

THE SPRINGBOK



Vol 40 No 6

Nov/Dec 1992

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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

A rather more turbulent year during which your Society, in common with many others, has had to seek new office holders, review the finances and adjust both meetings and published format within that particular constraint.

That we have been able to adjust, and welcome with relief those quite recently joined members who have taken on the supportive tasks, augurs better for the future of the Society than the quite properly expressed misgivings that have been aired. None the less we cannot afford to lose sight of any suggestion or opportunity to attract and retain members with a common interest.

By dispersing meetings into the provinces it is sincerely hoped to bring members into better contact. We do seek to help you overcome those obstinate and puzzling hurdles of research that plague us all, and it is often an informal mention to someone that opens the door to the source of reference previously hidden. Reluctant as some naturally are to 'bother' the officers, that chance of broadening one's field of interest into something more fruitful may thus be stifled, which is a pity as the door is open.

To the New Year then. With four issues to total about the same number of pages your contributions are sought please. I have very little on file. As regards the programme of events, please see below which shows revised dates.

My parting sally is for goodwill to all, a more prosperous New Year and your resolutions to please include a new member and your first article for this widely circulated publication. Thanks to my supporting members.

DWP

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Meetings

Saturday 3 April 1993 (Hawkstone Hall). 1927 pictorial definitives (members). 2 to 4pm.

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!

THE FIRST DEFINITIVE SERIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

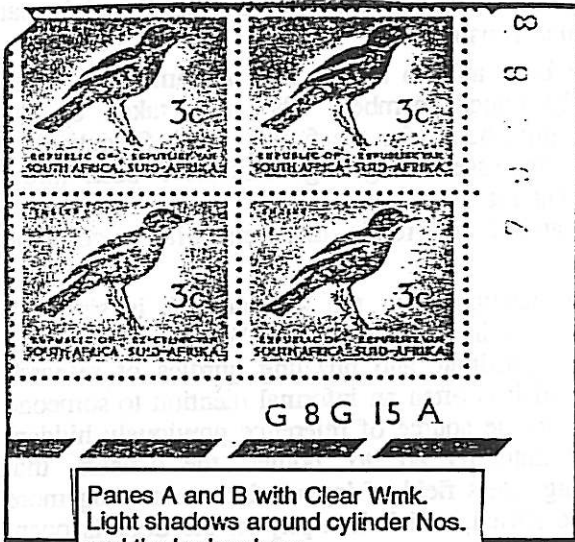
3C VALUE - CRIMSON-BREADED SHRIKE
(REDRAWN DESIGN)

ISSUED: NOVEMBER 1964
WATERMARK: RSA UPRIGHT
PAPER: HARRISON

CYLINDER NUMBERS: G8 G15 A - B
SHEET NUMBERS: 5 BLACK NUMERALS
TYPE I ON PANE A RIGHT MARGIN
PERFORATION GAUGE: 14 X 14

PRINTED ON: GOEBELS NO. 840 AND PERFORATED ON THE GROVER
TWO ROW APPLIANCE

Two panes printed in vertical format of 20 rows of 5 stamps each. The top margins are perforated through, whilst the others are imperforated except for a single perforation hole at each row. The left and right margins carry a centrally positioned pre-manufactured black arrow; the top and bottom margins have black single line broken bars. The black figure sheet numbers appear twice on the right margin of Pane A only, opposite rows 8 and 9 and 19 and 20. Punched-out holes are on the left margin of Pane B and on the right margin of Pane A opposite rows 13 and 14. Watermarks have been found clear, faint and indistinct.



Panes A and B with Clear Wmk. Light shadows around cylinder Nos. and the broken bars.

Pane A: Sheet No. position is 19(4)-20(1). Horizontal Perfs misplaced downwards. Black vertical scratch lines appear through stamps 4 & 5.

Pane B: Vertical Perfs misplaced right. Variety V12, black dot left of wing tip appears on all blocks at Row 20/4.



Panes A and B with dark shadows around cylinder Nos. and bars. Oval shaped black shadows are present between Rows 19 and 20 on right side of Stamps 4 and vertical shadow lines can be seen on right side of Stamps 5.

Pane A: Sheet No. position is 19(3)-20(2). Faint vertical scratch lines appear through Stamps 4.

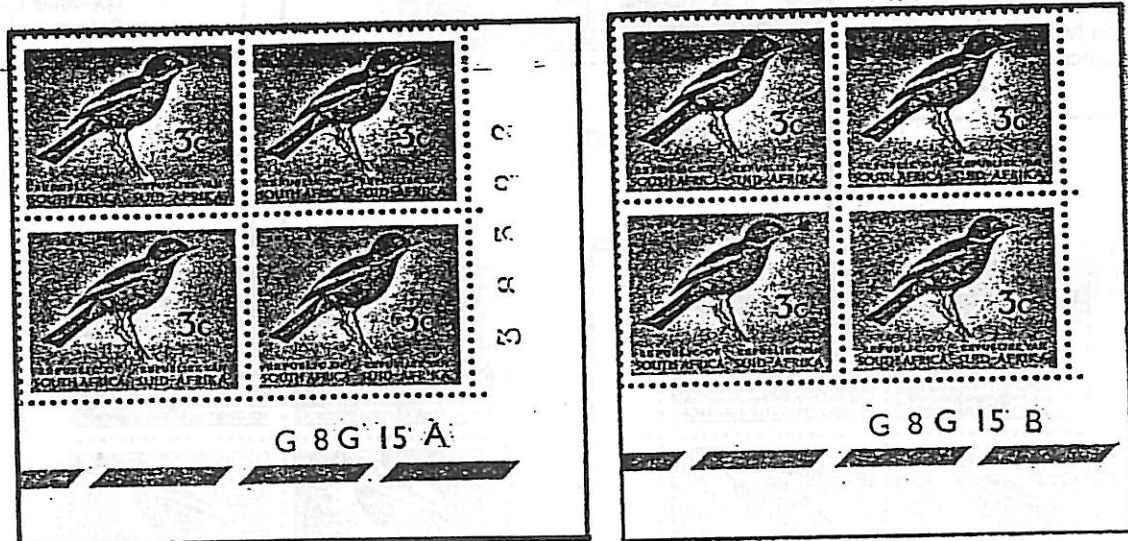
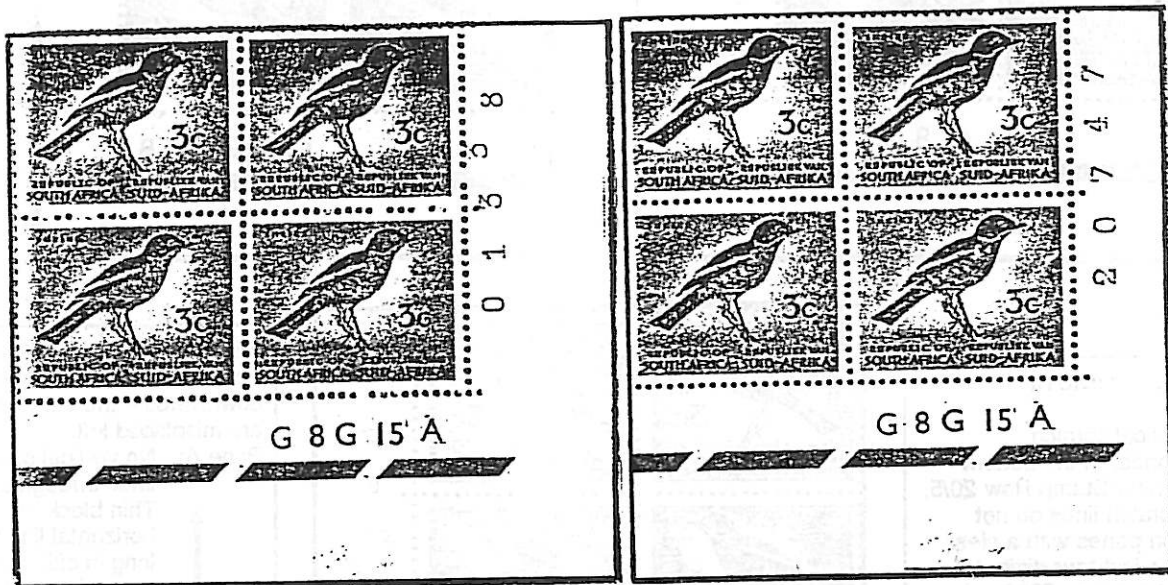
Pane B: Horizontal Perfs misplaced upwards.



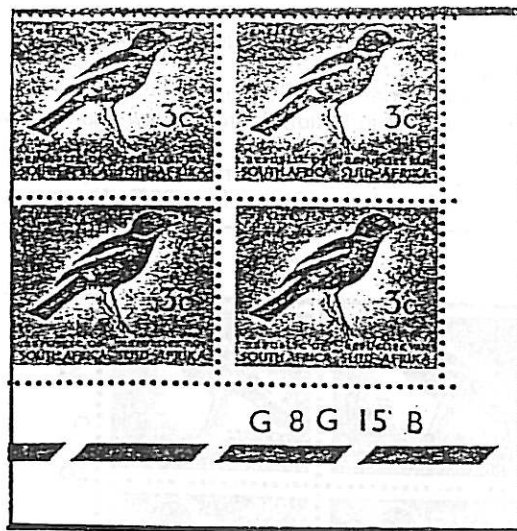
Two A panes with INDISTINCT WMK. and wide bottom margins. No vertical scratch lines through the stamps are present.

LEFT: Large perfs flaw; Wide side and bottom margins: Sheet No. position 19(2)-(1)-20(2); Black vertical scratch marks in bottom margin below Stamp Row 20/5. Black vertical guide line, in side margin, 20mm right of Rows 19/20, with a few short horizontal scratch lines to its left.

RIGHT: Small perfs and narrow side margin. Sheet No. position 19(3)-20(2). Black guide line in bottom margin 26mm below Stamp Row 20/5. Above guide line are many vertical scratch lines up to 5mm long.



Panes A and B with Clear Wmk.
 Pane A: Sheet No. position 19(2)-20(3). No vertical scratch lines are on this block.
 A thin broken black horizontal line 11mm long is present in the side margin 8mm above the sheet No. opposite Stamp Row 19/5.



Pane A with INDISTINCT WMK.
Black vertical scratch marks appear in the bottom margin under Stamp Row 20/5. These scratch lines do not appear on panes with a clear Wmk. The last four digits of the sheet number, 5300, are printed in an arc which normally results when two "O's" are printed consecutively.

→



Panes A and B with Clear Wmk.
Horizontal perms misplaced downwards – the vertical ones are misplaced left.
Pane A: No vertical scratch lines through stamps. Thin black broken horizontal line 9mm long in side margin, 8mm above sheet No. opposite Row 19. Side margin is 22mm wide but no guide line as in sheet No. 01338 above.
↑
Pane B: with wide side margin.



B Panes with clear Wmk. and with the large perms flaw. Black colour shift left giving a white outline to front of bird's tail, wing, head and beak.

LEFT: Narrow bottom margin and wide side margin.
RIGHT: Wide bottom margin and narrow side margin.

Panes A and B with Clear Wmk.

Pane A: Position of sheet No. 19(3)-(1)-20(1). The horizontal perfs are misplaced downwards. Black vertical scratch lines appear through the bottom margin and only through Stamps 4.



A Panes with clear Wmk. and sheet number positions - 19(3)-20(2). No vertical scratch lines appear through stamps 4 and 5.

LEFT: Thin horizontal black line 8mm above sheet No. is 6.5mm long - unbroken.

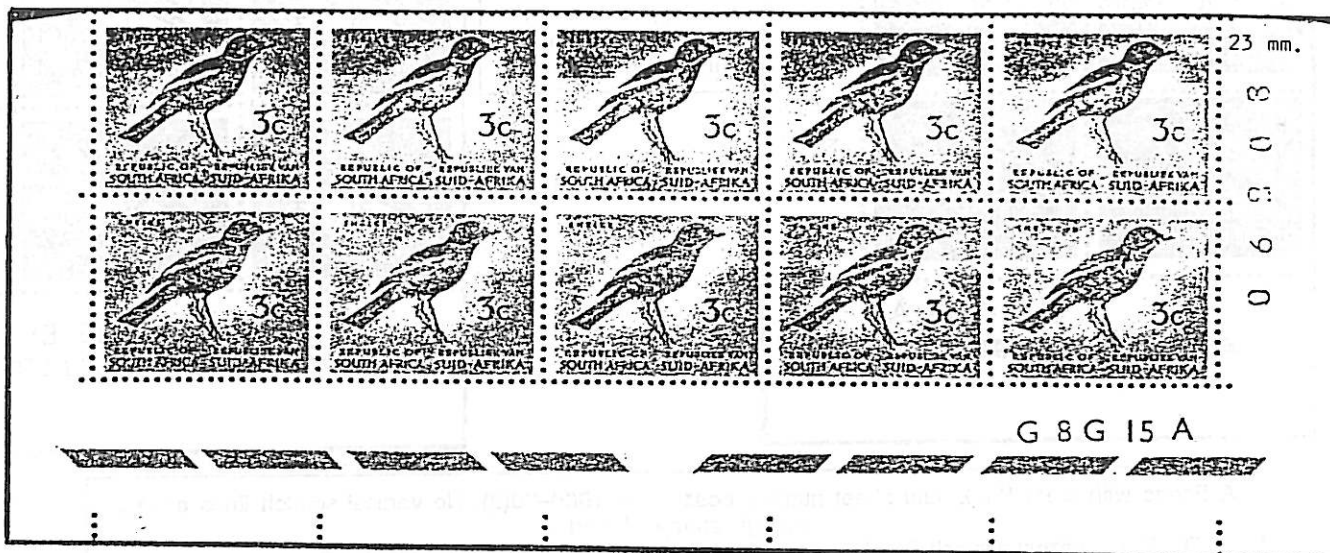
RIGHT: Horizontal thin black line 5mm long and broken. Horizontal black guide line appears on B.M. 28mm below Stamp 20/5, without vertical scratch lines above it.



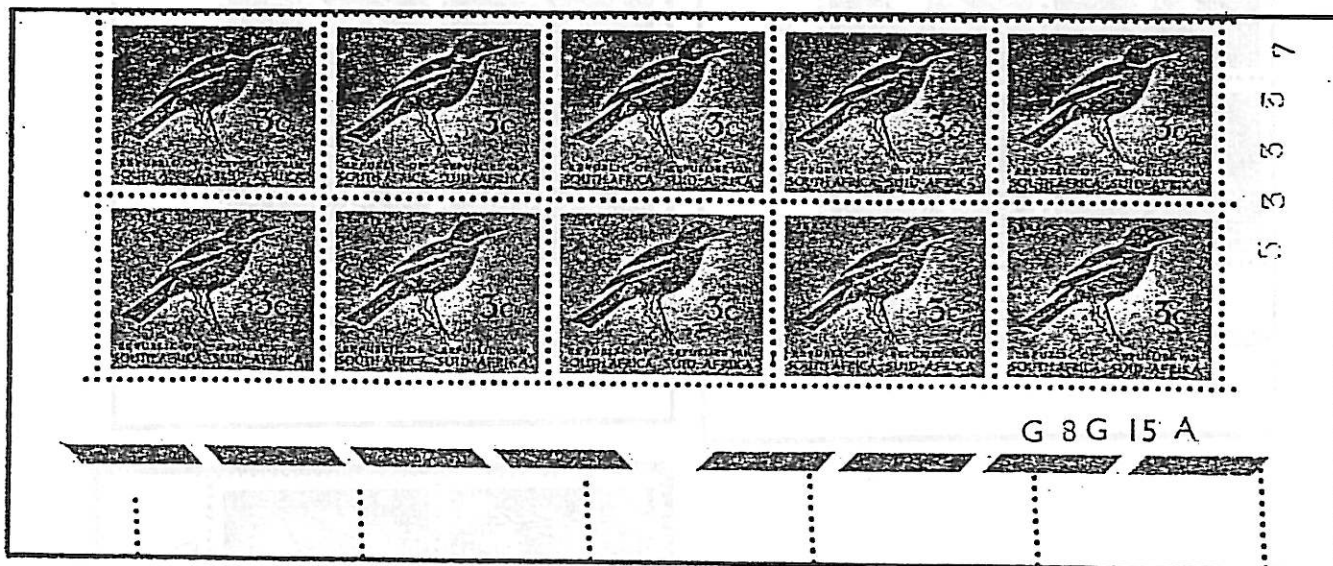
Pane A with a faint Wmk. and small perfs. Sheet number position: 19(3)-20(2). Only one vertical black scratch line appears through middle of Stamps 4 and bottom margin. Six additional perfs present in bottom margin. Short vertical scratch lines present in bottom margin below Stamp 20/5, above guide lines.



Double bottom row of A Pane, with clear Wmk. – sheet number position 19(3)–20(2) with a broken 9mm black horizontal line 8mm above the number. The horizontal perfs are misplaced upwards. There are three additional perfs in the bottom margin which are in line with the vertical perfs between the stamps. No scratch lines appear through the stamps. A guide line under stamp 20/5.



Double bottom row of A Pane, with clear Wmk. – sheet number positions 19(3)–20(1). Thin black scratch lines appear in the bottom margin and all five stamps. Additional perfs in B.M. have 5.5 perfs at the left increasing to 10.5 at right and are 5mm out of line and are at an angle to the vertical perfs between the stamps. The V9 variety: red dot right of shrike on Stamp 19/1.



Block of four with clear Wmk. from Pane A: Stamps Row 9/1 & 2 and Row 10/1 & 2, with partial left marginal arrow. Horizontal perfs misplaced downwards and the vertical perfs misplaced left.

Black colour has 0.5mm shift left resulting in a white outline in front of and below bird's beak, head, wings and tail.
Varieties:
Stamp 9/1: large black dot and 4 smaller ones above '3c'
Stamp 9/2: Large white dot below 'H' of SHRIKE.



Panel A and B with faint Wmk. and large perf flw. Panel A: Position of sheet No. 19(4)-20(1). Vertical black scratch lines through B.M. and all four stamps. Four additional perf holes in B.M. Faint 'Ghost' sheet No. 83235 appears alongside 20(2) - B.M.(3). Panel B: has missing vertical perf at bottom right corner of stamp 19/5. Horizontal perfs are misplaced downwards.

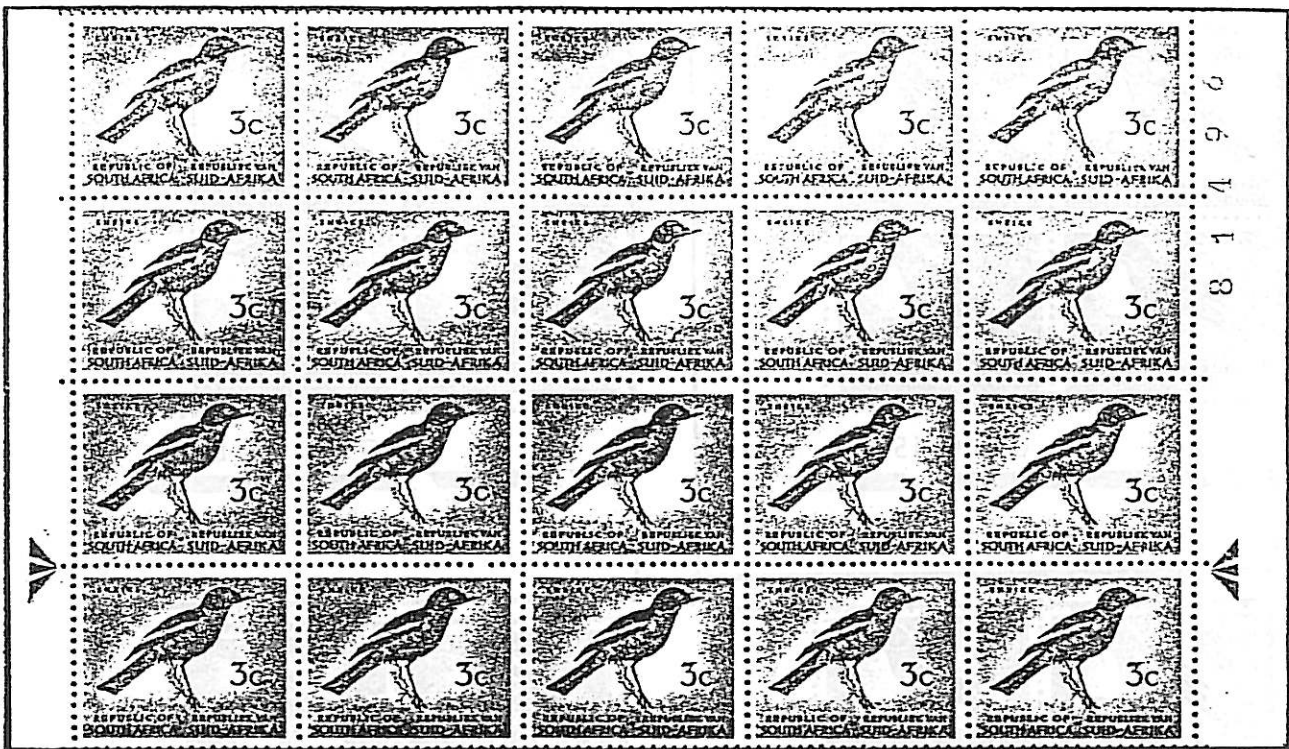


Double right marginal strip of four, Rows 17 to 20 with faint Wmk. and small perfs. The 'Missing Perf' flaw occurs at bottom of stamps Rows 17/5 and 19/5. Variety: V12: Black dot left of wing tip.

LEFT: Double right marginal strip of six, Rows 7 to 12 with faint Wmk., large perf flaw and right marginal arrow is present. The 'Missing Perf' flaw occurs at bottom of Stamps Rows 7/5, 9/5, 11/5. Variety: V8: Row 12/5: Tiny black dot above 'P' of REPUBLIEK.

Row 9/4 with INDISTINCT WMK. - sheet number positioned 8(3)-9(2) and both marginal marks. The 'Missing Perf', found missing in each second horizontal line, is missing, in this instance, below Stamps Rows 8/2 and 10/2.

Varieties: V1: Row 9/4 - Faint horizontal line across stamp through bird's neck.
 V2: Row 10/4 - Red dot above bird's wing.

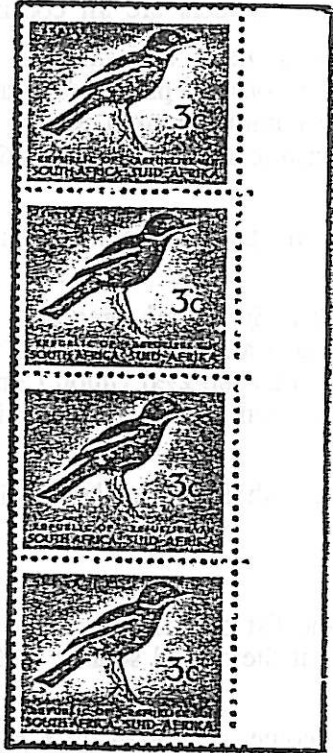


Three bottom Rows 18/20 from Pane A with INDISTINCT WMK. - sheet number positioned 19(3)-20(2). No thin black vertical scratch lines appear through the bottom margin and the stamps. A guide line is present on the bottom margin 26.0mm below Stamp Row 20/5 and above it are the short vertical black scratch lines. The 'Missing Perf', in this instance, is below Stamps Row 18/2 and 20/2. The Grover Two Row Appliance, used to perforate this issue, has a characteristic whereby any-perforation flaw will always occur at every alternate row of stamps. The 'Missing Perf' in the A Pane of this issue will, therefore, always be found in the Horizontal perforations above Stamps Row 1/2, 3/2, 5/2 and every alternate row thereafter.

Variety: V9: Row 19/1 - Red dot right of SHRIKE.



Single strip of 10 stamps from right side of Pane B, Rows 11 to 20 with a faint Wmk. The right marginal arrow appears at top of strip with cylinder number in bottom margin. The 'Missing Perf' flaw occurs in the vertical marginal perforations at bottom of every alternate row: Stamps Rows 11/5, 13/5, 15/5, 17/5 and 19/5. →
 Variety: V3: Row 12/5 – Tiny black dot above 'P' of REPUBLIEK.



Single strip of 4 from right side of Pane B, Rows 12 to 15, with a faint Wmk. and large perf holes. The 'Missing Perf' flaw occurs, once again at bottom of Stamps Rows 13/5 and 15/5. The V3 variety is also present at Stamp Row 12/5.



MEETING REPORTS

LONDON, Saturday 5 September 1992

A very encouraging number (14) of members came to this afternoon to deal with the election of Officers, the Abell Trophy and a very modest auction. Grateful thanks are due to Mr and Mrs R.D. Allen for the provision of refreshments and to the volunteer kitchen hands.

There was no contest for the posts, and the office holders are all confirmed as listed.

With six interesting entries for the Abell Trophy, subjects were Mobile Post Office marks; the half cent Kingfisher roll stamps; Silver Jubilee constant progressive and corrected flaws; a comparison of design and execution of mainly commemorative issues; mail posted at sea and 'service suspended' cachets; and lastly a reconstruction of the 1951 3/6 booklet. Members were treated to a very good selection.

Congratulations to John Shaw on his clear win with part of his study on the Silver Jubilee flaws.

Jim Gale, now settling to the task of distributing *The Springbok*, presented his 'interprovincial use' in excess of 66 pages of most interesting material. The 2½d value was said to be the scarcer in most states as this value was met early on by the 2½d Union Commemorative being widely available. The use of Revenues may have been wider across borders than is readily apparent.

A fine afternoon's entertainment and association with fellow collectors indeed.

DWP

CARLISLE, Saturday 19 September 1992

The appearance of more northerly addresses in the list of officers is in a way a culmination of many meetings of similarly minded collectors at their local society in Cumbria leading to greater specialist participation.

The meeting at Carlisle was the most logical outcome, supported by a cross-border speaker, himself an exponent of publicising the Society in Scotland at their Federation meetings.

It has already assisted my task in acting as reporter and visitor to the provinces that Mr Crossfield has written of his views on this meeting (see p.113) so I may comment as a welcomed guest and representative.

It was my pleasure to present the Wicks Award for 1991 to Ray Glanville-Jones for his work on the Artist's work on First Day covers. I am not aware when such a personal presentation was last made, and not only were we privileged to see the medal itself, but also his items in total.

I was able to meet my fellow officers personally, having thus far written and telephoned and am able to assure members that we do have a good team there.

A very entertaining day, further north than either I or my wife has travelled in this country, and I felt just as much among friends there as in London earlier in the month. A whole-hearted acceptance of the need to repeat the treatment and possibly twice yearly even, and to meet half the cost of hiring a room. What a most encouraging day, and well set for others for display, talk with and to, exchange, sell and enquire. Thank you for your efforts.

DWP

LONDON, Tuesday 13 October 1992

With apologies from the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Auctioneer we mustered six for this evening, which after minor matters led to Alec Page presenting his corner blocks of the Succulent issues. Although he apologised for the bareness of the write-up his collection is as ever clearly laid out and gave rise to an ease of comparison for those who had brought items as well. We were grateful for the opportunity to see the modern material in such depth.

DWP

CROSSFIELD ON CARLISLE

As I have just returned from my first SACS Meeting I feel I must put on paper my impressions of what I think was generally considered a very successful gathering.

When I was younger a journey to London on business was all in a day's work, but now after 22 years of retirement it is not something to be lightly undertaken especially if one is not able to walk any distance, hence a meeting at the border city of Carlisle was something to welcome and there were 15 or so of us who gathered at the Cumbrian Hotel. I was rather foxed by the name of the hotel and felt it must be a new building, but when I emerged from the station, there it was within a few yards and I realised I had known it over 40 years ago when it was the County.

Jim Smart who had made the arrangements and called us together, had secured a very comfortable room and was there to meet us. The stalwarts from West Cumberland all seemed to know each other and took care to ensure that new arrivals were introduced around, but it is so difficult to register names, perhaps we ourselves should have provided our own labels and in large letters not small type. I had thought as I travelled from the East Coast up the Tyne valley that there almost alongside the railway ran Hadrian's Wall, built all those years ago to keep out the Scots, however by one or two of the accents heard it was obvious that members from north of the border had joined us, and they were very welcome.

We soon found plenty to talk about as we sat around the four tables. Our Editor talked to us about *The Springbok*, regretting the reduction in the number of issues for a year but assuring us that the amount of information conveyed will vary little.

There was a lively discussion on the Exchange Packet, chiefly with regard to pricing, whilst Bill Branney indicated his intentions with regard to circulation and hopefully for quick settlement.

Our Librarian, Brian Carter, issued to us all the revised Library List, much more extensive than the 80 or so items in my copy of the Green Book. Brian showed two bound volumes of *The Springbok* for certain years which would have been quite costly to pass through the post. However by using Ravilious's Index to certain volumes of *The Springbok* I had been able to indicate to Brian which volumes I wished to see (seeking information about the Ship 1d) and these he handed over, so I saved the postage. (The Index is numbered 661 in the Library.)

Things got lively: we had been discussing and looking at London and Pretoria printings of the Ship 1d and the request was made that perhaps articles on that stamp over a period could be pulled together and made available. I recommend a sight of the Index to those who have not seen it. And again another point which had much concerned me, the *South African Philatelist* prints articles, sometimes in English sometimes in Afrikaans, can such be translated and made available, something which hopefully is to be examined.

Between the talks displays were put on view and we saw some amazing material, which members had brought. Myself, mostly I collect used, so I goggled at the cylinder blocks, mint, 2/6 ox-wagons, succulents, buildings, commemorative covers and others but the discussion about London and Pretoria printings drew me away, but everyone to their own tastes.

Of course we had all sat down together and enjoyed a splendid lunch. The fact that there was a stamp auction in the same hotel the Saturday of our meeting may, I think, have caused some confusion although it did not inconvenience us in any way.

There were questions and answers with regard to making payment in settlement for material bought in South Africa on which Jim Grassom had some helpful remarks to make.

Thanks were expressed to those who had worked to make the event what was considered a real success, also to those who had brought material for display and a few words from Jim brought to an end a memorable event.

Harold E. Crossfield

1/2c PERFORATIONS – Query Vol.40 No.5 Page 93

I have copies of the 1988, 1989 and 1992 SACC. In the 1988 edition under 'Important Notice' at the front is a statement that perforations have been amended as metric indications can only be regarded as 'approximate' ... an accurate perforation gauge will soon be on the market. 'Perf inches...', with numbers, are included in the lead text to each issue of the S.A. (with the strange exception of the 1926-7 typographs) and some other countries covered, e.g. S.W.A., Cape of Good Hope. Although not stated, the numbers can be assumed to be perforations per inch rather than the 2cm measure.

The measurements appear in the 1989 edition but there is no introductory comment. The 1992 issue does not have 'Perf inches' in the lead text, but odd bits seem to have remained – Nos 197, 198, 199 and 197a, 198a – as picked up by RDA.

The answer to the question is that the original 1/2c printing was 14 x 15 and the March 1963 printing 14 x 14. By deduction from the Republican Catalogue the first printing used the internal single-row perforator of the Goebels 840 printer and the later one is stated as being perforated by the Grover two-row appliance.

I don't believe 'accuracy' is a reason for using the inch measurement – the Instanta gauge is marked with 0.1 graduations. The more accurate measurement of the stamps in question (from the cylinder blocks I have) gives 13.9 x 14.6 and 13.9 x 13.6.

I would point out that my arithmetic does not allow for a perf inch measurement of 18 for any of these values and also the numbers against 197, 198, 199 and 198a are transposed if one accepts the usual convention of measuring top or bottom first, followed by the sides.

Perhaps 'perf inches' falls into the 'It seemed a good idea at the time' category.

Jack Newman

With reference to Mr Allen's query about the 1/2c Republican issues of May 1961 and July 1961, the perforation is 14 x 14½ taking the first figure along the bottom of the stamp. For issue 2, March 1963, the perf is 14 x 13½.

Perf 17 types are a typographical error. Mr Kenneth Braithwaite was very thorough in keeping up with all the Cylinder Blocks he sent me on the lines of the Loose Leaf Catalogue.

L.H. Twiss

HORIZONTAL vs VERTICAL – a question of acceptability

The following is a digest of replies to a recent query from John Davis:

'When I read John Davis's letter, whilst fully agreeing, I thought it was unanswerable – why *should* a se-tenant pair one way be of different value to the other? I much admired his temerity in questioning the pundits. I have always thought that vertical pairs were more aesthetically pleasing. Being aware of the difference in "value" when taking up collecting South Africa seriously I decided I shouldn't buck the system as I would not know the "worth" of the collection. I solved the problem by going for blocks of four (used) of which I now have a fair spread.' – Jack Newman

'The reason for the English and Afrikaans stamps to be collected and mounted in horizontal pairs is simply that Government policy is that the two official languages should always be treated with complete equality. If one stamp was placed above the other this would indicate that one language was superior to the other. Stamp collectors and album manufacturers are thus following this policy by mounting the two stamps side by side'. – Reply received by John Davis

And without 'proof', this comment from a much read member: 'try and sell a vertical pair', which some would discount in more ways than one. – DWP

I'd always understood that horizontal pairs were scarcer, hence more collectable, because stamps paired in this way are more likely to become detached from one another. – CR

W.A. Page FRPS,L

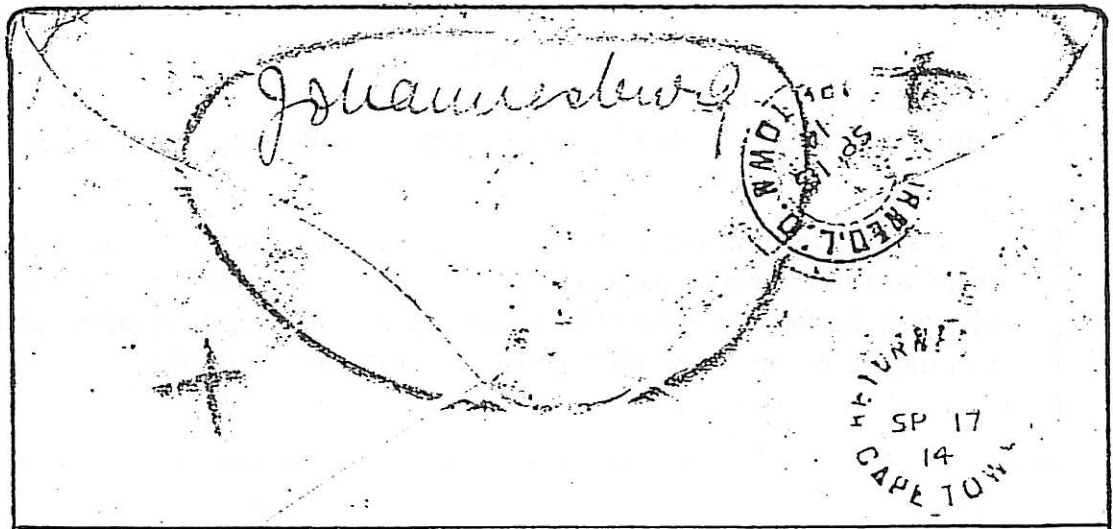
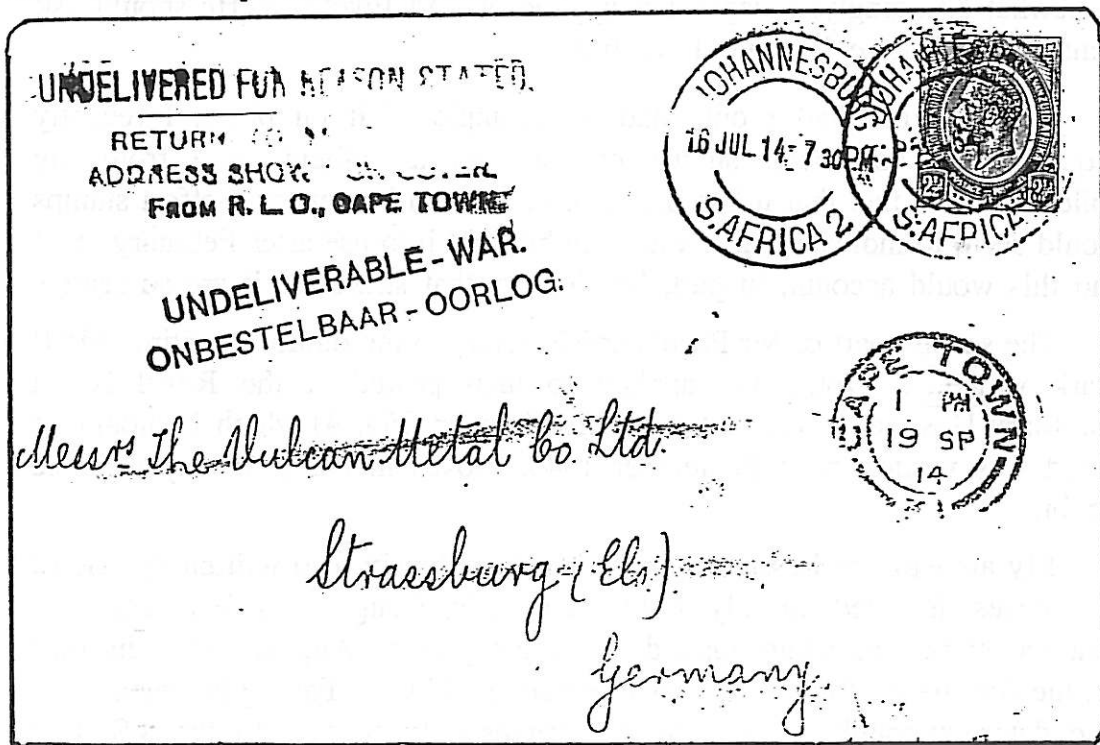
WORLD WAR I – AN INTERESTING RETURNED LETTER

The First World War broke out on 4 August 1914, and mail in transit to Germany could not be delivered, thus it was 'returned to sender'.

The origin of the commercial cover illustrated below was the National Bank of South Africa Ltd., as evidenced by the small circular albino embossment on the reverse. The cover was posted in Johannesburg (2½d rate) and addressed to Germany.

Its return route would have been the normal Europe–Cape service and on arrival at Cape Town it would have been handled by the Returned Letter Office, and was backstamped with two different Cape Town Returned L.O. handstamps in blue – one dated 17 September 1914 and the other on the 18 September. Its onward return to Johannesburg, endorsed on the reverse, was further indicated on the face by a violet cachet 'undelivered for reason stated', etc.

The reason stated was indicated by a further cachet in blue – 'UNDELIVERABLE–WAR. ONBESTELBAAR–OORLOG.'. The final despatch (return) to Johannesburg was on 19 September 1914 – normal Cape Town handstamp.



S.J. Hagger RDPSA

THE WARTIME PAQUEBOT SAGA

As my name crops up in the article on the above subject by W.A. Page FRPS,L which appeared in the Sept/Oct number of the magazine, I should like to offer some comments. These will however not cover the reference to the censor markings which fall outside my field of collecting.

The first part of Mr Page's article refers to the 'dumb' mark which he, somewhat grudgingly, accepts was applied at Port Elizabeth. He should ask himself where else it could have been.

Although in 1980 I only had an example of it on piece, I recently acquired one on cover, shown opposite on an album page from my collection. The fact that it has only been found on bantam war-effort stamps would seem to indicate that it was only brought into use after February 1943 and this would account, in part, for the fact that strikes of it are so scarce.

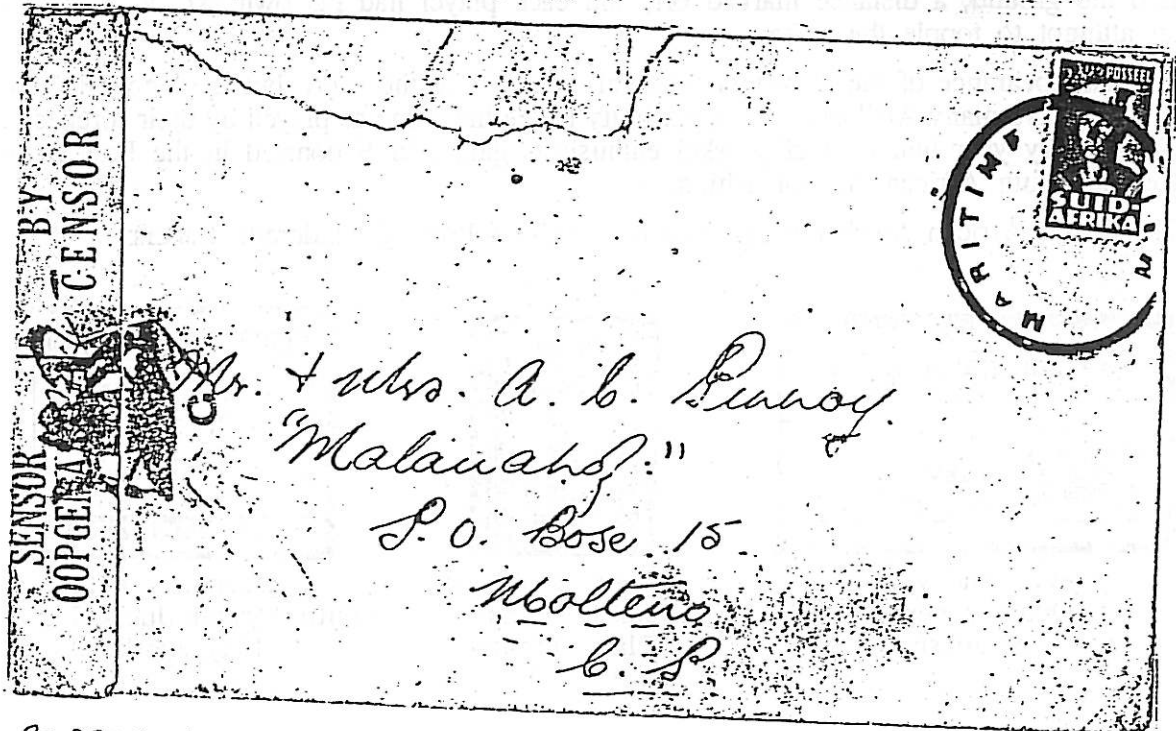
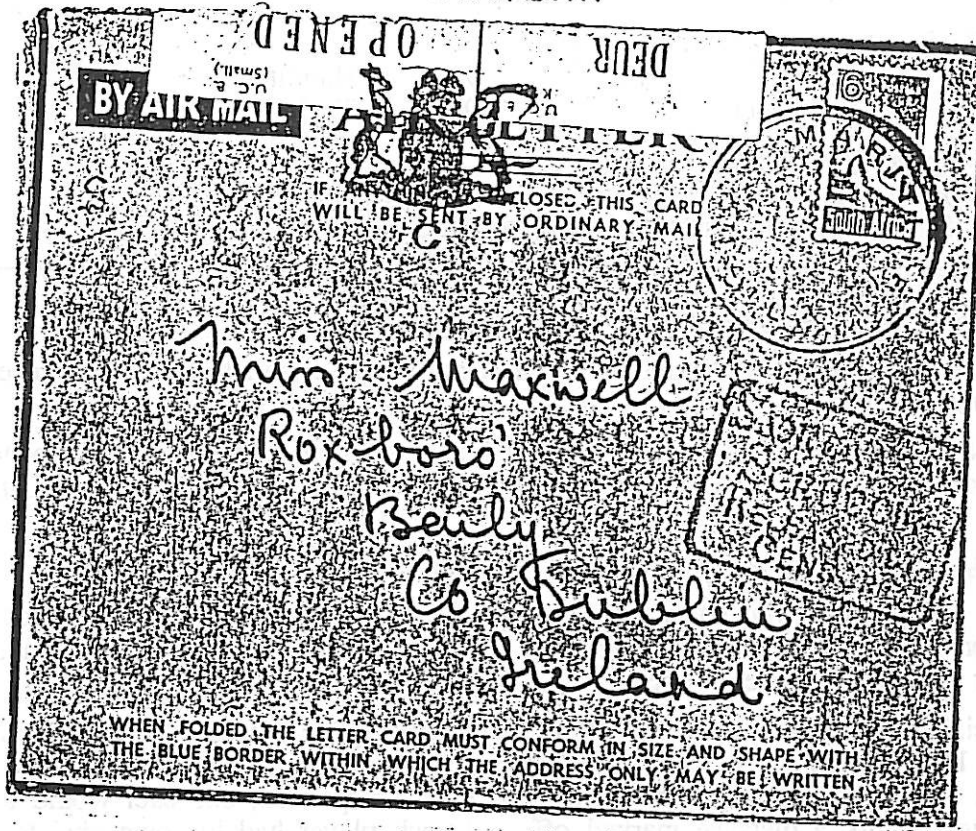
The second part of Mr Page's article refers to the dumb 'Maritime Mail' mark which, I wrote, was applied to mail posted at the Royal Naval Auxiliary Hospital in Durban. His second cover (Fig. 4) which it should be noted was written on 3 September 1944, proves this beyond any possible doubt.

My air letter addressed to Ireland and obviously also written by one of the nurses, is dated 20 July 1944. Thus it is, I suggest, safe to conclude that the mark was being applied at the Hospital in August 1944, the date on the first page of a letter in his other cover (Fig. 3). Falling between those two dates, although it was written, perhaps only started, on the S.S. Fort Sabeh, establishes that it too was posted at the Hospital.

Granted that the letter was written on the S.S. Fort Sabeh, if it had been posted on board – in the most unlikely event that the writer had a 1/3 postage stamp available – it would have been cancelled by the Durban dumb paquebot mark.

As the cover is marked 'On Active Service', one can assume that the writer was in the Navy and that advantage was being taken of the Fort Sabeh calling at Durban to convey him there so that he could be admitted to the Hospital as a patient or visitor. The stamp could have been bought when the letter was posted there.

ROYAL NAVAL AUXILIARY HOSPITAL
DURBAN



POSSIBLY FOR REASONS CONNECTED WITH SECURITY, MAIL FROM PATIENTS AND STAFF AT THE HOSPITAL RECEIVED THIS MARK, NO MATTER WHAT ITS DESTINATION.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

New Member

953 Dr H. Griffiths, from Bristol

Resignations at 31.12.92

898	Barber	919	Hamilton
937	Schroeder	948	Taylor

Change of Address

817	Jorgensen, from Brussels to Manchester
815	Morgan Farrell, to Hamilton U.S.A.

NORTH AMERICAN GROUP

An offer from the former organiser of this Group to re-establish it has been received and gratefully accepted.

Any North American resident, or any member elsewhere wishing to correspond, please contact Richard Cowan, 62 Rose Park Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1R1, Canada.

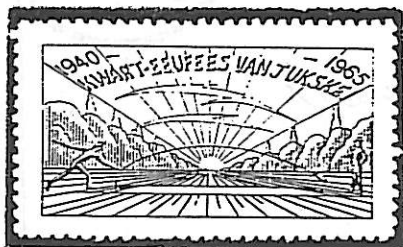
CINDERELLA CORNER

Hands up all those who know how to play Jukskei. To my dismay I could not find any mention of it in the *Oxford Companion to Sports and Games* (1976). Perhaps it is in a later edition (if there is one).

Jukskei is the 'all South African Sport' – the only game that originated in this country. It was born on the Great Trek, and derives its name from the pin (skei) of the ox-yoke. At the end of a long day, when the oxen were outspanned, one skei would be pushed into the ground, a distance marked off, and each player had his own skei to throw in an attempt to topple the stake.

The disappearance of the ox wagon brought a decline to the sport, but the symbolic trek of 1938 gave many Afrikaners an opportunity to see the game as played by their forebears. Now, every year hundreds of jukskei enthusiasts gather in Kroonstad in the Free State for the South African championships.

The South African Jukskei Board has issued the following Cinderella Labels:



green and yellow
Quarter century
of Jukskei



green on yellow
Jukskei stamp
Play Jukskei



green and gold
South African Jukskei Board
Play Jukskei

Ken Lewis

STOP PRESS...

As we go to press we learn that *The Springbok* has been awarded a Silver Medal at the Philatex (New York) Literature International Exhibition.

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