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# THE SPRINGBOK

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Volume 5 No. 6 November/December 1957

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Editor's Chair	page	103
Constant Plate Flaws and Varieties, Part V, by H.A. Stewart & E. Lauder		104
Picture Page		104a
London Group Meeting - November		106
Fourth Annual Exhibition		107
Early S. A. Posts and Stamps, by A. A. Jurgens.		110
South African War Train		111
Annual General Meeting		112
A South African Impression of the London Exhibition 1957 by G.I.Faerber		113
Supporting the Exhibition by "Kingtec"		115
Correspondence		117
The Exhibition - What They Thought.		119
Membership Information.		120
Paarl Exhibition.		120

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

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15/- (£2.00) per year.

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THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Once again it is time to close another volume of our magazine and we see that twelve months ago we were wondering whether we would have been able to complete volume 4! Although it is very much like hard work finding enough material to keep the magazine going there are the staunch supporters who pitch in to help and to all of them we extend our really heartfelt thanks for helping the job along. Would there were more!

This number might almost be described as an Exhibition number as there is so much about it but we feel that the more is written about this annual event the better the chance of you and you and you coming along next year to see the very finest display of Union stamps offered in this country. Perhaps you want to make a note of the date now - it is the 25th October 1958. Get your diary out now and refuse to accept any other engagements for that date!

We thought the high standard set from the start was very well maintained and we pay tribute to the happy band of "slaves" who toiled so nobly that the show might go on. Thank you, gentlemen.

A source of disappointment to us was the number of members who came along but did not make themselves known. We are always pleased to extend our circle of personal knowledge and do urge that members should force their presence upon us, if needs be! It was a pleasure to see so many there and to hear members from the provinces express the delight and satisfaction with the display and to know it was all worth while. With members from Eire, Scotland and South Africa too we are collecting almost an international flavour.

Once again with the last issue of the year we include the very much appreciated "Varieties" article and illustrations from the pens of Messrs. Lauder and Stewart and also a complete index for volume 5.

The year has not seen any new issues but a number of interesting new printings have taken place, particularly in the 1d and 2d issues with an identification novelty in horizontal bars top and bottom of the sheets sometimes solid, sometimes broken. There have been several new commemorative postmarks during the year too.

In wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Most Prosperous New Year may we urge upon you a resolution to support your magazine during 1958 with an abundance of articles and news!

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CONSTANT PLATE FLAWS AND VARIETIES - PART V

by

H. A. STEWART and E. LAUDER

When we wrote our first article in 1953 we did not expect to find ourselves still at the same job four years later. It is evident that there is really no end to the different varieties which can be illustrated and it looks as though these articles are going to continue for a long time to come. So long as they are serving a useful purpose, and there is a demand for varieties we will continue to illustrate some of the most prominent. We do feel however that Collectors' should preserve a sense of proportion with regard to the collecting of varieties, whether of South Africa or any other country. As we see it, there are two reasons for including a variety in your collection, or at least labelling it as such :

(1) Because it is so prominent that it is a flaw of major importance which every serious collector will want to acquire, and

(2) Because it serves to identify a particular Plate or Printing. In this case it does not matter how microscopic the flaw is so long as it is constant.

We believe that some, perhaps too many, collectors are led astray by the interesting "title" given to some quite unimportant flaws and they feel that they will not be "complete" without them. To misquote a well known advertisement "they won't be happy till they get it". The position has not been helped by the compilers of the Handbook/Catalogue of Union stamps who have not maintained the exacting standards as regards the listing of varieties on many of the modern issues, which were set by their predecessors when listing the earlier stamps. We hope that the Catalogue Editors will review their policy as regards the listing of varieties before a new edition makes its appearance.

Our quota of varieties this year brings the score up to 65 and as before we have endeavoured to cover various different issues so as to please as many members as possible.

(1) "White dot left of trunk of tree" which is to be found on the 6d. stamps from Plate 7 printed from screened cylinders Nos. 85/32 issued in February 1954. The Handbook tells us that it appears on stamp No. 3 of Row 18. It is listed as No. 49D Vc. It should not be confused with the variety listed as "White Orange" which also appears on an English stamp of this issue - see illustration No. 3. Members would note that it was incorrectly listed in Part IV (Nov/Dec. 1956).

(2) "Long Serf to 1". We have not illustrated many varieties on the King's Head issues, mainly because they are not so widely collected as are the Rotogravure issues. Here however is one of the best and it comes on the 1d. printed from Plate 6 being the first stamp in Row 5. In addition to the long serf to the left hand "1" members will observe that the inner verticle frame line of the value tablet extends right up to join with the inner horizontal line. Catalogue No. 3 Vn.

(3) "White Orange". Another variety found on the 6d. all screened printing from Plate 7. As members will see for themselves it is quite distinct from the similar sized white mark illustrated as No.1. It appears on stamp No.2 of Row 3.

(4) "Broken 'L' of POSSEEL" which variety is catalogued as No.22 Vh. It is found on the London printed  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Typographed issue of 1926 and is the second last stamp in the sheet being No.11 of Row 20.

(5) "Line through AFRICA ..... AFRIKA". This is one of the best varieties to be found on the Coronation issue of 1937. It comes on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value being stamps No.2 and 3 of Row 6 and is catalogued as No.64 Vl. Members will note the resemblance to the "Damaged frame below 'OM'" variety (No.44D Vc) which occurs on the hyphenated  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from Plate 17.

(6) "Smudged 'R' of AFRIKA". Yet another variety on the 6d. from Plate 7, this time catalogued as No.49D Va. Here again we have a resemblance to a similar variety on another stamp, the hyphenated 1d. from Plate 26, listed as No.45E Vd - "Broken 'K' of AFRIKA".

(7) "Missing Shadow". This is a very well known variety and well worth illustrating. It occurs of course on the 1/- Van Riebeeck Tercentenary issue of 1952 and is catalogued as No.115 Vd. It is found on stamp No.2 of Row 19. It will be noticed that the shadow to the left of the seated man's foot does not extend up to the box as it does on a normal stamp.

(8) "Red Comet". A variety to be found on the 1d. value of the First Voortrekker issue of 1933. Catalogued as No.55 Vc it appears on stamp No.7 of Row 2. This stamp and the one immediately above it contain variety No.55 Vb "Blurred inscription owing to damaged plate" which can be seen best in the word "postage".

(9) "Moon to left of ship below 'R' of AFRIKA". A further example of a variety on the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary issue. This time it is the 2d. value and it comes on stamp No.3 of Row 6. It is too well known to need further comment.

(10) "Bird shaped mark on top of numeral '2'" and "Curved line through side of Queen's head". Two varieties to be found on the 2d. value of the 1947 Royal Visit set printed from cylinder No.6912 and it is stamp No.6 of Row 10 being listed as No.101 Vc. The "Bird shaped mark" is of course quite clear but the illustration hardly does justice to the curved line through the side of the Queen's head. Incidentally this line continues through the stamp immediately below.

(11) "Ornament in Princess Margaret's hair" - "Hair Clasp" variety. This flaw is on the 3d. value of the 1947 Royal Visit set and appears on stamp No.5 of Row 16 and is listed as No.102 Vi. There are so many marks all over the place on this issue that we thought it as well to put on record the exact position of this popular variety.

Well, that is our offering for 1957 and members will note that we have included a larger proportion of commemorative issues than is usual. Until next year then - Good Hunting.

LONDON GROUP MEETING

Most of the November London Group meeting was taken up with the discussion on the outcome of the A.G.M. and Exhibition held in London in October. It was finally decided that in future that no business would be discussed at the London Group meetings, and they would be used for the study and display of stamps, as was the original intention. It is hoped that as a result of this major change that many more Members within access to Brixton will attend these meetings, which it is sure will prove both interesting and informative.

As a start to this new programme the December meeting, to be held on the Second Tuesday of the month, will be devoted to a display of the material exhibited at the National Stamp Exhibition at Paarl. This invited exhibit has received high praise in the Union and should be well worth seeing. Watch these columns for a full report on the 134 sheets making up the exhibit.

In a recent communication from the Exhibition chairman, advising the return of the exhibit, the following comments were made.

"I can assure you that this exhibit was highly appreciated by the thousands of visitors to the exhibition, and it was one of the highlights. There were a few items in the exhibit which were really outstanding and not seen in this country before. Your effort has certainly assisted Philately in South Africa to a very great extent, and I shall be pleased if you will convey the sincere thanks and appreciations of our Society and the Exhibition Committee to each and everyone of your members, and assure them that if there is anything we can do in the future, we will certainly do so."

Members will be pleased to know that the Society will in due course, receive a certificate of recognition for the exhibit, and the individual members contributing will also have certificates.

The Society has again been invited to participate in the National Stamp Exhibition, to be held in London next March, and the Committee have decided that a selection of the Paarl exhibit will be shown.

W. A. P.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The fourth Annual Exhibition, organised by the London Group of the South African Collectors Society was this year held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1., on Saturday, 26th October, 1957. A large number of members and visitors attended the exhibition during the day.

Again this year the Society was honoured by a Philatelist from the Union - Dr. I. G. Faerber from Germiston who is a well known collector in the Union.

It was also particularly pleasing to see such a strong contingent of out of town and Scots members. Many old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made and in the members room private discussions and little "study groups" were in progress at intervals throughout the day.

Among the visitors were Mr. J. H. Selfe, representing the High Commissioner for South Africa, and a member of the staff of SATOUR - the South African Tourist Organisations, together with visitors from other Philatelic Organisations.

The Central Exhibit this year consisted of a study of the 2d pictorial value, first issued in 1927 which, although less popular than its predecessors the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Springbok and the 1d. Ship. Never-the-less during a lifetime of some twenty seven years it was produced from some fifteen different plates or sets of photo-gravure cylinders. All these printings with numerous shades, some rare, perforation varieties, paper joins and printing flaws were fully displayed.

a/ The Bradbury Wilkinson printings of 1927-1931. Since none of the die proofs are in private hands, as far as is known, some photographic reproductions were shown. Then came the completed stamps overprinted "SPECIMEN", a complete sheet of 120 of the issued stamp which must be one of the very few such sheets to survive; inscriptional pairs or blocks of both plates and perforations; perforation varieties and printing flaws and a block of four with the rare inverted watermark.

b/ The unhyphenated Rotogravure Printings 1931-1938. Three different sets of cylinders were employed for the sheet printings with the word SUIDAFRIKA without hyphen and marginal arrow pairs or blocks were on view from plates 1A; 1B; 11B; and 111. A pair from the rare printing with the centre in sepia, together with numerous lesser shades and a representation of most of the major and minor printing flaws were shown. In addition there were booklet panes and a coil strip of 22 stamps. Last but by no means least one noticed a remarkable detailed study of this issue by a member of the Scottish Group, who has succeeded in plating all the sheet positions in the various printings.

c/ The Hyphenated Rotogravure Printings 1938-1954. These printings may be distinguished by the word SUID-APRIKA with a hyphen and can be divided into three main groups. The first the printings of 1938-1941 from the cylinder set known as plate IV in two different colours - blue and violet in 1938 and grey and purple in 1941. A representative display of marginal arrows and printing flaws covered this section.

The printings of 1945-1950, in which for the first time cross lined screened photogravure was used for the centre of the stamps. At least three different sets of cylinders were used to produce this series in two main shades - grey and purple from 1945-1950 and slate blue and plum in 1950. The actual number of cylinders employed has yet to be finally determined. The later printings included complete sheets, some overprinted 'OFFICIAL'. In addition, a most valuable study of the sheet positions, in which various printings have been traced from the multipositive by printing flaws, was contributed by a Midlands member.

When the internal postage tariff for letters was increased from 1½d to 2d the size of the 2d stamp was reduced for convenience and economy. In 1950 the first of the smaller 2d's was placed on sale. Four sets of cylinders were employed for this group of stamps and examples from each, with printing flaws and complete sheets were on show.

The remainder of the exhibits started with a Genealogy suitably embellished with the appropriate stamps and designed to show the postal history of the Union prior to its inception in 1910, together with the straight issues of 1910 to date set out in miniature form which of necessity left out some of the printings particularly among the definitives.

The Silver Jubilee issues of 1935 were dealt with in some detail and included material illustrating how the original design was prepared in pairs and how the order of printing can be determined by the constant flaws. The various head plate flaws and frame plate flaws were set out on their own, but the penny value received special treatment as being the most interesting.

The War Effort Bantam series were covered by a complete range of all the printings, separated and extremely well illustrated by means of comparative arrow blocks. It was strong in miniature sheets of slogan corner pieces, etc., besides containing most of the major varieties. Among the several un-catalogued varieties shown and of interest to the student was the medal flaw which is on both English and Afrikaans stamps. This was surely the finest display of this series of stamps ever seen.

Various Commemorative Issues were covered in a composite exhibit from the Glasgow Group which included many covers some showing special cancellations including the Ox-wagon post of the Voortrekker Commemorations.

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" THE SPRINGBOK "  
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A further selection, also from the Glasgow Group covered the aspect of the many commemorative covers and cachets issued in the Union.

Among the other subjects covered by the Exhibition were the slogan post marks, and examples from the Union's 14 Mobile Post Offices.

The 'Invitation' frame included a study 'Stages in the production of Roto stamps', well illustrated by flaws. Of the more recent issues the 1d. animal series was dealt with in some detail showing salient points in the identification of the various printings.

Last but by no means least one saw the first three entries from the London Group "Abell Cup" competition, all of which were of exceptionally high standard.

The winner entered a comprehensive display - beautifully illustrated - of the 1/2d Rotogravure Roll Stamp and is now the proud holder of the cup for one year - Well done Mr. A. J. Brown.

The runner up - Mr. R. J. Lawrence, also had an entry of the coil stamps - this time the 1d Monocoloured stamps, which was well illustrated with diagrams.

The third place went to Mr. R. W. Merriman whose study of the printing flaws on the 4d Rotogravure definitive was illustrated with enlarged drawings.

W. A. P.

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Reference the "K" flaw in the medium sized 1 1/2d issue illustrated in the last number, several readers including Mr. J.B. Levy of Bloemfontein and Mr. A. A. Whitworth of London, indicate it occurs in row 12, stamp number 8 on cylinders 18/27 and 18/30. Mr. Whitworth adds that the nick in the frame occurs on these cylinders and 27/46 issue but is not sure whether the "K" flaw occurs there too - presumably not by Mr. Levy's information.

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WANTED: Mr. Frank J. Reed C/o SSC/B, 477 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., U.S.A.. wishes to acquire complete booklets - Natal Edward VII; O.F.S. Edward VII and Transvaal Edward VII. Offers direct to Mr. Reed please.

EARLY SOUTH AFRICAN POSTS AND STAMPS

A Short Survey (1652-1910) cont. from VOL.5. No.5. by A.A. Jurgens.

Postal Markings. A distinctive Letter Stamp known as the Oval Medallion for the stamping of inland letters was introduced and a special SHIP LETTER stamp for letters to or from overseas. The postal charges to Europe or India remained at 1 Skilling and it cost the same to send a letter to Simonstown or Stellenbosch. The prepayment of postage on letters was compulsory.

New postal routes were laid out and the first post to Saldanha Bay was established.

In 1807 the Earl of Caledon became Governor and he again allowed letters to be carried by the Post Wagon.

By 1810 better roads into the interior were constructed, additional postal routes were laid out and the time taken for the delivery of letters between Cape Town and Graaff-Reinet was greatly reduced.

On the 2nd October 1809, the Post Office was moved from the Castle to the corner of Grave Street (now Parliament St.) and the Government Gardens; in 1816 to Bureau Street and about 1860 to the corner of Church and St. George's Streets on the site now occupied by the Cape Times and in 1897 to Adderley Street.

In 1816, Lord Charles Somerset the Governor, established Post Offices in each "Drostdy" and appointed salaried Postmasters. The first Postmistress to be appointed at the Cape was a Mrs. Wrankmore at the Paarl. Between 1817 and 1824 all these Post Offices were issued with distinctive Letter Stamps, all of the same type.

Postal Rates. As the postal service improved so the rates of postage were reduced, for instance the postage to Stellenbosch was only 3d. for a single sheet letter but for a long time the postage from Capetown to Grahamstown remained at one shilling.

When the estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1845 were being considered, the Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, proposed in the Legislative Council that the rate of postage on letters irrespective of distance be reduced to 3d or 4d the half-ounce and that when the contracts for the conveyance of mails expired in December 1845 it was his intention to make the contractors travel at such a rate as to reduce the time taken for the delivery of mails between Cape Town and Grahamstown from 105 hours to 70 hours. The proposal, however, was turned down.

In moving the Post Office from the Castle in 1809 great dissatisfaction

was caused owing to the fact that residents living in the vicinity of the Castle now had to walk to the top of Grave Street to post their letters, and after numerous requests had been made for the establishment of Branch Post Offices, it was at last, after a considerable number of years, decided to call for tenders from those who were willing to conduct Receiving Houses in connection with the Post Office. At the same time Pillar Boxes were erected in various parts of the town where the public could post their letters.

(Editor's Note. This article was supposed to be continued but we cannot recall ever having read or seen the conclusion so we shall have to end at the above unless some reader can produce the final (?) instalment).

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#### South African War Train

(Reproduced from the "T.P.O" magazine Volume I 1947 from notes originally contributed by Dr. J.H. Harvey Pirie and due acknowledgement is made accordingly with grateful thanks).

The "War Train" was specially prepared to tour the Union of South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo, as part of a recruiting campaign. It operated during the period 21st March to 5th June 1941.

The first tour, in the Union, 22nd March to 7th May 1941, about 500 miles, was Johannesburg, Machadodorp, Vryheid, Volksrust, Durban, Harrismith, Kronstad, Bloemfontien, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay, Capetown, Kimberley, Mafeking, Klerksdorp, Messina, Nylstroom and Pretoria.

The second tour, by invitation, 12th May to 2nd June, was to the Rhodesias and the Belgian Congo, about 5,000 miles via Umtali, Salisbury, Bulawayo, Elizabethville. On this trip the special "War Train" cancellations were not used.

Articles publicising the various industries developed to produce war materials such as uniforms, boots, dehydrated foods, etc., were displayed in coaches and inhabitants of towns and villages where the train stopped were invited to view the displayed items. In addition, Union Loan Certificates (Savings Bonds) were sold on the train and it was in this connection that the two date stamps were provided. Mails were not made up on, or despatched to the train and letters written by the train staff (who were members of the armed forces) were normally transferred to the nearest Civil Post Office for further treatment. Covers, however, may be found bearing the train postmarks par complaisance applied in black ink from metal handstamps, "skeleton" type.

(Received by courtesy of the "T.P.O" Editor - Mr. Norman Hill.

Editor's Note: We have another cover bearing a Beaufort West cancellation and just the English War Train cancellation on a single large 1½d stamp whereas the example did not bear a stamp. Both have a rubber impression "1st (Inf) Battalion Railways and Harbour Brigade with date. For further information see "Correspondence".

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London W.C.1., on Saturday, 26th October, 1957. In conjunction with this meeting the fourth Exhibition was also staged.

On a proposition from Mr. D. Parker supported by Mr. S. Dudman, the formalities of reading the minutes were waived. There being no matters arising the Chairman then dealt with the election of the Officers for the ensuing year. A proposition by Mr. B. Powell during the course of which tribute was paid, the manner in which the retiring officers and committee had carried out their duties, called for re-election en-bloc. This was supported by Mr. D. Parker.

These are as follows:

Chairman	Mr. R. D. Allen, Snr.
Hon. Sec/Treas and	
Hon. Editor of "Springbok"	Mr. C. E. Sherwood.
Committee	Mr. F.C. Abell.
	Mr. E. Lauder.
	Mr. W. A. Page.

Reports on the London & Glasgow Groups have appeared in the Springbok and were therefore not dealt with in detail at the meeting.

The next matter which came up for discussion was the plans for the 1958 A.G.M. etc. Quite a number of ideas and suggestions were put forward before the following three propositions were put before the meeting.

- a/ That the Society stages an Exhibition on similar lines to that of this year.  
Proposed by Mr. A.J. Penn, supported by Dr. J. Pattinson.
- b/ That in place of the Exhibition that a series of individual papers be presented by members, on a subject of their choice.  
Proposed by Mr. D. Parker, supported by Mr. A.J. Brown
- c/ That a series of papers be presented, by individual members to take the place of the specialised part of the Exhibition and that the General Exhibits be maintained.  
Proposed by Mr. H.J. Anderson, supported by Mr. S. Dudman.

Proposal C was carried by the meeting and it was left to the committee to work out the details. (Watch these columns for further information).

The Hon. Secretary in his report on the Society said that membership was slightly on the decrease. He also appealed for members to contribute more to the Springbok, and also try to get new members.

The London Secretary reported that the Society had been invited to participate in the 1958 Stampex and it was agreed that the Postal History Exhibit at present on show at the Paarl Exhibition should be used.

Before the close of the meeting votes of thanks were proposed to the Society Honorary Secretary and Editor on his good work, also to the members of the London Group for the days proceedings. This latter proposition came from a provincial member.

During the meeting Dr. Faerber the well known South African collector was welcomed and he spoke of his pleasure at being at the exhibition, together with high praise for the show itself.

W.A.P.

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A South African Impression of the London Exhibition, 1957.

As a South African visiting London I looked forward eagerly to attending the Show at the Bonnington Hotel on Oct. 26th.

The morning turned out to be dull and as I wended by way to the Hotel I wondered what interest the day would hold. I was to be pleasantly surprised.

The venue - the hall in the basement of the Bonnington proved to be of very useful size, comfortable and the display of South African stamps was very well arranged and set out along the sides and centre of the Hall. Apparently nothing (not even grey skies) dampens the enthusiasm of these Britishers for on my arrival the material on display was being closely examined by keen collectors who were out to make the most of their opportunities - rain or sunshine!

On exhibition was a wide variety of South African material of all issues ranging from the Interprovincials, King's Head, Commemoratives, Rotogravures, War Issues (including the Bantam Wars with marginal slogans printed on the stamps), Postwar Photogravure right through to the Animal series alongside material of a general nature such as the various postal slogans in use from time to time. As I write I cannot help wondering what slogans will be in a year's time - perhaps it maybe "Study Your Country's Stamps". Here indeed was a display to cater for everyone.

Among the highlights (theme of the Exhibition) was an extremely fine and interesting display of the 2d Union Building issue which was detailed and annotated in extenso from the London printing (a complete sheet),

through the Pretoria rotos to the post-war 2d photogravures. The London printing was shown with inverted watermark which I had not seen before and the 2d rotos included a horizontal pair of the first printing in the scarce shade. This I had understood previously to be a colour trial, but the reasons set forth as counting this a definite issue seemed to be convincing. The pair on exhibition showed an extremely small vignette with gaps of appreciable size along the vertical frame margins on either side. Other scarce items in this field included arrows of Plate IA and IB with their identifiable characteristics.

The post-war 2d were annotated in great detail in mint and single used specimens. Great credit in this field is due to Mr. H. J. Anderson who has put a great amount of study into these issues whose sheets he can reconstruct in their entirety from single used copies. (Please note Editor "Union Notes"). Truly a stout effort which could well be emulated by other members in respect of another unclarified Union issue - viz. the hyphenated 1d issue (plates 11, 12 and 13) which I feel sure (on slender yet suggestive evidence) must have had one or more common vignettes. The Handbook page 117 describes Plate XII with inverted watermark which I have not yet seen.

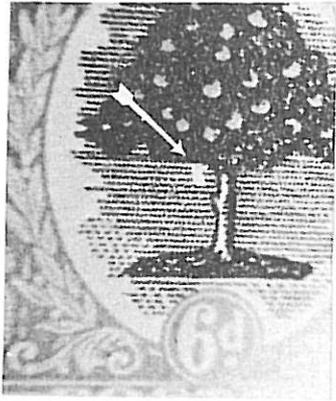
Towards evening, a very spirited and pleasant Annual General Meeting conducted in a most friendly and congenial atmosphere brought an extremely interesting day to a close - to me a day well spent.

In Great Britain I appreciate television entertainment caters for a wide variety of tastes including native scenery. In conjunction with the animal stamps now on issue perhaps the suggestion may be made to the incoming committee that at next year's Exhibition they approach the South African High Commissioner in London to exhibit films of the South African Game Reserves. I feel sure an exhibition of this kind would not only add to a pleasant afternoon's entertainment but would bring home to our fellow associates the natural grandeur of the South African scene.

Thank you, Great Britain - with the best wishes to the members of the South African Collectors' Society of this country.

G. I. Faerber.

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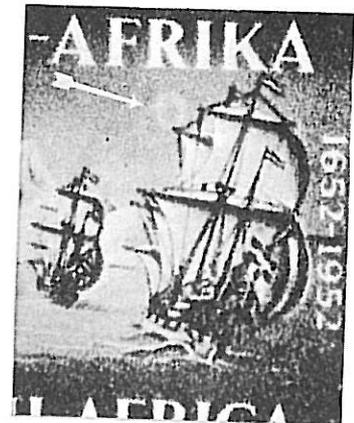
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" THE SPRINGBOOK "  
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SUPPORTING THE EXHIBITION

by 'KINGTEC'

A perennial problem for Societies staging Exhibitions is "How can we display stamps so that they are readily examined but are safe from damage?" Some Societies own glass-fronted frames holding 12 or more standard sheets, but these are expensive items, beyond the means of the London Group of the S.A.C.S. at present. Over the past three years the London Group Exhibition Committee has evolved a system which satisfies all the conditions required - visibility, safety, and portability. The latter feature is most essential, as the Exhibition has to be erected and taken down in a matter of hours. The basic materials for the show are: (1) 12 double-sided glass-fronted frames (borrowed from a friendly Society), (2) 16 sheets of soft-board, 6' x 4', painted cream and bound with tape on the edges (owned by the London Group), (3) Some hundreds of feet of 'Dexion', a slotted and perforated steel angle, rather like an over-sized 'Meccano', (loaned by an accommodating institution). This latter item is the key to the whole set-up, as it supports the soft-boards (and, if required, the glass frames) and is capable of being easily assembled on site and as readily dismantled. As far as portability goes, the whole of the recent Exhibition with the exception of the tables and chairs was transported in a medium sized van, which was by no means overloaded.

Picture now the scene at the Bonnington hotel on the Friday before the Exhibition. At about 4.30 p.m. the van arrives at the back door of the Hotel and unloading commences - frames, boards, and 100' packets of Dexion, plus all the other odds and ends which are essential. Eventually the whole mass of material has been transferred to the Exhibition Room and the real work begins. A rough plan has been drawn up and previously discussed, but inevitably modifications are necessary. Tables and chairs are stacked up in the centre of the room and whilst one party lines up the tables to be used for supporting the glass frames, another begins the fabrication of the Dexion framework. Each upright has to be padded at the top to protect the ceiling, and provided with a 'foot' to prevent damaging the carpet. This year there was just 6" to spare between the top of the uprights and the ceiling, so that handling them was a delicate job, especially as it was essential to avoid the lights and the

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

cross-beams, which projected down below the ceiling. Uprights were used at about 8' intervals (carefully planned to miss the cross-beams), and joined by cross-members spaced 4' apart and arranged to carry the boards at eye-level. At each intersection of upright and cross-member, two bolts were adequate to ensure the 'squareness' of the structure and carry the weight required. The whole structure is now made secure by carrying lashings back from the top cross-member to some convenient hooks in the wall, thoughtfully provided by the Hotel, although probably not intended for this purpose. Having checked the tightness of the bolts, the boards complete with folded paper strips to hold the sheets, are lifted into position and secured by means of bolts through the top and bottom webs of the frame, which bolts pass just in front of the board and hold it firmly in place. This method obviates the necessity for special attachments to the boards and keeps the whole system flexible; if we occupy a different room next year, a new plan can easily be worked out to adapt our material to the new conditions.

By the time the last board has been fixed in position, parties are already mounting sheets of stamps on to the boards in a pre-planned order, whilst another party has almost completed filling the glass frames and arranging them in order on the tables.

The erection party now turns its attention to fixing up two Dealers' Stands (more Dexion) and then to general clearing up and disposing of surplus material. There remains the important job of protecting the stamps not behind glass; this is done by means of sheets of cellulose acetate pinned in position. Finally the frames are numbered according to the catalogue and necessary labels and notices put up.

Then someone says "That's it" and we all relax and begin to think of refreshments - some of us have been 'on the go' for more than 5 hours and have earned a rest. The Secretary locks up until 10a.m. the following morning, when the Public will come pouring in (we hope).

Although the Exhibition takes 5 - 6 hours to put up, dismantling it takes a much shorter time -  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours about - mainly due to the presence of a larger working party. We sit down to the Annual Dinner, thankful that all has gone without a hitch.

I think there is a moral to this story, in order to mount a successful Exhibition you need top quality stamps (South African for preference) boards, frames, Dexion, a first-class Secretary and team behind him, and willing working parties for the hard work, plus the co-operation of organisations loaning material. If you can count on all these things, you can put on as fine a show as the London Group did; if you cannot, I suggest you weigh-in with some help for our next Show - after all, the real Exhibition 'Supporters' are the Members who help - I hope this category includes you.

P.S. If anyone is interested in further details of how the Exhibition was built, write to me c/o Mr. Sherwood or Mr. Page. Regret I have no Dexion to spare, but the boards are available for hire (contact Mr. Page), subject to providing transport.

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

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

Re query regarding the War Train cover during the past war it was a demonstration train which toured the country as part of a recruiting campaign. It had on board many of the things used in war and demonstrated them at stopping places. The Post Office on the train had two "relief" datestamps, one in English and one in Afrikaans, as illustrated. The Afrikaans postmark shown is not clear but reads "Oorlogstrein PK".

Another similar postmark was used at an army demonstration stand at a war fete at Jo'burg in November 1944. It is a specially made APO type worded "A.P.O.-U-M.P.K.50a". with date across the centre.

Two other "relief" postmarks used at war fetes here during the past war were "Victory Fair" and "Liberty Cavalcade" both in Jo'burg.

Johannesburg.

J. Robertson.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sir,

Thinking back into a not too reliable memory on the subject of portraits on the 3d War Effort stamp, I seem to recall that about the end of 1940, the number one South African lady in uniform was a colonel and created what we thought at the time must be an awkward situation by marrying a lieutenant!

At the time I was serving with an armoured car company and the gentleman concerned was in a company with whom we were later associated as two in the same battalion. His name was, I think, Dunning, though of this I cannot be sure as to the spelling and, (so we understood) it was Colonel (Mrs) Dunning whose portrait appeared on the 3d stamp although whether the stamp preceded or followed the wedding I do not know. If the former, then memory - which is even further from safe on this point - suggests that the Colonel's maiden name was Hooper.

I repeat that I cannot vouch for any of this as 1940 is a long time ago, but for what it is worth it is my version and I look forward to reading the true story sometime in the magazine.

London.

J. H. Selfe.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sir,

I feel sure there must be many collectors who find difficulty in distinguishing between the London and Pretoria printings of the 1d Van Riebeck ship.

Can one assume that those with firm clear skylines at top of the oval are from the London printing and that those with fading skylines are from the Pretoria print?

I have two Afrikaans singles one with "white leaf in left spandrel and moon in sun's rays" with fading skylines and the other "gun flash" or "starboard light" with firm skylines. London or Pretoria printings? Please help!

Devizes.

R. G. Hubbard.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sir,

An answer to No.3 of the Six Questions posed in the last issue of the magazine. The postmark mentioned is given in Simenhof's unfinished series of articles in the "S.A.P." "The Occupational Postmarks of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa" and his is Type One. He says there:-

"TYPE ONE. I have in my collection:-

Base 4. Luderitzbucht. Covers various dates from  
11 Oct 14 to 15 Jan 15.

Base 5. Walvis Bay. Covers various dates from  
22 Jan 15 to 28 Feb 15.

Base 6. Swakopmund. Cover 15 Jan 1915 i.e. day after occupation.

Base 6a. Kilo 14 Camp. Namib(?) Cover 23 Feb 1915.

No type 1 postmarks seen from bases 1,2,3,7 or 8.

By the way, surely the Three Anchor Bay postmark is fairly well known - in answer to Skipper's query on page 95?

Hyde.

L. H. Lomax.

\* \* \* \* \*

Extract from a letter: "Thanks for sending me the ticket for the Exhibition. The first year you sent one I came because I thought you would be disappointed if I didn't. The second year I should have been disappointed if you had not sent me one! This year I was anxiously awaiting your ticket to know what date I was to underline in RED in my diary! Now I write to thank you and the members of the S.A.C.S. for giving me these opportunities of seeing the finest show of South African stamps that I could ever wish to see. Keep up the good work!"

Overheard on the way out -

FIRST VISITOR: "It was a really first-class show. I had no idea that the stamps of any one country could make such a wonderful display.

SECOND VISITOR: "Yes, it was an excellent exhibition. What a pity that other specialist societies do not put on a similar show of their stamps for one and all to see."

THIRD VISITOR: "Perhaps they will after this!"

THE EXHIBITION - WHAT THEY THOUGHT

A member of the Civil Service P.S. thought it even better than the previous Exhibitions and they were extremely good! Although not a specialist, he has never failed to find a number of the exhibits which had a fresh appeal. Incidentally, he also stated that, whilst he had quite a few of the stamps of South Africa three years ago, he now seems to have acquired quite a large number!

A member from the Provinces was asked what he liked most about the show. "I consider," he said, "that the Central exhibit - the 2d value - was the highlight of the display." "Then the frame showing the "Genealogy of South Africa" illustrated by the appropriate stamps. This was a surprise piece to me and I remembered that the previous year I was similarly surprised by the "Story of the Pictorial Definitives" - but there, it was all so good that I could cheerfully browse through the whole lot again tomorrow!"

One of a party of schoolboys from Kent: "The exhibition has given us a lot of good ideas and I guess a lot of our stamps are going to be written-up afresh. We have taken a lot of notes between us and I hope they will help to improve our collections.

A doctor said, "I am very glad I came and was able to stay most of the day. I enjoyed it thoroughly, for it was an all-round excellent show and one that I should have been sorry to have missed."

A pleasing feature of this year's Exhibition was the fine representation of the Philatelic Societies from London and the Home Counties and even further afield. There were many reunions of members of these societies who had met before. The slogan for next year's show might well be

"I'LL MEET YOU AT THE S.A. EXHIBITION."

A schoolmaster with several junior members of a school philatelic society said the show was just the sort of thing he wanted his boys to see, and although the subject matter was, in many cases, above them, he was anxious for them to take a particular note of the methods of laying out stamps, the styles of writing-up and what sort of information should be put on the written-up papers. He thought many of the stamps of South Africa particularly lent themselves to this.

The complete sheet of the Bradbury Wilkinson 2d printing of 1927 seemed to fascinate a number of the visitors, one of whom asked a member whether it was genuine! Or just a reprint especially prepared for demonstration purposes! Needless to say, he was assured that it was genuine "Hall-marked in every link."

(Continued on previous page.)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members:

344. G. D. Oliver, 78 Manor Drive, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey.  
(Interests - General).  
345. Ian Gilchrist, Mount Farm, Alwoodley Lane, Leeds 17, Yorkshire.  
(Interests -  $\frac{1}{2}$ d springboks.)

Changes of Address:

145. John P. Shingler, 6 Rosyth Road, Nahoon Mouth, East London, S.A.  
169. R. B. Keusch, P.O.Box 21, Groesbeck Station, Cincinnati 39, Ohio, U.S.A.  
150. F. L. Billings, 174 Highbourne Road, Toronto 7, Ontario, Canada.

Resignations:

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 12. Dr A. N. Pearon, Porthcawl. | 80. G. Scholes, Clacton-on-Sea.    |
| 105. F. Webb, Sale.             | 108. M. D. Sibson, Shepton Mallet. |
| 140. D. L. Gough, London.       | 309. John Fender, Berwick.         |

\* \* \* \* \*

PRESS CUTTINGS: "The Aero Field" Oct. 1957. "The Airposts of S.A. from 1939 to 1944 by Captain M. F. Stern, A.R.I.B.A., F.R.G.S. Three flights in 1945, 3 in 1946, 5 in 1947, 9 in 1948, 4 in 1949. The November issue lists 5 flights in 1950, 2 in 1951, 7 in 1952, and 11 in 1953.

\* \* \* \* \*

PAARL EXHIBITION

Unfortunately the appeal for postal history material to be shown at Paarl, by invitation of the Exhibition Committee was not supported by many members, but various members of the London Group and one of the Scottish Group offered enough to enable Mr E. G. Kinsey to send off to Paarl an excellent display which seems to have aroused much comment in South Africa. So much so that the Exhibition Committee is not only issuing a Certificate to the Society, but also to each individual contributing member.

We hope to offer a write-up in due course, but briefly the Exhibit comprised - Some rare postal and other markings of the Boer War; A Shipping Postmaster mark and the 1910 commemorative on F.D.C. along with Interprovincials; the rare 1917 Major Miller Flight Cover and Air Letter sheets; all the known Shipping Postmaster marks; a representative show of the maritime cancellations together with certain island cancellations including a 1937 H.M.S. "Carlisle" cover from Tristan da Cunha; War Covers from both World Wars including some unrecorded marks and P.O.W. mail; Used Abroad and a representative show of Railway letters, Railway and Mobile P.O. and exhibition cancellations with a cover from the 1952 Royal Tour of South Africa.

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" THE SPRINGBOK "

INDEX

A.G.M. and Exhibition 1957 .....	87, 112.
ALLEN, R.D. - A Philatelic Coincidence .....	66.
A Matter of Some Importance.....	44.
Letter .....	76.
ANDERSON, H.J. - Spots on the 2d Anhyphenated Roto .....	45.
Anhyphenate Penny, The - J. J. Keenan .....	33.
Auction Realisations during 1956 - "Voortrekker" .....	64.
Beginning of the Pennies .....	91.
BROWN, A.J. - Semper Aliquid Novum .....	11.
"Caeculus" - Letter .....	16.
CLAYTON, R.J. - One Penny Van Riebecks Ship .....	8, 30, 71.
Constant Plate Flaws & Varieties, H.A.Stewart & E.Lauder .....	104.
Correspondence .....	16, 76, 78, 117.
Early South African Posts and Stamps - A. A. Jurgens .....	84, 110.
Editor's Chair .....	3, 23, 43, 63, 83, 103.
"Embryo" - The 6d Orange Tree .....	86.
Essays and Proofs - Marcus Samuel .....	24, 67.
Exhibition 1957 - A.G.M. and, Special Notice .....	87.
Exhibition - What they Thought .....	119.
FAERBER, G.I. - A S.A. Impression of the London Exhibition 1957 .....	113.
Fourth Annual Exhibition .....	107.
Important Notice .....	19.
Interview with the P.M.G.S.A. .....	96.
Is it a Post Office - "Quattordici" .....	77.
JONES, E.S. - "The Problems of a Collector in Kuwait" .....	89.
JURGENS, A.A. - Early South African Posts and Stamps .....	84, 110.
KEENAN, J.J. - The Anhyphenate Penny .....	33.
Kiloware - One Pound - R. McDougall .....	15.
KINSEY - Letter .....	16.
"Kingtec" - Supporting the Exhibition .....	115.

" THE SPRINGBOK "

INDEX (Cont)

Lauder, E. - Constant Plate Flaws & Varieties Part V.....	
London Group Meeting .....	19, 29, 60, 70,
Matter of some Importance, A .....	44
McDOUGALL, R. - Kiloware - One Pound .....	15
Membership Information .....	20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120
Members News .....	29
MERRIMAN, E.W. - Native Huts S.A.H. 40a.....	78
Native Huts S.A.H. 40a - E.W. Merriman .....	78
One Penny van Riebeck's Ship - R.J. Clayton .....	8, 30, 71
Orange Tree, The 6d - "Embryo" .....	86
ORKIN, L.E. - When the Postman nodded .....	4
Paarl Exhibition.....	19, 120
Philatelic Coincidence, A. - R.D. Allen Senr.....	66
Picture Page .....	17, 35, 36, 58, 59, 79, 99, 104a
Postmark Query .....	44
Post Office Bulletin .....	94
Press Cuttings .....	97, 120
Problems of a Collector in Kuwait, The - E.S. Jones .....	89
Puzzle Corner Answers .....	20
"Quattordici" - Is it a Post Office? .....	77
SAMUEL, Marcus - Essays and Proofs .....	24, 67
Semper Aliquod Novum A.J. Brown .....	11
Six Questions .....	88
"SKIPPER" - South African Air Posts .....	95
"SKIPPER" - Telegraphic Cancellations on High Value Georgians .....	73
South African Impression of the London Exhibition 1957 - G.I. FAERBER..	113
South African War Train .....	111
Special Notice - 1957 A.G.M. & Exhibition .....	87
Spots on the 2d Unhyphenated Roto - H.J. Anderson .....	45
Stewart, H.A. Constant Plate Flaws, Part V .....	104
Supporting the Exhibition, by "Kingtec" .....	115
TAYLOR, A.R.- Why did I join? .....	75
Telegraphic Cancellations on High Value Georgians - "Skipper" .....	73
Van Riebeck Ship, One Penny, R.J. Clayton. ....	8, 30, 71
"VOORTREKKER" - Auction Realisations during 1956 .....	64
War Effort Portraits .....	93
When the Postman Nodded - L.E. Orkin .....	4
Why Did I join? A. R. Taylor .....	75