

THE SPRINGBOK



Vol 40 No 5

Sept/Oct 1992

SOUTH AFRICA AT AUCTION

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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

The round of Conventions and Fairs seems to have ended and yet, like football, only too quickly the new programme requires our attention.

Next stop STAMPEX, if one is so minded. South African entries are few, yet the prices for material seem reasonable, albeit the pages and plastic rise in cost. This issue's item on prices contains a sting, but there are two aspects on which I can comment. The long term collector has built up his own system of intelligence gathering; the response to suggestions and requests gives more cause for concern as they are few indeed that come to the editorial sieve. I would rather have separate confirmation or even opposition than nothing at all. To this extent, that where I believe I know of a suitable source to put the question to I will do that. It does not always strike lucky, but I am prepared to do so in anticipation of a better filled article in due course. The bare question without response leaves the questioner, and me, with a sense of frustration when we seek help from our fellow members. Don't feel that someone else will know and reply; since the 1910 issues the Gibbons catalogue reached SG 700 in 1989 and that does not show the postmarks or special events, you may well have the answer.

For example, the question put by John Davis, *The Springbok*, vol. 39, no. 4, p. 80 as to vertical and horizontal format is one such that brought nothing. However as the SACC product has listed singles for some time, it now seems that Gibbons may follow suit. What price doing the job properly and thoroughly overhauling this aspect to take in the pairs that do occur in either direction?

DWP

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Meetings

Tuesday 13 October 1992: Protea Definitives
(Alec Page and Members)
Tuesday 13 April 1993: 1927 Pictorial
Definitives, ½d to 1/-.

Cont. →

Saturday 22 May 1993: By invitation of
Richard Stroud, at Burnham-on-Sea.
Commemoratives. 11am to 4pm.

Tuesday 8 June 1993: 1st Republic
Definitives.

Sunday 15 August 1993: Regional Meeting at
Bristol-Portishead. Federation Convention
2 to 4.30. Subject is postal stationery.

Meetings (other than regional and other
special meetings) are held at 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!

A Howgrave-Graham

AUCTION REPORT

I THOUGHT I'D GIVE A PROGRESS REPORT on how things are developing with regard to the above. The auction houses have mostly come up trumps, with the smaller ones offering some quite interesting cheaper to medium lots including a surprising amount of SWA postal history and stationery. Estimates across the board have varied markedly from the seemingly cheap to the wildly optimistic, the latter invariably remaining unsold. I spent £10 viewing a South African collection estimated at £180 which appeared unlikely to fetch £50 (one third of the £150 reserve).

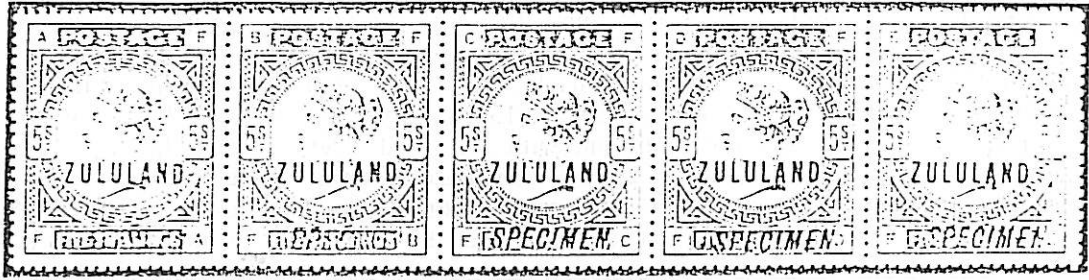
There has been a noticeable shortage of specialist SA material in the home auctions. Christie's Robson Lowe replied to my request for catalogues in their customary good mannered style with copies of the fine 'John Robson' Zululand sale, but then failed to forward their Commonwealth catalogue until I chased it up, by which time it was too late to forward to members. Harmers appears to have a policy of providing catalogues to active bidders. Gibbons have started providing and had a couple of interesting lots in their current sale. Sotheby's eventually managed to send me a Stephan Welz furniture catalogue from Johannesburg! I live in hopes that I am on their London list and, in fact, it has turned out a shame on Stephan Welz as I learnt through other quarters of their 'Thys Rall' sale of 1 July (more of this later). Warwick & Warwick have provided a catalogue but with little in it for members. Phillips have now started providing after a follow up telephone call through James Grist. Unfortunately, again, they were too late with their Postal History catalogue, containing Philip Cattell's material, for me to forward details on to members. Cavendish alone now have not responded. Perhaps I'll chase them up when I have recouped on energy!

All in all a pretty satisfactory response from the auction houses – but not, sad to say, from the membership. Surely there must be more than four Society members currently buying stamps?! Also I would add – O ordinary member like myself – that not one of the Society's officials have taken part in the exercise despite, dare I note, recent complaints from them regarding a lack of membership activity!

In view of the poor response I thought I would explain just what is on offer, as I don't feel justified in bullying the auctioneers very hard unless I am distributing to a rather larger number. Briefly, I have some 25 catalogues coming to me from which I extract the South and South West African material and make pasted up A4 sheets ready for photocopying and distributing to interested members who have sent me SAEs. I also request a nominal 5p per sheet to offset the photocopying costs. As can be seen, the work involved is very similar irrespective of the number I send to, so, from my point of view, I would appeal to members to get in touch. I would anticipate a mailing approximately once every 3 to 4 weeks, so for a few pence you can receive quite an extensive list of available SA/SWA material which would cost several hundred pounds if subscribed for.

Now (at last!) to the main purpose of the exercise, which is to report on auction activity, albeit for the very short time covered. The realisations I quote are all to the nearest £1 and include all the additional costs (VAT and premiums or handling charges). These are quite variable company to company and I aim the report for UK purchasers. I cannot indicate where VAT is or isn't applicable for overseas buyers or dealers, and vendors would have to look at the hidden costs to find out what they might expect to realise. I must also point out very clearly, and right at the start, that 'realisations' and 'value' are not at all the same thing, despite the oft heard comment that it's 'worth what it fetches'. (For the analytical, the paradox of the last statement is due to its retrospectiveness!)

Before going on to Union material I thought I'd just report on some exotica. Harmers sold the famous and lovely 4d Cape triangular cut the wrong way (to produce two bisects) on cover for £8940. I can't help wondering if this was a genuine error or was someone just playfully minded or, dare one say it, philatelically minded, as early as 1853? Such thoughts may be sour grapes that I can't aspire to such items! Christie's Robson Lowe's superb 'John Robson' Zululand had some lovely material. The 1888-93 set in fine mint blocks of 4 (only 3 blocks of the 5/- recorded



EX 303



EX 304



EX 307



301

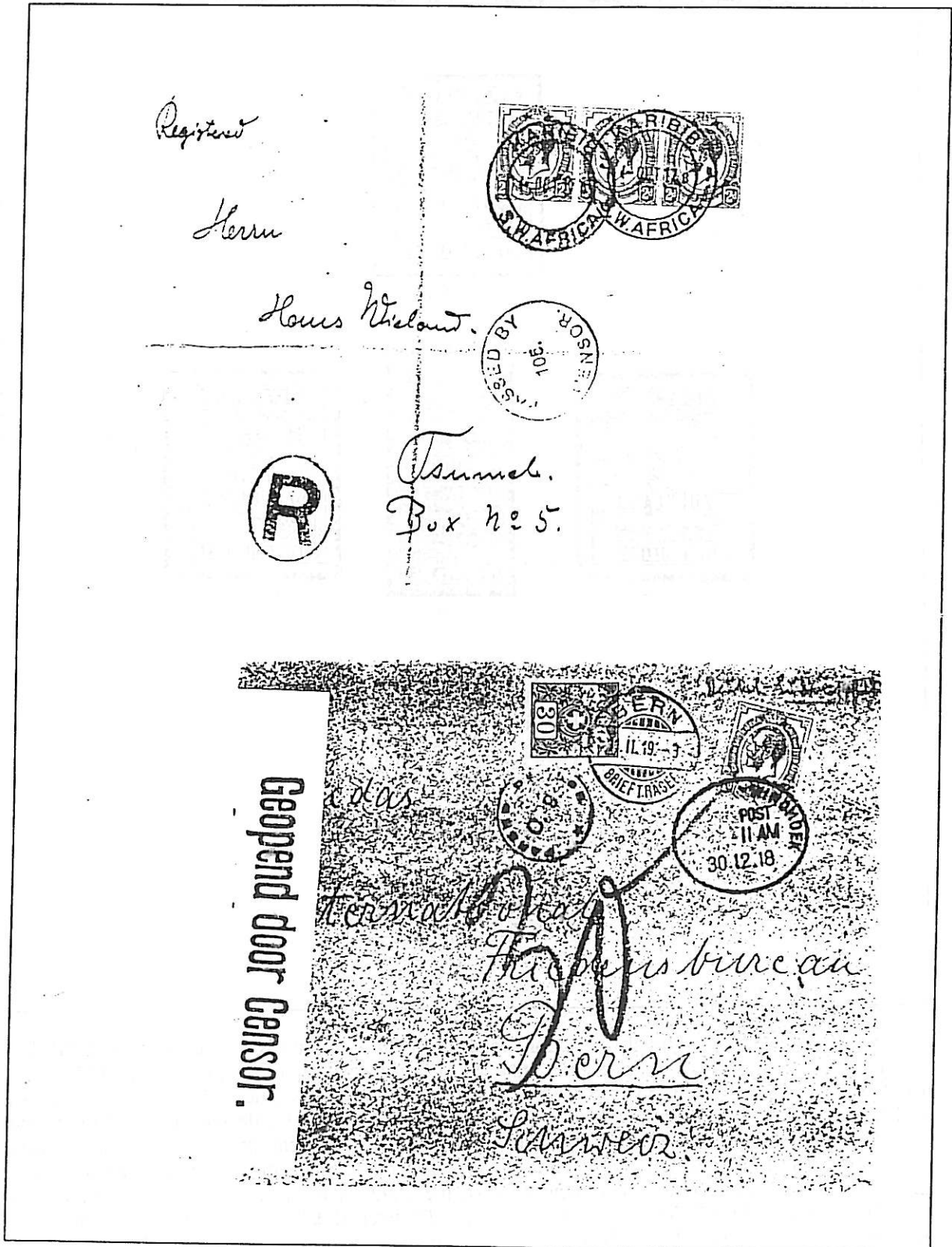


EX 311

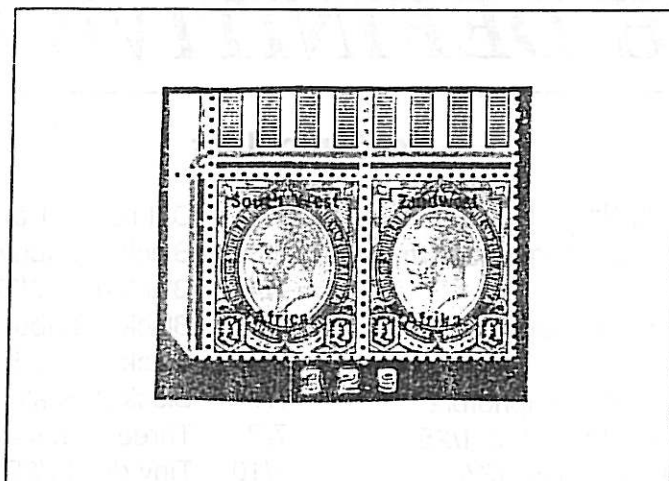


and one of these is in the Royal Collection) fetched £4470 as did the same set ovptd SPECIMEN (in violet) in strips of 5. The set ovptd CANCELLED (low values in pairs) reached £1229, with ms 'Specimen' (2d - 5/-) £838 and h/s SPECIMEN in black £726. The 1888 ovpt on Natal 1/2d, SG12, fetched £1674 for a blk.4 with ovpt double and £469 for a single with inverted ovpt, and SG12c fetched £424 for an inverted ovpt in a strip of 3. The unique strip of 3 including 2 with ovpt double (SG12a) in conjunction with 2d, 4d & 6d on part registered cover failed to sell at an estimate of £3500-£5000. A complete pane of the 1892 9d (believed unique and certainly an imposing item) made £2750. The 1894-6 keyplate £5 fetched £2983 fine mint and £536-£614 fu. The keyplate set ovptd SPECIMEN and in fine mint strips of 5 made £2570.

Turning to Union material, my first comment would be that it has been thin on the ground. A Kenilworth-Muizenberg air card fetched £84 (Northwestern) which seems good purchaser value. 1913 to 10/- £143 and 1926-7 set (including ½d - 6d) £213 (both Corbitts and both Imm). Four 1913 sets to £1 were offered by Christie's but as all were variably toned the prices seem rather meaningless and two of them remained unsold. SACS member Brian Redpath's first auction sold the first roto set (SG42-49a) with shades for £132, the hyphenated (SG54-64ba) for £88 and the screened set for £49 (all these Imm and with SG listed shades). There has been rather more interesting SWA. The early SA used in SWA on censored covers realised £18 each for one from Omaruru and from Swakopmund (PH Stamps - both these with 2½d foreign rates up) to £32 for another Swakopmund cover (Imperial) and £36 for one from Kalkfeld (Corbitts).



The best range appeared in Redpath, however, with realisations from £9 for an uncensored local Omaruru cover to £29 for a very pretty registered double rate censored cover Karibib to Tsumeb, £35 for a 1d on cover to Switzerland with Swiss postage due, and £47 for a scarce stationery item with Keetmanshoop. The first standard set to £1 pairs realised £894 (Gibbons), the 1923-6 set to 10/- £126 and the £1 in a pretty top left corner pair (stamps um) £242,



1927 set realised £63, 1927-30 set £82 and 1931 with airs £97 (all these 1mm and at Tony Lester). The 1924 10/- and £1 ovptd SPECIMEN in singles of each language setting (pairs are scarce) fetched £94 (Corbitts), and the 1927 4d triangular (perf) ovptd SPECIMEN on both settings £74 (Phoenix). A nice and fairly extensive, if duplicated, collection of the 1927 2d, 3d & 1/- in blocks and part sheets showing the 16.5mm spacing in vertical row 3 and with at least 2 inscriptional pairs for each value fetched £178 (Northwestern). It's a shame there aren't more varieties on this issue. If it was bought by a member I suspect we may be seeing some bits of it on offer soon! Interestingly the 1931 set 1mm to £1 (without airs) fetched £89 (Plumridge) which leaves £8 for the airs (vv Tony Lester) and confirms my impression that they have always been quite markedly overcatalogued – either this or it confirms my comments that realisations must not be taken too seriously!

Finally I have been looking at, and drooling over, the 'Thys Rall' gold medal collection on offer 1 July by Stephan Welz in Johannesburg. There is some wonderful material in it, some of which I can trace back to the 'Wunsh' gold medal collection sale by Robson Lowe in 1972 and a big sale in Johannesburg in 1977. In the case of the last it's interesting to note that the exchange rate then was 1.8 rands to the pound against the current 5.2! Perhaps this may help in getting some of the classics back to this country. Anyway, it will provide a useful section for several of the Auction Report articles to come.

I hope members find this report either interesting, useful or both. I certainly am finding it quite entertaining to do – but do please get in touch with your SAEs for the lists.

FOR SALE

An offer from a non-member has been accepted because of the material, which is described as 'not common'.

There are items from a collection between 1960 and 1976 of the First Definitives and other Republican issues in blocks, strips, controls.

Informal lists are being prepared and it is recommended that members wishing to purchase please send to the advertiser their enquiry accompanied by an International Reply Coupon. The vendor is:

Dr G.R. MAJOR, of 301 Kellon Court, Amanzimtoti 4126, South Africa.

DWP

'Printer's Nightmare – Plater's Dream...'

W J Branney

FIFTH DEFINITIVE ISSUE

2c Succulent

Original Printing : Pane A

Date of study 8/3/90. Magnification x 6

- 1/4 Pink spot between legs of R in RSA
- 1/8 Dot in front of E in Euphorbia
- 1/10 Fuzzy blue marks 2/18 & 1/25
- 2/2 Dot between R & S in RSA
- 2/4 Dot 5/12.5
- 2/6 Dot between R & S in RSA – Dot 3/26
- 2/8 Dot above T of Botha – Dot between A – 19
- 2/10 Fuzzy marks above E of Hein
- 3/1 Tiny dot above A – 1 date
- 3/3 Dot 1mm above A of Botha
- 3/4 Dot above N of Hein
- 3/5 Blue dot below H of Hein
- 3/6 Dots above A of Euphorbia
- 3/7 Dot 16/26
- 3/8 Blue dot above S of RSA – Dot 3/23.5
- 3/9 Dots above & below A of Botha
- 3/10 Dot right of C of Cent
- 4/1 Dot 12/8
- 4/2 Dot above & left of H of Hein
- 4/3 Dot above R of RSA – Dot 17/26
- 4/6 Tiny dot below 1 in date
- 4/10 Small dots in front of H of Hein
- 5/2 Tiny blue dot under leg of A of RSA
- 5/5 Tiny black dot between legs of H of Botha
- 5/7 Dot 16/28
- 5/8 Dots over second M of Symmetrica
- 5/9 Tiny dot above B of Botha
- 6/3 Black dot between SA of RSA
- 6/7 Blue dot above 9 of date
- 6/8 Mark 20/15

- 7/1 Dot below 1 of date
- 7/3 Black dot above TH of Botha
- 7/4 Black dot 17/27
- 7/5 Black dot above S of RSA
- 7/6 Black dot 10.5/9
- 7/7 Black dots along top perfs
- 7/9 Three marks 2/15
- 7/10 Tiny dot 14/25
- 8/1 4.5/11.5
- 8/2 Black dot above R of RSA
- 8/3 Black dot 4.5/28
- 8/5 Black dot top right corner – Dot above Euph
- 9/4 Dot 4/12 – Dot 4.5/24.5
- 9/5 Dot 6/2.5mm
- 9/7 Black dot above TR in Symmetrica
- 10/1 Tiny black dot 2.5/14mm
- 10/4 Blue dot below 9 of date
- 10/6 Tiny dot above A – 1 date
- 10/7 Tiny dot right of C of Cent
- 10/8 Dot 2.5mm right of C of cent – Dot 3/23
- 10/10 Dot below 8th horizontal perf

Second Printing : Pane A

Plates = 2058–2059–2060–2061

Date of study 16/3/90. Magnification x 6

- 1/1 Black dot middle of A of RSA
- 1/2 Black dot 3/26
- 1/3 Black dot in front of R of RSA at bottom
- 1/4 Black dots inside legs of N of Hein
- 1/5 Black dash near 2 of 2c, 5 o'clock
- 1/6 Red & blue dot bottom right corner
- 1/7 Group of dots bottom of R of RSA
- 1/8 3 tiny dark dots 5/4
- 1/9 Black dots below & right of A of RSA

1/10	Group of 6 red dots top left corner	6/5	Black dot 10th lower horizontal perf
2/1	Black dot 13.5/7.5	6/6	Mark inside C of cent, 2 o'clock
2/2	Large black dot 8/26	6/7	Red dot below A of Euphorbia
2/3	Red dots below 1 & 9 date	6/8	Blue dot above 9 in date
2/4	Black dot inside curve of C of Symmetrica	6/9	Dots left vertical perfs near 2c
2/5	Fuzzy H of Euphorbia	6/10	Dots over M's of Symmetrica
2/6	Two red dots below 2c at 7 o'clock	7/1	Red dot below E of Hein
2/7	Three red dots above H of Euphorbia	7/2	Red dot inside C of Cent, 1 o'clock
2/8	Two red dots above I of Symmetrica	7/3	Black dot in C of Cent
2/9	Group of 4 dots 5/2	7/4	Large black dot below 2c
2/10	Red dot above and left of A of RSA	7/5	Dot over S of RSA
3/1	Black dot below first leg of H of Hein	7/6	Two dots over A of Euphorbia
3/2	Red dot over second M of Symmetrica	7/7	Tiny blue dot over I of Hein
3/3	Black dots in top gutter 5-8 perfs	7/8	3 tiny dots outside of C of Cent
3/4	Black dots over R of RSA bd. over C of Cent	7/9	Tiny black dot above 1st leg of H of Hein
3/5	Black dots inside 9 of date	7/10	Two red dots above H of Hein
3/6	Large black dot near 2 at 1 o'clock	8/1	Red dot above O of Euphorbia
3/7	Line at 9th left vertical perf	8/2	Red dot below O of Euphorbia
3/8	Marks bottom right corner	8/3	Black dot 20/4
3/9	Blue dot top right corner	8/4	2 red dots below A of Euphorbia
3/10	3 red dots below 9 & 8 of date	8/5	Red dot between 1 & 9 of date
4/1	Black dot below first M of Symmetrica	8/6	Red mark 21/5
4/2	Black dot below HE of Hein	8/7	3 red dots below RI of Symmetrica
4/3	3 red dots below H of Euphorbia	8/8	Red dot above E of Euphorbia
4/4	3 red dots above B of Botha	8/9	Black dot between A of Botha and 1 of date
4/5	Black dot above 9 of date	8/10	Red dot touching O at 7 o'clock
4/6	Two black dots 4/15.5	9/1	Red dot over U in Euphorbia – Red dot over second M of Symmetrica
4/7	Blue dot 3/21	9/2	Red dots over E of Euphorbia
4/8	Blue dot 15/26	9/3	Large dot bottom of A of RSA
4/9	Dot behind A of Botha	9/4	Black dot right vertical perfs 15.5/29.5
4/10	2 red dots in front of E of Euphorbia	9/5	Dot left vertical perfs 6th hole
5/1	Large red mark 17/28	9/6	Black dots below PH of Euphorbia
5/2	Two red dots top of H of Euphorbia	9/7	Black dots over TR of Symmetrica
5/3	Large black dot below A of RSA - Large black dot 5.5/23.5	9/8	Red dot below 9 of date
5/4	Large red dot above 8 of date	9/9	Red dot above H of Botha
5/5	Red marks below TH of Botha	9/10	Dot above U of Euphorbia
5/6	Large dots above B of Botha	10/1	Red dots all over stamp
5/7	Black dot above A of RSA	10/2	Red dots all over stamp
5/8	Two red dots below H of Hein	10/3	Red dots all over stamp
5/9	Five red dots below Euph	10/4	Red dots all over stamp – Black dot 2/28
5/10	Horizontal line over E of Euphorbia	10/5	Blue dot upper perf line – 2 large red dots 2mm left of Hein
6/1	Black dot behind 2c, 4 o'clock	10/6	Red dots all over stamp
6/2	Two red dots below A of Botha	10/7	Red dots all over stamp
6/3	Red dot above U of Euphorbia	10/8	Red dots all over stamp
6/4	Red dot middle leg of E of Euphorbia	10/9	Red dots all over stamp
		10/10	Red dots all over stamp

MORE ON THE 2½c FIRST DEFINITIVE

When RDA originally received Des Greenhalgh's study, memory suggested another member who had been party to the early issue watermark surprise. The correspondence from that period is now presented, along with copies of original photographs in black and white for which thanks are due to Mr L.H. Twiss.

DWP - Ed.

13/5/91

Dear Mr Allen,

2½ Cent Republican Definitive
Cylinders 18-8

I enclose black and colour prints of corner blocks queried by Des Greenhalgh of Pietermaritzburg. Unfortunately the black background did not expose the watermarks.

The D block with Cyclometer Numbers 758175 is the one with the RSA Watermark facing left.

The other 4 blocks are all on the correct paper with RSA Tête Bêche Watermarks.

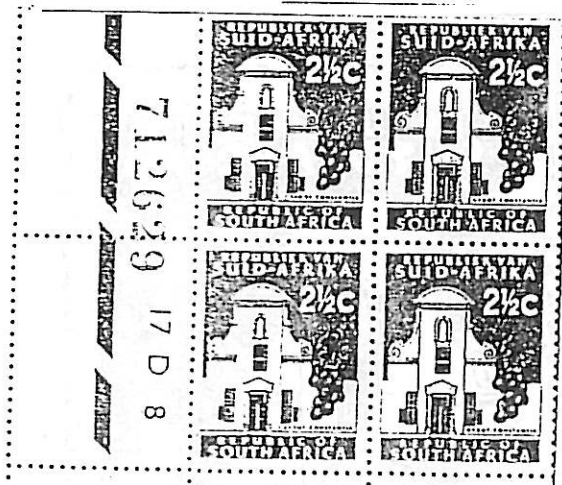
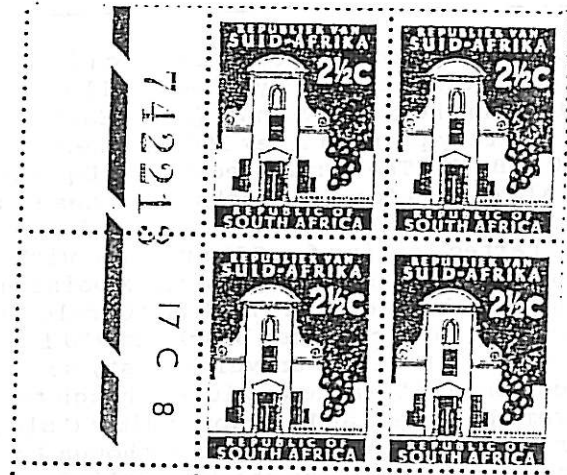
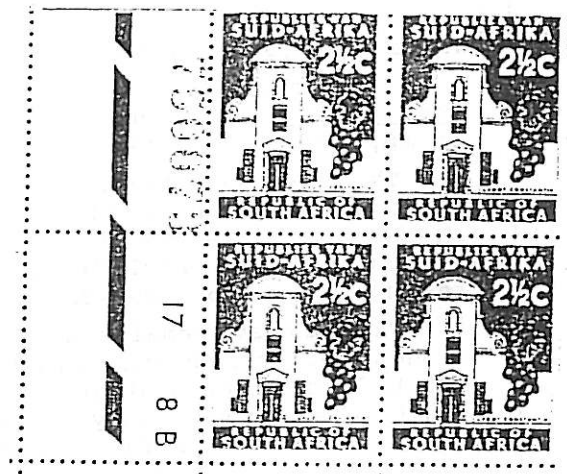
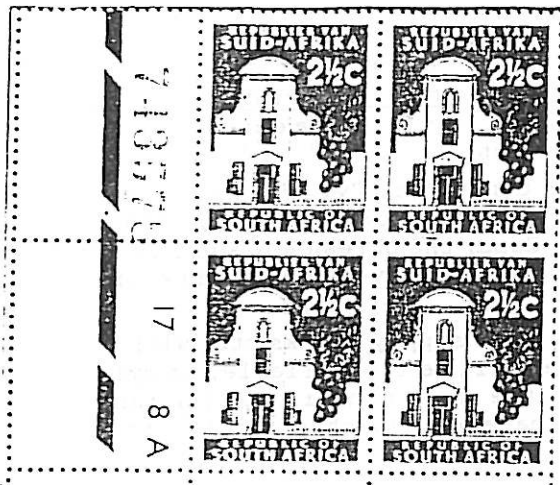
The S.A.C. Catalogue N^{os} 291 a & b should be transposed. In the Loose Leaf Handbook they are listed as 265B Group IV Issue 3 First & Second Printings. This Handbook stated that only the C & D Panes with RSA Wmk facing left were recorded at the time.

The enclosed correspondence between Kenneth Braithwaite & myself with Reg Cronwright throws more light on the subject.

My guess is that sheets with Panes A & B were all printed on the correct paper, as was most of Pane D, until the roll ran out & the wrong Roll was taken out of store to finish the run. The C Panes were then started up on the wrong roll, but it was soon spotted, the machine stopped and the offending roll withdrawn. This would explain why Panes with the C letter are the rarest.

Yours sincerely,

Lennox H. Twiss



10/9/70

My dear Ken [Braithwaite],

Just a hurried little note to tell you that the Govt Printer has gone & done it again, namely used some wrong paper for printing a definitive stamp; used a roll or two at the end of the run.

The Bureau told me that the 2½c Groot Constantia Cyl 17-8 has been found with watermark of clear RSA Harrison paper, pointing left, 1300 sheets printed & most of them sent to the Cape, the Bureau got a pkt or two & split them up into Cyl blocks which have gone all over the world before they found out about the wrong watermark.

They now have remains of some sheets & can supply blocks etc. with wrong watermark, phosphor stamps, so they will be identifiable, no cyl blocks left. Check up at your local p.o., the sheet number is in the range 650,000, colour same, if you find any, please buy me a sheet or two, as none were sent to Joburg, or so they say.

Never a dull moment!

Roy [Cronwright]

Finally here is an extract from a letter from R.B. Cronwright to Mr Twiss, dated 26/11/70.

Have you heard about the 2½c Groot Constantia which is now normally issued on Tête-bêche watermark paper Cyl 17-8; well they had a roll of Harrison paper left in the store with WM [Wmk - Ed.] being plain RSA, pointing left and they printed a few 1000 of these types in an order for 1,500,000 T.B. WM. The Bureau received a D packet of this paper and supplied all orders for cyl blocks with these D pane blocks while the A, B & C blocks were T.B. When the mistake in printing was discovered, we all started looking for RSA printing with left WM & I was lucky for I found some sheets of C pane with WM pointing left. These I have sold to my colleagues & at the Study Circle Auction and have now set a price of R5 for a cylinder block and R10 for a full sheet but the latter is difficult to travel by post, so I only let that go to local lads. Mr Braithwaite was lucky enough to receive some D cyl blocks from the Bureau and I swapped him a C block for a D block and so it goes on. Otherwise all quiet, although I did hear that a new 2½c cylinder had appeared making the 17-8 cylinders very short life, but haven't confirmed this yet.

A SINGULAR ERROR

Thanks to RDA, who has lent a colour enlargement of this flaw 'hazy sun', which is listed in the Republic Catalogue as 205 V2: "Mauve smudge left of large '2' of 2½c, also a tiny mauve dot near the outline of and about halfway down the length of the bunch of grapes. Row 5/14. Multipositive - issue 1 Pane C and Issue 2 according to the Republican Handbook".

(I have again enlarged on the colour photo to aid members in searching. - Ed.)



A REQUEST FOR HELP

At present I am trying to sort out the ½c Republican postage stamp to put into the Exchange Packets and to list them correctly for would-be purchasers.

The loose leaf catalogue compiled by the late Dr Raubenheimer, and sponsored by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, quotes:

R.201; perforation 15 x 14 for cylinders 34/9/2 May 1961 for the first distribution and July 1961 for the second. Both Issue 1. The Issue 2, 1st distribution cylinders 104/66/45, perforation 14. Issued March 1963. Both are Arms watermark.

SACC 197 (South African Colour Catalogue) ½c issued 31-5-61, wmk Coat of Arms, perforated 18 x 17.25.
197a ½c perforated 14 x 14 (1963 perforated 17.75).

Neither of the above refers to the re-drawn design of 1964-68 Wmk RSA.

So far I can only find the perf 14 x 14. Has any member possession or knows of the whereabouts of the perf 17 types? Or which is the typographical error?

May I respectfully remind you that the SACC lists ten issues of the ½c stamps. Six in the old design and four in the new, excluding the coils.

RDA

AUCTION DESCRIPTIONS

Some time ago I received an auction catalogue from South Africa, in which was an illustration of a KGV used penny stamp, the written description being:

1913 KG 1d. Print. partly missing paper creased before printing, CC var. Reserve R.1610 estimated at R.2015.

This is a used KGV penny stamp, with what is known as 'gum splashes', and these splashes are washed off when removing it from the cover. Stamps were **gummed** before printing, and gum did splash.

I wrote to the auctioneer and informed him that I was offering similar examples in the Society Exchange Packet at about 20p each. He has withdrawn the item.

Another lot spelt 'PAQUETBOT' (note the two T's) on a 6d roto postage stamp, in one line @ R.43. This is not a South African maritime mark: there is one known copy with that spelling, but the cancellation is a wavy line. Doubt is expressed about that one which is on a S.A. postage stamp.

That dealer has withdrawn the item due to a typographical error.

RDA

SPRINGBOOKS FOR SALE

A few back numbers of Vols. 37 and 38 are still available, plus some others. UK postage is £4.10, overseas Book Rate £4.75.

Enquire of R.D. Allen.

W A Page, FRPS,L

THE WARTIME PAQUEBOT SAGA

IN APRIL 1980, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS HELD AT DISA '79, Jack Hagger RDPSA published¹ a number of quite firm theories on the origin and usage of several of the WWII 'dumb' paquebot marks on which there has always been some doubt. One in particular (Fig. 1) it is suggested was unlikely to have originated from naval mail, but more likely to have been from mail containing shipping documents, "other than from Cape Town or Durban", adding that it could be Port Elizabeth. The example illustrated was struck in violet but only on piece, cancelling a 2d bantam war-effort stamp. All this reveals is that the mark was applied after February 1943 – the month of issue of the stamp.

This sparked off additional research and later comment which suggested another possible origin. Mr Nöckler of Windhoek² reported an example on a picture postcard in June 1944, said to be struck in red, but later shown to have been in the customary violet. Mr Nöckler, aware of a Swedish ship's involvement in repatriation of internees at the time from the Cape, coupled with the fact that the stamp used was the 1d bantam war-effort stamp with an SWA overprint, went on to suggest that the ship possibly called at Walvis Bay, thus linking the mark to that port.

Some eight months later our member Martin Eichele (Switzerland) produced³ what I was happy to accept as conclusive evidence, following his own research into the same card and the help of the Shipping Company, that the mark belonged to Port Elizabeth, particularly as the vessel had not been anywhere near SWA.

In the interim, 11 years, I have not seen mention or any further examples of this mark; that is until earlier this year when I came across a fine example on complete cover, cancelling a strip of three 1d bantam war-effort stamps (Fig. 2).

This cover can only be dated approximately from the arrival cancellation on the reverse on 27 May 1945, having been addressed to Calcutta (India). The origin as shown at top left on the face of the cover is of particular interest showing a manuscript 'Stella [or Stilla] Cheng [or Chang]' and Cape Town. Now I ask is that a person or a vessel? The latter seems most likely, but either way the Cape Town immediately caused some small doubt in my mind about the dumb mark's origin again, in spite of the previous evidence.

It is fairly certain that the letter originated in Cape Town, but was it posted there, or subsequently on the high seas, to be off-loaded elsewhere – perhaps Port Elizabeth?

In any case it was censored in South Africa before continuing its journey to Calcutta, and here the mystery deepens. What should have given the answer, namely the standard censor tie stamp, the code letter of which should determine the censor point, this item bears an example with code letter 'S' (encircled type). Ironically, the only references to that code letter, with or without the circle are, firstly, in J.H. Harvey-Pirie's *Africana Museum catalogue*⁴, where it is stated that the stamps with letters 'S' and 'T' were allocated but never brought into use. Further reference was made in my own article published in October 1979 in *The Stamp Lover*⁵, journal of the National Philatelic Society.

This is the only example of this 'tie stamp' that I have seen or even heard of, and

with its location apparently unrecorded it does not provide the positive evidence needed for the cover.

Nevertheless, although I consider it rather dangerous to base one's conclusions on just one example, I still feel that the dumb paquebot mark does belong to Port Elizabeth. It may well be that the tie stamp lay dormant there as well and was only used at the end of the war. Who knows?

Continuing the saga on dumb paquebots, however, I now refer to an article by Jack Hagger published in *The Post Office Stone*⁶ concerning another mark which had been subject to some doubts in the past as to its origin and use.

Now whilst it has been established that this mark relates to Durban, Jack's article states that 'it was not a true maritime mark'. However, illustrated (Fig. 3) is an example on a cover containing the first page of a letter written on board S.S. Fort Sabe (August 1944) which I understand was a cargo vessel operating off the coast of Africa at the time.

This item was also censored, resealed with a standard censor label (UC8) and tied with a censor tie stamp. Not however the usual Durban code letter 'C', but another encircled type letter 'T', also said to have been allocated but not used. Letter 'T' can thus be possibly allocated to Durban, although again this is the only example I have seen.

Finally, confirmation that the dumb Durban maritime mark was also used on non-maritime mail is aptly illustrated on an airletter from a nurse at the Royal Naval Auxiliary Hospital in Durban (Fig. 4) written on 3 September 1944.

References:

- 1 Jack Hagger, RDPSA. 'Maritime Paquebot markings – the puzzles defined'. *South African Philatelist*, April 1980.
- 2 'A major clue found in WW II Paquebot riddle'. *South African Philatelist*, July 1980.
- 3 Martin Eichele. 'Paquebot mark riddle solved'. *South African Philatelist*, March 1981.
- 4 J.H. Harvey-Pirie, FRPS,L. *World War II philately of Southern and Eastern Africa*. Johannesburg, Africana Museum, 1953.
- 5 W.A. Page, FRPS,L. 'South African Censor "Ties"'. *The Stamp Lover*, October 1979.
- 6 S.J. Hagger, RDPSA. 'South African Maritime Marks in the Second World War'. *The Post Office Stone*, March 1984.

The illustrations on this and the following two pages are from the author's own collection.

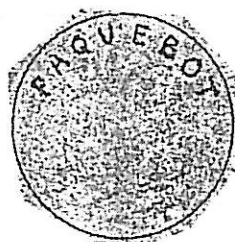


Fig. 1

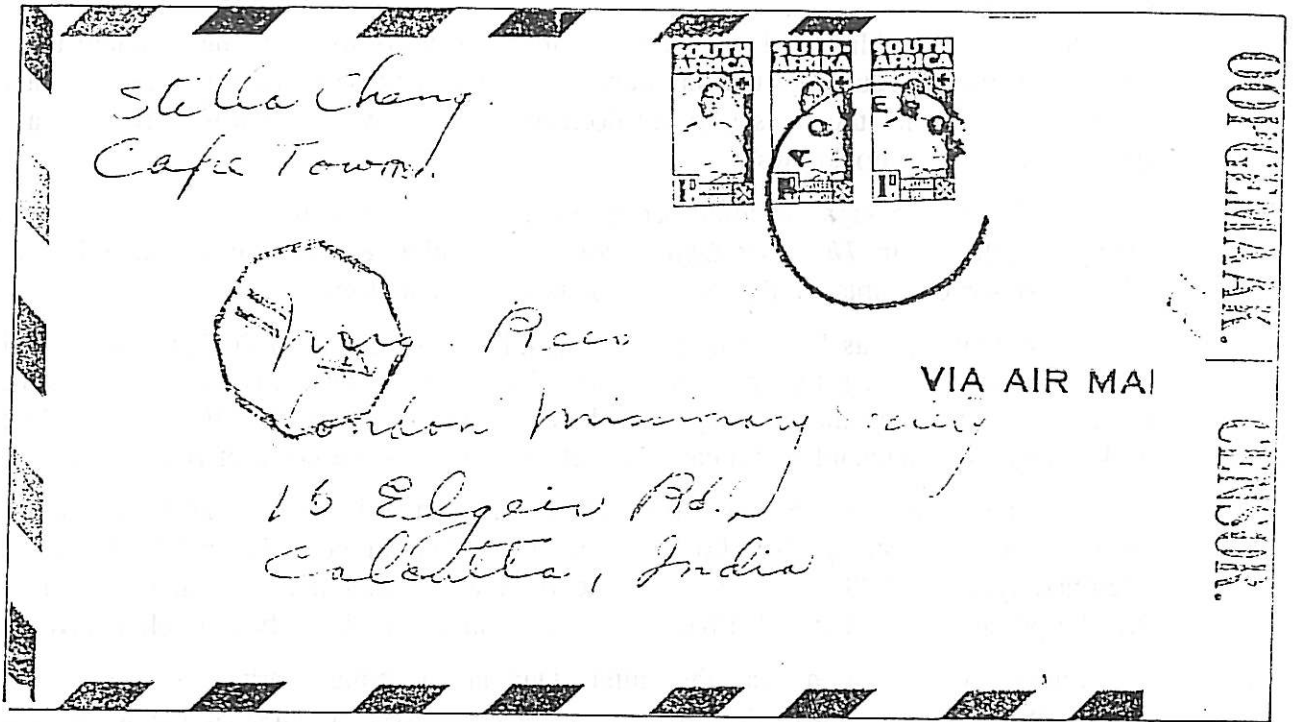


Fig. 2

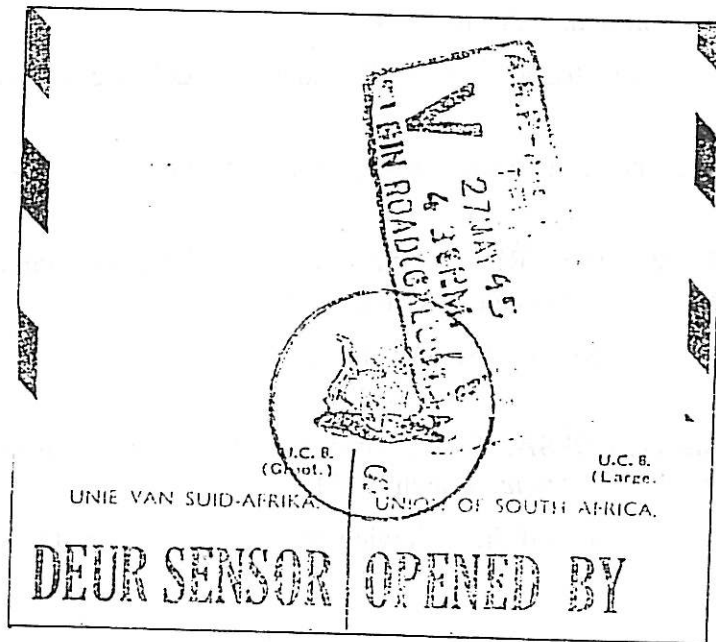


Fig. 2 (Reverse)

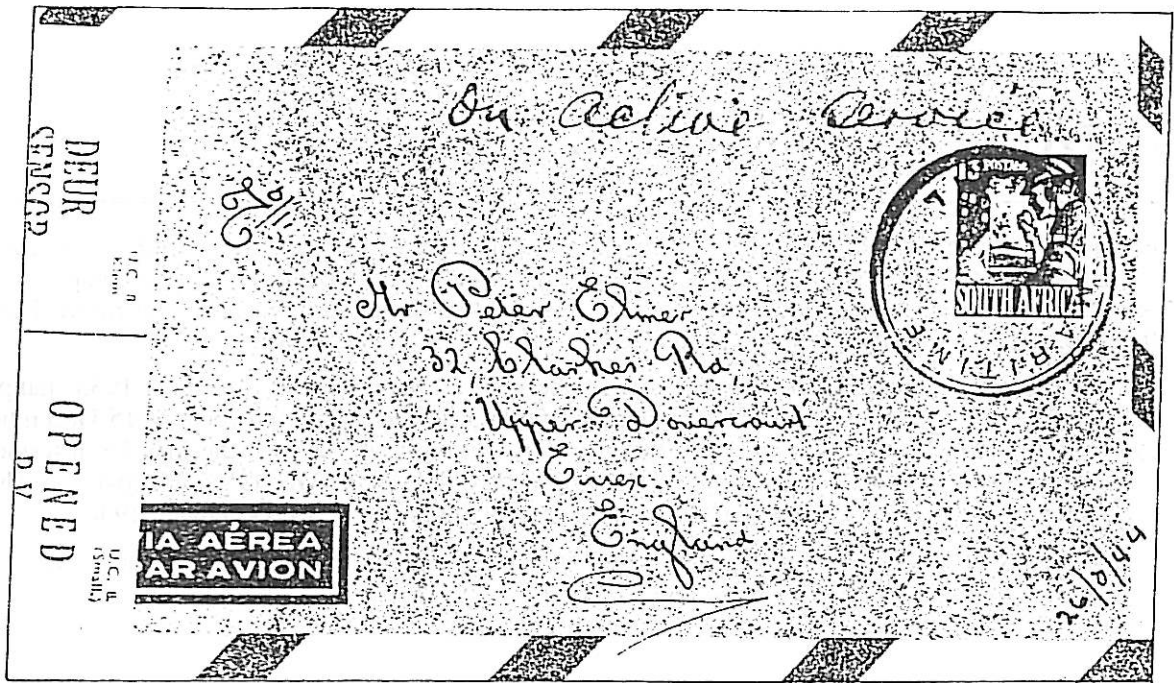


Fig. 3

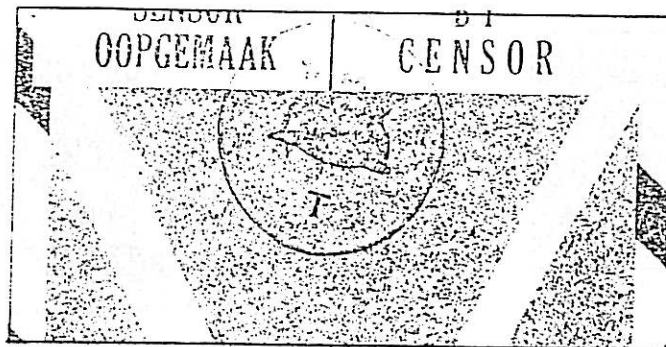


Fig. 3 (Reverse)

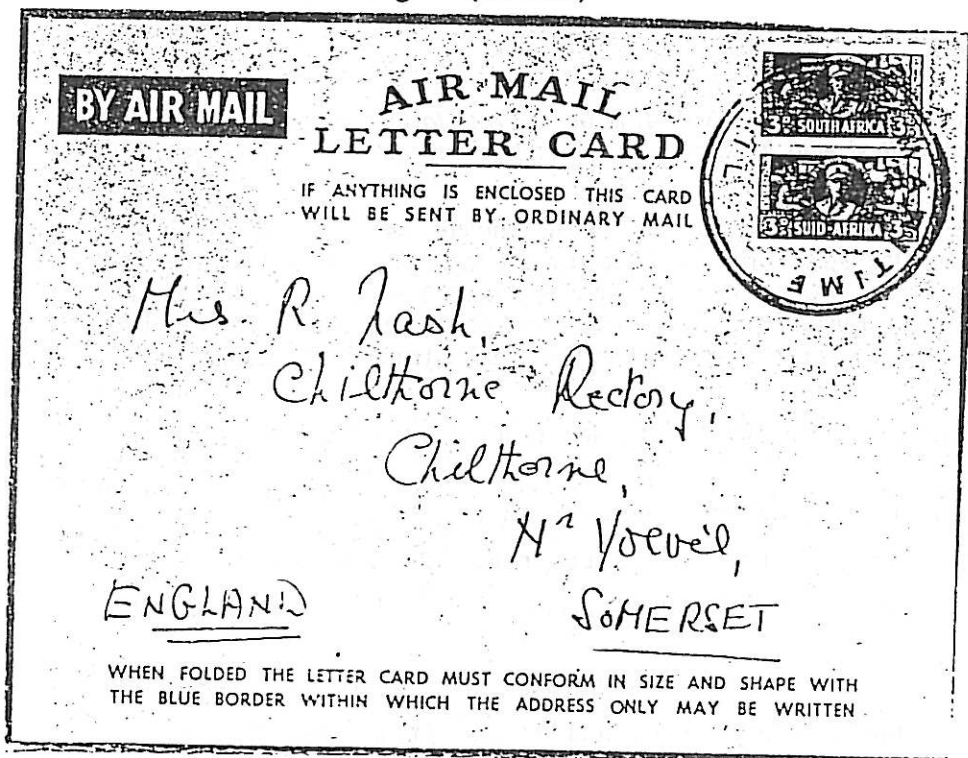


Fig. 4

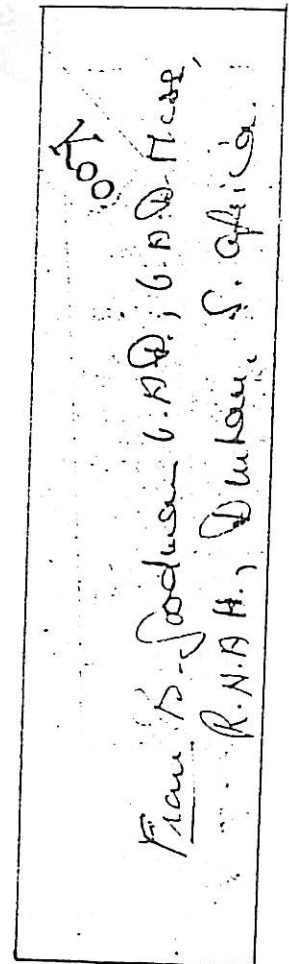


Fig. 4 (Reverse)

VOORTREKKER SEALS

Our Hull member, Mr R. Carless, has forwarded an interesting cover from the 1938 Voortrekker centenary commemoration. This is one of the large sized 'trek' covers bearing a complete set in pairs of the 1933 Voortrekker charity issue, postmarked Pietermaritzburg 21 November 1938. It is addressed to a small village post office – Sannieshof in Transvaal.

However the reverse of the cover has two 'labels' in similar design to two of the 1933 stamps. The labels are tied with the machine cancellation of Blood River (Afrikaans version) 15 December 1938. They measure 6 x 9 cm and are printed in blue on white paper with the margins inscribed 'KOOP VOORTREKKERSEELS EN STEUN DIE MONUMENTFONDS'. The cover is also backstamped with the handstamp of the village on the same date, 15 December 1938.

Can any reader please supply background information to these seals/labels? The reverse of the cover is illustrated in reduced size.



WAP

Having seen these items in The Springbok, vol. 4, p. 64, I wrote to that source, Ken Lewis, and he in turn sought out Pauw Steyl who he knew was avidly studying the whole 'Trek' scene, which gave us the following reply. – DWP. Ed.

To raise funds for the erection of the Voortrekker Monument the Central Committee approached the Government and the Post Office with the result that the first three Voortrekker stamps, each with a surcharge for the Monument Fund, were issued on 1 May 1933. The stamps were designed by the well known artist of the time, W.H. Coetzer, and printed in Pretoria in rotogravure. Sheets consisted of 120 stamps. The stamps occurred alternately in English and Afrikaans.

- 1d(+½d) The stamp depicts one of the oldest routes to the interior via Cradock peak near George.
- 2d(+1d) A typical Trekker with his rifle forms the centre of this stamp.
- 3d(+1½d) The typical Voortrekker woman with her characteristic dress is depicted.

To publicise and encourage the selling of Voortrekker stamps special labels were provided at post offices country wide.

On 16 January 1936 the fourth and last stamp of this set, the ½d(+½d) was issued.

Yes, I suppose you are right the labels in your collection are related to the Trek Celebration. I have not seen them before. – Pauw Steyl.

FRAMA LABEL NEWS

Herr Dr Lasar has collated several items for us which are summarised in his letter of 26 August 1991 with relevant extracts and the added attraction of a postmark error.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your answer of 22 August and the article on Frama labels by Mr Adam Cooke.

I bought a set of RSA Framas from Mr Cooke and asked for information about the watermarks everywhere. Eventually, I received information from Philatelic Services/Pretoria and from the responsible editor of the Michel catalogue. You will find photostatic copies of these letters inclusive of my translation of the German text from Michel editor, Mr Klan, enclosed.

If you hold a 'watermarked' Frama label to the light, the impression of a watermark is distinct. But as far as I am concerned, I never made out a distinct figure showing off in the paper. This is confirmed by Mr Klan. As I have also Framas without this obscure 'watermark', things should be made clear.

Some readers might be interested in the fact that South West Africa also had her Framas. The machines were withdrawn after independence and as yet, nothing is known about their re-establishment. If new Framas are to be issued, the inscription had to be changed from 'SWA' to 'Namibia', of course. I give you a list of the SWA Framas:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Machine No.</i>	<i>Date of issue</i>
Windhoek	1	30.03.1988
Windhoek		7-9.7.1988 (special label 'Otyimbingue 100')
Ausspannplatz	2	06.03.1989
Swakopmund	3	10.03.1989
Keetmanshoop	4	14.03.1989

Rudolf Lasar

From Herr Klan's letter [translated - Ed.]:

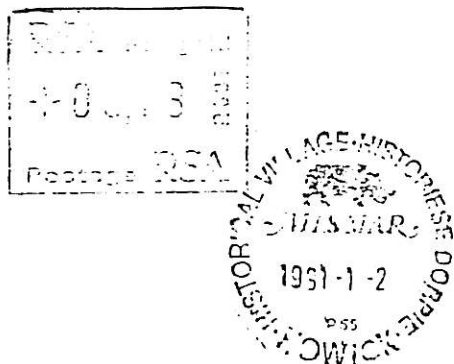
We think that the machine labels of South Africa do not show any watermark. The paper is not evenly thick which may cause an impression like a watermark. As there is no periodical/regular structure perceptible the phenomenon must be accidental.

From letter from office of the PMG:

... this Administration use the same paper (with a security grid and without watermarks) for ordinary as well as special labels.

The errant MISMAR postmark

This permanent special datestamp had the misfortune to be misspelt from its issue, so that although intended for MIDMAR it has been issued as MISMAR as shown below.



RUDOLF LASAR
ERFTSTR.33
W-5000 KÖLN 1
GERMANY

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

New Members

947	J. Bourne of Chippenham, Wilts.	CGH, the 'Hope' design
948	K. Taylor of St Helens	The Homelands
949	R. Harper of Swindon	British Africa
950	J. Olver of Belfast	Union period
951	W. Porter of Heathfield	British Southern Africa
952	M.H. Edge of Northampton	SA generally

PORTISHEAD, SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 1992

Resulting from Richard Stroud's very keen interest in fostering the idea of collectors meeting with some common interest, be they members of our Society or any of those several relating to past and present African countries mainly southish of the Equator, he has maintained for some years a foot in the door of the meeting at Portishead near Bristol of the Federation of that area who hold a Fair and Convention.

At this year's six of us met, with apologies from two more and only two others who were expected but did not arrive.

We were able to go over recent happenings in the Society, and more to the point agree to meet on Saturday 22 May 1993 at Burnham on Sea from 11 to 4; venue will be made known; subject 'Commemoratives'. Secondly a further meeting at Portishead from 2 to 4.30 on Sunday 15 August 1993 when the prime subject will be 'Postal stationery'.

Having spent nearly an hour talking over matters general to the Society, Philip de Paris gave us an interesting résumé from his widely based material which led off with a 'Study of Design and Execution' in which he showed pertinent examples of the often unenthusiastic design being executed with some ability and of more worth than the base design often warranted. In other issues the idea of the design appeared to founder in execution and yet there were other examples that showed all too clearly that professional capability in the printers was there. Why such disparity?

More from among the Ship Penny showing the result of over-inking; the 2d Union with the purple smoke stripe from the left tower; the 3d without the shuttered window and with the broken 'R'.

With a journey of 90 miles plus each way for two of the members, we both felt the day had been worth it. Dealers in plenty; arrangements for a snack and our meeting quite suitable; traffic – well, depends upon your route and location as ever.

DWP