
THE SPRINGBOK



Volume 6. No. 2

March/April 1958

" THE SPRINGBOOK "

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

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The Editor's Chair

We are informed that the Society's Exhibit at the "Stampex" show in London attracted quite a good deal of comment, which is all to the good - it consisted of air mails.

As readers will note, the new venue of the London Group has got off to a good start by attracting quite a good attendance, and now that it is so centrally situated, it is hoped that many more members in the area will turn up.

From October 6th to 9th this year, there will be a National Philatelic Exhibition in the Germiston City Hall, associated with the XXth Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Enquiries to GEPEX Secretary, 57 Driehoek Road, Germiston, South Africa.

As most readers will know, there is to be an International Exhibition in Johannesburg from May 30th to June 4th, and the Commissioner for Great Britain is Mr C. Andrews, of Messrs Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

A number of our members have an interest in the philately of the Boer War, and so we would bring to their notice the formation of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, with a subscription of 7/6 a year and a quarterly bulletin. The Secretary and Treasurer is Mr J. H. Rathbone, "Allways", Rudheath, Northwich Cheshire, who will send specimen bulletin on request. We are already members, and find the bulletin quite interesting.

Contributions for the Exchange Packets are rather slow these days, but there is still quite a good demand and any booklets are sure of good sales if the material is reasonably interesting and so priced.

We hear reports that a new release of postage dues has been made in South Africa, and that in addition to the 3d value being reprinted, a 4d and 1/- have made their appearance. Presumably a reflection of the higher postage rates? We have not any details at the time of going to press.

Our copy of the binding of the first four volumes of the magazine has reached us, and we are quite pleased with the work, and how much handier it is to have so many issues bound into one work.

Shall we be seeing you at the Scottish Philatelic Congress at the Bridge of Allan this year - April 12th? We like to see as many members as possible on the occasion of our annual trip to Scotland.

THE ELEVENTH ROW FLAWS

by
Caeculus

It must be nearly 10 years ago since the writer first encountered the attractive little English nurse wearing a poppy in her blouse. She was sitting in the back row of the stalls, row 20 number 7 to be exact. A short time afterwards, he was surprised to find her Afrikaans counterpart wearing a similar adornment and sitting eleven rows in front in row 9 number 7.

Thus was born the problem of the eleventh row flaws.

The next discoveries were the two corporals in rows 7/11 and 18/11 wearing the insignia of their rank on their sleeves. It was a bit of a surprise to find a third corporal in row 11/11 who preferred to display her stripes on her veil at the back of her neck.

It was soon discovered that this type of flaw occurred four times in the sheet, but it was not until two or three years ago that it became apparent that they always occurred six times in the sheet.

To cut the cackle and omitting reference to the experiments made throughout the years with jam pots as cylinders and fruitless appeals to both philatelic and printing experts, the following crystallized out as the -

Properties of the 11th row Flaws.

1. They occur six times on the cylinder, vertically beneath one another, and equidistant by about 88/89 mm.
2. They occur in three different positions on the stamp and these three positions are approximately 8 mm apart.
3. Three adjoining flaws, each in a different place on the stamp occur on stamps of the same language setting, four rows apart.
4. Their counterparts, diagonally opposite on the cylinder are on stamps of a different language setting and eleven rows apart.
5. They are never present on the first printings.
6. Once they appear, they are constant for the life of the cylinder.
7. Sometimes the repetitions are very weak or slightly different in appearance and frequently they are wholly or partially covered by part of the design.

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Solution

Shortly before Christmas 1957, a party of eminent philatelists, headed by the intimidating presence of Dr T. B. Berry and equipped with the above data, a complete sheet of the 1d Bantams, a steel tape and very possibly, a lethal weapon, descended on the Government Printing Works.

The lethal weapon was unnecessary. They were received with the utmost cordiality by Mr Booysen of the Government Printing Works, who in a very short space of time was able to supply the solution to this long outstanding problem. His explanation was as follows:-

The Government Printing Works obtain their Xylol from the local steel works and on a few occasions trouble was experienced by small steel particles found in the inking trough. The inking roller is made of a rubber compound, which is "softish" when new, but becomes "hard" with use.

It can be concluded safely that these flaws were caused by a small fragment of steel being picked up by the inking roller and becoming embedded in the "softish" rubber.

Final Remarks

The circumference of the cylinder from details also kindly supplied by Mr Booysen is 21 inches, or possibly a little less, while that of the roller is $17\frac{5}{8}$ " or possibly $17\frac{1}{2}$ ". The exact measurement is immaterial, but the roller is exactly $\frac{5}{6}$ th that of the cylinder.

After the first damage has been done to the cylinder surface, it will take five more revolutions to complete the six indentations which form the flaws. The operation continues until the sheet roll of paper is completed and with each revolution the excrescence on the roller will continue to strike the same places successively. This accounts for the occasional blurring or duplication of the flaws, more noticeable in the small flaws than in the larger. A good example is found in the flaw I have called the "Pleiades" or "Seven Sisters". It consists of seven small and faint dots in the 2d plate II on rows 2/1 and 13/1.

After the printing of each sheet roll is completed, it would seem to be the custom to remove and clean the roller when the protusions on the surface would be detected and removed.

The flaws otherwise, would keep recurring on the same row of stamps and in more or less the same vertical line, but in different places on the stamp. This actually seems to have happened on one or two occasions when the steel particles escaped detection.

The Sketch

The accompanying sketch is an attempt to illustrate the development of an eleventh row flaw. The flaw chosen is St Elmo's Light on the 1d plate VIII, as being well known to everybody. It is, of course, quite impossible to say on what stamp the first flaw appeared, but for the purposes of demonstration, it has been assumed that the first flaw IA formed was reproduced on the sheet on row 6/3. On the next revolution of the roller the flaw 2B would be formed and reproduced on the sheet on row 2/3 and the third revolution causes damage at 3C and falls in the bottom margin and so on.

The best known of these flaws is St Elmo's Light, on the 1d plate VIII, which besides occurring as noted in the Handbook/Catalogue is also found in the left leg of the "R" in "AFRICA" on row 10/3 and in the bottom sheet margin under row 20/3. On the 1d Bantam, the chevrons can be found at the back of the nurse's head on row 11/11; in the top margin through the "W" of "OWN" and partially visible on row 4/11 and 15/11. Readers can find the "poppy" for themselves - you have enough information and I do not want to spoil your fun!

The twopenny unhyphenated was a heavy sufferer - there are no less than 18 thereon, i.e. 18 in six different places or 108 flaws in all. Many are difficult to find. They are hiding in the bushes, lurking behind the chimney pots, and some are completely hidden by the design. That is all for the present excepting do not waste your time looking for them on plate III - they are all on plates I and II.

Writing about Mr J. M. Kenneth's enquiry, which appeared in the last issue of the magazine, Dr T. B. Berry indicates that in his own collection he has

London Printings Plate 1 and 1.

- A. Four large blocks with flaw row 20/9, and WITHOUT flaw row 20/11.
- B. Two blocks, with flaw row 20/9 and WITH flaw row 20/11.
The former (A) are undoubtedly London and early printings.
The latter (B) are also London but late printing as may be determined by the shade, etc.

Pretoria Printings Plates 1 and 1.

Four blocks with flaw row 20/9 and WITHOUT flaw row 20/11.

Dr Berry suggests that the broken "1" in POSSEEL appeared in the late printings of the London issue only, due to a dirty plate.

THE PAARL EXHIBIT

The Editor has suggested that a record of the exhibit sent to Paarl in October last be put in the magazine. Brief details have been given, and below the number of sheets in each section are given after the sub-heading. The exhibit totalled 134 sheets and covered the postal history of the Union from 1910 with a few sheets of Boer War covers.

(i) Boer War (8).

including a Natal Field Force cover of 26/2/1900 two days before the relief of Ladysmith; one from Johannesburg posted the day before the war broke out with a Boer censorship label; covers from NORVALS PONT during the Boer occupation of Cape Colony; to a British prisoner at Pretoria via the American Consul at Pretoria; from a French prisoner in St Helena and a Boer propaganda card purchased and posted in Austria.

(ii) Interprovincials (12).

including all values used in the four provinces, many on piece or cover and including a superb example of Cape and Transvaal stamps on piece with the Capetown Shipping Postmaster cancellation of 22/3/1911. This section also included two copies of the 1910 commemorative with first day cancellation (4.11.1910) one from Port Elizabeth being on cover.

(iii) Airposts including Air letters (26).

including a 1911 MUIZENBERG-KENILWORTH card, 1917 flight by Major Miller from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown, 1918 Red Cross flights, covers carried in both directions by Alan Cobham on his 1926 survey flight to the Cape and back. This section included examples of the 1925 and 1929 services, the 1932 Cape-London service, the rare 1935 cachets publicizing the rapidity of the air mail, the 1936 JIPEX exhibition cards, the wreck of the flying boat "Challenger" in May 1939 and the 1948 survey flights from Australia to South Africa across the Indian Ocean and covers carried by A. E. Clouston in the 1936 Schlesinger air race and on his 1937 record flight with Mrs Kirby-Green to the Cape and back.

The air letters covered most of the earliest types and included an example of the special Christmas greetings type of December 1942 from the Middle East addressed to Abyssinia.

(iv) Shipping and Assistant Shipping Postmaster cancellations (17).

including all the known marks, many of which are on cover and only a very few of which represented by exact drawings and is probably the finest collection of these marks in existence. This section also included cancellations of Marion Island and Tristan da Cunha, the latter including a cover from the March 1937 visit of H.M.S. Carlisle to the island.

(v) Maritime Cancellations (4).

including examples of all the Cape Colony-Ocean Post Office marks, the United Kingdom and South Africa Sea Post Office and Union of South Africa Ocean Post Office marks and Capetown and Port Elizabeth paquebot marks.

(vi) War Covers (28).

including many of the Base and Field Post Office marks from the 1914/1916 campaign in S.W. Africa, including an unrecorded type of Field P.O. No.4 of December 1914 and prisoner of war mail from AUS, WINDHOEK and the FORT NAPIER camp at Pietermaritzburg and a soldier's letter addressed to England with two English 1d stamps cancelled at Durban on 2/7/1917 - examples of the British F.P.O. S.A.I. mark allocated to the South African Brigade.

The second World War covers included many of the Union A.P.O. marks (A.P.O. - U-M.P.K. and number) and covers with Union stamps cancelled with the Egyptian F.P.O. marks; a cover from Durban with the British F.P.O. No.543 mark of June 1943 (only two British F.P.O.'s operated in South Africa); many of the scarce wartime paquebot marks; a crash cover with a cachet derived from the two line "Challenger" crash cachet of May 1939 by cutting off the part referring to "Flying Boat"; a fine cover with a "damaged as a result of enemy action" cachet, heavily singed.

This section also included four pages of Prisoner of War Mail ranging from the Boer War to the 1939/45 war.

(vii) Used Abroad (20).

including all values used in S.W. Africa during the occupation with many different types of cancellation; a Transvaal postcard used at LUDERITZBUCHT on January 1916; covers included German Postmarks, e.g. BRACKWASSER and GUOHAB, the rare POST NEYHEUSIS single line cancellation in violet and unrecorded rubber stamp cancellations of KUIBIS RAIL and WALDAU. The section included many of the cancellations of Basutoland and Swaziland, some on cover.

(viii) Other Cancellations (19).

including a cover of July 1925 of the Prince of Wales' Tour; stamp exhibition covers ranging from Durban 1913 to Johannesburg 1953; Mobile Post Offices including a first day cover (25th Jan. 1937) of No.1 situated in Johannesburg; a number of cancellations used on rail letters some on cover and finally examples of T.P.Os. many on cover including Army P.O., Eastern T.P.O., N.E., Midland, Transvaal, Western and Transvaal European Mail T.P.Os, being illustrated with several fine photographs of the Railway T.P.O. carriages.

E. G. K.

AUCTION REALISATIONS DURING 1957

by
VOORTREKKER

Although quite a lot of material passed through the Auction Houses during 1957 there was hardly sufficient to meet the demand. The main shortage would appear to be among the unhyphenated definitives, the scarcer pieces of which are seldom on offer. This may be due to the many collectors who started to form collections after the war beginning with the 1930 Rotogravures. As things have turned out, 1957 was a good opportunity for collectors to complete for there was an unusually large number of De La Rue Georgians up for sale, especially in the Union itself.

Once again collectors had the advantage of a really good specialised Union collection being put up for auction when Robson Lowe offered some outstanding lots at his sale on 30th October. Prices generally remain firm, but political troubles within the Union itself cannot but have an adverse effect on the popularity of Union stamps with collectors in the U.K. Another point which I have made before is the complexity of the low value rotogravure issues which in spite of several excellent articles which have appeared in the Philatelic Press from time to time, some by members of this Society, still seem to cause a great deal of difficulty to the average collector.

One hesitates to predict the future market for Union stamps as so much depends on circumstances quite unconnected with philately, but there is certainly no signs of the large scale selling one would expect to see if collectors decided to turn their attention to some other country. It would appear, therefore, that the holders of large collections of Unions are holding on to their stamps until the situation resolves itself as indeed it will in due time.

The catalogues of the following firms have been examined for interesting material: H.R.Harmer, Ltd; Robson Lowe, Ltd; C.E.Sherwood; Western Auctions, Ltd; and Wicks Stamp Agency.

To start at the beginning copies of the 1910 Commemorative used on day of issue realised 10/- and 12/6 at Wicks sale and 10/- at Sherwoods, while Robson Lowe sold a collection of 55 mint and used copies, including a F.D.C. for 170/-. It is worth recording that Robson Lowe obtained £10 for nine stamps showing three different types of the Shipping Postmaster Cape Town mark.

The Mackay essays sold at Robson Lowe's October sale made around 25/- to 30/- each, while a set of six complete Die Proofs offered at the same sale sold for £85 against a valuation of £45, single examples averaging £19 each. The rarely seen Colour Trials of the 1d. and 2½d, were also on offer. A set of four of the former realised £72. 10. -, while seven examples of the 2½d. sold for £120, and another lot containing three examples made £50. At the same sale a set of 14 King's Head "Specimen" stamps sold for £19.

Other interesting George V material included a mint copy of the 2d. Dark Plum (45/-) and 2d. with complete offset (55/-) and the same variety on the 3d. Blue (40/-), all three at Wicks sale. Wicks also obtained 45/- for a pair of the 2d. one bearing the Cracked Cliche variety and 90/- for a strip of three $\frac{1}{2}$ d. showing Control 1. A top right corner strip of six 1d. with reversed perforation from Plate 1 or 2 made £18 at the same sale. Many copies of the £1 were sold during the year which perhaps accounts for a slight fall in price to an average of £9 for the dark green and a pound more for the pale green. Used copies of the former made 65/-.

Sherwood sold inscriptional pairs of the Bradbury Wilkinson 2d. Perf.14 x $13\frac{1}{2}$ for 17/6 while mint pairs of the 3d. and 4d. made 15/- and 17/6. Robson Lowe obtained 10 gns. for the same set overprinted "Specimen" (4d. value split) and £12 for the normal set several with whole or part inscription. Wicks obtained 40/- and 50/- respectively for inscriptional pairs of 1/- and 2/6 both Perf.14.

The 1926 Pictorials were occasionally offered Western Auctions obtaining £6 for a pair of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. overprinted "Specimen" and £5.10.0. for the 1d. similarly overprinted. Sherwood got 22/6 for a pair of the 1d. showing two cuts in the Jubilee line and Harmers sold the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. in Tote-boche pairs for £18 each, which is a considerable drop compared with what the same varieties fetched in 1956. Robson Lowe sold a mint pair of the 1d. with left hand stamp imperforate on four sides and right hand stamp imperforate at left for £11 while Wicks sold a mint block of four with centres missing for £20.

Several choice lots of Air Mails were sold, Harmers obtaining £29 for a 1920 Cape Town - Johannesburg Handley Page South African Transport Ltd., cover and 95/- for the mint set in blocks of four. Western Auctions sold the 1918 Red Cross Cape Town post card for £3.10.0. and an example of the 1925 London - Cape Town Imperial Airways Survey Flight Special Card with souvenir cachet and signed by Sir Alan Cobham for £12.10.0. while another cover bearing the 1925 air set including the 9d. with "Stroke through 9" variety made £5.10.0. The same Auctioneer sold an example of the 9d. value showing "Strut" variety and error imperforate at left on a Durban - Cape Town cover for £12.10.0. A mint marginal pair of the 3d. ultramarine with variety imperforate between stamp and margin sold for £16.10.0. at Robson Lowe's October sale. The only other interesting air mail variety which I noticed was the 1929 4d. with "Short i" variety which Sherwood sold for 7/6.

Turning to the unhyphenated rotogravures, Harmers obtained £11 for a strip of four of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. one pair tete-beche with interval margin between while Wicks sold a strip of nine $\frac{1}{2}$ d. containing two tete-beche pairs for £42.10.0. Sherwood obtained 27/6 for a pair of the 1d. with "A" control and 22/6 for a mint pair of the 3d. red and black with variety "Broken 'R' in Africa". Wicks also sold Arrow blocks of the 1d. from Plates 6 and 7 for £5 each and got 90/- for a block of Plate 8, 45/- for Plate 10, 40/- for Plate 12 and 45/- for Plate 13, all in Arrow blocks. The same auctioneer sold a mint pair of the 1d. (Die II) with "High Diver" variety for £1 while an Arrow block of six of the 2d. from Plate 2B realised £4 and a Plate 3 Arrow pair 30/-. At Robson Lowe's October sale, a corner vertical strip of four, the upper three stamps and top of remaining stamp without central design, sold for £32 while a marginal block of the 1d. on unwatermarked paper made £3.

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A most interesting set of five Colour Trials of the first Postage Dues realised £20 at Robson Lowe's sale and a similar set of six in different colours sold for £21. A mint pair of the 2d. imperforate made £8 while three Proofs of the frames brought 5 gns. Wicks obtaining £1 a pair for several which he had on offer.

If I have concentrated more on the spectacular pieces rather than the bread and butter material which most of us are looking for, it is because the major errors and varieties make the "news" and for that very reason most of us like to read about how much our richer neighbours are prepared to pay for stamps which we would like to have in our own albums.

While there may not be many basement bargains to be picked up, I think that I have written enough to show you that South African stamps are still a good investment.

It is rather remarkable that so soon after publication of our news regarding the portraits on the War Effort stamps, Mr A. Lichtenstein, from Bloemfontein, should send us a newspaper cutting from the South African paper, "The Friend" dated February 15th, 1958, reporting the death of the Nurse. It states that the Nurse was Mrs Barbara Friedlander (formerly Miss Palmer) wife of Dr Frank Friedlander, a Maritzburg specialist.

It goes on to say that during the war years, Mrs Friedlander was a Sister in the officers' ward at Roberts Heights Military Hospital and that one day the famous war artist Mr Neville Lewis was visiting the hospital and asked to represent a typical South African nursing sister. Mr Lewis was at that time painting a series at the request of the Government as a tribute to men and women in the Services.

Mrs Friedlander sat for Mr Lewis wearing veil and uniform of a South African Army nurse."

WANTED

Mr L.C. Harman, 104 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1. is desirous of completing his set of magazines but unfortunately lacks Volume 4 Nos.1 and 3. As there are not any left in the editorial stock, if there is any member who has such copies for disposal it is requested he contact Mr Harman direct please.

By the way, Messrs Francis J. Field Ltd., advise us that no mails were organised from Australia such as from Johannesburg in the recent First Direct Flight by SAA from South Africa to Australia. They do say that one of their clients managed to get through a few air letters - about twenty - from Australia to South Africa.

THE LONDON GROUP MEETINGS

As previously mentioned the February meeting of the London Group was the last to be held at Stockwell Road, Brixton. However the Group have been lucky enough to obtain alternative accomodation in the heart of London. It is hoped that this change will be an added incentative for other members in the Greater London area to avail themselves of the facilities of the London Group meetings, which are indeed extremely helpful to all those members desirous of increasing their knowledge of the stamps of the Union, apart from the friendliness of the meetings.

Commencing with the March meeting now changed to the third Tuesday of the month - 18th March 1958, the Group will meet at the "George Public House", Strand, London, W.C.2. The situation of the "George" is opposite the Law Courts; by the corner of Essex Street. The room is available from 5.30 p.m. which will suit those members now having time to go home after business. As now the meetings will start at 7 p.m. A cold buffet is available for those people desiring a snack.

The February meeting was confined to displays of the 4d definitive value, when again some hitherto unknown individual efforts were brought to light. The efforts of Mr Merriman on the unhyphenated Roto 4d value are already well known, but another member, Mr A.J. Penn has also been working along similar lines with the same stamp. Strangely enough whilst both have achieved a large degree of completeness in their plating study, one has had more success with the top half of the sheet, whilst the other has been more successful with the lower half. Apart from these plating studies, an almost complete, in every sense, show of the various printings was put on show.

On Friday, February 14th, a team of five representing the London Group visited the Kingston P.S. to provide the evenings display. Led by the London Chairman, Mr F.C. Abell, the team consisted of Messrs A.J. Brown, E.G. Kinsey, G.M. Whitten, and W.A. Page, supported by Mr Bini and Mr D. Whitten as visitors.

The display, consisting of over 100 sheets was both varied and interesting, and again enhanced the reputation that the London Group has gained in the past few years; such was the reception.

To start the display, Mr F.C. Abell showed a selection of stamps of the Interprovincial Period. The George V period, including the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Commemorative was covered by Mr A.J. Brown. The third miscellany consisted of a very comprehensive display of Air Mail Covers from 1914 to 1956, contributed by Mr E.G. Kinsey. The complex Rotogravure pictorials and others of similar design, were covered by Mr G.M. Whitten's now well known 'Story of the Pictorial Definitives' or perhaps a more apt description might be "Pictorial Definitives Made Easy". This display although small in number by comparison aroused

considerable interest and must have wetted many appetites. To round off the evening Mr W.A. Page showed a collection of the current Animal Series, with all the various printings identified.

For the second year running Mr A.H. Adams, of Dartford, obtained the second prize in the London Transport Philatelic Society Annual Competition with an entry of South Africa.

W. A. P.

LONDON GROUP MEETING

On the 11th February we said "goodbye" to 246 Stockwell Road, London, S.W.9, our new meeting place being the 'George' Public House, where we said 'Hello' on the 18th March 1958. This quaint old fashioned building is situate opposite the Law Courts, near Fleet Street (between fact and fiction) and the Strand.

To get to the meeting room, which is really the Restaurant during the day, make your way through the first door on the left at the front of the premises, straight past the bar, unless a stop is desired - to the first door on the right and then up the stairs. Cold snacks are available before going upstairs and this should be a great help to those City workers who are unable to get home and back to a meeting. The room is big enough for all the London members and any visitor who cares to drop in.

The first meeting at this new venue brought a record attendance of twenty-two members and one visitor, all of whom were favourably impressed, particularly with the convenient situation. One noticed some new faces and also some old friends that we had missed. Mr Cousins, or as he prefers to be called 'Buzz' flew in from Turkey. He had visited South Africa, Egypt and Greece. His two large packets of office mixture were well and truly devoured and sorted before the remainders were given to two members for distribution among Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. Mr Cousins reported that South African material is difficult to find in the South African Philatelic shops. It is getting much the same in London!

Contrary to the previously announced programme, the evenings display consisted of Mr Wilkinson's Paarl Exhibit. Nobody minded the change - the 6d's being deferred until the April meeting.

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The first nine sheets of the display consisted of a study of the various printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d Bantam War Effort series, duly explained, together with a number of varieties.

Then followed a complete plating study of Plates I, II and III of the Unhyphenated Roto 2d Union Buildings stamp. Complete reconstructed sheets were shown of each plate with identifying features listed to cover each stamp in the sheet. This study presented on black sheets, was extremely comprehensive and exceptionally well laid out. Further sheets with such headings as "an attempt to determine the number of printings made from plate II, by examination of stamps from Row 20 No.4", added confirmation, if that was needed, that very serious study had been made of this particular stamp.

The study of the "Eleventh Row Flaw" with illustrations and diagrams, described the positioning of identical flaws, occurring six times in each sheet was unique. Taking a vertical row from a sheet the flaws - Quote "occur six times equidistant 88 mm. apart - $3\frac{2}{3}$ times the length of the stamp. Therefore they fall on three different positions on the stamp, each 8 mm. below its predecessor, the stamps being of the same language setting and four rows apart; while those of the different language setting and the same position are 11 rows apart." (The circumference of the actual printing surface of the cylinder is 528 mm. for the 22 rows, including the top and bottom margins.)

This study was completely illustrated with all examples of the stamps in the various positions, as proof of the information given.

To round off the evening a five sheet study of the screen flaws on the modern commemoratives and definitives seemed quite an anti-climax but nevertheless another fine effort.

It was the unanimous opinion of the members that Mr Wilkinson should make known his findings that have not already been published by fellow enthusiast Mr Anderson of Scotland, to the members, via the 'Springbok'.

Date of next meeting, 15th April, 1958 - Third Tuesday of the month. Subject 6d. Definitives.

Come along and see us and of course the stamps - and learn something you do not know already - this is guaranteed.

W.A.P.

UP FOR THE CUP!

by A.S. TEMPLEMAN.

Everyone with a good working ignorance of stamps is always glad to see a showing of someone else's material. For this reason the Members' Cup competition held annually by the Jamborough Philatelic Society attracts the best attendance of the season and usually provokes a very lively session.

Not that every member participates in the competition - indeed, entries are as scarce as genuine Woodblocks - but the Jamborough system of communal judging ensures that everybody present can express his opinion of the exhibits and can be as critical as he likes without retribution. The system provides for an allocation of up to 100 marks for each entry, apportioned as follows:

Philatelic Knowledge and Research	25
Condition and Presentation	25
Writing-up	20
Originality of Subject	20
Interest to Non-Collectors	10

On this occasion ten members had been badgered into submitting entries, each limited to eight album pages and with a free choice of subject. Only the Secretary knows which members are actually competing, for the entries are passed round with no visible indication of ownership. Nevertheless, much of the evening's fun is derived from attempts to penetrate the veil of anonymity.

The first entry proved to be an agglomeration of G.B. stamps purporting to show the gradual advance in the cost of the inland letter rate. The writing-up had been executed in sky blue ink and each page was embellished with double-line border and corner ornaments in the form of Union Jacks. "Interest 10 points, presentation 2 points", muttered Tonks, my left-hand neighbour whose only interest is Penny Blacks. But most of us recognised this entry as an effort by our oldest member, who is approaching eighty years of age, and our judgment was tempered by a degree of sentiment.

No.2, an array of Australian "Kangaroos", segregated into watermarks and dies, and with the varieties marked by little coloured arrows, brought out the magnifying glasses and caused considerable jostling of elbows. "Don't care for writing-up in typescript", commented by neighbour. Then we saw a complete range of New Zealand Health stamps and, despite an occasional snort from the far side of the table, most of the members were impressed by a sight of the scarce "Smiling Boys".

Entry No.4, was off the beaten track - a selection of Russian stamps printed on banknotes. The annotation was comprehensive, although, as one back bencher remarked, its accuracy could not be verified by any of the members present; nevertheless, this entry was well received and was obviously earning good marks. The next exhibit was of a mundane character, consisting of modern French pictorials neatly arranged but rather devoid of theme. "Wallpaper!" snarled Tonks, as he handed on the last of these sheets. He is a man of few words.

The sixth entry, designated "Stamp Jungle", was thematic and very strong in North Borneo cancelled to order, although colourful modern issues were well represented. There seemed to be general agreement that the copious biological notes detracted from the stamps, but, since thematic philately is now well established, the members contrived to mark with impartiality. It was followed by a study of Nyasaland postmarks, consisting of facsimiles of early markings in Indian ink and a selection of town cancellations on George VI stamps which were keyed to beautiful hand-drawn maps. This entry caused quite a stir and undoubtedly warranted top marks for presentation and originality.

Entry No.8 caused more fumbling for the magnifiers and provoked some sotto-voce comment - always a sign of keen interest at Jamborough. This was "Germany: Varieties of the Buildings Series", very nicely arranged and written up by means of pen stencils, with the little coloured arrows again well in evidence. Of course, we all knew that only one of our members could handle stencils with such dexterity. The last two exhibits, somewhat primitive assemblies entitled "Recent Q.E. II Issues" and "Post-War Guatemala" appeared to be passed round rather quickly, but as "straight" collections they did not excite much interest. It should be recorded that Tonks poked me savagely in the ribs as he muttered disapproval of writing-up with a ball pen.

The judging slips were now collected and our amateur bookmaker offered to lay five-to-four against the "Kangaroos" (No.2) and seven-to-four against the "German Varieties" (No.8), but there were no takers because the Jamborough members spend all their money on stamps. With the assistance of an adding machine, thoughtfully brought along for the occasion, checking of the slips was soon accomplished and the President rose to announce the result:

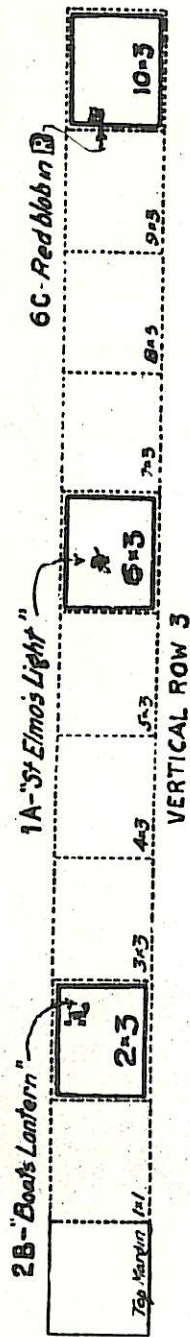
1. "Postmarks of Nyasaland"
2. "Russian Stamps on Banknotes"
3. "Australian Kangaroos"

Thus the Members' Cup competition of the Jamborough P.S. was over for another year and there stood the winner, flushed with pleasure, silver Cup in hand in the Wembley fashion, modestly acknowledging the congratulations of his friends. He even laughed when Tonks warned him: "You'll have to clean the blessed thing every week for a year".

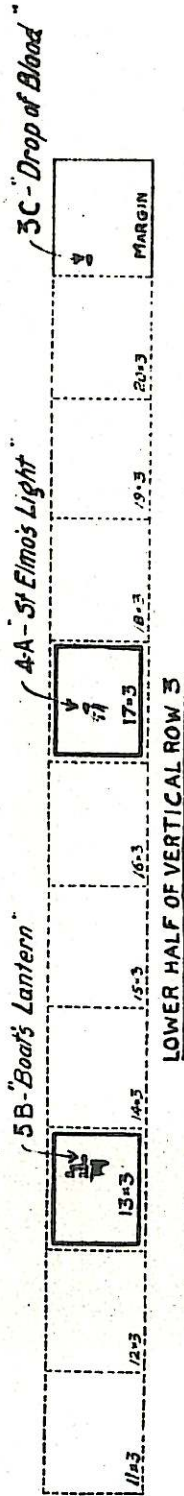
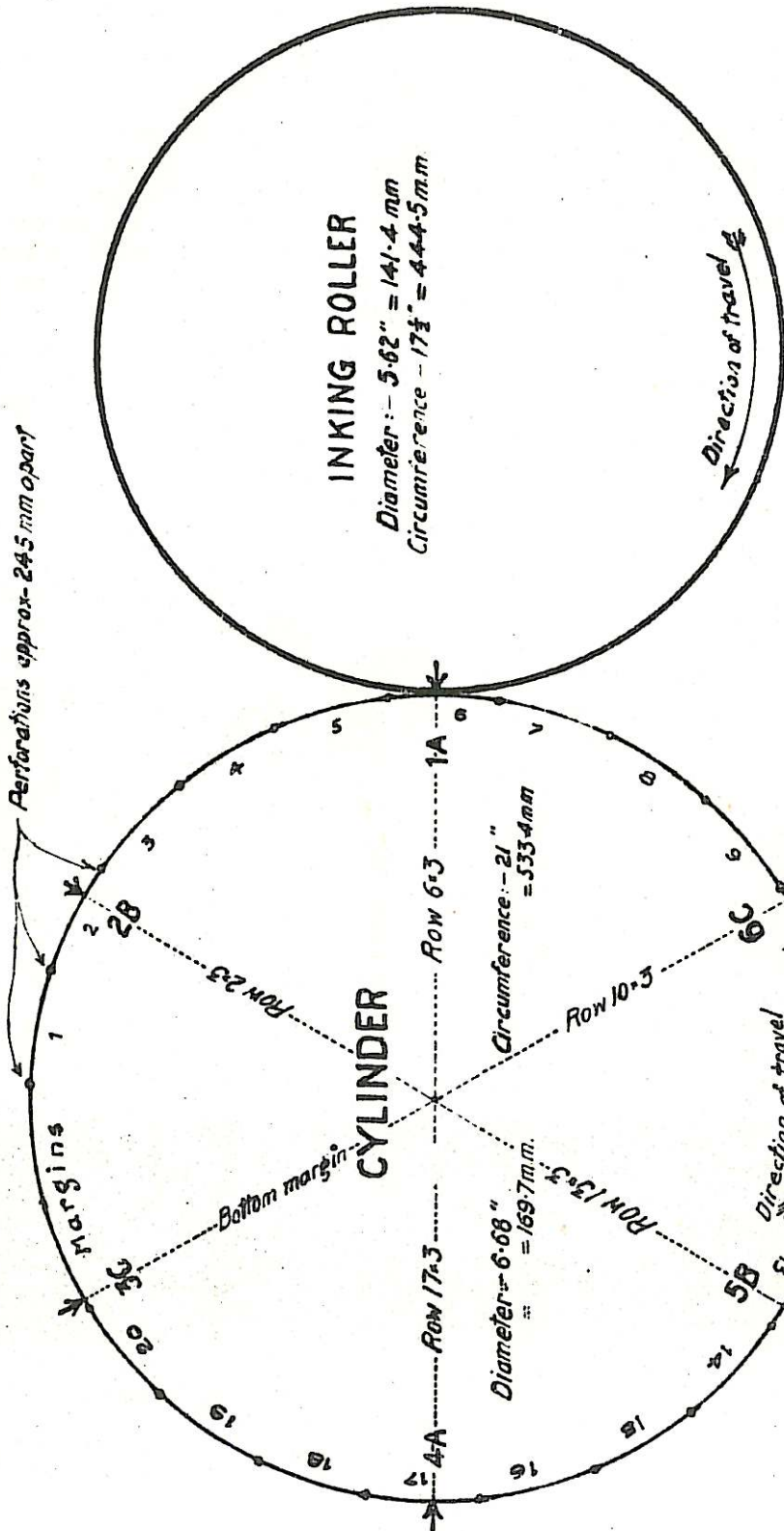
You will excuse me now - I am sorting out Halfpenny Springboks for next year's competition!

THE AIRPOSTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Messrs Francis J. Field Ltd., have published in booklet form a complete checklist of all the recognised flights relating to the Union from the 1911 Kenilworth-Muizenberg epic on December 27th, 1911 right through to the July 1956 C.A.A. flight by Viscount from Johannesburg to London with illustrations of a number of items etc., Quite a handy reference work for anyone interested in air mails.



Perforations approx- 24.5 mm apart



EMPIRE PARLIAMENTS' DELEGATION TOUR, SOUTH AFRICA, 1924

Reproduced by kind permission of the Editor of the "T.P.O." magazine (Volume 12 Number 1) who in turn expresses his debt to the Publicity Officer, Pretoria.

"The Government of the Union of South Africa placed a special train for the tour at the disposal of the delegates, who were the guests of the Government during the time they were aboard. The delegates were the guests of the Southern Rhodesian Government when off the train in that Colony.

The tour commenced at Durban on 1st September, 1924, when a Train Post Office, which was accommodated in the carriage nearest the engine of the special train, opened for business. All classes of incoming and outgoing mail matter, telegrams and cablegrams were handled and other business dealt with included the sale of postage stamps, registered envelopes and postal orders. Banking facilities, which proved to be a great convenience to the delegates while on tour, were also provided.

Incoming letters and other articles of mail matter were delivered by the Train Postmaster to the delegates as soon as possible after the mail had been sorted and cables and telegrams were delivered immediately after the messages had been received at the Train.

A posting box for outgoing correspondence was provided at the Train Post Office and the box was cleared at regular intervals and as opportunity for the connection of mails occurred. The times of departure of the United Kingdom, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand mails were suitably publicised on the Train.

Mails were made up on the Train and handed over at various points en route for onward despatch to their destinations. In addition, direct mails containing overseas correspondence were exchanged weekly between the Train Post Office and Cape Town to coincide with the departure and arrival of the mail steamers.

The tour covered the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia and the train also travelled to Maseru in Basutoland, Lourenco Marques in Mozambique and Livingstone in Northern Rhodesia.

The Office closed on 25th October, 1924 when the Train arrived at Cape Town on the conclusion of the tour by rail.

The date-stamp of the double ring type contains the words "PARLEMENTERE" at the top and "PARLIAMENTARY" at the bottom with the words "TOER" and "TOUR" separated by "22 SEP.1924".

" THE SPRINGBOK "

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Member

347. S. Harris, 18 Lathkil Grove, Fairfield, Buxton, Derbyshire.

Changes of Address

- 7. R. McDougall, 1 Holmwood Gardens, Wallington, Surrey
- 45. F.C. Abell, 86 Herne Hill, London, S.E.24.
- 114. C.B. Tregurtha, 47 Leesland Road, Gosport, Hants.,
- 206. J. Joseph, 804 Union Centre, 31 Pritchard St., Jo'burg, S.A.
- 300. M.R. Cluskey, Laurel Farm Estate, Smally, Derbyshire

Resignations

330. C.M.J. Dolbey, Johannesburg.

Membership Lapsed

- 161. Pretoria Railway P.S., S.A.
- 171. E.V. Shulman, U.S.A.
- 191. J.L. Ford, Hampton Hill
- 236. A.K. Ray, India
- 275. C.W. Abbott, South Africa
- 286. Major C.C. Seaford, London, S.W.7.

PRESS CUTTINGS

"The Strand Stamp Journal" April 1958. "A" "No Watermark" Variety" is discussed by Gordon Ward. This is in the 1d roto issues and is a variety distinct from the Darmstadt proofs inasmuch as the particular pair under discussion bear selvedge showing part of the dividing arrow. It is stated that this pair owned by a Kent collector and a block in South Africa are the only reported examples so far.

"Stamp Collecting" January 24th 1958. Philately of the "Union" by "Warthog" makes reference to sundry matters, cylinder numbers, etc.,

"Stamp Collecting" February 7th 1958. "South African Perforations" by "Heretic" makes reference to the various types of perforations to be found in the Union issues over the years and particularly to the so-called staggered perforations to be found in many issues.