

# THE SPRINGBOK



Vol 39 No. 1

Jan./Feb. 1991

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# THE SPRINGBOK

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*The Springbok* is published six times in each year for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors' Society. It is not available to non-members.

Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc. are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All correspondence will be acknowledged.



## Editorial

To the New Year then and with good wishes to you all. The main item is due to one of our northern members having his appetite whetted by an Auction Lot which led him into a less than usual field of research, for which I am grateful for the opportunity to publish and I hope you will be to read.

Having thrashed out revised production arrangements we hope that by shortening the time between actual formatting and printing the response time and notices will be more satisfactorily generated. Announcements of your research areas we will always try to accommodate, but more importantly do let me or the researcher have your responses; don't lay it down then smother it with more catalogues; your fellow member is avid for confirmation and even rebuttal can help straighten a tangle.

The ABEL Competition was most admirably won by JOHN SHAW with a pleasing entry of part of his study of the 5/- Trek Cart. Whilst of recent years the accent has been on Postal History it was refreshing to see a varied entry this year with some nicely presented entries over a good range of both. That coupled with the good fellowship and the very worthy presentation by John Shaw (page 16 for details) made for a most enjoyable and relaxing afternoon. Our thanks to RDA and his dear lady for the sandwiches and tea in the interval.

And what did you see at Stampex this autumn? Not so many collectors I feel, but as it was the third substantial event here this year, not to be surprised at really. The exhibits, mounted in the ex London World 1990 frames, were interesting, easy to view and a satisfactory range of subjects. Yet, Africa was not well supported and no names among the winners that I recognised from this Society - if I have erred, do let me know and I will gladly write you up.

DWP

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## Meetings in London

12 Feb 1991	Pictorial postal stationery cards (A.R. Chilton and members)
9 Apr 1991	Meter marks and slogans (members)

Meetings (other than regional and other special meetings) are held in Committee Room No.2, Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, opposite Lambeth North Underground Station and near Waterloo Main Line, 6pm for a 6.30 start.

Why not come yourself and bring a friend? Members of the Society and visitors alike are assured of a warm welcome!

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## SOUTH AFRICAN COVERS : A DESIGNER AND HIS WORK

My interest was aroused by an entry in an Auction catalogue:

Lot 294      South Africa      A series of hand painted covers."

Intrigued by this description, I rushed to Glasgow where inspection revealed that the covers were unlike any I had seen before (and I have collected South African material for 40 years!). After some spirited bidding, I collected my prize and retired content with the day's work.

There is a tendency to examine covers in isolation relative to the specific issue and it was not until I spread out the items to decide on the arrangement for mounting as a club display that the similarity of lettering and layout of some covers became apparent. I then discovered tucked inside one such cover a brief note "my latest effort - H J de Wet" suggesting design authority.

All covers were addressed to the same two people one in Edinburgh, one in Cape Town but always in the handwriting of the designer.

A letter to South Africa was returned marked "unknown" but after some delay the Edinburgh correspondent revealed that he had been the vendor of the covers and welcomed my enquiries. He noted the delay in replying but, rather apologetically attributed this to his removal from that address some six years previously, delivery being effected only by kind agencies within the Post Office (this called for thanks to an otherwise maligned service).

From this collector, Mr J.H. Leslie, a member of the Edinburgh Philatelic Society, I learned that all covers were the work of Henry J. de Wet with whom he had corresponded for many years, exchanging SA and GB material.

Their friendship started with an enquiry about Tristan da Cunha covers which Jack Leslie knew were being produced for a Royal visit. Unfortunately contact had been lost and although a new address in Cape Town was supplied from personal correspondence, enquiries drew a blank, as did letters to the Cape Town Philatelic Society, the City Archivist and the Records Office.

A study of the painted covers showed a specific style with exaggerated serifs to the letters or a Gothic style. All were dated 1947 - 1961 but I was surprised by the lack of commercial versions in my shoe box (to be sorted when I retire) even though de Wet's own estimate in 1959 was a quarter of a million covers around the world.

I had assumed that the painted covers were artist's proofs but once again Jack Leslie was able to tell me that, as a hobby, Mr de Wet produced a very few hand painted items, usually based on a commercial product which would be a monochrome line drawing.

It was stated that one each of the special covers was sent to H.M. Queen Elizabeth and the Queen of the Netherlands. Correspondence with Buckingham Palace produced confirmation in the form of a photograph of an illustrated Cape Centenary cover although the lettering varied

slightly from mine, with the envelope in a different format. Unfortunately no confirmation has been received from Holland.

The chase now commenced to acquire commercial covers, similar to a hand painted item or at least bearing the design characteristics already noted.

At Scotex, I found a 1953 Coronation cover in a simplified form and a second copy turned up in Blackpool. At congress in Stirling, English and Afrikaans versions of the Voortrekker commemorative cover were purchased, but once again there were differences from the painted version.

However, they bore the mark of the publisher, Juta of Cape Town and Johannesburg who confirmed that they published and distributed covers for Mr de Wet. They had commenced with the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary in 1952 and quoted a large initial issue plus a reprint of 2500. These volumes seem more appropriate to the Official cover rather than a private venture.

From 1938, Salesian Brothers had handled the covers but with the increased demand after the war, a change had been necessary to produce the quantities required.

The printing was taken over by the Rustica Press of Wynberg using letterpress which required a separate line block for each piece of artwork, a process which compounds the problem of rationalising slight variations in cover design.

Juta were able to confirm the handwriting as Mr de Wet's, since he had been a long serving employee of theirs but more importantly, were able to supply the name and address of his daughter.

From this admirable contact a number of personal details emerged. Physical matter included a newspaper cutting showing a portrait of the designer and the *Cape Argus* were able to supply two other cuttings of relevance.

Mr de Wet was not a "natural" artist in that many of his details were traced or copied, accounting for the stiff appearance of some figures e.g. 1961 Republic supporters, 1959 SANAE figure.

His covers were designed mainly as line drawings, painstakingly coloured and embellished for the selected few, although in the case of the cover for the 1959 Houses of Parliament cancel, the whole design is hand drawn.

The 1949 Voortrekker Monument cover is the only one found so far, where the designer's initials appear and these are placed under the tail of the rider in the right hand lower corner.

His ability to work under pressure was demonstrated when, in 1956, a cover for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Tristan da Cunha was designed in four hours, and a block prepared from which 40 hand made covers were produced. Only 36 hours elapsed from the radio telegram request from the island to the delivery of covers to the docks for onward transit with the Duke's ship.

Although reference has been made to South Africa, at least two S.W.A. covers have been noted, but active search for others has been deferred.

From all printed sources, personal letters and recollections a picture of the man emerges:-

Henry or Henrick J. de Wet was born in Cape Town on 5 November 1888. He married Morthilda and had two children, a son Boete and a daughter, later to become Mrs M.E. Bazeley.

The family lived at several locations in Cape Town where, for many years, Mr de Wet was Manager of Juta's bookshop in Adderley Street. He had started his career as a book salesman in 1903 and retired in 1962 at the age of 74.

He was an ardent patriot, collecting Africa Memorabilia, paintings and books. In this latter connection he used his opportunities as a book dealer to recover valuable South African literature which had been dispersed throughout the world.

As an example, he was instrumental in returning five of Andrew's volumes which had left the country with Sir Harry Smith when his term as Governor General ended in 1852. These books, found in New Zealand, were subsequently presented to General Smuts for his collection on South African botany. Mr de Wet collected for a number of notable South Africans in addition to collecting for the library of the Houses of Parliament.

Amongst his Old Cape paintings were works of Hendrick and William Okberg to whom he was related.

Mr de Wet felt that South Africa was not doing enough to publicise its stamps and in 1938, designed his first covers for the Great Trek Centenary. He prepared covers showing the emblem of each major town through which the trek would pass, and with co-operation from local postmasters, had the commemorative stamps applied and cancelled accordingly.

The late Sen. D. Malan saw and liked Mr de Wet's design for the Huguenots cover in 1939 and decided it should be recognised as official. Mr de Wet was then asked to design the associated commemorative cancel.

It was recorded in 1959, when reporting on his latest cover for SANAE, that Mr de Wet had designed over twenty covers since 1938 but no definitive listing has been found. His daughter stated that nothing was produced between 1939 and 1945 other than special covers to commemorate the end of the war.

Mr de Wet died on 10 December 1966 and unfortunately, the whereabouts of the significant collection which had been formed over the 28 years in which he was active in a philatelic sense, has not been determined.

The material so far identified as his work arises from the painted covers, comments from his daughter, his own notes and a similarity of design and two probable items are included. For reference I have listed them chronologically and attached photocopies at the end of this review.

When "commercial" covers have been found, there are differences between these and the hand painted items. Some variations are listed on items so far collected and doubtless others will exist when additional covers turn up.

Mr de Wet's own letters refer to a cover for Kirstenbosch and another for the 50 years of the Airborne Post but these elude me.

It is clear that there is still much to learn about these covers but information will arise from an ever widening circle of contacts as the study proceeds and any help or details of confirmation would be welcome.

## COVERS ASCRIBED TO J.H. DE WET

ILLUS NO	DATE OF ISSUE	EVENT COMMEMORATED	COLOUR OF LINE DRAWING	PAINTED VERSION
1	3.11.45	Victory	Green 1	-
2	14.2.47	Royal Visit	Blue	Yes
3	17.2.47	Royal Visit SWA	Black	Yes
4	2.5.49	British Settlers	Black 2	-
5	1.10.49	U.P.U. SWA	Blue	Yes
6	16.12.49	Voortrekker (Eng) Type I	Black	Yes
7	16.12.49	Voortrekker Type II	Black	-
8	6.4.52	Van Riebeeck	Black	Yes
9	3.6.53	Coronation	Black	Yes
10	1.9.53	Cape Centenary	Black 3	Yes
11	21.10.55	Pretoria Centenary	Blue	Yes
12	16.12.55	Covenant	Blue	Yes
13	3.6.57	Natal Centenary	Blue 4	-
14	23.10.57	Paarl	Black	-
15	24.3.58	Marion Island	Blue 5	-
16	1.7.58	German Settlers	Blue	-
17	1.5.59	Houses of Parliament (cancel)		Yes
18	16.11.59	SANAE	Blue	-
19	2.5.60	Union	Blue	Yes
20	31.5.61	Republic	Brown 6	Yes
21	20.8.62	British Settlers	Blue	-

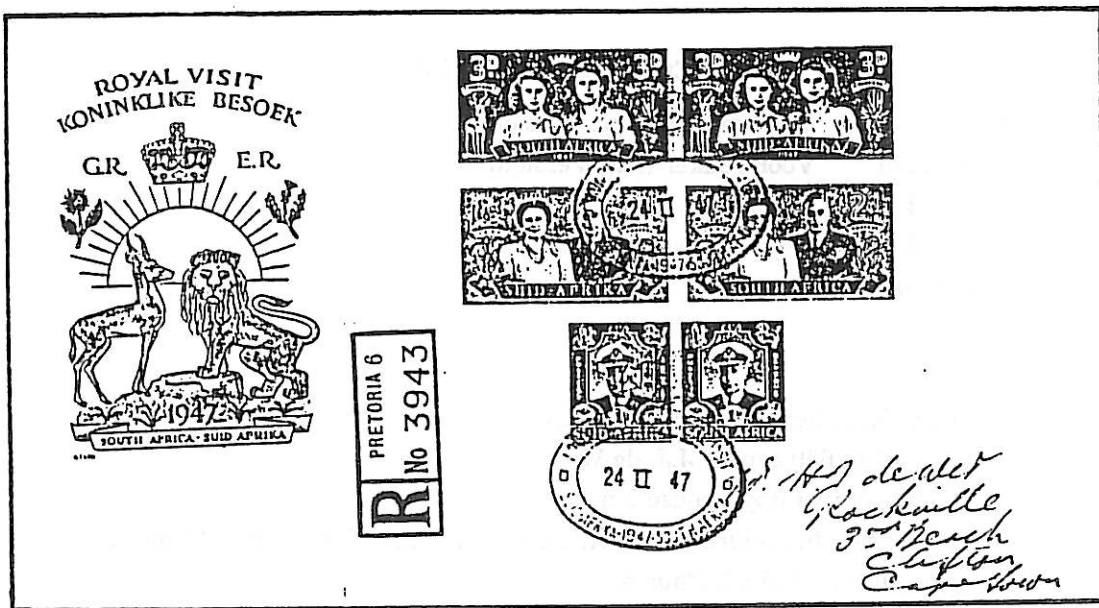
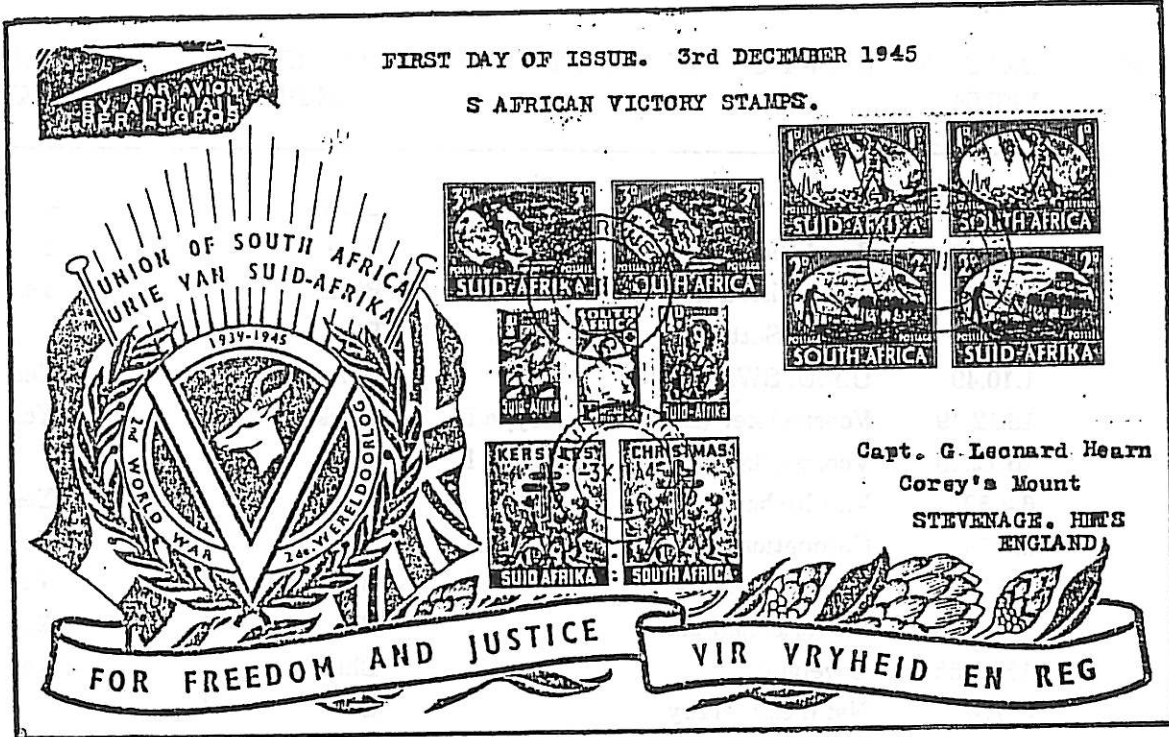
## COMMERCIAL COVERS

22	16.12.49	Voortrekker (Eng. Version)
23	16.12.49	Voortrekker (Afr. Version)
24	3.6.53	Coronation
25	1.9.53	Cape Centenary
26	31.5.61	Republic

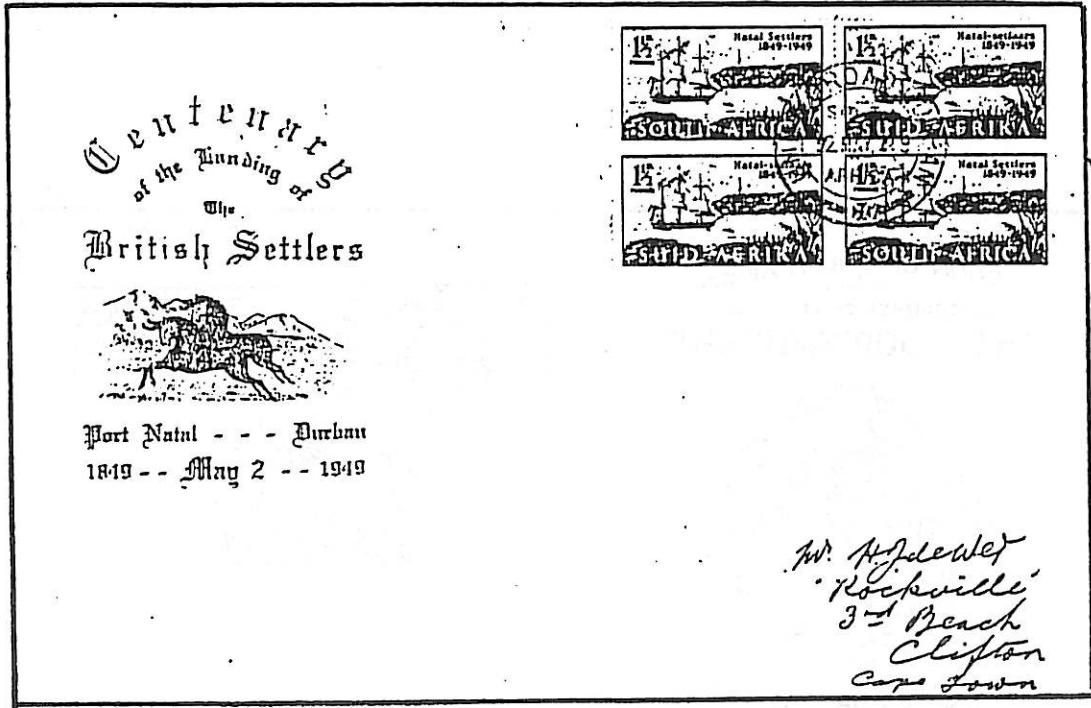
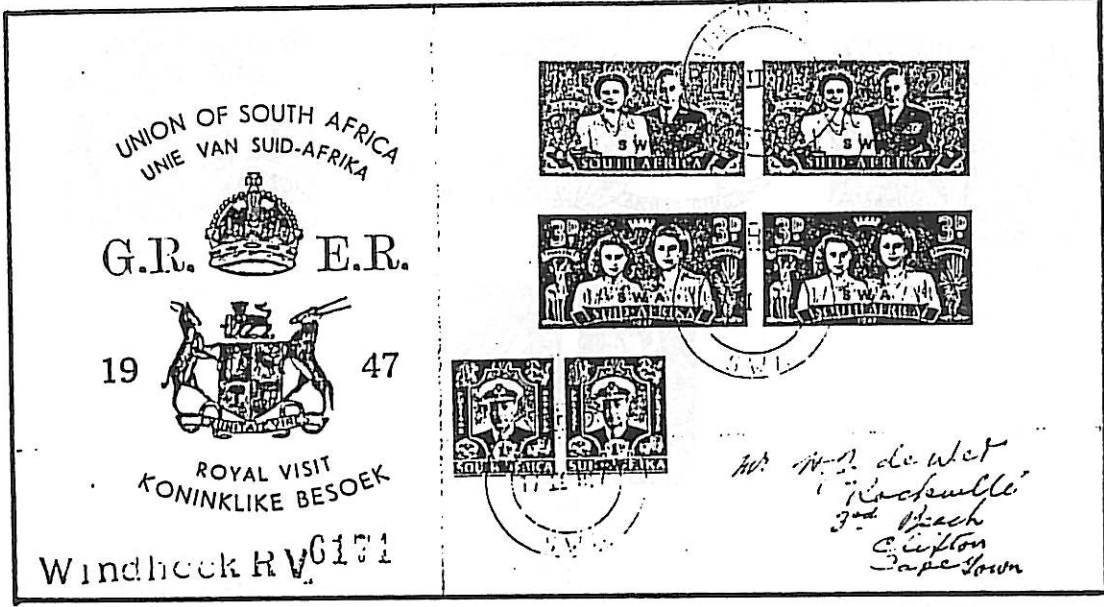
## NOTES

- 1 Not definite but fits description given
- 2 "Limited to 600 copies" J.J. de Wet
- 3 Similar copy in Royal collection
- 4 Not definite but addressed to H.J. de Wet. Similar lettering to Items 4, 13 and 19
- 5 Also exists as 110 x 182mm cover
- 6 Two versions Suid and Zuid

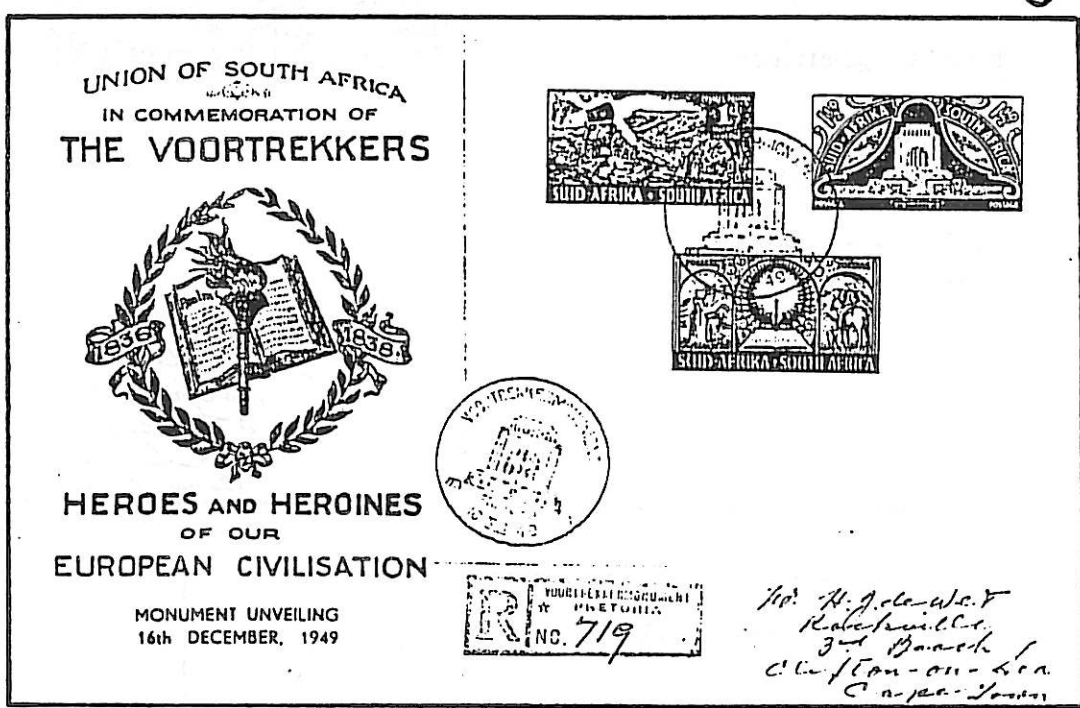
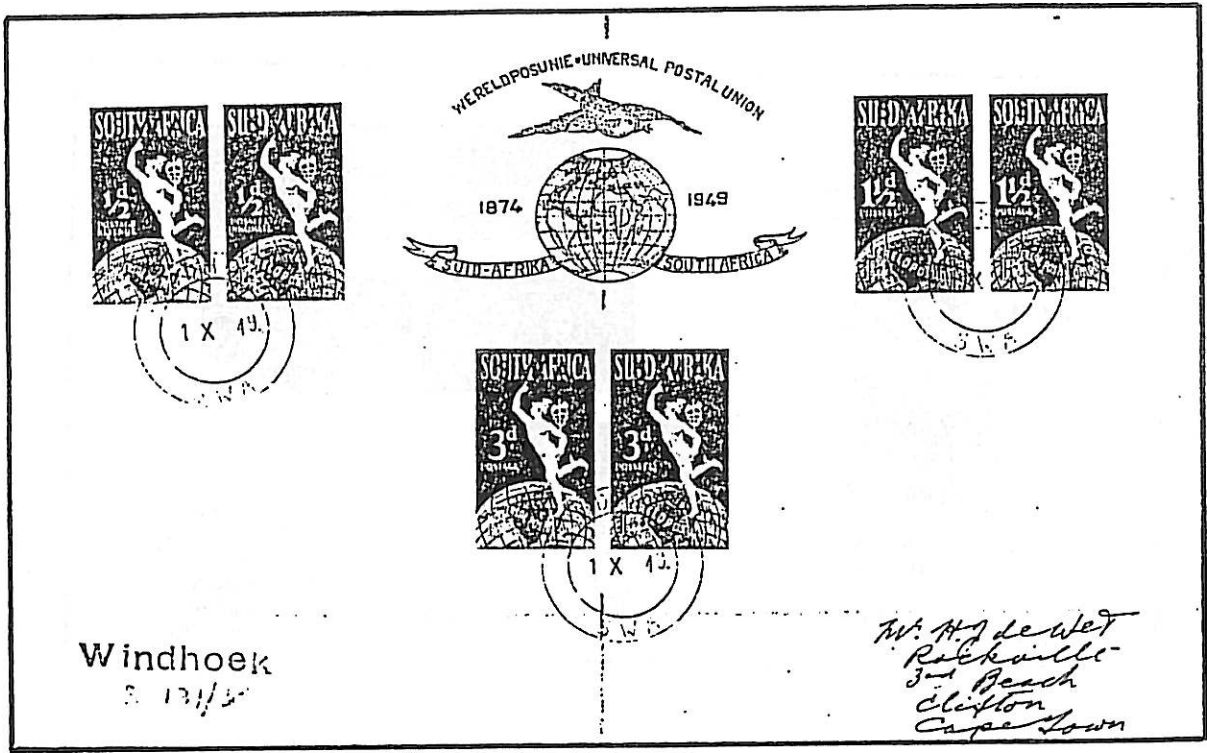
Items 1-12 are illustrated on the following pages. The remaining covers will be illustrated in our next issue.

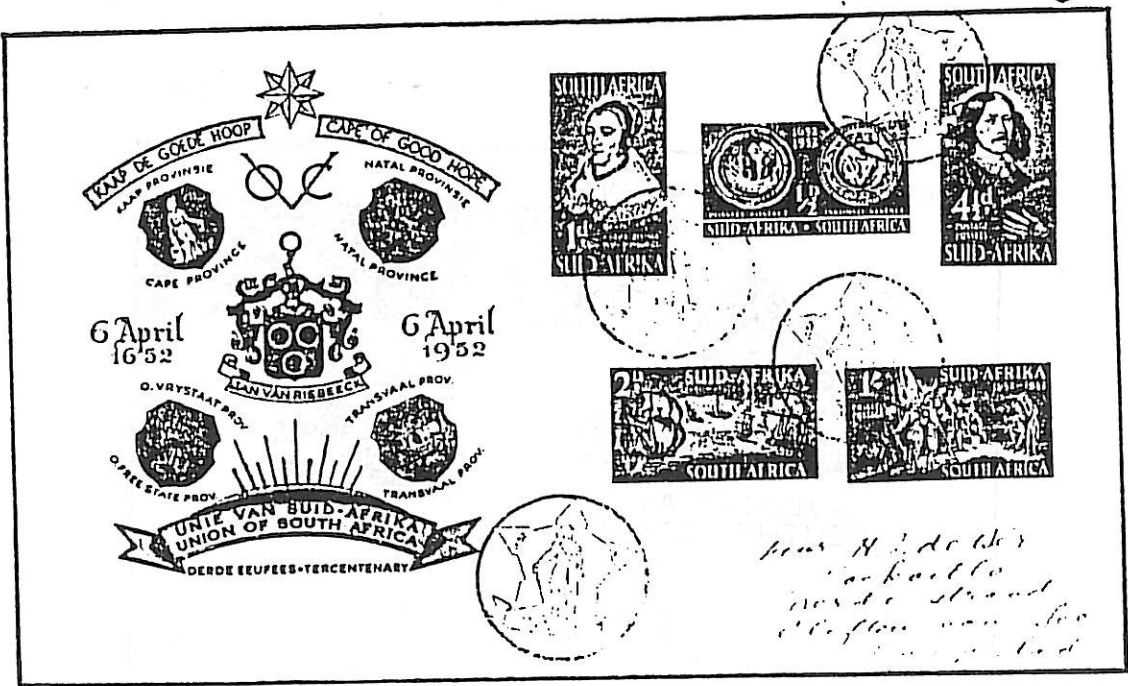
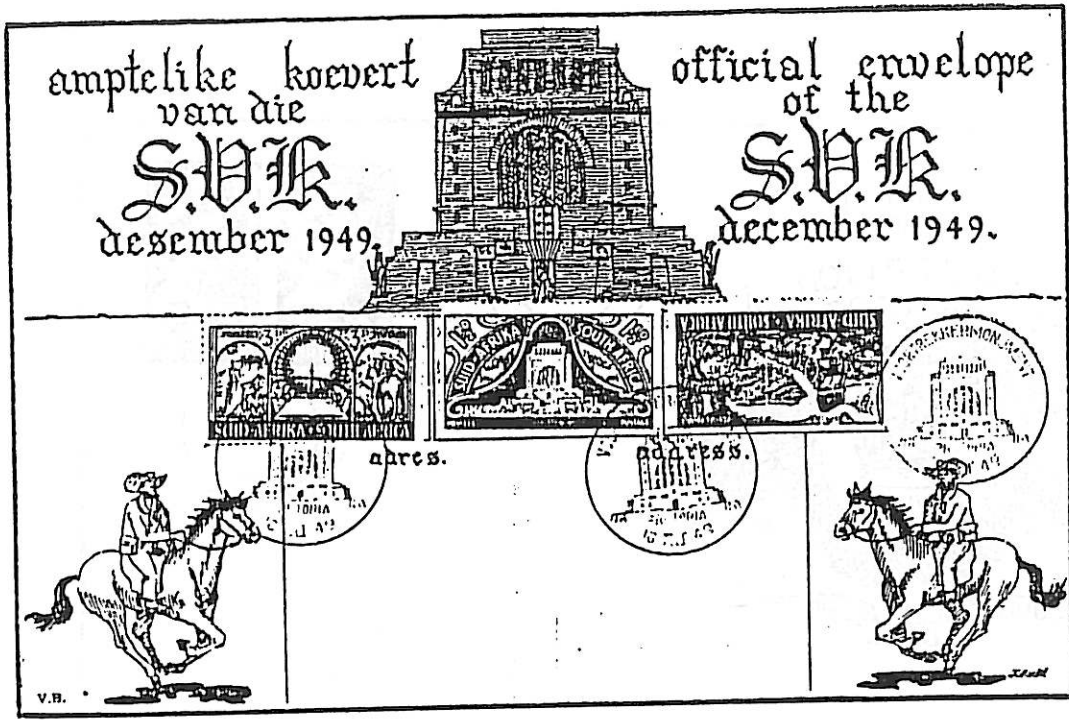


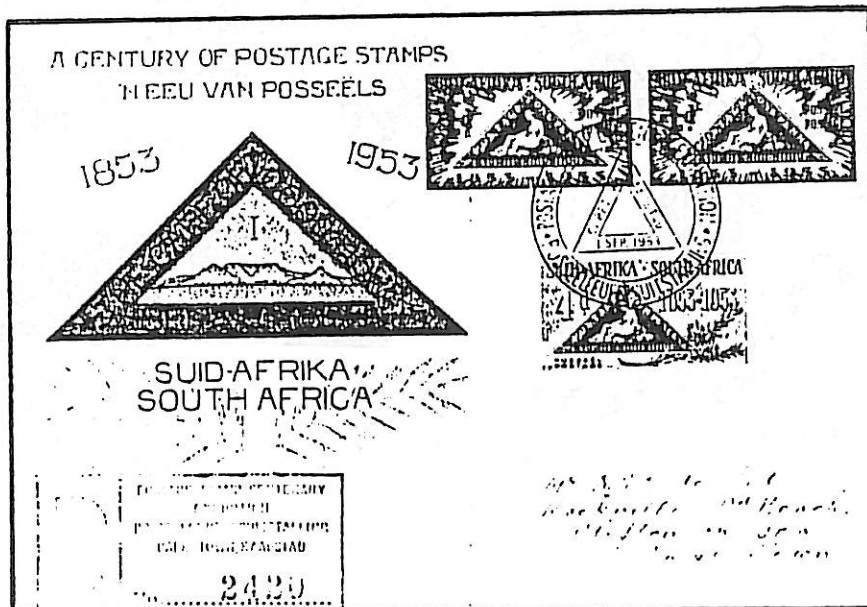
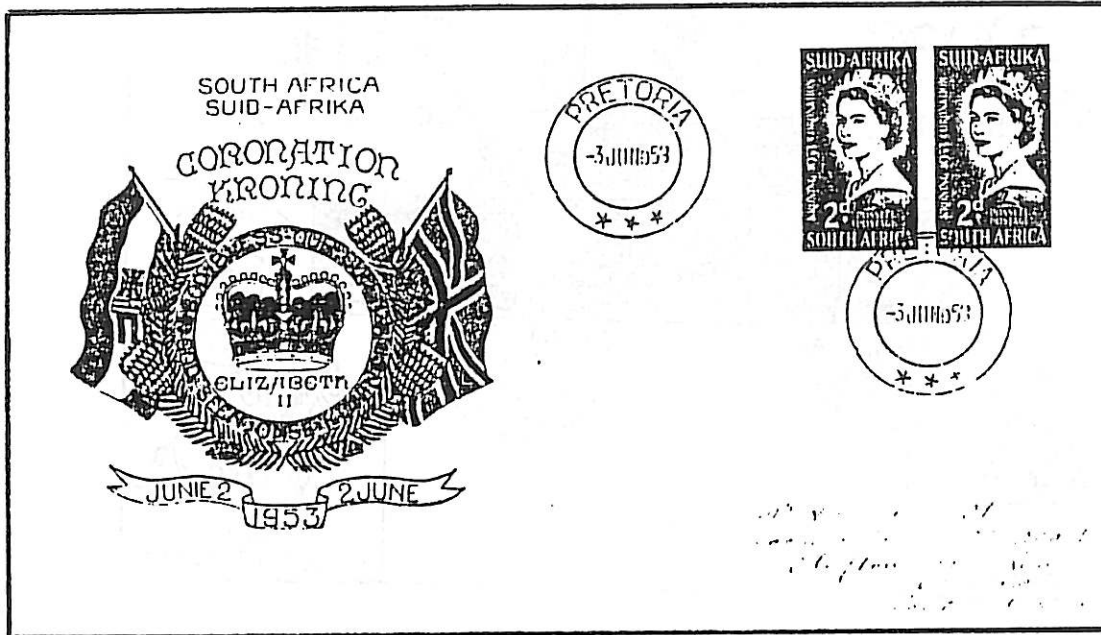


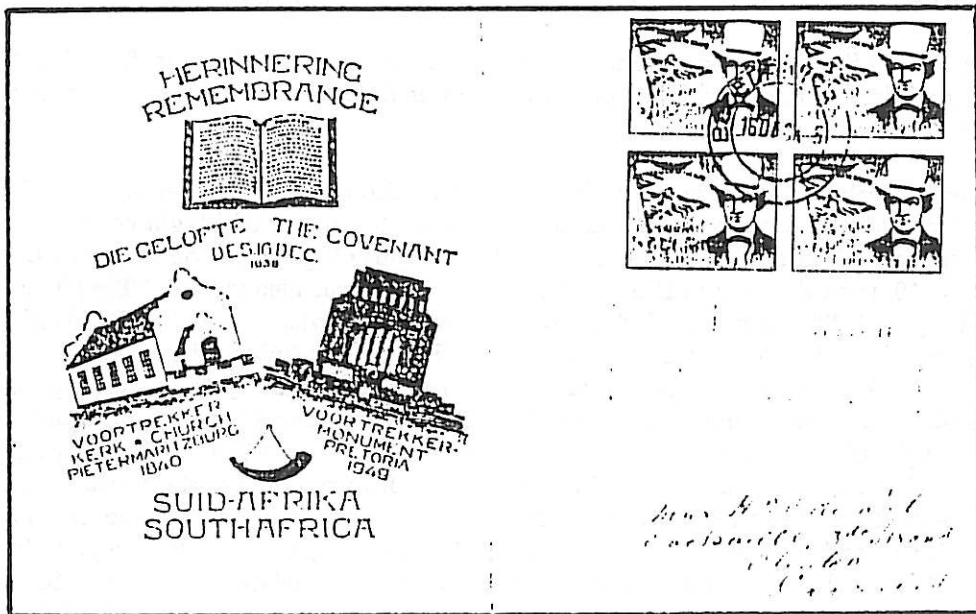
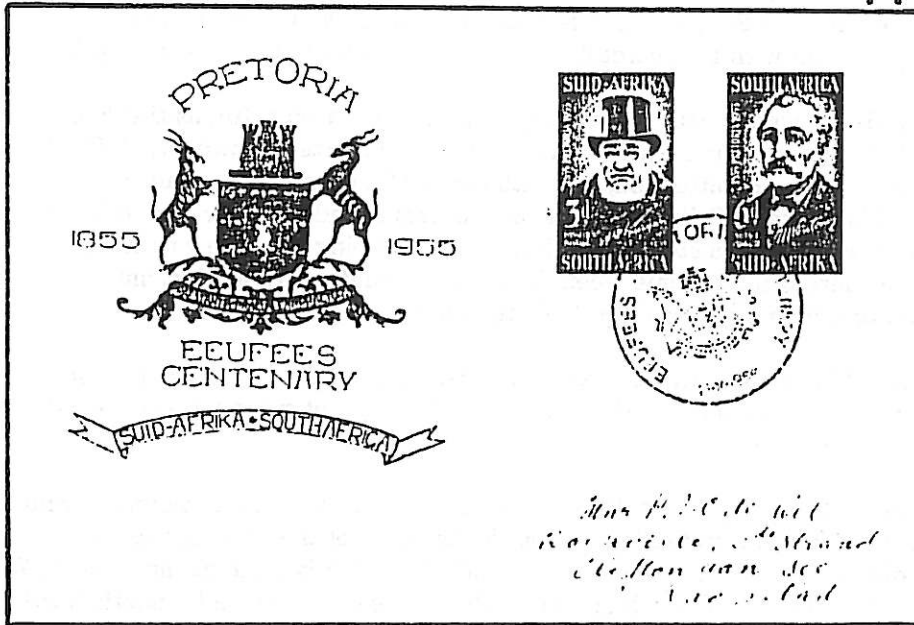


*limited to 600 copies  
H. de Wet*









## SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEETING - 15 September 1990

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This meeting did not go off as one would like it to be, the resident caretaker was on holiday, and left somebody to open up at 2pm, when in fact the meeting should have started at that time. It will not happen again with that caretaker as he has left by the time this is in print.

I have left somebody else to write about the happenings (see report on p.16), as this late start upset my personal arrangements for events before the meeting started. However, all finished well. I can add that a round dozen attended, but with hopes of a greater attendance did not materialise, perhaps this is due to British Rail, the cost of travel and the alteration of times over the week ends re track repairs etc. I did look forward to seeing some new faces, alas, this was not to be so, soon there will be a time when I cannot attend due to age - but many a pensioner does travel to London for meetings. This time personnel came from:-

Dorchester, Hampshire (3 of them); Kent; Weston-super-Mare; Sussex, and 3 from London. Yet many of our members live within the "London area", why do they not grace us with the sight of them?

*IS THIS YOUR REASON?* During a telephonic conversation with one of our members who travels to London for his work he stated he did not like the area of the meetings as he feared "muggings" etc. He did mention the area beyond the Old Vic, which is some distance away. We meet in one of the rooms of Christ Church & Upton Chapel, nearly opposite Lambeth North underground station, not far from Waterloo Station, and one of our neighbours is Kennington Road Police Station. There is a bus stop outside the main entrance to Hawkstone Hall. When you enter the building, go up the steps you see, across the hallway, through swing doors and the stairs are on the left, at the top, half left and down a short passage. Hope to see you and even you.

RDA

## 9TH OCTOBER 1990 MEETING

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Subject being: "Members show UNION AIR MAILS pre W.W.II" & what a showing it was, with three making the running. As usual there was some duplication in the initial examination, but upon closer inspection and discussion differences were visible when explained.

*John Berridge* from Southampton gave us an unusual showing of covers by air, from Rhodesia to South Africa, what an opening! John concentrates on mail to and from Bulawayo, primarily by air routes.

*Fred Clark* from Derbyshire: Some of the 1918 large and also the small wings, covers of 1918, which were used to raise funds for the wounded etc. Items from the 1925 flight covers with some of the special slogan marks, one even in red for the early flights (see *South African Postal Slogans*, items 10, item (f), used in Durban. The same slogan was also used in 1928.) The exhibition flights of 1925 and return flights; the regular 1929 service; one dated 26 AUGUST 1929 to UK with Tax 2d.; A beautiful cover with the UPU GB set (minus the one pound) sent to SA by sea for onward transmission by air; to enable a reply to be sent by the returning steamer; the 1931 flights to Rhodesia; stages at Khartoum to S.W.A. and therefrom; the Christmas Mail experimental flight of 1931, the mail from UK; Durban to London of 27 Jan '32; and from Cape Town on the same day; also one for Canada via UK; Internal flights, the Royal Tour of Prince George of 1934; the 4th December flight to Sydney Australia in 1934; Cape Town to Brisbane of 31st December the same year; the S.A. Medical Congress of 1936; the 1937 flying boat from Durban to UK; and on 26th June 1938, the final stages of the Empire Air Mail scheme; the well known Amsterdam to S.A. and return flight on the same cover; final item, of the Challenger Crash, with a special handstamp on the cover, this cover from Brighton to Durban. (See Alec's contribution.)

*Alec Page:* What follows may seem to be identical material, but there is in many cases, different markings, destination or place of posting, with postal slogans etc.

The First Flight (FF) to Muizenberg from Kenilworth on 27th December 1911, by a person who had flown in the U.K. Mr E.F. Driver. By the way these covers should have postmarks of both places. The 1918 "OUR DAY" Red Cross aerial post, Cape Town; on 7th October, 1918 the Transvaal flight, these cards were different and have a "LOGO" in the bottom left corner, flights made on 20th November and later. Those to Benoni are not as plentiful as others of this era.

The 1925 flights were over various routes and covers were shown of many, one cover to U.K. was exceptional it had:- 6 x 1d stamps; 6 x 3d; 3 x 6d; 2 x 9d; of the special airmail stamps plus KGV halfpenny, 1d, three-halfpenny, 2d, 3d and 4d.

A Cobham card was seen, London to Cape Town 17th Feb 1926. A cover flown from Verneuk Pan of 1929, here Sir Malcolm Campbell tried to beat the speed record for motor cars, alas he failed but later elsewhere he was successful.

The 1929 Colour Trials of the 1/- were seen in its various shades, these were printed on the back of old maps. As to the Special air mail stamps of 1929, these were shown mint, also its forgeries. (There are several sets of these forgeries and usually on offer at Auctions.) The 1933 flights were seen and one from Cape Town to Singapore with Official stamps thereon, 6th December 1933, also a post card to UK with 6d stamps thereon. Then the internal flights in 1936, Cape Town to Port Elizabeth, also the last flight from Maitland to Germiston on 31st March 1936. The usual cluster of the postcards with halfpenny postage stamp to take the card anywhere in the world. The Kalahari Feeder Service to S.W. Africa. Finally, the Challenger crash, its aftermath, a cutting from a newspaper showing the recovered mail being dried with hundreds of mail items spread over the floor, on tables, and with a handful in the hand of a man who was laying out the items.

ADDENDUM: To help I took with me, (a) *The Air Posts of South Africa* by Wyndham; (b) *South African Airmails* by Capt M.F. Stern, and its companion price listing; two bound books (c) with pamphlets of various writers, with Aerogrammes, Commonwealth flight of 1952; the Comet I; Flown Newspapers; Mail carried by famous pilots, C.African Airways Corps, the other; (d) a Check List of Air Post of S.Africa, Story of the Airgraph service; Airmails of South Africa, and South African Airways 1939, plus a loose sheet "Wings over the Kalahari".

RDA

## The 9th Annual Weston Meeting, Victoria Bowling Club, 13 April 1991, 2pm

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A few members within easy reach have never been to one of our regional meetings; some being newish members, have not had the chance to do so. This year we shall have not one but two themes which on the face of it are quite divergent: Interprovincials, the old, and Homelands, the new.

There is no set-piece display, everyone is invited to bring some sheets for display or for queries and discussion. As usual the afternoon will be spontaneous, but it helps a lot with catering and so on to know who is intending to come. Put it in your diary.

If you should arrive in Weston early please come along to the VBC as I shall be there from lunchtime onwards getting things ready. Car parking ... there may appear to be a car park adjoining but it does NOT belong to the VBC. There is on-street parking in nearby streets.

Philip Cattell

## JOHN SHAW'S DISPLAY - SEPTEMBER MEETING

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The invited display by John Shaw comprised some 50 sheets covering the first 15 years of the Union period. It started with a study of the first twopenny-halfpenny, including both types of specimen overprints, a cover sent on the first UK mail after issue and first day covers from all four provinces which made up the Union; first day covers are scarce as 4 Nov 1910 was a national holiday and post offices were open that day for only 30 minutes. Many post offices in Natal did not open that day at all, making covers from this province particularly scarce.

One page of interprovincials included some high values and a Christmas Day postmark. Forerunners of the KG V definitives comprised all four colours of the five Mackay essays and a complete strip of all five values in sepia. The issued stamps were represented by a specimen set, a mint range with inverted watermarks of all known values except the 5/- and 10/-, a one pound used in SWA and three stages of the 6d missing "Z". The covers concentrated on the 1920 May-August unofficial bisects which came about due to a shortage of halfpenny stamps when the internal letter rate was increased, and before the three-halfpenny stamp became available; the 3d bisected, used in Cape Town was particularly nice and it was also unusual to see one cover surcharged with postage due when the bisect was not accepted, albeit was used during the correct period. One of the other two covers bore a halfpenny definitive used as a postage due and the other a portion of a halfpenny cigarette tax label authorised for postage due use for a few days only at Fordsberg; the latter, like all other Fordsberg covers seen was addressed to A.B. Johnstone.

The final section covered the competition essays preceding the first pictorial issue and, naturally, concentrated on the Springbok essays for the 1923 competition. These included the small format screened essays in grey-black, carmine and blue, the former in a block of 16 overprinted "Muster", one stamp showing the "M" with sloping sides variety discovered by Dr Pattinson. There was a complete sheet of 100 of the commoner, but unlisted, carmine essay watermarked caduceus, and blocks of the scarcer unwatermarked essays, one with the recently discovered "Muster" overprint. The larger unscreened monocoloured essays included a block of 16 in purple, which contradicts the normally accepted view that these were made in small sheets of ten.

Ten was the format for the bi-coloured essays and three sheets of the perforated stamps were present on a single card, all plated - a task started by the late Bill Freshwater, expanded by John Shaw, and then expanded even further by Alec Page. The imperforate bi-coloured essays are very much scarcer than the perforated types as only one, two or three sheets of each were made; every known colour and watermark combination of these was shown, the star item being the unique sheet of ten in black and blue showing printer's comments in the top margin.

The 1924 competition essays comprised two items, the Harrison Dromedaris monocoloured ship 1d in carmine and a bicoloured 3d Table Bay, both imperforate in "miniature sheet" format. The third competition essays are scarcer still, most emanating from the sale of the De la Rue archive material in 1976; there were three ship 1d De la Rue essays shown, in red in both languages but Dutch being the alternate and showing the country name spelled as "ZUIDAFRIKA" and one in brown with perforations printed around the border.

The final items were slightly out of context, comprising a selection of the 1929 Booysen essays including blocks, one in black and roughly perforated 11.25 line, a perforation known on some of the Springbok essays. This item was, incidentally, known before discovery of the imperforate sheet of 80 in black some ten years ago, proving that at least two sheets in this colour were printed.



## AIR MAIL CACHET QUERY

---

Jack Hagger has kindly replied to our further query on Mr Dyer's cover that was raised in Vol.37 No.4 p.82 and to which he replied on p.12 of Vol.38 No.1. He writes now:- The reason he puts forward is that "the postmark and S A Airmail mark (both dated 21 April 1925) seem to make it certain that it was posted in Cape Town". (Mr Dyer's submission)

In reply I would point out that at that timethere was no way in which a letter, addressed to England and posted in Cape Town, could receive an air mail marking, and that the main reason for the introduction of the service was that a flight in either direction was completed the same day.

Having seen the photostat I am more than ever convinced that my explanation is the correct one and what happened could have been on the lines of what follows. The sender placed the two one penny stamps on his envelope with the intention of posting it in the ordinary way, but before he did so he realised that if he could get it on the plane that day it would reach its destination a full week sooner.

On enquiry at the Air Mail office at the aerodrome he was told that it was possible and all he had to do was place the stamps to the value of 4d on the left of the envelope - or pay that amount and it would be done for him. These stamps were then cancelled with the OFFICE (my caps - *Ed.*) date stamp only as the others, which prepaid the postage to England could only be cancelled at the P.O. in Cape Town. The non-use of the circular S A Airmail mark is accounted for by the fact that its use was reserved for mail bearing Air Mail stamps and sticker, and which had been posted in the normal way.

The cover has only one puzzle for me: why was the 2d collected where there was no postage due mark? Again I would suggest that someone check the dates of the flights and rates and while about it also whether the mail ship left Cape Town on the 21st or 22nd April 1925.

## REPUBLICAN 10c CASTLE - EMERALD GREEN

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Of late I have had enquiry by telephone about the captioned item and also by a member at the Weston-super-Mare meeting this year. I informed the enquirers that the item was lodged with Chris Ravilious, our former Hon. Editor [*now returned to RDA - CR*]. Here is the story:

This item was sent to me due to the various shades of the stamp and that the REAL emerald green was from some sheets with black cyclometer numbers. I refer to the following catalogues:

- (a) S.A.C.C. Item 216a;
- (b) Robemark Item 199Na & 199R;
- (c) The Republican loose leaf, Item 209c. Which states, "this particular stamp is smaller than its previous issues of this 10c value, viz:- 23.9 x 30.2mm (0.3mm narrower horizontally than before)". This catalogue gives the date of issue as May 1973, on unwatermarked paper.

I refer you to *The Springbok*, Vol.13, pp.78 *et seq*, where I referred to CYCLOMETER numbers as from 29640 to 31700. As a result of that article so much correspondence was received that I had to call a "HALT", and stated that the emerald green could only be identified by the black numbers.

A good point arose out of this correspondence for I received a certified copy of the stamp (not from the expert committee of the S.A.) but a member who had access to a complete sheet with the stipulated black numbers. The Committee has now to decide as to the procedures for identification of this stamp. The result of their deliberations will be published in due course in *The Springbok*. An expertising Panel perhaps?

RDA

## STUDY ON SACC 291a AND 291b

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I am carrying out a study of a specific stamp of the R.S.A. FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE, namely the two and a half cent, on Harrison paper, with the 3mm phosphor band, *with the RSA watermark facing left.*

In order to perform this task it will be necessary to record all Panes: "A" - "B" - "C" and "D" with their respective sheet numbers. The purpose of this letter is, therefore, to request your assistance to obtain such information. Accordingly would you please be good enough to complete the following questionnaire:

1. Do you possess any of the Panes of SACC 291b with the Watermark Facing Left: YES or NO. If the answer is YES, please detail which *Panes* you have and alongside each Pane insert the *Sheet Number* and under the Remarks column mention any additional marks or varieties:

PANE	SHEET NUMBER	REMARKS
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*PLEASE SEND PHOTOCOPIES OF THE ABOVE CONTROL BLOCKS*

2. Do you possess any of the panes of SACC 291a with the RSA tete-beche (sideways) Watermark: YES or NO. If the answer is YES please detail similarly as in 1.

PANE	SHEET NUMBER	REMARKS
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The reason for question 2. is to establish whether any of the sheet numbers have been duplicated or overlap.

The cylinder no. for both SACC 291a and 291b is "17 8" and the watermarks are perfectly clear.

If you are a member of a Philatelic Society, Group or Organisation please ask your members to help me by providing the above information. On the other hand if you know of any person who may be able to provide me with information on SACC 291a - 291b please request them to do so.

Hoping that you will be able to assist me in this exercise and I assure you that at no stage will names of any person providing me with information be divulged and on completion of the study you will be forwarded a copy of the report on the findings.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Des Greenhalgh,  
7 Kitchener Road,  
Pietermaritzburg 3201,  
Republic of South Africa

### HELP WANTED!

To keep the exchange packets running please sort out those duplicates and material that you will never get around to using and send it duly mounted to the Packet Superintendent. Instructions are in the Green Book. The sale for good material is likely to surprise you, but please mount them carefully and *do* use standard size booklets. I have a supply at 7p each plus postage.

Do not waste money by using registered post or recorded delivery. A certificate of posting, which is free, ensures that the sending is covered by our insurance policy.

Philip Cattell

## PAPER PUZZLE - from R.A. Bell

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Some time ago a few letters from members elicited that most comprehensive explanation of the Buildings issue from Tony Chilton, which made the collection of the issue so much more interesting. I and, I am sure, many others are very grateful to him.

I now have another "Modern" problem which I hope one of the Wise Men of the Society can solve for me. This concerns the 1980 Definitive issue of S.W.A. (the Animals). This issue which lasted nine years had many reprints and until now I had been satisfied to categorise them as "Ordinary" and "Chalk-surfaced" papers as in S.G.

I have now, however, received the pages for my Lighthouse Album, and they have listed them into two categories, namely "Ordinary" and "Phosphorescent" papers. The puzzle however does not end here because both seem to overlap the Chalk-surfaced. To give a couple of examples. The 16c is listed in Gibbons only as Chalk-surfaced, whereas Lighthouse include it in both their categories. The 10c is listed by Gibbons only as "Ordinary" but by Lighthouse as both.

As both the 10c and the 16c reprints were printed in 1989, maybe Gibbons did not get them into their latest catalogue as chalk-surfaced. There are however other anomalies which prevent me from concluding that I can call all Chalk-surfaced the same as Phosphorescent, e.g. Lighthouse do not include five stamps in their Phosphorescent which are included in the Chalk-surfaced in Gibbons: 5c, 7c, 20c, 50c and R2.

The Chalk-surfaced can easily be distinguished from the Ordinary as they are on whiter paper, but if there are three categories, how do we know which are phosphor, without a lamp?

Can someone tell us whether there are two or three types of paper? If there are three, how can one pick out the phosphor paper?

I find the SACC very disappointing to the ordinary collector as a specialised catalogue it has less detail of this kind than does S.G.

It is difficult to check with Lighthouse because although their local staff are very helpful all the technical stuff is done in Germany. One volunteer SWA expert come forward please.

## PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

The PSGSA presented its first Charles Lupo Memorial Award to A. Timothy Bartshe for his article entitled "The Commando Brief". The article appeared in Vol.III No.2 of the Society's award-winning journal *Forerunners*.

*Forerunners*, the journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa received a Bronze Award at Stampshow 90, the annual event sponsored by the American Philatelic Society Literature Competition.

The annual Mail Auction list will be sent to the Editor of *The Springbok* so if any member wishes a copy, please let me know. Similarly if you wish to sell there, I will oblige with details.

The Society representative for the United Kingdom is:

Michael J. Smith, 2 Vanburgh Gardens, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 4UQ.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regret to advise of the death of Peter R. Lovell, MBE (889) after a very short membership.

Resignation (retirement) Mr E. Merriman of London (158) due to ill health.

### *New Members*

Harry V. Gardiner from Chevington, Suffolk, rejoins at	No. 614
C.S. Hamilton, from Shirley, Solihull	No. 919
A.S. Pursell, from Buckland, Portsmouth	No. 920
M.A. Wright, of Duston Northants	No. 921

Correspondence, with SAE please, will be sent on by the Membership Secretary.

## SPEAKING ACCEPTANCES AND APPEARANCES

Brian STOKOE from Peterborough is at RUTLAND Philatelic Society on 8 March 1991.

David Painter is at Bournemouth on 9th April 1991 having been to RINGWOOD last November 1990 with some SOUTH AFRICAN POSTAL HISTORY.

Philip CATTELL appeared at Salisbury with his South African material.

John SHAW FRPSL kindly visited ROMSEY in December 1990.

## AMENDMENT to *The Springbok* No.5 of 1990

To the Statement of Accounts on the last page. The year printed on the lower half of the statement should read 1990.

## LIBRARY

Please add the following to the Handbook:

- 81 Volume III of the *Encyclopedia of South African post offices and postal agencies* by Putzel
- 82 (Held for Vol. IV of same)
- 83 *History of the South African Army Postal Service* by Edward Proud

## RESEARCHES

Jack NEWMAN (see Vol.38 No.3) also has a project on the 6d UNHYPHENATED issue and welcomes information on the obvious flaws and positional blocks.

Morgan FARRELL is now working on the one penny "antehyphenate" rotogravure and acknowledging Mr MERRIMAN's work, does hope to further the study.

## REQUEST

From Brian STOKOE at Peterborough for a 1911 First return Flight Card; also seeks (with some humility) the postmark error variety of the Second flight. Following the showing on 9 October 1990 hope an offer appears.

## AWARDS

At STAMPSA 50 in South Africa, congratulations to J.H. TONKING - a Silver-Gilt for his exhibit of the 2d London printings; a Silver-Bronze for the Hagger/Tonking monograph which we were privileged to publish earlier and a Silver-Bronze to M.G. LEEMAN for his South Africa BANTAM covers. Well done.