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# THE SPRINGBOK

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Volume 6. No. 6 November/December 1958

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" THE SPRINGBOK "

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

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:		(also London Group Secretary)	:

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THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

Before commencing these notes we referred to the corresponding number last year to see what we had to say then. To cut it short the first paragraph still applies!

This year's Exhibition in London was a little smaller but the standards of excellence were fully maintained and very much appreciated by many visitors according to the comments we heard. A pleasing aspect was the recruitment of four new members on the spot and a further one within a few days all as a result of their visits. We were pleased to extend still further our field of personal contacts and are already looking forward to 1959's Show when we hope to see many more members who so far we have not had the pleasure of meeting.

A very pleasant aspect of membership has developed this year in the number of members at home and overseas who have such confidence in the Society that they remit more than just one year's subscription at a time.

We have received from the Philatelic Society of Natal a reprint of a paper presented by Bob Richards to the General Meeting of the P.S. of Natal on 1st October 1958 on "Varieties and Cylinder Numbers of the South African "Zoo" Stamps and the German Settlers' Commemorative Stamp" being an exhaustive study and listing of flaws on such issues up to the 10/-d value and including the 1d cylinders 42A/42B and 2d cylinders 116A/116B. We compliment the author for his study and the Society on their efforts.

This year's new printing and issues give little cause for enthusiasm but we have to comment that interest does seem to be increasing in the animal issues in relation to the new printings of the 1d and 2d stamps particularly. We have heard of a new 1d printing from cylinders 3A and 3B but so far we have not any details.

We hope readers will benefit by our Annual Picture Page of Flaws and Varieties compiled by Messrs Lauder and Stewart and we would remind you that they are always open to suggestions as to flaws to be included in future issues.

At the National Philatelic Exhibition in Germiston during October we note that member Mr G. Feros received Bronze Medals for his displays of Inter-provincials and Darmstadt Trials - congratulations Mr Feros.

And now a little early, but circumstances of publication make it necessarily so, A Merry Christmas and a Most Prosperous New Year to all our readers!

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Bomington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1., on Saturday, 25th October 1958. In conjunction with this meeting the Fifth Exhibition was also staged.

The minutes of the 1957 A.G.M. were read and adopted on a proposition from F. C. Abell Esq., supported by W. J. E. Holland Esq. Under the matters arising the Chairman explained that the proposal passed by the 1957 meeting, that the annual exhibition be replaced by a series of individual papers was found to be impracticable and as the London Group were responsible for staging the day's events, the London Committee decided that another exhibition would be put on. The explanation invoked no further comment from the meeting.

A proposition from W. J. E. Holland, Esq., supported by E. G. Kinsey, Esq., saved the formalities of the lengthy election of Officers and Committee, who were re-elected 'en-bloc', having all previously expressed their willingness to stand for another year.

They are as follows:

Chairman	R. D. Allen, Srn., Esq.
Hon Sec/Treas:	
Hon. Editor	C. E. Sherwood, Esq.
Committee	F. C. Abell, Esq. E. Lauder, Esq. W. A. Page, Esq.

A brief report on the activities of the London Group was given by their Chairman, F. C. Abell, Esq., but in the unavoidable absence of E. Lauder, Esq., the Glasgow Group report was not presented. In both cases, however, full reports have appeared in the 'Springbok'.

The Society Honorary Secretary reported on the year's progress and regretted that there had been a continued drop in the membership of the Society. He appealed to all members present to try to introduce new collectors to the ranks.

Under the heading of Any Other Business it was placed on record by one of the 'out of town' members, who offered congratulations and thanks to the organisers of the day's events and for making it a one of enjoyment for all.

The possibility of having a Society Badge or Tie was put forward and left open for exploration into the various aspects and costs of such a venture.

It was agreed to hold another exhibition next year and it was decided to continue the pattern for the Main Exhibit by showing the 4d and 6d definitives.

A proposition put forward by D.V.Parker, Esq. and supported by E.Merriman, Esq., that the auction lots should be circulated by a list before the A.G.M. was carried by the meeting.

W.A.P.

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THE ELEVENTH ROW FLAW

by

Gordon Ward M.D.

I feel sure I found this title in the "S.A.P." of December 1956 or May 1957 in which is discussed the causation of the flaw better known as "St. Elmo's Fire" but I have not access to these volumes at the moment. This fire is also known as a "corposant" which is defined in the dictionary as "the ball of light sometimes seen about the masts or yard-arms of a ship during a storm". It is known to South Africa Philatelists as a red mark on row 6/3 and 17/3 of cylinder-set 8 and on the same cylinder-set there is another flaw of the same shape but situated in the sea below the small boats, on rows 2/3 and 13/3. In each case the flaws are eleven rows apart. There is a similar flaw on the one penny bantams ('S.A.P.' December 1956). I have not seen this but it is called "the bleeding heart" and is reported on rows 9/7 and 20/7.

Another example of this type of flaw occurs in the right margin of cylinder-set 14 of the Ship Penny. Here there are six flaws equidistant and with eleven rows space between every third flaw. In this case the flaw is somewhat elongated as if something had been trailed across the paper but each of the six is the same.

One should add that the perforation junction and the serial numbers are also eleven rows apart on all sheets.

No collector can contemplate these facts without wondering what it is all about and, in particular, why St Elmo's fire occurs twice on the sheet.

The only way to work it out would appear to be by a regular contemplation of the various stages of preparation of the stamp until some stage is encountered at which the flaws could have arisen.

It seems impossible that the flaws should have occurred during the printing process, i.e. during the application of the ink to the paper. There is nothing in the ink nor the paper nor in the way in which they are brought into contact which could possibly allow of a coloured flaw occurring at regular intervals throughout the whole roll of paper.

What about the printing surface, that is, the cylinder? There is no doubt that a cylinder could in theory be damaged at one spot and this has often been noted to have happened but the result is one flaw per sheet of 20 (or 22) rows and never two precisely similar flaws in the same sheet.

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The next stage is the application of the gelatin carbon tissue to the cylinder. This is done by means of a roller which spreads the gelatin like wall paper over a wet cylinder. If one looks at a picture of this process (e.g. Postage Stamps in the Making, John Easton, Figure xiii between pages 216 and 217) it appears that the roller is just about half the diameter of the cylinder. It follows that if there was a small irregularity on the roller (it might be a grain of sand) it would press upon the gelatin twice in one revolution of the cylinder. This pressure would make a thin spot in the gelatin and this in turn would lead to a coloured flaw on the sheet. Here then is a minute error in procedure which might produce the eleventh row flaws.

Before the gelatin stage comes that of the multipositive and it will hardly be suggested that "St. Elmo's Fire" is a multipositive flaw nor can it very well have originated earlier. We have still to explain the six flaws in the margin of cylinder-set 14 all of them being of the same shape. One can only suggest that the cylinder which applied the gelatin tissue to the stamp cylinder was, in this case, of much less diameter than had been previously in use. Only those who can make investigations on the spot can tell us about such questions. The suggestion that these flaws were made by the end of callipers used to measure the diameter of the cylinder does not explain the flaws on cylinder-set 14 nor does it appear what useful purpose might be served by such measurements.

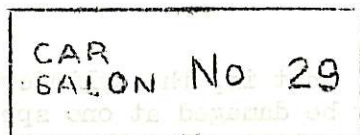
The explanation of these flaws given above certainly seems possible - no more is claimed for it.

"THE BLUE TRAIN", South Africa

We are grateful to the Editor of the "T.P.O." magazine for permission to reproduce the following article from the November/December 1958 issue - and a little surprised that none of our members has reported it to us!

"On his way to the Philatelic Congress at Pearl, near Capetown last October, our good friend, Dr. J.H. Harvey Pirie, wrote from "The Blue Train".... "This is not a T.P.O. but a service is operated from this Train de Luxe like the Train-letter Service (letters hand direct to a train leaving, an extra fee charged, the train handing over to the postal authorities at the next stop).

The 7d. Union stamp on Dr. Pirie's letter was cancelled in black with the Kimberley Station mark and the cover also bears the Car Number stamp in violet and the postal arrival datestamp of Cape Town.



Can or will any reader let us have more information about this? How many such trains are there? Between which stations do they operate? Are all the cancellations the same? Can one tell an Up train from a Down train? etc. etc.

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SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The fifth Annual Exhibition, organised by the London Group of the South African Collectors' Society was held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1. on Saturday, 25th October, 1958. A large number of members and visitors attended the exhibition during the day.

As in previous years, a specialised subject was displayed and this year it consisted of the 1½d and 3d pictorial definitives.

While perhaps not holding the same interest as some of the previous values of this series that have been exhibited, there is nevertheless considerable scope for research in the 1½d and 3d pictorial stamps.

The 1½d was introduced to meet the needs of the "Empire All-up" air mail rate at the end of 1936, and was printed by rotogravure only, with Suid-Afrika with the hyphen. At least different cylinder combinations were used and the stamp has appeared in three different sizes. It was first reduced from its original size in 1941 and later still further reduced in 1948. There are, however, still some problems to be solved regarding the allocation of the various printings.

The following briefly outlines the material on show:-

1½d Gold Mine.

Plate I: centre in metallic gold: top and bottom rows showing absence of marginal arrows; serial numbers in black and blue; listed and unlisted printing flaws; stages of the missing shading on the mine dump. Examples of joined paper.

Plate II. centre in metallic gold, and later printings in dull gold; marginal arrows and serial numbers; printing flaws.

Plate II & III. "Ladder flaw"

Plate III. centre in dull gold: shades: arrow blocks with listed and unlisted printing flaws.

Booklet panes from 1941 2/6 booklet.

Plate V. Waffle-plate printing: marginal arrow.

Plate VI. marginal arrows from all positions: serial numbers in red and also black: listed and unlisted printing flaws: an interesting perforation variety.

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Plate VII. marginal arrows from all positions; printing flaws.

Plate IX. marginal arrows from all positions; shades and printing flaws

Plate X marginal arrows from all positions; shades and printing flaws; a complete sheet of 240.

Diagrammatic exposition of cylinder flaws on plates IX & X and of multipositive flaws common to plates IX, X and the 3/- booklet of 1948.

Booklet panes; all panes of the 1948 booklet plates and a chart of the slogan setting. Chart of stamp setting compared with that from sheets.

Plate VIII (bantam format) marginal arrows from all positions and sheet serial numbers. All listed printing flaws in positional pieces.

3D GROOT SCHUUR.

London Printings; recess printed by Bradbury Willkinson.

Pairs with imprint in both types of perforations, viz 14 and 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pair showing gutter margin between.

Rotogravure printings, Suidafrika without hyphen.

Plate I. first printing in red and black without marginal arrows and with control letter "A" in right margin.

Plate II. second printing in red and black with marginal arrows and no control letter. Printing flaws common to both Plates 1 & 11, also shuttered window on bottom arrow pair. etc.

Plate III. third printing in blue and blue; marginal arrows and printing flaws common to plates 1 and 11 also 'shuttered window' on bottom arrow pair, etc.

Plate IV. fourth printing in blue and blue; marginal arrow pair without 'shuttered window'

Rotogravure printings, Suid-Afrika hyphenated.

An introductory page to show the main differences of the three types.



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- Plate V. Still from a separate frame and vignette cylinder; marginal arrows from all positions in various shades; serial numbers in red and black; printing flaws many of which are unlisted.
- Plate VI. still from two cylinders, now screened and bearing cylinder numbers on the side margins; marginal arrows; printing flaws, including some common to plate V also.
- Plate VII. now from a cylinder 17 (single) with the number on the right margin only; serial numbers in red and black; marginal arrows; printing flaws, and including the rare deep shade.

Officials. A comprehensive collection showing all the recognised printings. Each item is keyed to Stanley Gibbons Catalogue and where applicable, to the Commonwealth Catalogue, as well as the Union Handbook/Catalogue.

Among the stamps that on show were, one printing of the 2/6d value (SG.020); two examples of the 1/- (SG.029) and one of the 6d value (SG.028a), all of which are not listed in the Union catalogue; the 6d is listed in the Commonwealth Catalogue.

Another exhibit which attracted a good deal of attention was that showing the entries that took the first three places in the London Group 'Abell' Cup Competition. Full details of these entries have already appeared in these columns.

One of the outstanding collections of Postal History of the Union formed another big section in the displays.

Co-inciding with the period of the Society's 1957 Exhibition, a larger and National Exhibition was taking place at Paarl. One of the displays in that exhibition was assembled from the collection of the members of the Society. So outstanding a success was this exhibit, that it was re-assembled for the benefit of other members and visitors.

The exhibit comprised of some 134 sheets, covered the Postal History of the Union from 1910, with, in addition, a few sheets of the Boer War Period. Full details of the exhibit appeared in the March/April "Springbok" (Vol.6 No.2)

To complete the exhibition a detailed show of the current definitives was displayed. This was a comprehensive study tabulating the various printings, and comprised of the collection from which the notes published in the Springbok July/Aug. (Vol 16. No. 4) were compiled.

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During the afternoon the usual Auction was held and nearly 80 lots were offered under the capable hammer of Mr C. E. Sherwood.

To round off the day a number of members stayed to and enjoyed a quiet informal dinner party.

Watch these columns for the date of the next Annual Exhibition.

W.A.P.

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A Fine Ship

On 9.2.53, a letter was posted at East London upon which there were three  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps of Great Britain and these were cancelled at East London without demur. On the back was an arrival postmark of the 'UPWOOD R.A.F.P.O. HUNTINGDON,' dated 3 March 53. Why then did the South African postal authorities accept G.B. stamps. The answer is clear enough for on the front of the letter is a very clear cachet which reads "City of Port Elizabeth/London Official No.184740/Nett Tons 7572.82/Gross Tons 13,362, B.H.P.12650". Evidently the letter was posted on board the "City of Port Elizabeth" which was pleased enough with itself to offer to the world the above particulars.

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AN IMPERIAL AIRWAYS ENVELOPE

In the Imperial Airways (No.10) handbook of Francis J. Field issued in 1950 there is mention of that Springbok envelope which is seen only too frequently and also of sundry other envelopes issued by the Company. There is not any mention however of another envelope which seems to have been an official production of Imperial Airways for it has its crest and the letters I.A. on the back. On the front are the following inscriptions, all in black - "Via Air Mail/Imperial Airways/First Air Post/South Africa to England /Agents throughout South Africa: Parry, Leon and Hayhoe Ltd." The cover left Pine Street P.O. Durban on 26.1.32 and reached Johannesburg on the day following. It is addressed to Wales and endorsed in pencil "Via Germiston". That is all that the envelope itself conveys but as a matter of interest, it may be mentioned that it was presumably carried by the "City of Delhi" which was forced down in Rhodesia but arrived at Croydon on 16.2.32.

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London Group Meetings

From 6.30 p.m. at the "George" Public House, Strand, London, W.C.2. (opposite the Law Courts) every third Tuesday.

Next Meeting: December 16th - Seasonable Evening, Short Display, "Christmas Seals"  
January 20th - "Six sheets or 1/-d"

Everybody is always welcome

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CONSTANT PLATE FLAWS AND VARIETIES - PART VI

by

H. A. STEWART and E. LAUDER

Perhaps we should change the title of this series to "Picture Parade". If you have a complete set of all those issued to date you will find that they add up to 80. Quite a representative gallery of "Union" varieties which are not illustrated in the Handbook/Catalogue and therefore making a useful supplement to that excellent publication.

For this year's quota we have included a number of varieties which appear on the low values of the animal series as we thought that members might like to have them illustrated while they can still be found in kiloware. A few of them are very prominent and may someday rival the better known varieties on the half-penny springbok and other favourites of the "Union" collector.

(1) White Blob in first 'A' of 'AFRICA' which can be found on the first stamp of Row 11 of the Pretoria printed 1d. This is another of the many flaws to be found in this issue which were caused by wear of the plate although this particular variety has not attained catalogue ranking.

(2) Vertical mark "Thunderbolt" flaw above tent. This is the variety which most members will know comes on stamp No.3 of Row 8 in the All Screened printing of the 5/- issued in 1948. It is catalogued as No. 52 A Vc.

(3) "Starboard Light" variety, once again found on the Pretoria 1d. It is catalogued as No. 34 Vh and we are told that it is found on Plate 3. Personally we are of the opinion that this is the variety which Simenhoff refers to in his 1930 Catalogue as "White ball in centre of ship" and he tells us that it comes from Row 12 No. 5.

(4) "Dart" on Gnu's back which is the first stamp of Row 20 of the Unhyphenated 1/- from Plate 2. Catalogued as No. 42A Vb it is one of several interesting varieties which are to be found on the stamps printed from this plate.

(5) "Broken Bucket" (White flaw) another favourite variety among "Union" collectors which comes on the unscreened 5/- and is stamp No. 1 of Row 9. The variety is catalogued as No.52 Vb and is quite difficult to find now-a-days.

(6) "Collar" on Gnu's neck. Another variety which is found on the last row of the Unhyphenated 1/- from Plate 2 being the last stamp in the sheet and catalogued as No.42A Vc.

(7) Triangular Smudge over 'D' in SUID. Here is an interesting little variety on the recently issued 2d. Zebra stamp from Cylinder 116 B Pane. It is stamp No. 11 of Row 16 and is quite easy to see without the aid of a glass.

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1 (8) "Speared" Zebra variety which comprises a scratch up through the head of the Zebra and the last 'A' in AFRIKA on stamp No.8 of Row 19 and extending into the 'S' of SOUTH on stamp No.9 of Row 18. This is a B Pane flaw which is common to Cylinders 92 and 116.

(9) Slanting Stroke above 'Posgeld' a coloured mark which appears on stamp No. 6 of the first row of 2d. Zebra stamps printed from the A Pane of Cylinder 116. It is quite a prominent variety very similar in shape to the "Bullet" variety on the 1½d. Bantam listed below.

(10) "Bullet" variety on the 1½d Bantam. We have no record of the position of this variety in the sheet so perhaps some member would be kind enough to supply this information. The variety is of course quite well known and occurs on an English stamp.

(11) Damaged 'D' in SUID appears to have been selected by the 'Trade' as the best variety in the recently issued German Settlers Stamp. As most members will know it is stamp No. 1 of Row 6.

(12) Line between 'd' of 1d. and 'p' of Posgeld on the current 1d. stamp from double die cylinder 42A and 42B. Rather a minor variety perhaps but it looks rather better than the photograph would indicate.

(13) "Aeroplane" - short horizontal mark in sky at left of tree. It is catalogued as No. 48B Vc and is found on the 3d Hyphenated printed from Cylinder 17 the position being Row 17 No. 2. This variety is, of course, quite well known and is one of several to be found on the stamps from this plate.

(14) White dot in front of '2', a good variety worth looking out for on the 2d. King's Head issue of 1913. The position is given in the catalogue as Row 5 No.6 and the No.5 Vb.

(15) Vertical line in centre of top frame lines. This variety is on the 3d. blue from Plate 6 - Cylinders 44A and 44B which was the first all screened issue of this denomination. It is the second stamp in Row 2 and is catalogued as No. 48A Vb.

Well, that is our offering for 1958 and we hope that our fellow members will get a great deal of enjoyment from seeking any of these varieties which are not already in their collection.



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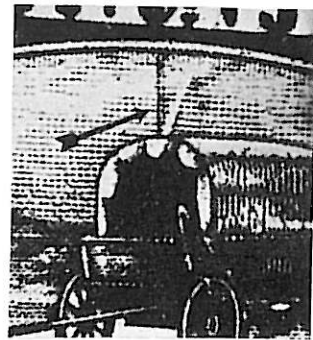
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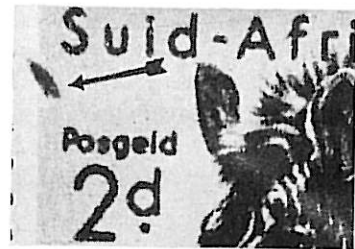
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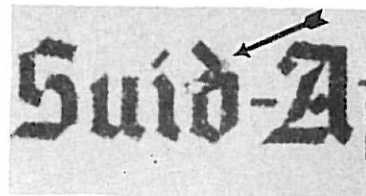
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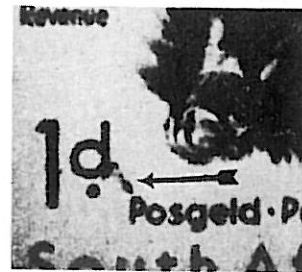
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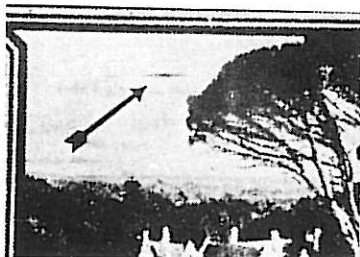
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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I hope the following will be of interest to your readers.

Lot 729. 1930-45 3d blue, vertical pair showing variety,  
lower stamp only half printed.

That was the catalogue description of a lot in a recent stamp catalogue which I received. It interested me as it is not listed so I sent for a preview of it before placing my bid. On these previews it has to be a very quick inspection for the stamps have to be returned within twentyfour hours. I had this quick inspection and made a bid.

All this was at the time of the last STAMPEX and there I saw the auctioneers and informed them that I was not happy about the item and that it was suspect and that if my bid was successful I would have a better look at it and then if not satisfied would have it expertised by the B.P.A. To this they agreed and stated they would give an extension if my bid secured the piece.

My bid was successful and I had a closer and fuller look and found (a) a mark between the stamps on the bottom right corner and upon comparison it appeared to me to be the prong of an arrow, (b) the colours of the two stamps were different and on the lower one the colouring had come through the back of the stamp where the heaviest shading had occurred, but it did not come through on the upper stamp. I took a piece of stamp edging of South African Stamps and a blue biro pen and markings came through the paper on the darkest parts.

I sent the piece back to the auctioneers and informed them of my opinion and stated that I was quite willing to have it expertised by the B.P.A. since when I have not received any further correspondence on this matter.

It is my opinion that the bottom part had been drawn by biro on the normal selvedge. It was postmarked but the postmark had faded where the drawing had been made.

London, S.W.9.

R. D. Allen, Srn.

Dear Sir,

Bars

Is it possible by inspection of the Bars in the top and bottom margins of the 1d and 2d animal stamps to determine the plates from which they came? There is, of course, no difficulty excepting for plates 2, 3 and 5 of the 1d and plates 3 and 4 of the 2d.

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Where do these bars come from? Are they on the multi-positive? I rather think not but can anybody confirm? Are they on the stamp printing cylinder or on a separate cylinder? In the former case are they separately engraved or etched or are they derived in some way from the gelatine tissue?

What I have in mind is the difference in the distance of the bars from the stamps themselves which appear in the specimens I have and I should like to try to establish the constancy of these differences.

Newcastle 1. R.J. Clayton.

Dear Sir,

I have read the article of Mr E. Lauder on the King's Head coil stamps with some perplexity. This perplexity has not been diminished when I read the original article by Mr Peters (referred to by Mr Lauder) and the further notes by Mr Smythe and Dr Berry.

Am I being very stupid or is the explanation which these three distinguished philatelists have been seeking for nearly six years so obvious?

I suggest that the panes have either been inaccurately cut or inaccurately stuck together in the web. When the machine with circular knives, described by Mr Peters as being like a multiple bacon slicing machine, divides the web into strips, the outside strips will then show the variety under discussion on the outside but the inside edge will be straight.

This suggestion is entirely speculative. I have not the variety in my collection and indeed so far as I remember I have not ever seen it. It does not strike me (if my explanation is correct) as being a specially interesting variety and I would not have troubled you with this letter if it had not been for the request for information.

If I am right, Mr Lauder's first and fourth conclusions are wrong.

Can anybody tell me why coil stamps especially of the early issues so commonly appear to have been cut so that the top and bottom perforations are either incomplete or absent altogether? I should have thought scissors were quite unnecessary.

Newcastle 1.

R.J. Clayton.

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Dear Sir,

Anent the King's Head coil stamps

Volume 6 page 85 of the magazine causes me to give some reply to the written matter.

I have two pieces of the 1d coil, paste up joins, one is a pair and the other a strip of four - both are continuous right margin and un-even left. The pair was shown at the recent London Group meeting and reported there-in.

The conclusions of (1) and (4) are, I think, assumptions, for I am of the opinion that the Post Office sheets after trimming were pasted together to make one long wide strip. One edge would be aligned correctly and due to the application of water to the paste-up join, this would cause a certain amount of shrinkage in paper and thus would make the other edge uneven or if you like, out of true. These wide strips were then cut into the narrow strips for the roll stamps, thus there would be, not more than one uneven edge to each roll but that roll with the uneven-edge could consist of quite a number of uneven edges.

As to paste-up joins to my way of thinking it represents the normal join, by that, I mean the joins would be attached to ONE stamp, (double thickness as in joined paper) this join being always to the lower part of the stamp. A join to the TOP of a stamp would be a REPAIR JOIN as it must be between two stamps, if not, then it cannot be a repair join. These joins, no doubt would be from other parts of selvage as in all probability there would be a considerable amount of it lying about at the time of making the rolls by paste-up method.

London S.W.9.

R.D. Allen. Snr.

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Dear Sir,

I thank Mr Allen for his reply to my article on the King's Head stamps of S.A. and was most interested to learn that he has two examples of the 1d coil in his collection with paste-up join showing uneven margins on the left side.

It so happens that since my article was published I have been fortunate enough to acquire a paste-up joined pair of the 1/2d showing the uneven margin on the right side.

I think it can now be accepted that the uneven join can occur on either side. The explanation offered by Mr Allen is probably correct, although I would not go so far as to assume that it was due to shrinkage in the paper. As far as I understand it the coils were pasted up by hand before being cut into endwise coils and it is perhaps not unreasonable to expect that the operator would on occasion fail to get the two outside edges to coincide exactly thus giving rise to the variety. It does seem strange however, that so few examples have come to light although it is hoped that these notes in "The Springbok" will result in others being discovered.

Bearsden.

Edw. Lauder.

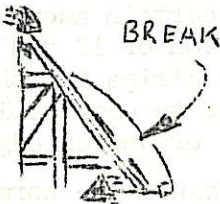


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" THE SPRINGBOOK "  
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Dear Sir,

Re the Large 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Goldmine

A member of the London Group has produced a bottom arrow block which enabled the writer to position a similar block without arrow in his own collection together with seven used singles from row 20/4. None of these stamps show H/C variety 46 Bvb "serrated edge broken" etc.



All plate III, the shades vary from the light buff and pale greenish slate of Vexatus's listing through to the final issue.

Obviously, this is not the last word on the subject for the compilers of the Handbook/Catalogue could not have imagined the variety but it does seem that it should be labelled "non-constant" - as also must a similar flaw on row 19/6 in my possession.

Row 20/4 does show a constant break flaw - in the extreme right hand stay leading obliquely from the minhead, about one quarter of the way up and level with the gusset plate as depicted.

London S.W. 16.

R.J. Lawrence.

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An unrecorded Paquebot cancellation

Dear Sir,

I have on a cover dated 20th November 1954 an unrecorded Capetown Paquebot cancellation.

It has the bilingual Capetown machine date stamp with code letter "C" and two lots of five wavy lines separated by "PAQUEBOT" vertically in sans serif capital letters.

Can anybody say when this mark first came into use and for how long was it used ?

London S.E.13.

E.G. Kinsey.

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" THE SPRINGBOK "

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The 1½d Large Gold Mine by R.D. Allen

Vexatus is puzzled, and I am sure he is not the only one, and I think more will be puzzled when this has been read.

The "South African Philatelist" prints the following information from the Government Printer upon this 1½d printing etc.

- "S.A.P." Vol. 16/141; 31,000 sheets of 120 were DELIVERED between 26th and 29th February 1940. Cyl. 15/62;
- "S.A.P." Vol. 16/161; Early October 1940, NO glitter on buildings, flat ink in an OLD GOLD SHADE OF BROWN;
- "S.A.P." Vol. 16/189; 344,000 sheets of 120 were DELIVERED from 27th August to 15th October 1940, same cyl;
- "S.A.P." Vol. 17/25; 268500 sheets of 120 SINCE 26th Nov. 1940. cyl. 6930/66;
- "S.A.P." Vol. 25/123; mentions colour of yellow green and blue green; referring to colour on a stamp, not two stamps;
- "S.A.P." Vol. 25/187; A letter from the P.M.G. 20.12.41, published in the "S.A.P." January 1942, is now re-printed;

"It is desired to advise you that the 1st issue of this denomination, (Large Mine 1½d. green and bright gold) was printed from pure bronze ink, which consisted of varnish and a bronze lining. Later a small proportion of orange pigment was added to improve the printing quality. Since the outbreak of the war, it has been impossible to obtain bronze lining and the proportionate of orange has therefore been increased. This explains the dull appearance of the gold.

The next supply of the stamp will contain no bronze what-so-ever, but the colour will be a yellowish brown pigment.

The bronze lining is not pure gold. It may vary in composition according to the source of supply".

It is unfortunate that the Government Printing Office notes do not quote colour and or watermarks. The letter from the P.M.G. does quote colour and when that letter is really sorted out to the printings up to and that immediately after 21.12.41, we can get a good idea of the vignette colour and of that only. It is therefore safe to assume, that all the items listed as from the Government Printer as above, come within the scope of the P.M.G.'s letter. The problem is putting the deterioration of the Gold into the different issues bearing in mind the last sentence of the P.M.G.'s letter.

If you examine the item referring to the "S.A.P." Vol. 17/25, 268500 sheets of 120, since 26th November, 1940, Cyl 6930/66, and the P.M.G.'s letter, 'the next supply of the stamp will contain no bronze what-so-ever, but the colour will be a yellowish brown pigment'. So stamps of this cylinder 6930/66 will have two separate and distinct shades, one like 15/66 and the other in the new colour, that is, of course (1) up to and (2) the next printing after 21.12.41 and not the subsequent issues of this value.

(Ed. Note:- The first printing is not mentioned in the above as the centre colour does not give rise to any doubt).

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" THE SPRINGBOOK "

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New Members

354. Miss A.P. Durford, 115 Eastcote Lane, South Harrow, Middlesex.  
355. Arthur Forshaw, 24 Kylestoone House, Cundy St. London S.W.1.  
356. S. B. Webb. "Nyasa", Harefield Road, Rickmansworth, Herts.  
357. S.P. Whitfield, Laurel Hill, Shenfield Road, Brentwood, Essex.  
358. C.R. van der Merwe, P.O. Box 4, Kingswood, Tvl., South Africa.  
359. R.G. Jones. 43 Raymond Road, Langley, Slough, Bucks.

Changes of Address

79. Arthur J. Penn, 120 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
91. Fred W. Rendall, 194 Conway Road, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.  
278. E.G. Kinsey, 31 Marischal Road, London S.E.13.

Resignations

98. N. Richmond, Otley.

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PRESS CUTTINGS.

"South African Philatelist" September 1958. "The Union Rotogravure Coil Stamps" by G.N. Gilbert. "P.O.W Camps in St Helena 1900-1902" cont by J.H. Rathbone.

"S.A.P. October 1958 "The Early Civilian Air Letter Sheets of the Union of S.A." by I.H.C. Godfrey. "Union Railway Parcels Stamps 8th and 9th Issues" by C.R. Van der Merwe.

"African Stamps" October 1958 "Union 2d Definitives (Fauna Series)" cont. by W. A. Page.

"Stamp Collecting" October 17th, 1958. Report from Gemiston - list of principal awards - none for displays of Union stamps!

"Gibbons Stamp Monthly" October 1958 Retouch on the new 4d postage due is recorded in "Through the Magnifying Glass". Occurs row 1 stamp 1 in form of dark patch on upper stroke of "4".

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EXCHANGE PACKETS

It is not necessary to register them but a Certificate of Posting should be obtained at time of forwarding and this should be completed with name and address of the member to whom the packet is forwarded.

Warning! If you do not complete the Postal list you are likely to receive the packet twice as it circulates until everyone on the list has seen it and if you do not complete the postal list the last member is likely to think you have not seen it and thoughtfully send it on. It has happened !!

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