
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 5 No. 4

July/August 1957

" THE SPRINGBOK "

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Hon. Editor:

C. E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, G.B.

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

Magazine available by subscription to the Society only

15/-d (£2.00) per year.

<u>Chairman:</u>	R.D.Allen, 82c Hackford Road, Brixton, London, S.W.9.
<u>Committee:</u>	F. C. Abell, 246 Stockwell Road, Brixton, London, S.W.9.
	Edw. Lauder, 1 Cairnshill Road, Bearsden, Glasgow.
	W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent.

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EDITOR'S CHAIR

Since the appeal in the last issue we have not been exactly swamped with articles for the magazine, in fact just one was received!

It is pleasant to publish an issue in which we have not to record any resignation and we can but hope sincerely that we shall be able to make this comment again and again and with your help we can probably do so.

From time to time we do get asked if we know of any member willing to give a talk or display on the stamps of the Union and at the moment we have an enquiry from Cornwall for a date in September. If anyone would like to answer the call and spread the interest in Union philately, please advise us. At the same time it would be useful to have a panel of members willing to undertake such valuable work so would you, if interested, advise the area which you would be willing to cover with such services.

We even get asked if we can provide the names and addresses of any S. A. collector willing to write an article or articles for other magazines in most instances carrying some financial reward so that love's labour is not in vain! Again may we receive details from interested members so that we may advise other Editors as and when they enquire from us. We have such an enquiry in hand now.

So far as the Exchange Packet is concerned, contributions are still lacking and moreover we find members are still proceeding on holidays without notifying us so that Packets are being held up through lack of this information. Please spare a thought to save us worrying as to the whereabouts of these boxes of stamps.

As there will be only one further issue of the magazine before the Annual Exhibition in London we feel it is not too early to remind you of the date - October 26th. - and the venue - the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, W.C.1. Make a note now to be present for it is the finest exhibition of Union philately in this country and it happens only once a year.

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AUCTION REALISATIONS DURING 1956

A RESUME by VOORTREKKER

Members will know quite well from their own experience of trying to add something of interest to their collection, that the market in South African stamps is as strong as ever it was. As I pointed out last year there is just not sufficient good material on offer to satisfy everybody. This has a tendency to stiffen the price for what, for want of a better name, might be termed middle class stamps, as naturally if the rarities are fetching prices beyond the ordinary collector's pocket he begins to look for something which he can afford. When you get a great number of collectors in this class seeking such material then naturally the law of supply and demand applies as it does with any other commodity. I mention this as several members of the Society have told me in no uncertain terms that many South African stamps are fetching more than they are worth. This, of course, is nonsense. What they really mean is that the stamps which they want are fetching more than they are prepared (or can afford) to pay. In brief then, as the undernoted prices will show, the top class errors and varieties are more than holding their own, they are in fact, on the up and up and the less spectacular catalogued varieties costing anything from a few shillings upwards are becoming increasingly difficult to find at any discount off catalogue valuation.

Some extremely interesting Boer War material was offered during the past year by both H. R. Harmer, Ltd. and Robson Lowe Ltd. The former sold several Mafeking Siege stamps on cover including one with two copies of 6d. on 2d. S.G.13 and also a strip of three and a pair of the "Bicycle" 1d. in deep blue and two examples of the small size Baden Powell 3d. in pale blue which realised £26. Another cover had the large size Baden Powell 3d. in deep blue being dated 13/4/00. and made £28, while a collection of 28 envelopes and postcards, mainly from Bermuda, sold for £72 as against an estimate of £30. Indeed all the P.O.W. covers offered made well over the auctioneers estimates.

At Robson Lowe's sale the complete set of Mafeking Siege overprinted adhesives S.G.1. to 16, all used, sold for £18. Among many covers offered one noted "South Africa Field Force" in blue with "A.D." in centre above the date (£6). "Natal Field Force 1" in violet (£6. 5. 0), and "Natal Field Force 2" in violet (£8. 10. 0). At the same sale a set of four G.B. stamps overprinted "Army Official" each with F.P.O. mark, but off cover, made £9. Lastly a cover with the scarce Bloemfontein postmark surmounted by an arc containing the word "Registered" sold for £5. 10. 0.

Turning to the De La Rue Georgians of the "Union" Robson Lowe sold a nice collection of 257 examples, with values to £1, all used at various towns in S.W.A. and some with coloured cancellations which made £75. At the same sale a block of four 10/- used at Swakopmund made £4.15.0 and two vertical pairs of the £1 green and red cancelled at Luderitzbrecht £16.10.0 while a remarkable block of 18 2d. Postage dues from the bottom of the sheet postmarked at Swakopmund realised £5.10.0.

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The most outstanding lot of K.G.V. however was sold by H. R. Harmer on May 15th. It comprised mint panes of 60 of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1d. 2d. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 3d. 4d. 6d. 1/-, 2/6. 5/- and 10/- values, all from Plate 1 which realised £220. At the same sale a used copy of the 10/- with inverted watermark went cheaply at 30/- although catalogued £30 in mint condition. Many copies of the £1 value were offered during the year, perhaps too many, because this is one of the few cases where the value has fallen as compared with last year recent realisations averaging £9 for S.G.24 and £10 for S.G.24a which represents a drop of approximately 10% from the 1955 values. Another useful item in this section was a Die Proof of the 1d. in black on glazed card, marked "After Striking" which sold for £18 in Harmer's January sale.

Very few complete sets of the Bradbury Wilkinson pictorials of 1927-28 were on offer but Harmer's sold one for £10 in January and got a £1 more the following March. These stamps are not so plentiful as some collectors seem to think, especially when well centred.

A complete sheet of 100 of the Harrison Springbok essay in red was offered by Harmer's in May but did not find a buyer, a similar sheet was, however, sold by Robson Lowe the previous November for £105. The only worth-while lots of the Typographed Pretorias were offered by C. E. Sherwood at his December sale when a block of ten $\frac{1}{2}$ d. including retouched ear variety sold for 17/6 the same figure being realised for a set of ten 1d. stamps showing "Calabash" and "White Leaf" varieties while a single 1d. from the bottom right hand margin of Plate 1 and blocks from a similar position from Plates 2 and 3 realised 37/6. C. E. Sherwood also sold a pair of the 1d. Darmstadt proofs with trefoil watermark for £2.15.0.

The 1925 air mails were occasionally offered and when in blocks of four with figure of value in side margin generally made £5.10.0 to £6.0.0 at any of Harmer's sales. Robson Lowe sold a pair of 9d. one with "Strut" variety for 70/- and the same stamp with variety "Line through figure of value" made 55/-.

C. E. Sherwood was the only auctioneer to offer the Rotogravure printings in small lots. However, when offered as collections by the London Auction Houses they invariably made well over the auctioneer's estimate, although very few contained arrow blocks of the unhyphenated issues. C. E. Sherwood sold a mint pair of 1930 6d. with upright watermark and variety "Line between trees" for 35/- while a small collection of eleven corner blocks of hyphenated $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps, all pre cylinder number printings, made 62/6, twenty corner blocks of the 1d. realising £4.2.6. and 16/- was obtained for a mint pair of 6d. Die 1. Two interesting realisations by H. R. Harmer were £42 for a mint vertical strip of five 1d. stamps the three centre stamps having the frame omitted, top and bottom stamps, frame partly omitted the other item being two mint blocks of four 1941 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Plate V "Waffle Plate" printing which made 60/-.

Turning to War time issues Harmer's sold a block of six small War Effort 1d. with variety roulettes omitted for £15 and a block of four $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. with a similar variety for £11.10.0 while a collection of ninety covers with various A.P.O. markings of World War II, mostly bearing South African stamps, sold for £10.10.0.

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A mint corner block of four 1922-26 imperforate 2d Postage Dues realised £10.10.0 at H. R. Harmer's in January and Robson Lowe sold a mint collection of Postage Dues comprising 1488 stamps in sheets or part sheets covering the 1922-28 issues and values to 6d. for £11.10.0. Finally among very few "Officials" on offer the most interesting was a lot containing mint blocks of four of the 1932-33 1/- and 2/6 stamps both with "stop" error which Harmer's sold for £13.

A PHILATELIC CO-INCIDENCE

by R. D. ALLEN

If you read the B.P.A. Journal "Philately", you will have seen in several issues of that magazine articles penned under the above title and by different writers. I am not going to re-hash any of those articles but will tell you something of co-incidences of mine.

Some years ago I was purchasing quantities of used South African penny reds from a small dealer. In his first lot I saw a nice horizontal strip of three but the postmark was blue and appeared at first sight to be a fiscal but upon closer examination I saw that it was "Assistant Shipping Postmaster" and that it bore a date. In due course I returned this lot and requested another similar lot. This duly arrived and amongst them I found a pair with a similar cancellation there-on. This pair joined on to the horizontal strip of three to make it five and strangely, in that order. This second lot went back to the dealer and the third and last lot arrived. In this I found a single but a very good single, for it joined up with stamp number four of the strip of five and it proved to me that the whole cancellation was from Cape Town.

Where are the other four stamps that are missing from this original block for I am nearly positive that no person would use stamps in that odd assorted way. How many are missing I do not know as the weight of the packet is unknown.

About three months later I had occasion to go to Liverpool Street Railway Station and the bus went a most unusual way due to road repairs. It passed a stamp dealers shop and one that I had never entered before. As I had time in hand for my appointment and banking on the usual practice of trains being late, I entered the shop and purchased two identical specimens of Shipping Postmaster marks, alas they were short of the remainder of the envelope. That being a quick purchase and still having time in hand I went to Broad Street Railway Station to the stamp dealer there-on. From him I purchased a strip of four with still a different Shipping Postmaster cancellation. Time was passing, so to Liverpool Street Railway Station I went and eventually returned home where I found that the postman had called and had delivered a small packet from a well known dealer. It contained a used block of four 2½d Commemorative, 1910, the postmark was a sister to the Assistant Shipping Postmaster mentioned above.

I think that journey to Liverpool Street Station was a journey I shall not forget for some time for the additions it brought to my collection.

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ESSAYS AND PROOFS

Being a continuation of the abridged version as applicable to S. A. beginning in Volume 5 No. 2.

De La Rue Original Plate Proofs. Mostly printed in the issued colours on watermarked paper, distinguishable from the issued stamps in being imperforate, many of these proofs must have come from sheets retained by the printers or by the issuing authority for record or reference purposes. Plate proofs in unissued colours are mostly colour trials.

Colour Trials. After a stamp design has been approved, a decision must be reached as to the colours, or combination of colours, in which the stamp, or the individual values in a series of stamps, are to be printed. For this purpose the printers may submit to the issuing authority a series of plate proofs of one value of the set printed in the colours or colour combinations they consider most suitable, and it is from this series that the final selection is made. These colour trials may be printed on watermarked or unwatermarked paper, imperforate or perforated.

Contemporary Proofs. The clue to these is provided by the date of the inscription, if any. On proofs from De La Rue dies two further varieties of descriptive handstamp may be found:

"Before Re-hardening" and "After Re-hardening", to check the die after it has been softened to permit the repair of minor damage or the execution of slight modification to the design and to check it after it has again been hardened. This state is rarely found (the prefix "re" is generally added in manuscript), and if moulds are then struck for the construction of a new plate, further proofs may be found marked "After Striking", distinguishable from original die proofs by the later date of the inscription, if any. It is known that the die was also checked after new moulds had been struck to replace damaged clichés.

Reprint. Any impression taken from an original die or plate, or from a plate derived from the original die, which was made after the stamp concerned had been withdrawn from issue. There are four main classes.

- (1) Reprints made to official order to supply specimens of obsolete stamps to Postal Administrations who had requested examples for inclusion in their reference collections. If the original dies or plates were no longer available, facsimiles were sometimes made, known as "official imitations".
- (2) Reprints made with official sanction to assist philatelists in their researches.

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- (3) Reprints made with official sanction by the various printing firms for use as samples of their work, known as "printer's samples".
- (4) Reprints made purely for sale to collectors, the Postal Administrations of some of the Australian States being some of the worst offenders in this respect.

An Example of a Reprint is The Cape "Woodblock" Reprints.

In 1883 reprints of the 1861 stereotyped provisionals were made to official orders to supply specimens of these stamps to various Postal Administrations who had requested examples for their reference collections. They were printed from the original plates in slightly different colours to the issued 1d and 4d stamps, and were on wove, as compared with laid paper. A few are known postally used, having been accepted by the Post Office.

Subsequent reprints, made with official sanction to assist philatelists, were taken from the plates, some after various degrees of defacement.

Printer's Samples. The American Bank Note Co. also used reprints made from special composite plates as samples of their work.

Plate proofs of some of the most attractive stamps of the reign of King George V produced by De La Rue & Co., mostly printed in unissued colours or colour combinations, were used for this purpose. They are generally printed on wove paper or thin card, imperforate or perforated (scarce) and mostly overprinted "Specimen".

It is believed that many of these were made while the stamps concerned were still current, and they must therefore be classed as contemporary plate proofs, though of lower status than similar proofs arising from the normal printing process.

Similar samples of the productions of Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. and of Waterlow & Sons are known, some taken direct from the dies and some overprinted with the firm's name in addition to "Specimen".

N.B. In the 1920's, Harrison & Sons prepared a number of sample essays, incorporating the word "Specimen" in their designs, for submission to the Dutch Government".

The designs included portraits of Queen Wilhelmina and of members of the Harrison family, and various scenic views. Similarly inscribed essays have been produced by the American Bank Note Co. and by the Indian Nasik Press.

Proofs arising during the process of Rotary Photogravure.

Apart from artist's drawings, proofs taken from the cylinder and printer's waste, any other by-products will be of a purely photographic nature. Since the

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introduction of this process coincided with the period of stiffening of security, proofs of British and Colonial stamps produced by this process are very rarely seen. Examples are the Great Britain 1934-36 essays of the 1d with the larger head than normal and imperf. proofs from the cylinder of the 1½d and other values in various colours on watermarked paper, thicker and whiter than the normal; also imperf. plate proofs of the Gold Coast 1928 3d in brown.

The "Penrose Annual" for 1954 included a page of photogravure reproductions of the 1953 Coronation 2½d, 4d, 1/3d and 1/6d stamps of Great Britain printed in vertical strips of three in black by Messrs Harrison by permission of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General. The 1956 edition of the same publication contains a page of similar reproductions of the Malta 1954 "Immaculate Conception" Set.

These certainly cannot be classed as proofs in the philatelic sense; their status is rather that of printer's samples produced from special plates.

In spite of the fact that each impression is inscribed at back "Reproduction only No postal or philatelic value" they have been offered as proofs and the volume has been changing hands at a premium.

Conclusion. It will be appreciated that many proofs are handprinted on special paper or card from dies or plates which are in brilliant new condition, and hence show the stamp designs to the best advantage possible, particularly when the impressions are taken in black. There is also a fascination in seeing stamps which are printed in the "wrong" colours and, probably due to the novelty presented to the eye, it is remarkable how frequently such colour or colour combinations appear superior to those used for the issued stamps.

This was the end of the article as such but the author felt he should draw attention to the necessary distinction between engraver's proofs and proofs from the completed die. The paragraph numbered "2" on page 26 of Vol 5 No. 2 should be corrected as follows:

- (2) The period of a stamp's lifetime at which the proof was made
- (a) Engraver's Proof: an impression taken, generally from the uncompleted die to enable the engraver to check the accuracy and progress of his delicate work. Any series of such proofs showing successive stages in the development of the design is known as a set of "progressive" proofs.
- (b) Original Proof: made to test the perfection of the completed die or plate, or the effects of various coloured inks, before printing of the stamp for issue to the public commences.

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- (c) Contemporary Proof: made to official order or with official sanction during a stamp's lifetime to check the condition of the die or plate, possibly after slight damage or modification to supply impressions for showing at exhibitions or for other official purposes.
- (d) Reprinted Proof: any impression taken after a stamp has been withdrawn from issue.

LONDON GROUP MEETING

The London Group Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 14th. at 246 Stockwell Road, Brixton and proceedings were all over in a very short space of time. On propositions from the meeting, the minutes of the last A.G.M. were taken as read and the existing officers and committee re-elected "en bloc".

At the close of the business, the Chairman announced that he was presenting a cup for annual competition amongst the London Group members. This was received with hearty appreciation by the members.

This year's competition, consisted of 11 entries of varied nature judged on popular vote. All present agreed that it was indeed a difficult task to select the winner and there was very little in voting of the first three. The honour of holding the "Abell Cup" for the first year went to Mr A. J. Brown for a study of the Roto coil ½d stamp. A close second was a study of the 1d Roto mono-coloured coil stamps submitted by Mr R. J. Lawrence and third was an illustrated entry of flaws of the 4d definitive entered by Mr E. W. Merriman. The latter member also kindly presented a carved wooden plaque of a springbok's head to be retained by the cup winner. Congratulations to the winners and grateful thanks to the donors.

Next meetings of the London Group:

August 13th, September 10th and 8th October, 1957

at

246 Stockwell Road, Brixton, London, S.W.9.

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ONE PENNY VAN RIEBECK'S SHIPS

by R. J. CLAYTON. (Cont'd)

Some of the printings from this plate had the frames printed with an ink which seems to have smudged easily and with the same qualification any badly smudged frames may be allotted to this plate. Plates XVII and XVIII are the "sunset" and "sunrise" issues with very dark and gloomy centres and very lightly printed centres respectively. They should present no difficulty. I am afraid I cannot say the same for plates XVI and XIX. I cannot give you any helpful guidance at all for them. Plate XX is the 180 stamps per sheet issue but this is not much use if you only have singles pairs or even blocks of four. Fortunately, however, for some reason the sky round the upper part of the masts seems to have worn badly and on quite a lot of the stamps of the sheet it was retouched. The varieties are easily recognised with a magnifying glass the sky being represented by irregular short lines. In any considerable number of stamps you may expect to find specimens showing this feature and they may be allotted to plate XX. There is a shade peculiar to plate XXI but it is, as usual, not easy to put into words. It is a bright and rather pinkish carmine of rather a light shade while the centres are a hard steel grey. When once identified the shade is easily recognised.

GROUP V. SCREENED

I have little to say about this group. A stamp with a guillotined top or bottom or with a right hand margin with more than one perf hole is from a booklet (H/C B20). Other stamps postmarked before November 1950 are from plate XXII but I know of no reliable method of allotting stamps to plates XXIII or XXIV. There are no coils.

GROUP IV HYPHENATED REDUCED FORMAT

All stamps of this and subsequent groups have upright watermarks only.

Here again begin by sorting out those stamps from coils by means of the guillotine at the sides (H/C R16).

There are also sheets intended to be used for cutting up into coils but issued in sheets. (H/C R16s), if you can find one guillotined at top or bottom only and dated 1940 it is from one of these.

Next the booklet stamps (H/C B17 & B18). For these to be definitely identified it is necessary for them to be guillotined both at the top or bottom and at the right or to find a vertical pair guillotined at top and bottom. Stamps guillotined only at the top or bottom may be from R16s.

Booklet stamps also come from H/C B 10. These are impossible to distinguish unless a bit of margin showing part of a post office slogan is attached. This, however, is not uncommon.

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Some sheets intended to be cut up into booklets B17 and B18 were issued to the public in sheets (H/C Supplement B17/18Bb) These can only be distinguished if you can find a pair with a blank gutter in between.

We now turn to the sheet stamps. These are from plates XV to XXI (H/C 45A & 45B).

Plate XV had a long life and any stamp with a postmark before Sept 1947 may be tentatively allotted to this plate. Unless, however, the date is in May 1940 or a piece of top or bottom margin is attached one cannot be absolutely certain that it is not from R16s or B17/18Bb

GROUP VI. HARD HORIZON

There are no coils or booklets.

There were three plates XXV, XXVI & XXVII (H/C 45 D-F) Plate XXV is easy to distinguish as it has a much darker and more gloomy appearance than the others. All stamps dated before 1953 are from this plate. Stamps with the lighter brighter centres dated before April 1954 may be allotted to plate XXVI. I know of no reliable method of distinguishing stamps from plate XXVII. It had a shorter life than the other two plates and is presumably less common. The frame and centre are both (I think) inclined to be slightly deeper than Plate XXVI.

GROUP VII. MONOCOLOURED

These are of course from coils only. There are three plates H/C R20, R23 and R24. You can allot to R20 any postmarked before 1949. This plate has a distinctly coarser screen than the others which with a powerful magnifying glass, or better still a low power microscope cannot be mistaken when compared with the others. It is seen especially clearly in the sky round the top of the masts. The stamps of this plate are also just a thought smaller than those of the others. I think this is exaggerated in the Handbook, but a measurement taken of the gutter between stamps with extreme care will show that the gutter is a trifle wider to make up for the smaller stamps. A fine screened stamp with a date before June 1953 is from R23. I cannot distinguish R24 for certain, though the shade and the date may give the grounds for a good guess.

CONCLUSION

I think when you have gone this far that you will find that I have indicated means of identifying quite a lot of stamps. You will, however, have still a number of blank spaces in your album and a lot of stamps unidentified. I suggest that you should next go through the latter and sort out any varieties you can find and see whether they can be allotted to any particular plates by reference to the Handbook/Catalogue and its Supplement. In doing this, however, I recommend caution. Finally, with the help of the dates of postmarks and shades, it may be possible to make some more tentative allocations in the nature of guesses.

In some cases I have suggested that certain shades can be allotted to certain plates. Please note that I have never asserted that these are the only shades of those plates. In some cases it may be so but in others the shades of stamps from one plate particularly if it had a long life may vary to an astonishing degree.

Last of all I suggest that you should from time to time go through again the stamps of your album and check your previous allocations in the light of your further

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experience and that you should also keep on trying to allot further stamps to plates. For this reason do not throw away or dispose of unallotted stamps. What is more, as previously stated, I hope that somebody will be inspired by the spectacle of my deficiencies to do the job properly and you will then be able to allot many more stamps to their proper places.

THE TELEGRAPHIC CANCELLATIONS ON HIGH VALUE GEORGIANS

by "SKIPPER"

Some time ago, at a London Group Meeting, I was asked for information concerning the Telegraphic cancellations of South Africa on high value stamps. I had just started to give an answer to the question when the Chairman called the meeting to order. Upon reading Vol. 1. of the South African Philatelist, August 1923, I was reminded of the unfinished conversation and I will use most of that article which was written by the then Editor, G. W. Reynolds, Esq.

The highest value stamp issued by the Union, (Georgian type) was the £1. Genuinely postally used copies of which are extremely scarce. It is also very difficult to obtain good postally used copies of the 10/-. There are, however, a good quantity of these two stamps reposing in collectors' albums and in dealers' stock books, but how many of them have been used genuinely for postage?

To explain how this comes about, an examination of the various postage rates must be made that were current at that time. The Official Post Office Guide of that era gives the information.

LETTER RATE: for delivery within the Union, Bechuanaland, South West Africa, Northern Rhodesia and Mozambique, the rate was 2d for each ounce with no limit to the weight of the 'letter'. Therefore, to make up for the £1 postage genuinely used the weight of the letter must be $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Gold and other articles of value are mostly sent by registered parcels rate which is cheaper. Letter rate to this country (G.B.) and the Commonwealth are the same, but registered parcels could not be sent, the weight of the letter was limited to 4 lbs 6 ozs - hence only $11\frac{1}{8}$ can be made up in postage, or 12/- if registered. For other countries the rate was 3d for the first ounce and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d for each additional ounce with the weight limited to 4 lbs 6 ozs which makes a letter cost $8\frac{1}{10}\frac{1}{2}$ d.

PARCELS: inland (South Africa) it was 6d per lb, with a limit of 11 lbs, so that maximum is $5\frac{5}{6}$ d with additional 4d for registration. There was, however, an exception, parcels containing gold, silver or copper coinage and raw gold irrespective of value were accepted up to 19 lbs in weight, but if they were registered they only cost $9\frac{1}{10}$ d.

A fact to bear in mind was that the Post Office of South Africa did not insure letters or parcels and the Banking Institutions were not granted facilities for the conveyance of specie which was usually forwarded at registered parcels rate.

Parcels sent to foreign countries, the highest rate for a 11 lb parcel was $13\frac{9}{10}$ d to Northern Rhodesia. Asia, America and foreign possession in Australasia come next, where the postage was $12\frac{2}{3}$ d for a maximum weight parcel of 11 lbs. The maximum weight for Belgian Congo was 11 lb and that cost 12/-, it was cheaper to send an 11 lbs parcel to other British possessions or foreign countries.

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It is quite plain to see that it was impossible to use a £1 stamp genuinely to pay full postage on any packet through the post, and that the 10/- was not so often used. Of course, if you wanted to put a couple of £1 stamps on an envelope, the Post Office would not refuse to deliver it for you. Bearing in mind the true postage rates, it is rather safe to assume that genuine postally used £1 and 10/- stamps should be scarce, but there are considerable numbers of each about. From where have they come? From cables, telegrams and other departmental documents.

How can we tell those that have been used by these means? Before that is told, we should ascertain how was it that these stamps have come on to the market? All cables, telegrams etc. etc. were kept for a specified period after which they were destroyed. Instead of the whole of the document being destroyed, the stamps were sometimes removed and disposed of as 'used' copies. The control of the destruction today has vastly improved but although there was a control in those days, 'things' as we know, did get out. In the larger cities it was easier for the authorities to trace the place of leakage for they bore the place name, but unfortunately not all bore the place names. Some Post Offices, as they do in this country, use the same date stamp for all purposes, but to help us there was a limited number of post offices to which the 20/- stamp was issued for use., and not all stocked the 10/- value, for there was no normal business for that amount of postage.

Cancellations:

- (a) Circle with numeral in the centre. This is easily recognised, the circle being about 25mm across the figure there-in is about 15 mm high.
- (b) Date show showing 'C.T.O.', this does not mean what we usually associate with these initials, but Central Telegraph Office and usually has the name of the Town. Single and double lined circles are known about 25 to 30mm across.
- (c) Date stamp with 'CONTROLLER'. approximately the same size as marks under (b) above, but the word 'Controller' instead of 'C.T.O.'. Johannesburg may be found with 'Controller of Posts'.
- (d) Small numerals, from 5-6mm tall. (Each telegram as it is handed in receives a serial number) types are different but the usual types associated with counting and numbering machines.
- (e) A star punched out of the stamp, Used on Cables. This star is five pointed and is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm across on the widest part.
- (f) Perforated with the word 'Cancelled', holes are about 1mm each.
- (g) Among my collection I find the following:
 - (i) Exchange - Johannesburg:
 - (ii) Cape Town - G.P.O. Ca???. These are, I think, not postal markings.

It should be borne in mind that other stamps of the Georgian era may bear the above described marks, especially when we remember the reason for the issue of the 1/3d.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

WHY DID I JOIN.....?

by A. R. Taylor.

Living far away in Argentina, perhaps some members wonder why membership of the Society attracted me. For many years I have been an ardent collector of South Africa and had collected all units as per Gibbons catalogue and added to this, when I had the opportunity to get unsevered pairs of South African stamps I must confess that I literally grabbed them. This question of unsevered pairs is not an easy matter for me for here in Latin America, all collecting is done as per Yvert and Tellier which catalogue lists the S. A. items as separate units, as do Scott in U.S.A., and hence when dealers or society booklets offer such stamps they are in singles.

In the course of time I began to note that I really had a collection of varieties, not exactly lots but some of the items were rather puzzling. Then one day I read an article by a member in a philatelic magazine about the $\frac{1}{2}$ d springboks so I wrote immediately to the contributor, addressing my letter to Cape Town instead of England, but believe it or not, my letter did reach him in Kent and I was very pleased indeed to receive a reply and as a consequence my membership of the Society followed.

Alas for close on one year now my activities on the South African specialising have not prospered for despite the co-operation of a couple of dealers in Buenos Aires, S.A. stamps continue to be almost impossible to obtain.

This brings me to a point. I have tried to obtain an active correspondent in the Union having 26 correspondents all over the world but South Africa and the West Indies have proved "dead ends", although I just cannot understand why. I was in active correspondence with Mr Edgar Solomon of Cape Town for many years but alas he is no longer with us.

If any member in the Union would be willing to correspond I can supply impeccable references and exchange stamps of the Argentine, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay mint or used. I am NOT a dealer but just collect stamps for the joy of the hobby.

May I just add that I am one member who certainly does look forward to receiving his copy of "The Springbok" both as a pleasure to read and a source of untold information which otherwise I would find it impossible to acquire.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

Herewith a letter received from South Africa, the contents of which will no doubt be of interest to many readers -

Publicity Section,
Pretoria.
27th May, 1957.

"268/6/56.

Dear Sir,

..... I have detailed hereunder the postmarks available at the various ports of call in South Africa.

Cape Town: two datestamps (numbered 1 and 2) engraved "Shipping/Skeeps/PM Cape Town/Kaapstad".
one datestamp engraved "Cape Town/Kaapstad Paquebot" one sleeve engraved "Paquebot" (used in conjunction with a machine datestamp)

Port Elizabeth: no special date stamp in use, mail matter posted in Purser's box receives cachet "Paquebot".

East London: same remarks.

Durban: One date stamp engraved "Durban Paquebot".

Only letters posted in the Purser's letter box while ships are at sea and outside of South African waters are postmarked with a special "Paquebot" date stamp. During the time the ships are in port the letter box is closed.

..... The date stamps engraved "Shipping/Skeeps/PM Cape Town/Kaapstad" are used by postal officials when boarding ships at Cape Town, when required, for all transactions undertaken by the Post Office. In this case letters should be registered and handed in at this temporary office.

Publicity Officer."

London.

R. D. Allen, Snr.

Mr A. A. Whitworth, Flat 3, 49 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7. is anxious to acquire any sheets, part sheets or large blocks of the 1½d, 2d, 1/-d, 2/6d, 5/-d and 10/-d values of the 1950-54 officials (SG.037, 038, 040-042) and guarantees to return the material loaned, within seven days and will, of course, pay registered postage in full. If any reader can oblige Mr Whitworth it may prove helpful to us all.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

IS IT A POST OFFICE?

Now that we are having so many 'permutations' of the 'The man that never was' theme - I see 'Warthog' in Stamp Collecting has adopted it too, perhaps I can mention the Post Office that never was - only in my imagination.

Over the years, I have acquired a couple of postcards bearing photographs of cable railways and a building with the postmark - Table Mountain, Capetown. I thought, perhaps not alone, that there was a Post Office at the top of Table Mountain for the benefit of visitors or possible residents, but have lately had an official reply to my queries about this.

The Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, kindly writes -

"There is actually no Post Office on Table Mountain, only a collection depot. Mail matter posted there is sent daily weather permitting, by private bag to the General Post Office, Capetown, for postmarking with a special date stamp.

The cableway which serves the mountain was opened on the 4th October, 1929, and the private bag service commenced early in 1930. There is no record of the actual date on which the date stamp was brought into use, but it was during 1930."

I received a letter posted from Table Mountain recently, and, as a matter of interest, the postmark does not appear to differ in any respect from my two previous ones of 1937 and 1940, a period embracing nearly 20 years - no 'philatelic' cachets or cancellations there!!!

Quattordici.

A member writes -

I have only recently come across a publication which may prove interesting and a good reference book to other Union collectors. It is The Year Book and Guide to Southern Africa, edited by A. Gordon-Brown, F.R.G.S., for the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, 3 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3. 12/-. including postage, or from any bookseller, 10/6. It includes the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, South West Africa and Angola. There is a companion book, at 8/6, postage extra, which deals with Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa and Mauritius, etc. They are really guide books for the tourist or settler, and contain much useful information and statistics also history, very useful when 'writing-up'.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

NATIVE HUTS. by E. W. MERRIMAN

Redrawn Design S.A.H.40a.

During the 18 years' life of the cylinder used in printing the 4d. stamp (S.A.H.40a.), it can reasonably be assumed that some damage could be caused and thus give rise to various marks and spots on the resulting sheets of stamps.

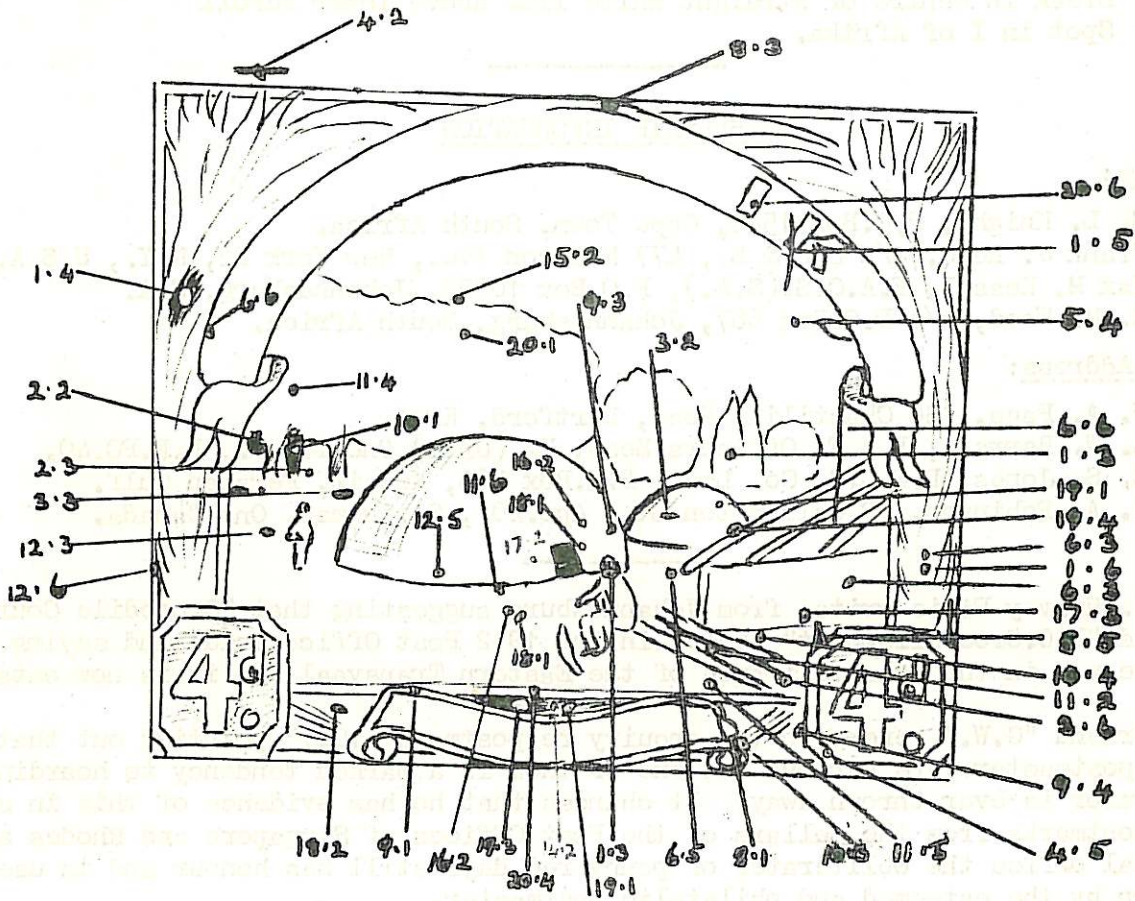
With the help of material on hand and that loaned for examination by fellow philatelists and dealers, the following list of constant flaws will assist others in plating their own copies. With very few exceptions several copies of each stamp have been examined.

It is appreciated that some spots etc. may have occurred towards the end of the cylinder's use and may be missing on earlier material. It has been a pleasure sorting out these spots and I am happy to be able to pass the information on to others who may wish to use it. No claim is made that all spots etc. have been charted, as some are indeed minute, but quite a number are distinct enough to be worthy of catalogue status.

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| Row 1 | 3 | Spot on natives' chin and in trees above smaller hut V.C. |
| | 4 | White spot in stems left of S of SOUTH |
| | 1 | Hairline through K |
| | 1 | Dot in stems above right value tablet |
| | 2 | "Monkey in tree" V.A. |
| | 2 | Spot in base of trees left of larger hut. |
| | 3 | Short horizontal line on smaller hut. |
| | 3 | Line of horizontal marks above native woman. |
| | 3 | Dot at right end of 'logs'. |
| | 4 | 'Monoplane' outside frame bottom left corner. |
| | 4 | Dot in white frame of right value tablet lower left corner (not constant) |
| | 5 | Tiny dot in sky, left of leaf tip, left of last A of Africa |
| | 5 | White vertical flash top left corner of right value tablet. |
| | 6 | Mark on wall of hut below rafters |
| | 6 | Tiny dot at left end of uppermost rafter. |
| | 6 | Hairline from right scroll down through rafters and mark in scroll left of |
| | 8 | White pimple right end of bottom scroll. (S of Suid. |
| | 8 | Break in white line above first A of Africa. |
| | 9 | Break in white line over P of Posseel. |
| | 9 | Dot near right edge of large hut above seated native. |
| | 9 | Dot lower left of right value tablet. |
| | 10 | 1 White gash in trunk of centre tree. |
| | 10 | 3 Brown pimple right end of lower scroll. |
| | 10 | 4 Dot between "logs" and base of hut wall. |
| | 11 | 2 Dot between the two "logs". |
| | 11 | 4 Dot in trees above native woman opposite end of scroll. |
| | 11 | 5 Dot under "logs" over right end of lower scroll. |
| | 11 | 6 Dot in centre foreground of larger hut. |
| | 12 | 3 Mark left of native woman's arm. |
| | 12 | 5 Dot on lower edge of large hut. |
| | 12 | 6 Break in white frameline above left value tablet. |
| | 5 | 2 Dot in top of large group of trees under H. |
| | 5 | 2 Dot upper right of doorway, and mark left of seated native. |
| | 3 | Mark on wall of hut right above left edge of value tablet. |
| | 1 | Dot in foreground of hut right of doorway. |
| | 2 | Dot left of bottom scroll. |

NATIVE HUTS.

S.A.H. 40a.



CONSTANT VARIETIES.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

(Cont'd from page 78)

- 19 1 Dot upper right of smaller hut and dot above S of Posseel
- 19 3 White spot in shading above lower scroll
- 19 4 Spot on rafters V.B.
- 20 1 Spot in larger group of trees above centre of larger hut
- 20 4 Break in centre of straight white line above lower scroll
- 20 6 Spot in I of Afrika.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

- 337. S. L. Knight, P.O.Box 1548, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 338. Frank J. Reed, c/o SSC & B., 477 Madison Ave., New York 22, N.Y., U.S.A.
- 339. Max M. Kessel, F.A.C.S.(S.A.), P.O.Box 10295, Johannesburg, S.A.
- 340. M. M. Wood, c/o P.O.Box 687, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Changes of Address:

- 27. W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent.
- 113. L. W. Barratt, R.A.F. Officers Mess, HQ (Unit) 2nd T.A.F., B.F.PO.40.
- 241. E. S. Jones, B.I.C.C. Co. Ltd., P.O.Box 483, Kuwait, Persian Gulf.
- 327. J. A. Robinson, 39 Wellington St., Apt.201, St.Thomas, Ont.Canada.

Dr. J. Harvey Pirie writes from Johannesburg suggesting that "Crocodile Court" should read "P.O.Crocodilepoort" listed in the 1912 Post Office Guide and saying that this office was in the Nelspruit area of the Eastern Transvaal but it is now extant.

Our friend "G.W." refers to the enquiry re postmark "1047" pointing out that the habits of postmasters are various but one of them is a marked tendency to hoarding. No obliterator is ever thrown away. It chanced that he has evidence of this in strikes from old postmarks from the collars of the Post Offices of Singapore and Rhodes and in his local office the obliterator of penny red days still has honour and is used on occasion by the esteemed and philatelic postmaster.

There seems to be three stages (i) the handstamp in daily use which is issued with every precaution against villainy being signed for and returned to store with like ceremony (ii) the handstamp which lives in a rack where all may use it being employed mostly by the officer who checks over letters to see which have escaped an automatic obliterator or which have passed unscathed under the hands of some junior. (iii) the poor forgotten handstamp which is only an item in a cellar - never used but never, never thrown away.

"G.W." presumes that "1047" strike (of which he has several examples gleaned from ancient kiloware) is in class (ii)