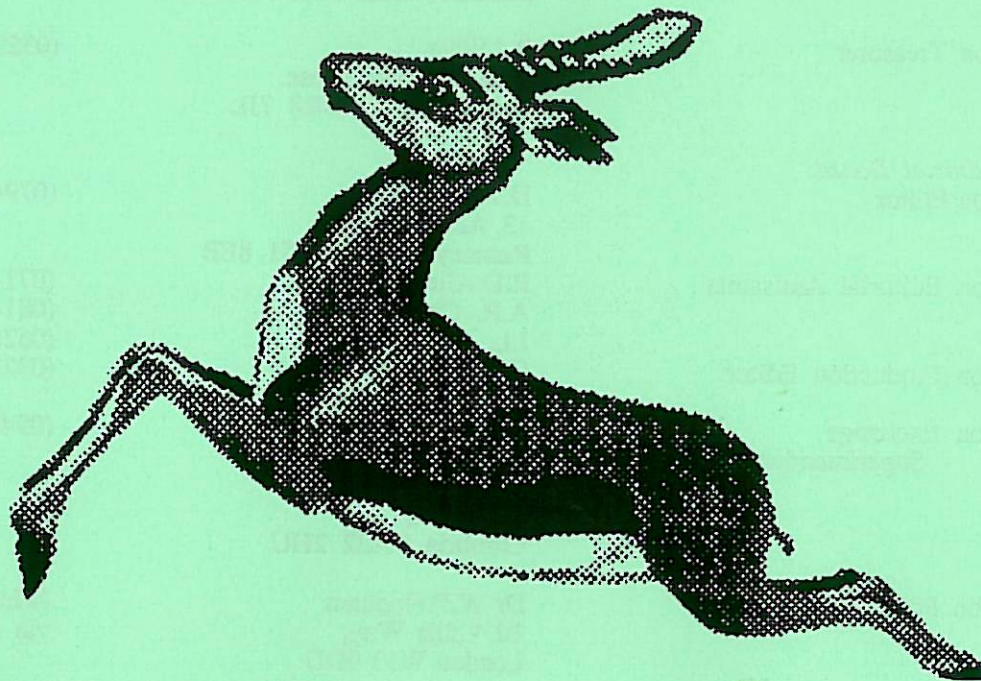


# THE *SPRINGBOK*



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY**

**Vol 42 No 1**

**Jan/March 1994**

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OF LONDON**

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# The Springbok

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*The Springbok* is published quarterly 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.

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**Programme of Society Meetings 1994/95**

**Saturday 12 March 1994**

2 to 4.30pm at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, London. By invitation, Kurt Goldsmith displays from his Aerophilatelic Collection.

**Tuesday 1 to Sunday 6 March 1994**

Spring STAMPEX in London.

**Saturday 22 March 1994**

10am to 4pm, 'Northern Group' Meeting at the County Hotel, Botchergate, Carlisle. Brian Carter, Hon Librarian, is the meeting organiser.

**Tuesday 14 June 1994**

6 to 7.30pm at Hawkstone Hall. George V period Mackennal Design.

**Programme Proposals for 1994/95**

Saturday 23 or Sunday 24 August 1994, at the Federation weekend Fair at Portishead

Saturday 3 September 1994, 2 to 4.30pm at Hawkstone Hall (Abell Trophy, AGM, invited display)

Saturday 24 September 1994, day meeting of Northern members at Carlisle

Saturday 24 September 1994, at Ringwood by invitation of Africa specialist societies at HAMPEX

Tuesday 6 December 1994, subject/date to be confirmed

9 to 11 September 1994, Philatelic Congress nr Chelmsford, Essex

29 to 30 October 1994, SCOTEX 94 at Clyde Hill, Glasgow: opens 11am

Saturday 18 March 1995, subject/date open to bids

Tuesday 20 June 1995, subject(s) to your choice

## LONDON MEETING, 7 December 1993

DAVID PAINTER EXPLAINED about the causes of delay and the eventual result, the bulky issue of *The Springbok* Vol.41 No.3. The material was as usual sent to the Hon. Production Editor, who sent the copy in a 'make ready' state. David got it printed and after that took it to the Post Office for delivery to our posting 'bloke', who did not receive the parcels with some 250 copies therein. This was 'LOST IN THE POST': however David had a spare set of prepared pages and passed them to a local photocopier, who apparently misunderstood the instructions and we had single pages for that reason. This also made the postage bill a little higher, the more so for the air mailed items. [NB. This amount was *not* charged to the Society - DWP.]

We saw the new issues re Threatened Fauna, on three envelopes cancelled very firmly on 1993-09-03, plus an explanatory leaflet from Sales & Client Services: Philately, stating that due to the price of a set of control blocks (R96.12) ... not to automatically supply collectors with this item ... (my interpretation of the balance of the leaflet) ... If you desire them please order direct.

Also seen were two envelopes, one large and one smaller, plus the miniature sheet of South African Harbours. The complete sheet was on the larger item. Also Tourism, a strip of five on a large envelope with the 85c stamps thereon, postmarked '54/SPRINGBOK/1993-11-12'. Each of the five stamps bears the text 'South Africa: A World in One Country' in one of five languages: Afrikaans, English, German, Dutch and French. To make things difficult, the handouts were in two languages without the additional wording with values 35c; 55c; 70c; R1.05 and 90c, in the same order as above.

Now it is down to the exhibits at the meeting:

*Alec* A book in French, showing the collection of Booklet 12.

*Tony* An album of Alec Kaplan, of the Union 3/- booklet shown at Congress 1948, containing Items of Proof of the slogans; proofs of the contents and of the air mail etiquettes and proofs of the advert that appeared within the booklets, a sight well worth seeing again when you have plenty of time.

*Alec* JIPEX, FDCs, with cancels in both languages, also the 3/- booklet, although the same stamps but in a different layout to catch the eye.

*David* Pieces about which he was seeking information which was readily given – better still it was confirmed.

*Tony* With time in hand, Booklets B8; B9; B11 with the advert cancelled re postal rate changes; B21, ½d joined paper, Certificate 2675 dated 18-1-79 – what an item to conclude the evening's pleasure!

The usual Christmas drink was partaken and salmon sandwiches were an added attraction: none were left.

RDA

### ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES (1993)

My correspondent resident in Scotland, who evidently enjoyed the Congress at Edinburgh last September, asks me to consider mentioning this newly formed association. I do so unhesitatingly as neither philately nor stamp collecting (both in the broadest sense) will function to best advantage for you the collector unless we have such a national organisation. It remains for the membership in your various connections to see that the grass roots feelings are made known. DON'T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS. – DWP

## THE SPRINGBOK, Vol.41 – QUERIES RAISED

PERHAPS I WAS MISUNDERSTOOD TWICE during the year 1993. If this is so, it is vital to the membership that the matters be recapitulated.

Harold E. Crossfield writes in Vol.41 No.4, p.77 (2nd paragraph): 'I think I will remember this meeting as our Golden Meeting. Why? Prior to the meeting and belatedly perhaps I had been reading Mr Allen's article on the 2c Gold Pouring in *The Springbok* 41/1 with my own material beside me. I cannot agree to his S.G. numbers in the table and I am confused by his reference to Cylinder 91 wrongly etched as 16. Material produced at Carlisle, cylinder blocks, clearly showed 16/86'.

My answer is in two parts, (a) SG numbering and (b) Cylinder 91.

- (a) Vol.41 No.1, p.17: listed are 20 different types, for a specialist. SG is *not* a specialist catalogue. Neither is the SACC. In Vol.41 No.3, p.72, there is an announcement: 'John Davis, based in Spain, has produced for us a "Catalogue Cross Check List" of the First Definitives of the Republic ... available to members from Alec Page. 30p in stamps (NB. postage has increased since) for United Kingdom and E.C. countries. Air elsewhere please send stamps of G.B. to the value of £1 or suggest an arrangement with Alec, but please remember that whilst the pamphlet (A4) is free, postage must be sent by you'. This listing confirms mine with some eighteen items: mine has twenty.
- (b) Vol.41 No.1, p.16 (3rd paragraph): 'Checking the Government Printing Lists as published within *The Springbok* Vol.11 No.6, p.115 and Vol.12 pp.37, 73 & 93, I find that the first issues of this 2c stamp have the cylinders recorded in error and I quote: "Cylinder No.19, used wrongly etched as 16". This will require alteration to (i) Republican loose leaf catalogue G3 and G4, (ii) SACC pp.25-6, and (iii) Robemark p.69'. Confirmation can be found in the *South African Philatelist* of November 1963, where the following information is provided by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs: '2c-Job No. 41287.79. On an order for 75,000 sheets of 100 stamps per sheet, a delivery of 8,200 sheets was made on the 30th July, 1963, the total delivery to date being 17,000 sheets. Cyls. No. 91 Int., 86 Ext. Cyl. No. 91 used was wrongly etched as 16.'

In *The Springbok* Vol.41 No.3, p.61, under the heading 'Typographed Coil Stamps with Unequal Joins', the writer refers to my original article and states: 'I am confused as to where a piece of cancelled "strip" of four ½d's enter the fray. This "strip" must actually be two separate pairs because the vertical edges of the two top stamps are not parallel with the edges of the two bottom stamps. Parallel sides are a "must" even if the sheets are not "in line" when joined prior to slitting (e.g. as the R.H. illustrated strip of four), otherwise the bottom end of the sheet will slit into stamps of strange half-and-half designs or similar ...' The writer then mentions R.9, that deserves an answer later.

Vol.41 No.2 pp.44-5: Ignore the written matter but the illustration speaks out in plain language. The mint strip of four, with a notation between the 3rd and 4th stamps but adjacent thereto reads 'JOIN'. However the writer is correct for upon a closer examination with the aid of a magnifying glass there are two pairs of two with a very late postage date of 1930: they were issued in 1927. I have written to that writer, enclosing a photocopy of the item, plus one of a page of R.9 showing a join and most of the listed varieties. No answer has been received to date.

PS. My book on Coils of the Union and Republic is still available @ £8.50 plus p.p.

RDA

## LONDON & PRETORIA PRINTINGS: THREE NOTES

I HAVE A FULLY DETAILED COLLECTION of the ½d Springbok with some photos of flaws (24 pages) including details of printing. Recognition of London or Pretoria printings can in general be solved if you have pairs or blocks with marginal white edges. The following is a note from the first page:

Where a marginal block exists, the London printings can be identified at once by the fact that the comb perforation moved from left to right across the sheet leaving the left & bottom margins imperforate and the right & top margins perforated through. The left margin does, however, usually show traces of another comb varying from half to several complete perforation holes. Pretoria printings have the comb moving from right to left (the right & top margins imperforate and left and bottom margins perforated through).

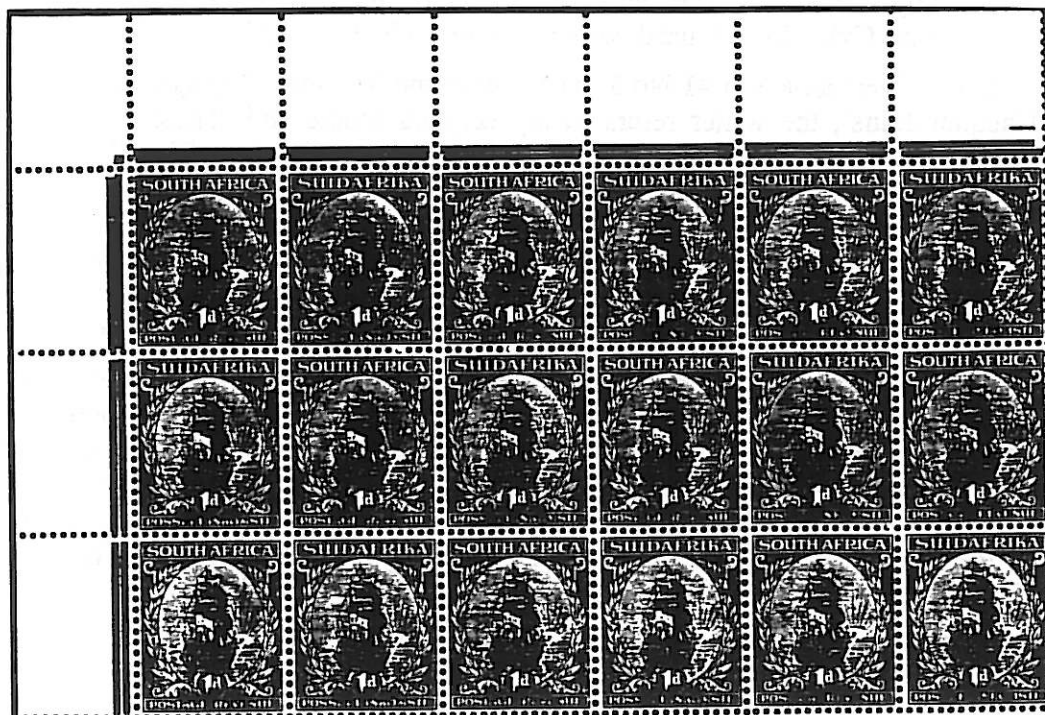
I have checked my London printings and have two examples with left margin 17mm each but one has 2½ perf holes and the other 7 holes; two imperf: bottom margins 21mm & 12mm; two top margin perforated 16mm & 6mm; one right margin perforated 8.5mm. My Pretoria printings are few: a vertical strip of five ending at top half of arrow imperf, with two extra holes, and a vertical strip of five to bottom right corner imperforate on side with 3½ holes and imperforate bottom margin. The latter has two cuts in the jubilee line which identifies it as Issue 2. Both have margins of 18mm on the right but the bottom margin (23mm) being imperforate is contrary to the advice given at the beginning of this article. Your comments are welcome.

W.A. Porter

IN HIS NOTE AT PAGE 42 of the April/June 1993 issue of *The Springbok* (Vol. 41, No.2), John Mackay raised the question as to whether the London and Pretoria printings could be differentiated by the width of the side margins. The items in my collection confirm his findings, with the exception of the top left block of 60 from the Plate 3 Pretoria printings. The left margin is some 15mm wide.

It seems safer to rely on the perforations in the margins plus the other characteristics listed in the Handbook/Catalogue to identify the printings.

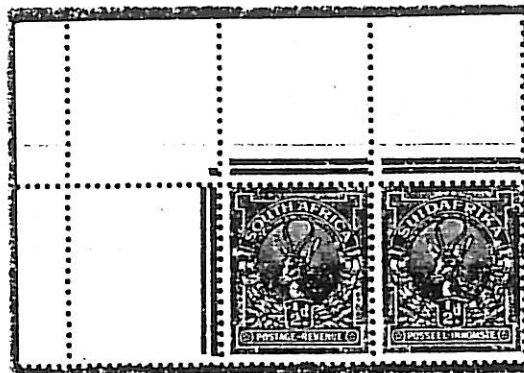
A.R. Chilton



IN THE APRIL/JUNE 1993 ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE John Mackay puts forward his theory that in the ½d and 1d typos the sheets of the London printings always had the wider margin on the left, and the Pretoria printed ones had it on the right.

In the case of the former I am sure he is correct. It would have been sensible to have the wider margin where the sheets were fed to the perforator so that any 'nibbles' would be well clear of the stamps.

As regards the Pretoria printings he is not on such firm ground, seeing the sheets were wider overall and one would need to have several rows of stamps with both margins still attached, and from different sheets, in order to prove anything.



In response to his concluding query I show a pair of ½d stamps from a sheet which must have had its wider margin on the left, but far from disproving his theory it is much more likely to be the exception that proves it.

Where Mr Mackay does err I think is in chiding us authors for not referring to his subject. What we did was to tell our readers how to differentiate when the side margin was still attached. That one of them would go on to measure that margin would simply not have occurred to any of us.

Jack Hagger

## ***SOMETHING NEW FROM STAMPEX***

STAMPEX are pleased to announce that, with the assistance and generosity of the British Philatelic Traders Society and the British Philatelic Trust, they are introducing a new class in the AUTUMN STAMPEX competition, to be known as the OPEN CLASS.

The aim of the OPEN CLASS is to encourage those collectors who do not have high powered collections or whose exhibits do not conform strictly to the rules as laid down for the various existing classes, to show what they can do and how they enjoy the hobby.

Entrants will be able to take one or two frames, at an entry of £10.00 per frame, to display their stamps in a manner which is attractive to the public, who will be the judges, returning voting forms that will be in the catalogue.

The three prizes will be in the form of vouchers valued at £200, £125 and £75 that may be redeemed at any dealer who is a standholder at the current AUTUMN STAMPEX. Full information and an entry form will be available at SPRING STAMPEX as a pull out centrefold in the catalogue or from the offices of the PTS or BPT at 107 Charterhouse St LONDON EC1M 6PT after the exhibition.

Entry fees for the Autumn STAMPEX International and National competitions are being held at 1992 levels, entry forms will be available at SPRING STAMPEX and from the PTS or BPT offices thereafter.

The British Philatelic Trust Exhibition Committee  
Secretary: Tony R. Finlayson, 86 Clarence Road, Fleet, Hants GU13 9RS  
Tel. 0252-614827

*W Branney*  
**THE 7c SUCCULENT**

THE FOLLOWING STUDY OF THE 7c VALUE from the 5th Definitive series was completed on 10 March 1990 using magnification x6 on the original printing of Pane B. The 7c Succulent (*Gibbaeum nebrownii*) is perforated approximately 14 on phosphorised paper from Harrisons and printed in litho.

- 1/1 Black dot over m in Gibbaeum.
- 1/2 Blue dot outside curve of S of RSA.  
Tiny blue dot below h of Botha
- 1/3 Purple dot top perfs.
- 1/7 Black dot in front of date.
- 1/10 Tiny purple dot top right.
- 2/1 Blue dot 1.5 x 18.5mm & 5 x 27.5mm.
- 2/2 Blue dot 10.5 x 11mm.
- 2/3 Black dot below o of Botha.
- 2/10 Black smudge mark lower right corner.
- 3/2 Black dot inside curve of S of RSA.
- 3/3 Black dot right vertical near perfs.
- 3/5 Black dot right vertical near perfs.
- 3/6 Black dot below m of Gibbaeum.
- 4/1 Purple speck right vertical near perfs.
- 4/4 Speck below S of RSA. White patch in 9 of date.
- 4/9 Small blue speck over R of RSA.
- 4/10 Malformed H of Hein.
- 5/1 No dot above i of Hein.
- 5/2 Black dot over R of RSA.
- 5/5 Purple smudge above S of RSA.
- 5/6 Bump inside line of G of Gibbaeum.
- 5/10 Purple specks around SA of RSA.
- 6/7 Large black line through i of Gibbaeum.
- 6/8 Blue speck under c of cent. Black dot 18/6.
- 6/9 Black mark last i of nebrownii. Black marks Botha and date.
- 6/10 Tiny purple dot above R of RSA.
- 7/1 Black dot 14/29.
- 7/2 Large speck below c of cent.
- 7/5 Tiny black mark on G of Gibbaeum.
- 7/7 Black speck 18/26.
- 7/8 Black dots below ii in nebrownii.
- 7/10 White line ib of Gibbaeum.
- 8/1 Red specks below and right of A of RSA.
- 8/6 Black speck under B of Botha.
- 9/2 Black dot midway neb-Hein.
- 9/3 Light patches e of Hein.
- 9/8 Small mark on first 8 of date.
- 9/9 Dot behind B of Botha.
- 10/1 Black dot G of Gibbaeum.
- 10/3 Mark on cross piece of A of RSA.  
Black dot under first 8 of date. Dot 4/1mm.
- 10/4 Dot 4/17.
- 10/5 Black marks right of A of RSA.
- 10/7 Black dot 3/27.
- 10/9 Thick base to b in nebrownii.



*R D Allen*

## ***THE FIRST RSA DEFINITIVES, 1961-1974***

AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY MEETING on Saturday 4 September 1993, our Hon Secretary handed me a copy of the book *The First Definitives of the Republic of South Africa 1961-1974*, by John Davis of Alicante, Spain. Alec said it would be available to members (see *The Springbok* 1993 No.3, p.72).

I made a checklist of my reasoning and John's, and as was to be expected they were not in agreement; however, John had some items marked with an asterisk and they were coils. As I try to specialise in coils I pondered over the asterisks. These are:

2c	page 5	SACC 264a	Group V
		SACC 290c	Group VII
5c	page 8	SACC 278b	Group V
		SACC 294b	Group VII
10c	page 10	SACC 298d	Group VII

A letter to John asking for the meaning of the asterisks received a reply; in it he added:

10c	SACC 269a	Group V
-----	-----------	---------

asking for help with the latter.

To assist please see the illustrations on the next two pages. They are taken from my publication about the coil issues of South Africa, Union and Republic, with permission of the Government Printer in South Africa.

The trio illustrate the process in the cutting up of the sheets into coils: they were taken at a conducted tour of the Printery and photographs were permitted. The singleton was supplied with others by the Printery.

The notation to each of the trio of illustrations is self-explanatory, but the second one shows a roll sheet in the background. In the singleton the coil sheet is shown on the cutting device, with both margins detached and the five coils at the start after being separated. Note the sturdiness of the six cutters. Breakages are not likely to happen.

Therefore all coils should have two of the sides with an even cut perforation, with the exception of the large 2d Union Buildings where it was split by hand, so they all are straight edges through the perforation on the top and bottom, except the 2c where it is the left and right side. If there are pulled perms then they must be from the sheets, if they are 22 long then definitely coils. I have some suspect short pieces and they have a pulled perforation, so I will examine for minutiae when I have the time. All the strips of 22 that I possess do not show a single pulled perforation.

Now for John's further query, which I will quote: 'Incidentally, there is one other that is a bit suspect: the 10c SACC 269a, Group V. In the Elizabethan catalogue Gibbons actually illustrates the difference but I have not seen it myself and have heard doubts expressed. Do you know if the "heavier shadow" is peculiar to the coils or just a chance printing variation on some?'

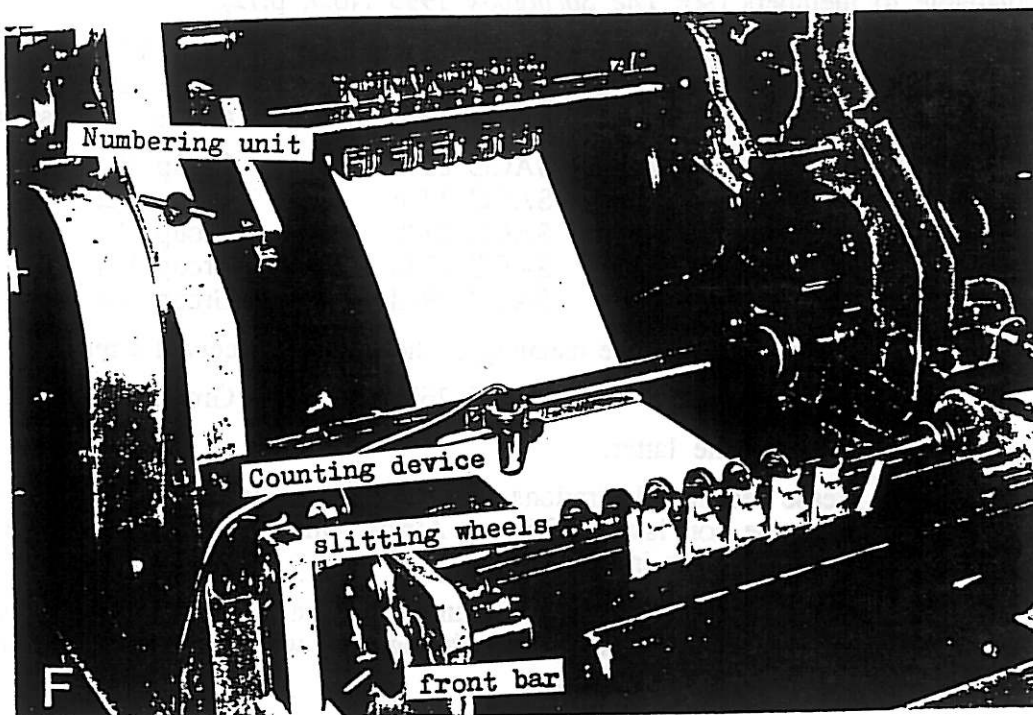
I have checked the shades of the six queries and I find they are quite acceptable with the exception of the 10c, SACC 269a.

Catalogue No.	Roll	Green	Brown	
269a	R.31	darkish	brownish black, see catalogue	205
298c	R.34	lighter	brown	269
298d	R.40	lighter still	light brown	269 *
333a	R.44	very light	lighter brown	269 *

\* see colour illustration 1964 etc.

All strips are the same shade, except 269a with three shades; the Republican loose leaf catalogue lists them as 'Sepia and bright green'. A comparison of colours in (a) Stanley Gibbons *Stamp Colour Key* and (b) the Methuen *Handbook of Colour* cannot define the colour of either the brown or the greens, and probably that is why most catalogues list them as shades.

This seems to show that all genuine coils must have at least one clean cut perforation except the 2d's, and that may be the reason for John's asterisks.



The penny mono  
coloured coil



Broken razor blade

### **SACS PACKET**

Bill Branney has asked that members be reminded to observe the rules as regards time of possession of the packet. IF there is good reason, apologies are welcome: if none, then the seller has to wait and so might you next time round. The same might well apply to paying up for your Society Auction bids. The income is very necessary; slow handling and paying affect our cash flow as well you know.

Still on the packet, Bill asks me to remind members to dig out any unwanted material and make up some books for the exchange packets, as new books are needed urgently. At present he has a large supply of control blocks (mainly RSA, definitives and commemoratives), and would appreciate members letting him know if they are interested in this type of material.

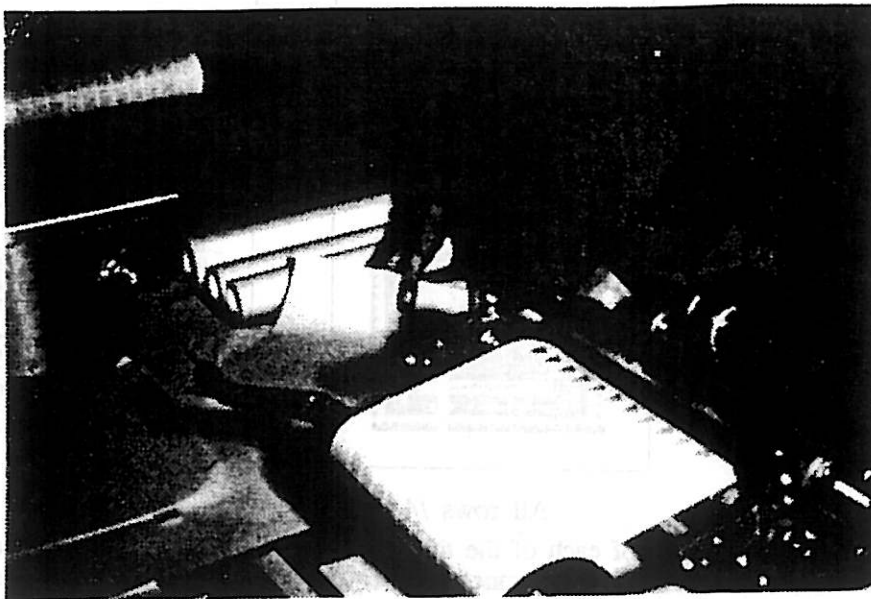
DWP



Cutting the web  
into coils

---

The roll is placed on the carrier at the lower end of the machine. The web is fed over rollers on to the cutters then to the take-up spool. The web is held for cutting by its end tucked into the spool.



Safety razor blades in a carrier being used to cut the rows of stamps into coils as they are supplied for use in the stamp vending machines.



The operator on the left is applying the wrapper/paper cover which carries details of the stamp value, number of stamps and the total value. Instructions to the postal official for insertion into the machine. Finally, the particulars of the printer.

## STILL THEY COME

IT IS EMBARRASSING STILL TO BE FINDING, as I do, statements in the Handbook that will need to be corrected should a new edition of it ever be produced.

For instance in describing the Bradbury, Wilkinson printings on page 23 it states that the 3d stamps were printed in sheets of 240. This was not so – the sheets were of 120 stamps and only two panes, each with its inscription at centre foot.

What happened was that the first batch of sheets was printed before the frame plate had been fully readied. They have no perforator guide dot at the top nor guide line at the foot, which would have been detected as soon as they reached the perforator, and the plate then rectified.

Similarly when describing the travelling flaws of the Rotogravure 1/- stamp of Issue 1, at the top of page 63, it states that it is not known on which stamp of the row the second one occurs. It is actually the fourth.

While helping Morgan Farrell with his reconstruction I found that I had two OFFICIAL overprinted stamps which had the flaws in the third stamp of their rows. The plane in which they occur is only a little left of that found on those of the fourth in their rows and, as one does not usually work on overprinted and other stamps at the same time, they would otherwise have remained undetected as being different.



All rows /3

All rows /4

All rows /6

The photocopies of two examples of each of the three also show that because of the restricted area in which the others can occur they are much scarcer than those found on the last stamp of the rows.

Jack Hagger

## DO YOU HAVE ONE?

IN THE HOPE OF CONFIRMING MY BELIEF that only the halves of a single sheet of 1/- stamps received the overprint which had OFFICIAL twice on each of the first and OFFISIEEL twice on the last copies of every row, I have kept a record of the names of their owners as I have been informed of them.

The record is now offered for publication seeing that the owners of the remaining rows might care to add their names. It is:

Row 1 Des Hyland, 2 Sam Hertzikowitz, 11 and 12 John Shaw, 14 Wally Japha, 15 Jack Hagger, 16 and 17 Mike Tonking and 18 Jim Nunneley.

Row 3 was auctioned in 1989 and if the owners of this and the other missing rows would let the Hon Editor have the details I'm sure he will publish them.

There has been a delay in submitting this as there was difficulty in identifying one of the rows. However it was resolved in the end as will be any others of a similar nature.

Jack Hagger

## ***CENSORSHIP – WORLD WAR II***

A BOOK HAS RECENTLY BEEN PUBLISHED IN CANADA which covers an important aspect of the postal history of World War II – *Civil and Military Censorship during World War II, Postal History*, by Dr H.F. Stich, W. Stich and J. Specht (pbk, format 6 x 8½ inches, ISBN 0-0-9693788-2-3). The book covers the subject on a global scale, and for anyone who collects or deals in WWII material its 275 pages are crammed with information. The worldwide coverage is invaluable, even to the one-country collector when researching an item of mail, often with cross frontier and/or multi-censoring.

Profusely illustrated with over 1000 censor marks and resealing labels, together with maps and tables, the text covers all the main aspects of censorship, country by country. References to Detained and Released mail and under-cover addresses provide a very useful compendium to a vast area of study. The overall compilation has been put together in a concise form with footnote references linking to the penultimate chapter, 'References', which is in effect a bibliography of 265 entries to point the reader to further and more detailed study of particular aspects/countries/areas.

The book is available from the first-named of its authors:

Dr H.F. Stich, 4593 Langara Avenue, Vancouver B.C., Canada V6R 1C9  
price US \$25 postpaid USA/Canada. Overseas add US \$3.

W.A. Page

## ***ONE SWALLOW DOES NOT MAKE A SUMMER***

BEING BUSY SORTING the 2½c 'Groot Constantia' postage stamp, among the used copies I came across half a dozen with a pinkish back, different states of pink, particularly when viewed from the back. Possible first issues only. Now a photocopy would not show this, nor will it show the detail of the design that shows more distinctly through the back than others. Recalling that in the past some stamps had an aniline ink which produced the vignette when viewing the back, has anyone found anything similar on this particular stamp please?

R.D. Allen

[*Editor:* I took RDA's items to a meeting in 1993 and we 'viewed' them in our usual ways. It is too easy to blame the 'chalky old London water', or even the residue of a washing-up liquid that contains an element of chlorine/bleach. If that were so, one would have expected the dye to run more, much like the old Edward VII Ceylon purple on chalky or ordinary paper. Has anyone tried washing off using distilled water and taking more than usual care to eliminate chemical residues from the container? Using two different 'lamps' (ULVIRAY Volts 220/250 cycles 50 on 4 watt tube; PHILIPS BAS 8, 8 watt fluorescent tube, 5mHz) brought no response either.

DWP

## ***POSTAGE STAMP PROGRAMME 1994***

The South African Post Office announces the following special stamp issues for 1994:

28 January	Export products
13 May	Tugboats
1 July	Child art
30 September	Stamp Week
18 November	Health

*S J Hagger, RDPSA*

## **THE CUSTOMS DUTY HANDSTAMPS AND OVERPRINTS OF THE UNION**

This and the following article are reprinted from the *South African Philatelist*, May/June 1991, with due acknowledgement.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT COLLECTORS of the 'Cinderella' side of Union philately should combine to produce a companion volume – about all of them – to the 1986 definitive edition of the Handbook/Catalogue. As a beginning, here is a draft list of the handstamped or overprinted stamps which could make up the Customs Duty section.

It should be understood that it comprises only those stamps which indicated the pre-payment of such dues. Other handstamps and postmarks on stamps or postage due labels, which acknowledge receipt of customs duty, will be dealt with separately, along with certain other aspects.

It must also be clearly understood that this listing is only a rough draft, given an airing here with a view to eliciting comment and cross-checking. The author would therefore be grateful to fellow collectors for all their responses.

Where appropriate the listing follows that of the 'Interprovincials' and 'Officials' sections of the 1986 Handbook, but some further explanation is required.

The first difficulty was to know where to begin. Although the handstamping of the stamps of the former colonies began before Union, they were still being used afterwards, and thus they must be included.

The author has one copy from each of the three pre-Union colonies concerned, postmarked in 1911. However, the 1d stamps of the ORC with earlier kinds of handstamps must be regarded as having been obsolete at the time of Union, and they have been omitted.

The valuations, in rands and cents, are intended, as in the Handbook, to show the relative scarcity or rarity, and not in the hope that they will find acceptance!

By far the majority of these stamps that one comes across are singles, do not have full gum, and are with or without a postmark. It is for these that valuations are given. To arrive at a valuation for pairs, stamps with full gum, or displaying a variety, the figure could be multiplied by, say, five.

The other difficulty lies in the identification of the issue of the basic stamp, when it could be one of as many as half a dozen. Found, as they usually are, only in singles, unless there is something unique to an issue, it can only be identified by a plate or cylinder variety.

These are scarce, but where issue numbers have been stated, the author is reasonably sure that they are correct. Should any collector have anything to add, it is requested that the means of identification also be given.

It would be helpful if any comments are sent in the first place to the Hon Editor.

### **Group 1**

Handstamped in violet, 'Customs Duty' in two lines, thin letters, 2.25mm tall.

NATAL	
CD1 1d carmine	10
CD2 2d red and olive-green	30
CD3 3d purple and grey	20
CD4 4d carmine and cinnamon	30
CD5 5d black and orange	30
CD6 6d dull and bright purple	50

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY**

CD7	1d carmine	10
CD8	2d 'Revenue' large format	50
CD9	6d 'Revenue' large format	50

**TRANSVAAL**

CD10	1d scarlet	5
CD11	2d black and purple	5
CD12	4d black and brown	10
CD13	6d black and orange	20

**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

(Stamp bearing the head of KG V)

CD14	Basic No. 2, ½d green	50
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The ½d Union stamp with the handstamp is perfectly genuine, but it is difficult to understand how it came to be prepared so long after overprinting had commenced. One possible explanation is that overprints on this value were urgently needed when there were none in stock, nor time for overprinting. As the handstamp was obviously still available from before, it was used to process only the required number. Only a couple of copies have been recorded.

**Group 2**

Overprinted in black, 'Customs Duty' in two lines, square block capitals 1.75mm tall.

(Stamps bearing the head of KE VII)

**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**

CD15	1d carmine	0.50
CD16	2d brown	1
CD17	6d bright mauve	5
CD18	1s yellow ochre	10

**NATAL**

CD19	2d red and olive-green	2
CD20	4d carmine and cinnamon	5

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY**

CD21	1d scarlet	5
CD22	3d mauve	10

**TRANSVAAL**

CD23	1d scarlet	2
CD24	2d purple	1
CD25	4d black and brown	5
CD26	6d black and orange	10

Overprinted in red

CD27	3d black and sage green	5
CD28	4d black and brown	5
CD29	6d black and orange	10

**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Overprinted in black

(Stamps bearing the head of KG V. The basic UHB catalogue number follows the 'Cinderella' number.)

CD30	2 ½d green (shades)	0.50
CD31	3 1d red (shades)	0.50
CD32	5 2d purple	1
CD33	7 3d black and orange red	5
CD34	7a 3d blue and blue (shades)	5
CD35	8 4d orange and green (shades)	5
CD36	9 6d black and violet (shades)	5
CD37	10 1s orange (shades)	10

	Overprinted in red	
CD38	7 3d black and orange red	5
CD39	9 6d black and violet	5
	Overprinted in black	
	(London Pictorials, typograph and recess)	
CD40	27 4d brown, Iss. 1, Perf group I	10
CD41	28 6d green and orange, Iss. 1	5
CD42	29 1s brown and blue, Iss. 1, Perf group I	10
	(Pretoria typographs)	
CD43	35 6d dull green and orange, Iss. 2	20
	Overprinted in red	
	(London Pictorials, typograph and recess)	
CD44	22 ½d black and green	1
CD45	23 1d black and carmine	1
CD46	24c 2d grey and purple, Perf group I	5
CD47	24d 2d grey and purple, Perf group III	4
CD48	25 3d black and red, Perf group I	5
CD49	25a 3d black and red, Perf group II	5
	(Pretoria typographs)	
CD50	33 ½d black and green	0.10
CD51	34 1d black and red	0.10

The two 's's in the 'Customs' of this group led to a notable variety. Not even a large printing works would have had sufficient 's's (480) of the same fount to make up the complete overprinting forme. Thus the second 's' of 'Customs' on all of the first stamps of each row are in a different fount. When they are found in a pair or row, it is always only the lefthand stamp which shows the variety. They are worth anything as much as ten times normal, and they could be found on all of the various sheets of stamps overprinted in this group.

### Group 3

Overprinted in black, 'DOUANE'. Length of the overprint is 14mm, including the stop.

	(London Pictorials, recess)	
CD52	24d 2d grey and purple, Perf group III	1
CD53	25a 3d black and red, Perf group II	5
CD54	27b 4d brown, Perf group III	2
CD55	29a 1s brown and blue, Perf group II	10
	(Pretoria typographs)	
CD56	33 ½d black and green	0.10
CD57	34 1d black and red	0.10
CD58	35 6d dull green and orange, Iss. 2	2
	(Unhyphenated rotogravure)	
CD59	36 ½d black and green, shades upright/inverted watermark	0.10
CD60	37d 1d steel blue and rose, Iss. 9	0.50
CD61	38 2d brownish grey and mauve, Iss. 3	5
CD62	38 2d bluish grey and mauve, Iss. 3	1
CD63	38a 2d blue and violet, Iss. 3	5
CD64	39a 3d blue and blue, Iss. 1 upright/inverted watermark	5
CD65	39b 3d blue and blue, Iss. 2 upright/inverted watermark	5
CD66	41 6d green and orange, inv. wmk.	10
CD67	41a 6d green and orange, upr. wmk.	20
	(Hyphenated rotogravure)	
CD68	44 ½d grey and green, Iss. 4, inv. wmk.	0.20



CD69	44a ½d grey and green, shades, Iss. 5, 6, 7, 10 and 12	0.10
CD70	44b ½d grey and green, 18.25 x 22.25mm, Iss. 14	5
CD71	44e ½d grey and green, 18 x 22mm, Iss. 20	5
CD72	45 1d grey and red, shades, Iss. 10, 11, 12 and 14 (Iss. 10 upr/inv. wmk., 11 inv. wmk.)	0.10
CD73	47 2d blue and violet, Iss. 4	10
CD74	47c 2d grey and violet, Iss. 6	10
CD75	47c 2d grey and vivid violet	10
CD76	49 6d green and vermilion, Iss. 2	15
CD77	49a 6d green and red-orange, Iss. 3	1
CD78	50 1s sepia-brown and chalky blue, Iss. 3	50

*Note:* The author had an interesting letter from Brian Dennis. He had been sent this stamp (with the 'Douane' overprint with stop), additionally featuring a perfin. He said it was unusual, and he was pleased to have it.

'It has been a long story, but the perfin "CTCo" is from the Caterpillar Tractor Company. The very interesting part is that the perforator was held in Cleveland, USA, and these "Douane" overprinted stocks were held there for pre-paying the revenue duty on advertising material sent to South Africa.

'They perforated them there for security reasons. In fact, that pattern is known on USA, Canadian and, I think, Australian stamps.'

#### **Group 4**

Overprinted in black, 'DOUANE'. Stereo process, no stop, length of overprint is 13.75mm.

(All-screened pictorials)

CD79	44e ½d grey and green, 18 x 22mm, Iss. 21 and 22	0.10
CD80	45c 1d sepia-grey and rose, 18 x 22mm, Iss. ?	10
CD81	45d 1d bluish grey and carmine, 17.5 x 21.5mm	10
CD82	47g 2d blue and plum, 21.75 x 17.5mm	5
CD83	49c 6d green and vermilion, 18 x 22mm, Iss. 5 (Animal series)	1
CD84	123 ½d blue-green, shades	0.10
CD85	124 1d brown-lake	1
CD86	126 2d plum	5

*Hugh Amore*

## ***CUSTOMS DUTY ON PRINTED MATTER***

### ***NOTES AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY***

IN 1906 VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF PRINTED MATTER coming into South Africa through the post were made subject to a duty. This duty was collected in various ways. Two of them are of direct interest to postal historians and philatelists, the first because the duty was paid by postage stamps overprinted for the purpose, and the second because the fact that the duty had been paid was indicated by a postal marking.

Much work remains to be done on the history of this duty, and the customs duty postmarks, and these notes are an attempt to set the basis for further work on the subject.

In 1906 the Postmaster-General of the Cape Colony reported as follows:

'Under item 43 of the South African Customs Union tariff which came into force on the 30th June, duty became leviable on printed matter, including advertising matter, catalogues, price lists, etc, to the extent of 25 per centum ad valorem or 2d per pound, whichever be the greater. The parties to the Union, however, as a temporary measure, subsequently permitted the free importation of single articles of printed matter, provided that they weighed under 8 ounces, and were not printed abroad on behalf of a South African firm or for a South African branch of an overseas firm. As a consequence of the imposition of this duty a considerable amount of work was thrown upon the Post Office, notwithstanding the temporary relaxation of the regulation.

'My department has not yet seen its way to accept prepayment of duty by the senders of these packets, owing to the difficulty of maintaining an adequate check upon the amount remitted, in view of the fact that printed matter is sent in direct mails made up abroad on several of the larger offices of the Colony. The recovery of the duty necessitates the examination of all packets of printed matter, and consequently causes no little delay in delivery, while numerous packets are refused by the addressees on account of the charges, and are sent to the Returned Letter Office for disposal. Thus the uncertainty produced in the minds of overseas exporters to this country regarding the acceptance of their trade advertisements by addressees exercises a detrimental effect on postal revenue and presumably on trade in general.'

The first mention of this duty is to be found in the Cape Post and Telegraph Guide for July 1906, which records that customs duty of £25 per £100 of value or 2d per lb, whichever is greater, is payable on all advertising and printed matter coming into the Colony.

There is, however, no mention in this, or later Cape Colony or Cape Province Post and Telegraph Guides (1906-1910), of the facility of prepaying this duty by the use of customs stamps. The first South African Post Office Post and Telegraph Guide appeared in September 1911, and there are two references to customs duty on advertising matter. The first deals with outgoing mail:

'Advertising matter is subject to customs duty on entry in the Australian Commonwealth, New Zealand, Canada and some other British possessions.'

and the second with incoming mail:

'Advertising matter, including catalogues, price lists, and other articles, as detailed in article 43 of the South African Customs Union Convention, received from countries outside the convention, except where the packets are less than 8 ounces in weight (which exception, however, does not apply to catalogues, price lists and other articles issued by or for South African firms) are subject to Customs charges at the rate of 25 percent ad valorem, or 2d per lb, whichever may be the greater. The senders of such packets may, if they desire, assess the duty at the rate mentioned, and prepay it by affixing to the packets postage stamps of the Union of South Africa overprinted "Customs Duty" to be obtained at the office of the High Commissioner of the Union of South Africa in London.'

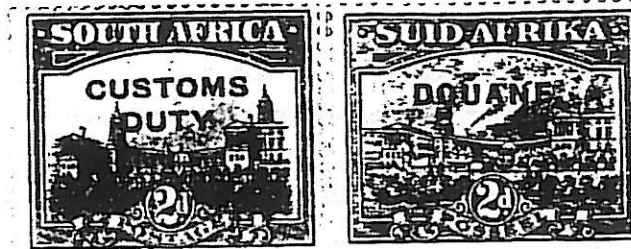
There were frequent changes in the rate of duty, but the method of allowing prepayment by the use of overprinted Customs Duty Stamps, originating some time between 1906 and 1911, continued at least until 1960. The British Post Office Guide of July 1913 contains a note that 'The amount of duty should be prepaid in stamps overprinted "Customs Duty", which can be obtained from the High Commissioner of the Union of South Africa' in London while the South African Post Office Guide of 1959 states that stamps overprinted 'Douane' were obtainable at the office of the High Commissioner of the Union of South Africa in London and from the SA Consul General in New York.

David Allison quotes from the British Post Office Guide of 1964 (p.116) that 'a scheme has been brought into operation by the South African customs authorities whereby customs duty on mailings of printed advertising matter sent to South Africa will be collected from the despatching firm's South African representative or agent'. When this had been done the articles were appropriately postmarked. Allison argues from the postmark evidence that this method must have been in existence in 1938 or earlier.

The third method, of course, was to collect the duty from the addressee and in such cases some receipt had to be provided; this appears to have been done - at least at certain times - by using postage due stamps.

It is not clear whether *Customs Duty* or *Douane* stamps were ever used in *South Africa* when the duty was, or had been, collected from the despatching firm's South African representative or agent. It is possible that the overprinted Customs Duty/Douane Stamps

were so used, but the evidence of these stamps cancelled by South African postmarks is not conclusive. Stamps put on in countries of origin were not always cancelled in those countries, but in such cases were sometimes cancelled on entry into South Africa. It seems unlikely that *Customs Duty* or *Douane* labels would have been used when the tax was collected from addressees.



### Rates of Duty on Advertising Matter:

For the duration of this tax the rate of duty was set *ad valorem* or by weight (mass), whichever was the greater. In cases of articles less than the minimum tariff weight (or mass) the responsible official was able to determine a minimum value (say, for a 1 oz article). This is of crucial importance in understanding the rates of duty on ordinary postal articles that contained advertising matter.

#### Rate of Duty: 1906

The rate of duty was set in 1906 by item 43 of the South African Customs Union Tariff of 30 June 1906, at 25% *ad valorem* or 2d per lb whichever was the greater. Printed matter under 8 oz was free of this duty, unless printed on behalf of a South African firm, or of a South African branch of an overseas firm, when the rate was a minimum of:

Up to 8 oz	1d (or free, as above)
Above 8 oz to 16 oz	2d
For each additional 8 oz	1d

This was the position at Union in 1910.

#### Rates of Duty after Union in 1910

The first increase took place in 1914/1915 when the rate was set at 25 percent *ad valorem* or 3d per lb (5). The minimum rates were set as follows:

Up to 8 oz	1d
Above 8 oz to 16 oz	3d
For each additional 8 oz	3d

The rate was increased in 1925, and on 1 August 1925 it was 40 percent *ad valorem* or 6d per lb. A concession was allowed exempting from duty packets under 4 oz in weight entering the country in small quantities. The minimum rates by weight were set at:

Up to 4 oz	1½d
Above 4 oz up to 8 oz	3d
Above 8 oz up to 16 oz	6d
For each additional 8 oz	3d

This had been included as item 296 (h) of the Customs Tariff and in 1928 the minimum rates by weight were changed as follows:

Up to 3 oz	1d
Above 3 oz up to 5 oz	2d
Above 5 oz up to 8 oz	3d
Above 8 oz up to 16 oz	6d
For each additional 8 oz	3d

A year later, while the rate remained at 40 percent *ad valorem* or 6d per lb, the minimum rates by weight had changed again. They were to remain at these rates until the currency was changed to decimal currency in 1961.

Up to 1 oz	½d
1 oz to 3 oz	1d
3 oz to 5 oz	2d
5 oz to 8 oz	3d

Thereafter to the nearest 1d based on weight.

On 14 February 1961 the rates were converted to decimal currency as follows:

The basic rate was still 40 percent *ad valorem* or 5c per lb, but the minimum rates by weight were:

Up to 2 oz	1c
2 oz to 4 oz	2c
4 oz to 7 oz	4c
7 oz to 8 oz	5c

Thereafter to the nearest cent based on weight.

By 1963 the basic rate of duty was changed for the first time since 1928/1929, and became 20 percent *ad valorem* or 5c per lb. The minimum rates by weight became:

Up to 2 oz	1c
2 oz to 4 oz	2c
4 oz to 5 oz	3c
5 oz to 7 oz	4c
7 oz to 8 oz	5c

These remained the rates until 1971.

The adoption of metric weights and measures necessitated a change in the rates of customs and excise.

Packets containing advertising matter (except catalogues and price lists published by firms abroad) became liable for customs duty at the rate of 20 percent *ad valorem* or 11c per kg whichever amount was the greater. Catalogues and price lists imported by firms which had an established business concern in South Africa, or a representative holding stocks in South Africa, were dutiable at the same rate.

Calculated at the value of at least R1.10 per kg; the minimum rates of customs duty laid down, as payable, by the Secretary for Customs and Excise in terms of the provisions of the Customs and Excise Act, were as follows:

Up to 40 g	1c
40 g to 80 g	2c
80 g to 120 g	3c
120 g to 160 g	4c
160 g to 200 g	5c
200 g to 250 g	6c
250 g to 300 g	7c
300 g to 350 g	8c
350 g to 400 g	9c
400 g to 450 g	10c
450 g to 500 g	11c

Considerable changes were made before 1975, which resulted in the almost complete disappearance of customs duty markings on mail matter, as reflected in the following note in the Post Office Guide for 1975.

'In terms of the Customs and Excise Act (Tariff Heading 49.11.50) catalogues, price lists and trade publications of firms and persons having no established place of business in the Republic, or no representative holding stocks in the Republic, are exempted from duties. If received from firms or persons having an established place of business in the Republic, or a representative holding stocks in the Republic, such articles are dutiable in terms of tariff heading 49.11.90 at 20% of the value or R14 per 100 kg whichever is the greater.

'Printed matter addressed to an individual person (where no representative exists) is exempted from duties if the mass does not exceed 1 kg per item.' (12)

The same note is repeated in the Post Office Guides for 1975, 1978 and 1980. This effectively put an end to the use of special markings on mail matter to indicate that the tax had been paid, and thus closed an interesting aspect of South African postal history.

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- 3 SA (1950 and subsequent years) *Post Office Guide*.
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- 7 – (1946 and subsequent years) 'Union Notes' in the *SA Philatelist* see especially: May 1946, Vol 22 No 5; April 1947, Vol 23 No 4; November 1947, Vol 23 No 11; October 1949, Vol 25 No 10; March 1951 Vol 27 No 3; September 1951 Vol 27 No 9; July 1953 Vol 29 No 7; January 1954 Vol 30 No 1; June 1954 Vol 30 No 6; July 1954 Vol 30 No 7; October 1954 Vol 30 No 10; May 1955 Vol 31 No 5; September 1955 Vol 31 No 9; January 1956 Vol 32 No 7; June 1956 Vol 32 No 6 p.98; November 1956 Vol 32 No 11.
- 8 Dodd, L J and Berry, T B (1956) 'The Customs Duty Stamps of the Union of South Africa' *SA Philatelist* Vol 32 No 4 (April 1956).
- 9 – (1971 and subsequent years) 'Postmark Notes' in *South African Postmark Society Newsletter* No 15 (Sep/Oct 1971) pp.38-42; No 17 (Jan/Feb 1972) p.74; No 22 (Nov/Dec 1972) p.54; No 30 (March/April 1974) p.98.
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- 14 Jacobson, Leon (1985) 'The Underfranking of Mail' *The Post Office Stone* Vol 17 No 1 (May 1985) pp.6-9.
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## READERS DIGEST ISSUE

In the *SA Philatelist* for October 1993 there appear notes on representations to the Postal Authorities and replies concerning this issue which some view rather unhappily.

A motion at Congress, that the Federation appeal to the SA Post Office to discontinue se-tenant stamps and sheetlets, in the first place drew comment from Richard Knight RDPSA that the postal authorities were contravening UPU agreements by allowing agents to sell se-tenant booklets (the aviation issue) at a discount. This could lead to black-listing of such material.

Almost immediately the issue of the se-tenant strips produced for the Reader's Digest was taken up. Herman Steyn, senior manager Philatelic Services, said the Post Office wanted to make money by serving its customers. In this case the RD placed an order and paid full value, while philatelic income was less than a third of the annual expenditure of the RD.

He assured delegates that deposit account holders who ordered everything would get RD strips, which would also be available at the Pretoria philatelic counter, but not elsewhere.

Mr Steyn was unperturbed when it was subsequently pointed out to him privately that unless stamp issues by a legitimate postal authority were freely available to everybody, and that did not mean only collectors, they ran the risk of being black-listed, as had happened in a similar case in Great Britain.

If they were black-listed, he said, collectors would have no need for them in any case.

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POSTAGE STAMPS INFORMATION AS AT 30th JUNE 1993

JOB NO	NUMBER PER SHEET	VALUE	NUMBER OF SHEET ORDERED	DATE OF FIRST DELIVERY	NUMBER OF SHEET DELIVERED	DATE OF FINAL DELIVERY	TOTAL NUMBERS DELIVERED	PAPER	PLATE NUMBER	SAME DESIGN OR NEW	REMARKS
<u>AVIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: SPECIAL STAMPS</u>											
62167.52	25	45c	700 000	93/03/30	40 000	93/05/14	690 000	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper	2435, 2436, 2437 and 2438	New	Printed by Litho
<u>AVIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA BOOKS: SPECIAL STAMPS</u>											
63927.95	100	45c	220 000	93/04/02	1 010	93/05/06	220 000	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper		New	Printed by Litho
<u>AVIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: MINIATURE</u>											
62142.16	16	45c	60 000	93/04/28	10 000	93/05/03	60 000	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper		New	Printed by Litho
<u>AIR LETTER</u>											
60320.23	3	Postage Paid	3 500 000	92/09/11	25 000		2 250 000	Oyster Opaque		New	Printed by Litho
<u>FIFTH DEFINITIVE SERIES SUCCULENTS</u>											
64267.31	100	10c	200 000	93/04/14	14 000	93/06/28	201 900	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper	2527, 2528, 2529 and 2530	New	Printed by Litho
<u>FIFTH DEFINITIVE SERIES SUCCULENTS</u>											
56686.25	100	35c	4 000 000	92/03/27	80 000	93/04/21	3 320 000	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper	2324, 2325, 2326 and 2327	New	Printed by Litho

GEBERTIFISEER KORREK  
 1993-07-07  
 ...

119 cents

POSTAGE STAMPS INFORMATION AS AT 30th JUNE 1993

JOB NO	NUMBER PER SHEET	VALUE	NUMBERS OF SHEETS ORDERED	DATE OF FIRST DELIVERY	NUMBER OF SHEETS DELIVERED	DATE OF FINAL DELIVERY	TOTAL NUMBERS DELIVERED	PAPER	PLATE NUMBER	SAME DESIGN OR NEW	REMARKS
<u>INCIDENTAL SUCCULETS</u>											
64374.37	100	Standardise	2 200 000	93/04/27	10 000		1 100 000	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper and 2534	2531, 2532, 2533, and 2534	New	Printed by Litho
<u>FIFTH DEFINITIVE SERIES SUCCULETS: READERS DIGEST</u>											
64391.54	100	1c, 2c, 5c 7c, and 30c	15 500	93/05/10	37 000	93/05/10	37 000	Unwatermarked Harrisons Paper		New	Printed by Litho

PLEASE  
SUPPORT  
SOCIETY  
MEETINGS

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

### ***Change of Address***

432 J.N. Dickson, to Milborne Port, Sherborne  
599 C.P. Ravillious, to 1 Goodwood Close, Willingdon, Eastbourne,  
East Sussex BN20 9JF  
753 W. Grütter, to Kloof Street, Cape Town 8008

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO...**

- Tony Chilton** Tony, our Membership Secretary and hard worker for at least two other specialist societies, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.
- L. Van de Kar** Awarded a VERMEIL for his entry 'The Union's First Stamp', at the Thekwini Exhibition in Durban in August 1993.
- M.J.H. Tonking** Awarded a SILVER for his entry 'The Union 3d Groote Schuur Postage Stamp 1927-1954' and also a SILVER-BRONZE for the entry 'Interprovincial Postage Stamps', at the same exhibition in Durban.

## **MEMBERS SPEAK...**

**Alec Page** will be the Guest Speaker at:

Dorking on 6 April 1994  
Norwich on 26 April 1994  
Wallington & Carshalton on 5 July 1994

**John Shaw** has two engagements:

RAF Waddington on 5 April 1994  
Nottingham on 8 April 1994

On both occasions he will show SA Airmails.

## **REQUEST FROM CANADA**

Member B.G. Bussell, 132 Ch. Des Breches, Piedmont, Quebec, Canada J0R 1K0 seeks George V Customs overprint on piece/wrapper or envelope. Also an SA George V 1d overprinted Basutoland on or off paper, or mint.

He hopes thus to achieve completion in the 'uses' field - see articles in this issue of *The Springbok*.

## **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED...**

If your subscription has not been received by the Hon Membership Secretary, this is the last issue of *The Springbok* you will see!