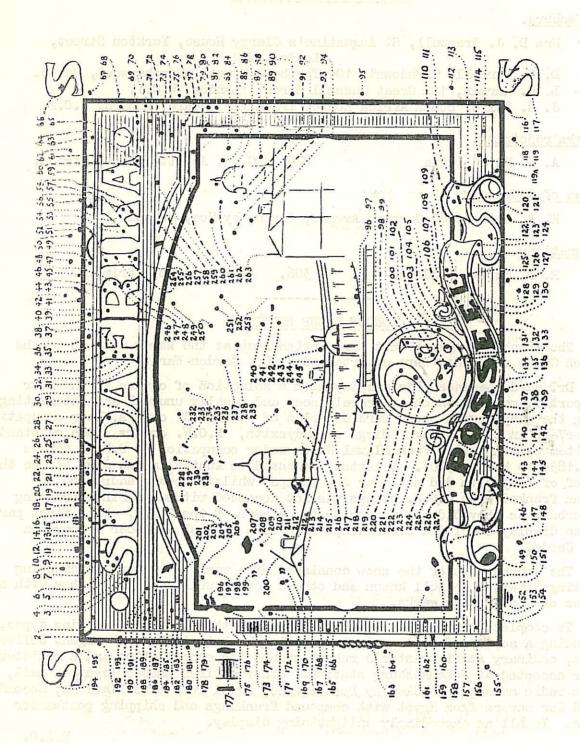
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members.

333. Mrs D. J. Branwell, St Augustine's Clergy House, Yorkton Street, London, E.2.

334. D. G. Purcell, "Ashdown", 109 Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Herts.

335. L. C. Harman, 104 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

336. J. H. Selfe, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Members rejoining.

236. A. K. Ray, India

875. C. W. Abbott, South Africa.

Change of Address.

34. K. A. Harber, 60 Compton Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.

Resignations.

23. R. E. Stott, Oldham.

306. A. Griffiths, Grimsby.

LONDON GROUP MEETING

There was an eager if not large attendance at the March meeting of the London Group when they were entertained by Dr. Gordon Ward.

Dr. Ward commenced his display with a selection of covers of the Boer War period, many of which are rarely seen and equally unusual and interesting. Among the many covers shown were examples of "censored" covers, Boer occupation of NorVals in Cape Colony, Siege of Ladysmith, P.O.W. covers. One outstanding item was an entire from Aliwal North under occupation by O.F.S. forces (Oct.1899 to March 1900). A letter addressed to Australia two days before the relief of Ladysmith did not bear any stamps, whilst a cover addressed to Durban franked with O.F.S. stamps was not accepted without further franking at Durban, as they did not recognise the stamps of the O.F.S. This first part of the display concluded with examples of both English and Boer Propaganda Post Cards.

The second part of the show consisted of a variety of very interesting printing flaws, some well known and others not so well known, together with a series of Postage Due marks.

To complete the display Dr. Ward showed further covers of varying types, including a series of railway letters dating back to 1932, with urgent delivery marks, ordinary stationmaster's rubber stamps for cancellation and a registered cover accepted at Johannesburg station. Other entires showed legation mail, ships radio messages handled by Post Office, Royal Tour cancellations, Second World War covers from Egypt with compound frankings and shipping postmaster marks. In all an exceedingly enlightening display.

WaAaPo