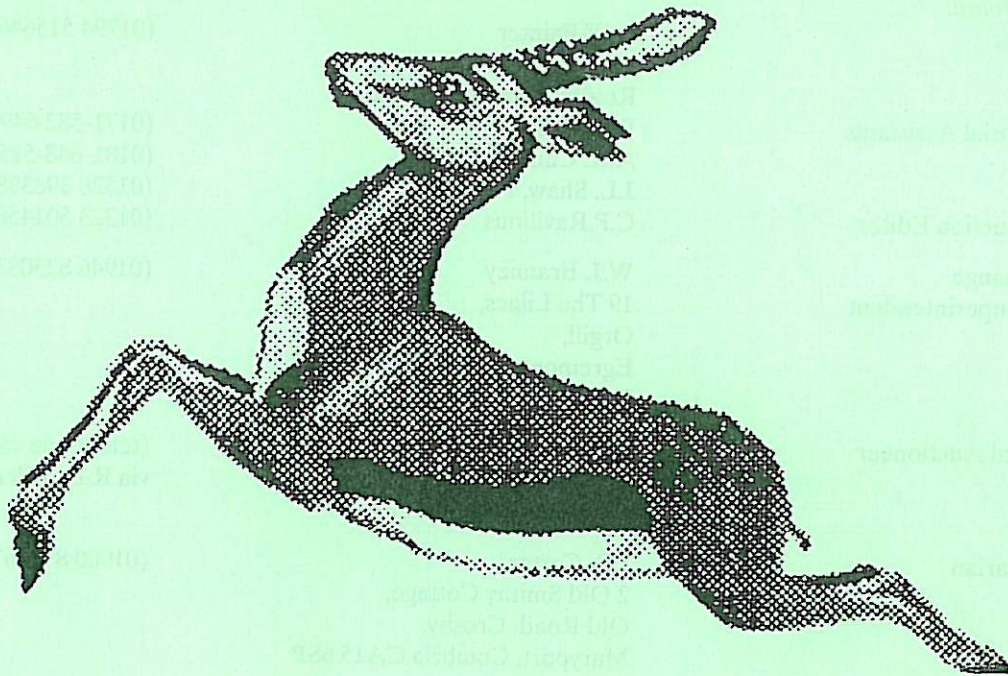


THE *SPRINGBOK*



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

Vol 43 No 2

April/June 1995

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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.

Contents

Meeting reports (and an appeal)	28
South African weather stations	30
Postal stationery – postcards	36
Union Stamp Depot/P.O. Box 2185, Cape Town	36
The RSA First Definitive 2½c	37
The oval datestamp of 1853	40
More on the 10c Succulent	42
Union coils – a slight correction	42
A question of identity	43
5/- hyphenated Issue 1	43
Eleventh-row flaws	44
Wind of change??	46
News in brief, etc.	47
Membership information	48

Congratulations to Fred Clark from Derby for being awarded the Wicks Medal for his study on the ½c Kingfisher. Yes, we did find a firm to provide a further supply of medals, and they are very well executed too. Just as well as it turns out. Various members and all the Officers of the Society had mentioned that the Society should recognise the efforts of our President. Yes, he was appointed to that post as some recognition of the work done for the Society and *The Springbok*, but the researches he has produced written work on, not only for *The Springbok* but for other publications, is quite considerable and in recognition a 'special' award of the Wicks Medal has been made and this will be presented at the meeting on 20 June 1995.

The pattern of Northern and London meetings does now seem well established, but numbers seeking a meet elsewhere are few indeed.

Programme of Society Meetings 1994/95

Tuesday 20 June 1995

6 to 7.30pm at Hawkstone Hall, the War Effort issues by Alec Page & David Painter.

Saturday 2 September 1995

2 to 4.30pm at Hawkstone Hall: AGM, Abell Trophy and Mini-Auction.

Saturday 16 September 1995

10am to 4pm at Botchergate Hotel, Carlisle: Open Forum, members' displays, War Effort issues.

Tuesday 12 December 1995

5.30 to 7.30pm at Hawkstone Hall: subject to be advised.

Saturday 16 March 1996

2 to 5pm at Hawkstone Hall. Subject to be advised: suggestions welcome.

Tuesday 11 June 1996

5.30 to 7.30pm at Hawkstone Hall: subject to be advised.

HAWKSTONE HALL is across the road from LAMBETH NORTH Underground Station and a modest 10-minute walk from Waterloo Station.

Other Events

International Stamp Exhibition at Wembley 27–30 April 1995 (but few dealers?).

MIDPEX at Coventry, Saturday 10 June 1995: meeting of 40 Specialist Societies when 4,000 sheets of philatelic material will be displayed (not SACS, but Hon. Editor will be there anyway).

TOTAL STAMPEX '95 in South Africa, 19–21 October 1995, organised by Alberton P.S. and having National status.

HAMPEX, Saturday 23 September 1995 at Hayling Island. There being NO attendance apparent at HAMPEX 1994, the 3 supporting Societies (SACS, RSC and Transvaal SC) do not propose to ask for a room at this event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at the Kennington Room, Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, London at 2 p.m. on Saturday 2 September 1995. This will be followed by the Abell Trophy Competition and a Mini-Auction.

The existing office holders are, with the exceptions shown below, prepared to stand. Any nominations or requests, suggestions and motions must be with the Hon. Secretary by 1 August please.

DWP (Ed.)

HELP!

When you receive *The Springbok* by courtesy of the Royal Mail, have you ever stopped to think of the chain of events up to its arrival?

If not, start now! By the end of the year two vital links in the chain will be broken and will need to be replaced.

Our Honorary Distributor, Jim Gale, will be leaving the UK for warmer climes and will no longer be able to carry out this important role in the Society. Thus we URGENTLY need a volunteer who would take over, and to be in place before the mailing of the last *Springbok* of 1995.

Currently the Honorary Distributor is responsible for taking delivery of the journal from the printer, via our editor, preparing the envelopes and 'stuffing' them together with any other material appropriate at the time. Likewise, he also maintains the master, coded mailing list from which the address labels are produced. However this last requirement need not deter a would-be volunteer, as it can no doubt be covered by someone else who would supply the address labels. Similarly the envelopes could be supplied in the event of any difficulties experienced locally in obtaining them and avoiding excessive cost

Our Production Editor, Chris Ravilious, has also asked to be relieved of his duties from the end of 1995. The job entails receiving the typed or handwritten copy for each issue of the magazine from the Hon. Editor, and producing the final text for bulk printing. The essential qualifications are access to a PC and word-processing software, and to a laser or inkjet printer. For an indication of what is involved please see the article in vol. 40 no. 4 of *The Springbok* – or Chris will be happy to discuss practicalities with anyone thinking of taking on this work.

Offers in respect of both roles should be made to Alec Page (Hon. General Secretary) please a.s.a.p. or if further details needed, a telephone call or letter will elicit prompt response.

Remember – no Distributor, and no Production Editor– no *Springbok*!!

LONDON MEETING, Saturday 18 March 1995

Good weather was measured against the likely standard of the material to be brought to this meeting by our principal speaker, Tony Chilton.

We were not disappointed, and in fact we rarely are when Tony does a presentation. Who was there? Messrs Allen, Chilton, Clark (who was to receive the Wicks Award), Shaw, Newman, Hurrell, Fincham, Olver, Archer, Page and Painter.

As the results of considered purchases among two South African collections became apparent, one realised that without the South African Collectors' Handbook and even with a Higgins and Gage, one would be likely to go astray easily. Among the 4d Hut design of registered envelopes there have now appeared SPECIMEN and DIE PROOF items. The setting of the wording is the better means of sorting than colour and by reference to the size of lettering in the 'stamp box' where this is possible. The vertical line-up of

BY
KRY

is the crux of identification.

Newspaper wrappers were shown with marked misplacements that occurred in printing and suggests that many such ought to have been weeded out as waste?

A nice 1½d proof Air Letter caught the eye and two clear types of 'N' of the 'No Enclosures' wording was quite clear. Where the 'N' appears damaged the fold line markings are also interrupted.

Very rarely seen were the Air Letters provided for use by the South African Air Force unit in Korea in support of the United Nations. Four lines obliterate the value of the 1½d air letter and these are both staggered and blacked at left in type; the instructions on the reverse were also overprinted with a wide blue bar.

The short term of use was due to the Squadron's mail being brought within British Forces Post Office arrangements not long after the arrival of the SAAF unit.

In the Republic items, a proof item of CAL 44 was seen with Afrikaans wording only, a De La Rue archive item.

Letter cards from King's Head through Reply Paid cards to PC 11 were displayed. It has become clear that the work done in preparation for the 1952 edition of the SACH in respect of the stationery was not based on as wide a sampling of what existed as could have led to a better established base upon which to work. Some stated 'errors' after examination against a wider spectrum suggest printers' problems rather than established errors. [Buyer beware high prices – Ed.]

Among the pictorial Postcards, the sepia ones carrying 'UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA' with the coat of arms centrally below are believed to have been done for the Wembley Exhibition stand, using the same dies.

Tony has had the opportunity to evaluate items from the Vermaak collection with that of Weinstein and from other sources and in showing the 'cracked-plate' flaw he submitted that this was more likely the result of the slightly 'ridged' card used for the printing and was not a crack in the plate at all! There are 'dry' prints; the telegraph lines are in reality Doctor Blade flaws. Collectable, yes, but neither extraordinary nor rare it seems. Also where there is no stamp design apparent who knows whether it was to be a ½d or a 1d?

There are good grounds for hoping that stationery as a catalogue will become a practical possibility now. (Heard that Alan Sterckx, formerly a member, has edited an Airmail Catalogue for Stanley Gibbons).

A warm vote of thanks was given to Tony for his display.

Finally, the Wicks Medal for 1994 was presented to Fred Clark by our President, R.D. Allen, who was most surprised to hear that he was to receive a 'special' award of that same medal for all his published researches.

DWP

W.A. Page FRPS,L

SOUTH AFRICAN WEATHER STATIONS

Our Editor sent me an extract from a non-philatelic publication *Antarctic* for December 1966 as it makes mention of happenings on the islands of Marion and Gough, both of which operate weather stations for the South African Weather Bureau.

Both islands have always had an interest to me, especially with their links with my South African maritime mail and Tristan da Cunha collections. Very little has been published in *The Springbok* on the philatelic activities connected to the Weather Bureau and the extract from this old publication has reminded me of a number of interesting events connected with the weather stations.

Both islands and the Antarctic base SANAE were however covered in an article published in *The Springbok* in the March/April 1983 issue (pp. 28-36), which dealt with the philatelic mail from the South African survey ship 'Agulhas'. This listed the first 25 voyages and illustrated the multi-cachets adorning the covers. Currently this continues, with voyage numbers up in the eighties.

What follows is not intended as a comprehensive survey of the mails of the weather stations, but a few random events which although not receiving much publicity in the philatelic press, did in some instances generate related philatelic activity.

Marion Island

Marion Island was annexed by the South Africans at the end of 1947, following which the first weather station was set up. The full story of this expedition is graphically related in a book written by the only journalist who was allowed to accompany the expedition. The philatelic background has also been published in various journals, the latest being *The Stamp Lover*, journal of the National Philatelic Society (October 1989).

The island was eventually provided with its own handstamp which was first used on 24 March 1958. This generated a vast amount of philatelic mail causing considerable pressures on the staff of the Meteorological Station who at most numbered only ten people. A new design canceller was introduced on 31 March 1962.

Antarctic makes brief mention of a disastrous fire which practically destroyed the main hut used by the staff. This took place on the night of 25-26 June 1966. It is known that both the South African Navy and Air Force were involved in the clearing up, as was the survey ship 'R.S.A.' which delivered material for the renovation. Identifiable mail from this event has not been recorded — no doubt due to the destruction of the handstamp in the fire.

A replacement handstamp was provided in readiness for the 1967 relief and provisioning voyage of the 'R.S.A.'. The replacement handstamp differs from the original, having thicker letters which are set much closer to the outer ring (Figure 1).

Gough Island

Gough Island was the subject of a scientific survey from November 1955 to May 1956, although the island was 'claimed' and declared a dependency of St. Helena in 1938. The 1955 expedition was well publicised but the philatelic commemoration was via Tristan da Cunha rather than South Africa.

A temporary meteorological office was set up for the expedition and this proved so useful to the South African Weather Bureau that at the end of the expedition they took over the unit and provided their own staff.

A post office was established for the expedition and this was closed on 27 May 1957 and the handstamp (Figure 2) withdrawn. Since that date mails from the island were only identified by use of the Weather Office cachet (Figure 3).

About the same time as the Marion Island fire, Gough suffered severe gales which destroyed one of the small stores housing building materials, etc.; luckily however without more serious consequences.

Some three years later however, in July 1969, a sad disaster befell the Gough Island meteorologists. It began when two of their number decided to climb up into the interior of the inhospitable island. When they failed to return the alarm was raised and help summoned from Cape Town.

The South African warship S.A.S. 'Simon van der Stel' responded and a naval search party landed. Meantime the British Fleet Auxiliary tanker 'Ennerdale' embarked ten Tristan Islanders to support the search, as they were familiar with the terrain of Gough. The then Island Administrator, Ian Fleming, also accompanied the party, having also responsibility for Gough Island.

The South African survey ship 'R.S.A.' was also diverted to the island. The naval party had spent a week searching without success. On arrival the Tristan party were winched from the 'Ennerdale' to the deck of the 'Simon van der Stel' by helicopter, and thence on to the island.

The following morning after a two hour climb up to 1500 feet, the rescuers found the bodies of the two men, and they were buried where found, under the supervision of the Tristan Administrator. A sad day for all concerned. (See map Figure 4.)

The tanker departed, having refuelled the 'Simon van der Stel'.

The tragedy was reported in the South African press but perhaps the most graphic account was provided by Ian Fleming and sent to a reporter friend on the *Orcadian*, a weekly paper published in the Orkneys. Ian Fleming was formerly a head-teacher at Flotta and first took over the Education post on Tristan from which he became Administrator (May 1969 – December 1974). It is interesting to record that the 'Simon van der Stel' was formerly H.M.S. 'Whelp' on which the Duke of Edinburgh served during World War II. (The Duke visited Gough in January 1957.)

Examples of identifiable mail from this incident are almost unknown. However a small number of philatelic covers were prepared for the 'R.S.A.' visit, originating from Capt. M.T. Scott of the Tristan fishery vessel 'Tristania' (Figure 5).

Covers also exist bearing the cachet of the 'Simon van der Stel' and the signatures of the ten islanders, and Ian Fleming. This was also probably organised by Capt. Scott – I have only seen one such cover (Figure 6).

Weather Ships

Another aspect of weather reporting that has not received a great deal of philatelic publicity is that of the weather ships operating in the South Atlantic to provide supplementary data to that from the island stations.

The late Capt. M.T. Scott joined one of these ships after leaving the 'Tristania' and the 1969/70 seasons saw two weather ships in action: the S.S. 'Edwin Cook' and the S.W.F.H. 'Hughes' on which Capt. Scott served, and in keeping with his previous philatelic activities provided a small number of suitably cacheted covers (Figures 7 & 8).

The late Capt. Scott was an avid collector and was responsible for much philatelic documentation of events in the South Atlantic but unlike some of his predecessors he did not perpetrate bogus material or produce vast quantities to flood the market. He always said

that he did these to preserve a record and for the benefit of his friends! He will however be remembered for the important part he played in the initial rescue of the Tristan population when the volcano erupted in October 1961.

Diego Garcia

Finally, a Weather Station that wasn't! Another area considered for the establishment of a weather station (and a flying-boat base) was the atoll of Diego Garcia, mid-way between Mauritius and Ceylon. For reasons that do not appear to have ever been explained the project was aborted at the 'eleventh hour'.

It was reported in the South African press that a ship had sailed from Durban on 3 October 1950 with the personnel and equipment on board to establish the base. The ship however returned and the philatelic mail on board was handed over to the Durban Post Office for disposal.

Covers with any endorsement were crossed through and put into the normal postal system for onward despatch, bearing a Durban machine cancellation on 24 October 1950. At least one item must have been returned under cover, since it remains in 'mint' condition (Figures 9 & 10).

In 1952 an attempt was made to ascertain why the project didn't go ahead with a reply from the Department of Defence (Figure 11). Does it still remain a mystery some forty-odd years on?

Tailpiece

The special handstamps for Marion Island and SANAE were withdrawn in July 1980 following a letter from the Postmaster General, as reported in the *South African Philatelist*:

25th July 1980. I write to inform you that because of the fact that the issue of special datestamps can only be coupled to posting facilities that exist at points where the public and tourists can post articles of a philatelic nature, the Department has had occasion to review the position relating to the SANAE base and to Marion Island as neither place is accessible to the public or to tourists. In consequence, it has perforce been decided to withdraw both the SANAE and Marion Island datestamps from service forthwith.

The effect of the above decision means that in future no philatelic material whatsoever should be forwarded to Philatelic Services and Intersapa for datestamping. Items already on hand for treatment when the next sailing takes place are being returned to the senders with the appropriate explanation.

I would add that from now on mail matter handed to the Postmaster, Cape Town by the captain of the ship *S A Agulhas* on completion of the return voyage from either SANAE or Marion Island will be datestamped with a Cape Town Paquebot datestamp.

Further Reading

Marion Island

Book (non-philatelic): *No pathway here*, by John H. Marsh (1948). A full account of the annexation by the only journalist allowed to accompany the expedition.

Article: 'Annexation mails', by W.A. Page (*The Stamp Lover*, 1989). Copies of this article are available from the author for 50p in stamps.

Gough Island

Book (non-philatelic): *Mountains in the sea*, by Martin Holdgate (1958). The story of the 1955/6 expedition written a member.

Article (non-philatelic): 'The Gough Island Scientific Survey', by J.N. Heaney & M.W. Holdgate (*Geographical Journal*, 1957).

Illustrations are from the author's collection, unless otherwise shown.

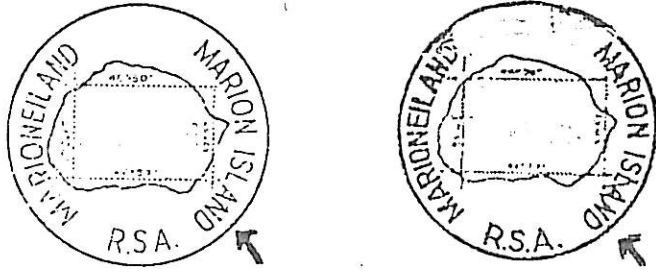


Fig.1 Marion Island handstamps
Original Replacement.

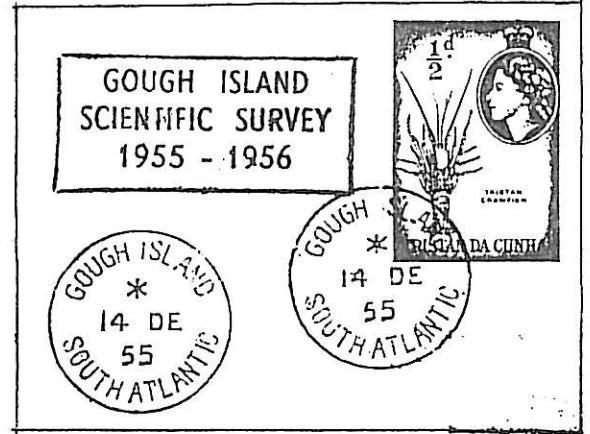


Fig.2. Gough Island Expedition h/s.

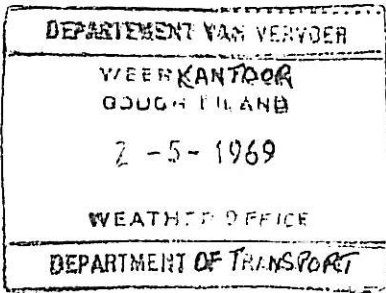


Fig.3. Gough Island
Weather Office cachet.

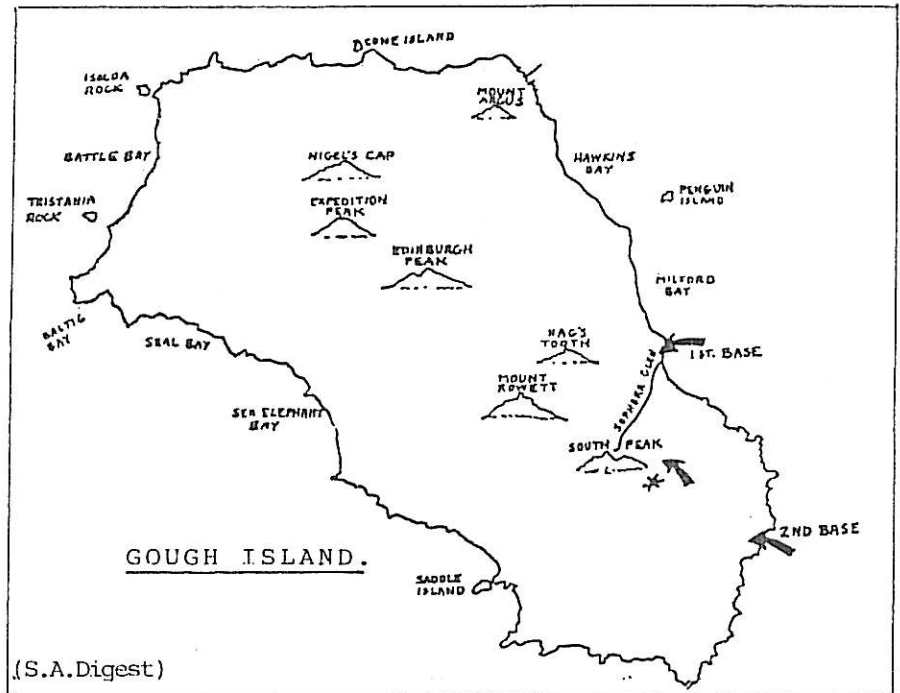


Fig.4. Map showing location of rescue bid.

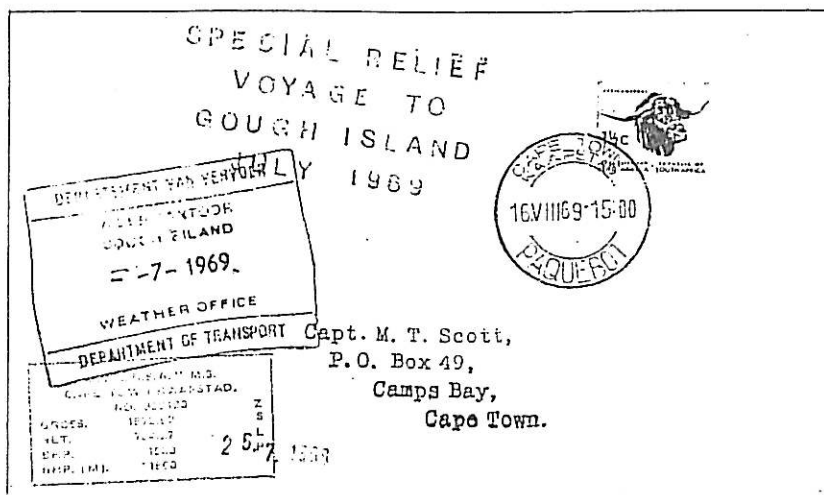


Fig.5. The "R.S.A." relief voyage to Gough.

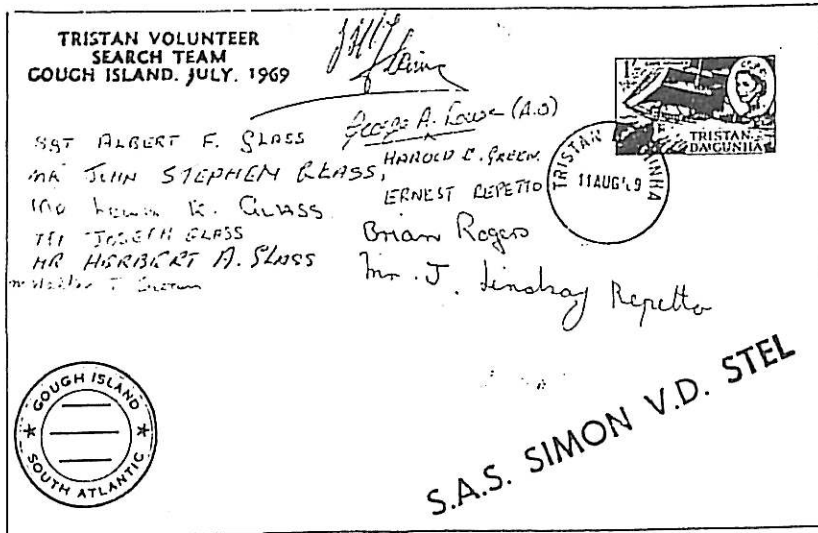


Fig.6. Gough Is. - The Tristan search team cover.

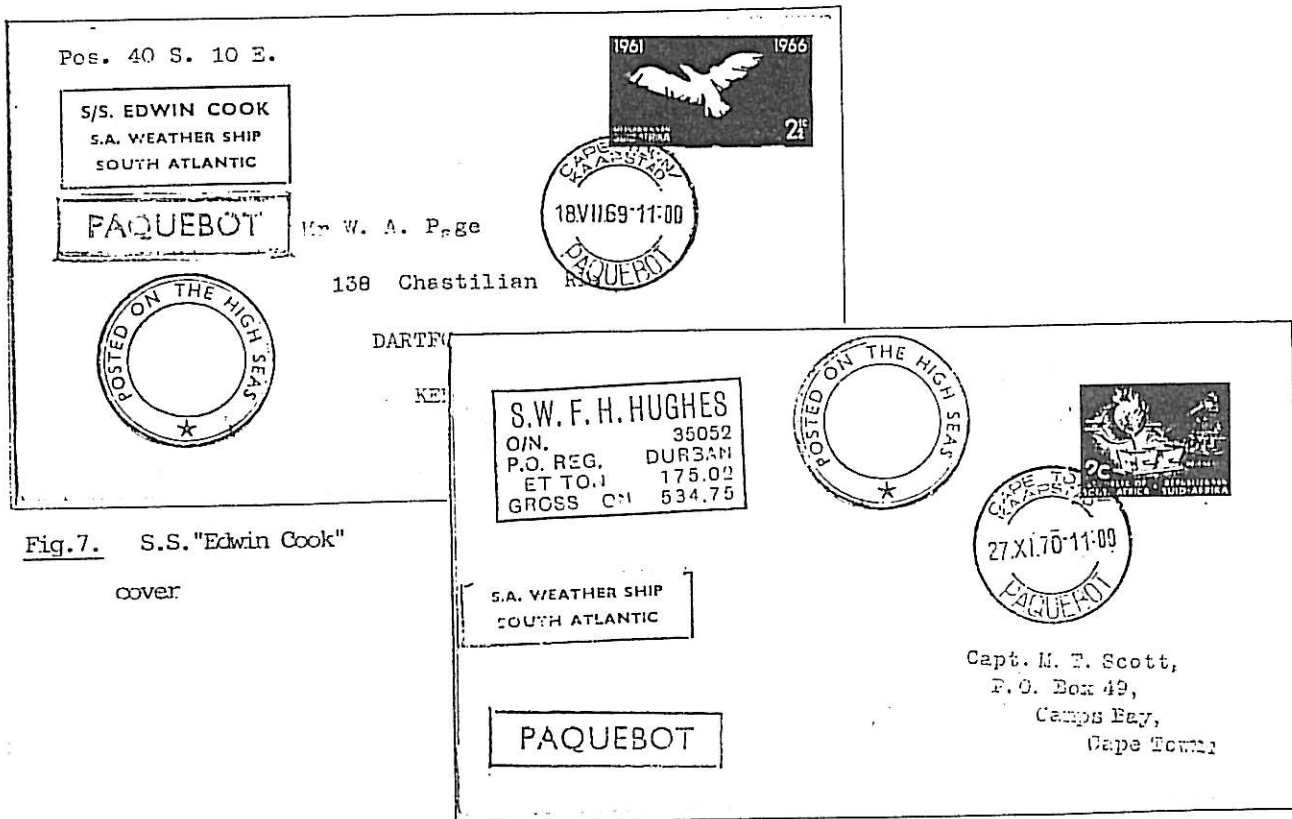
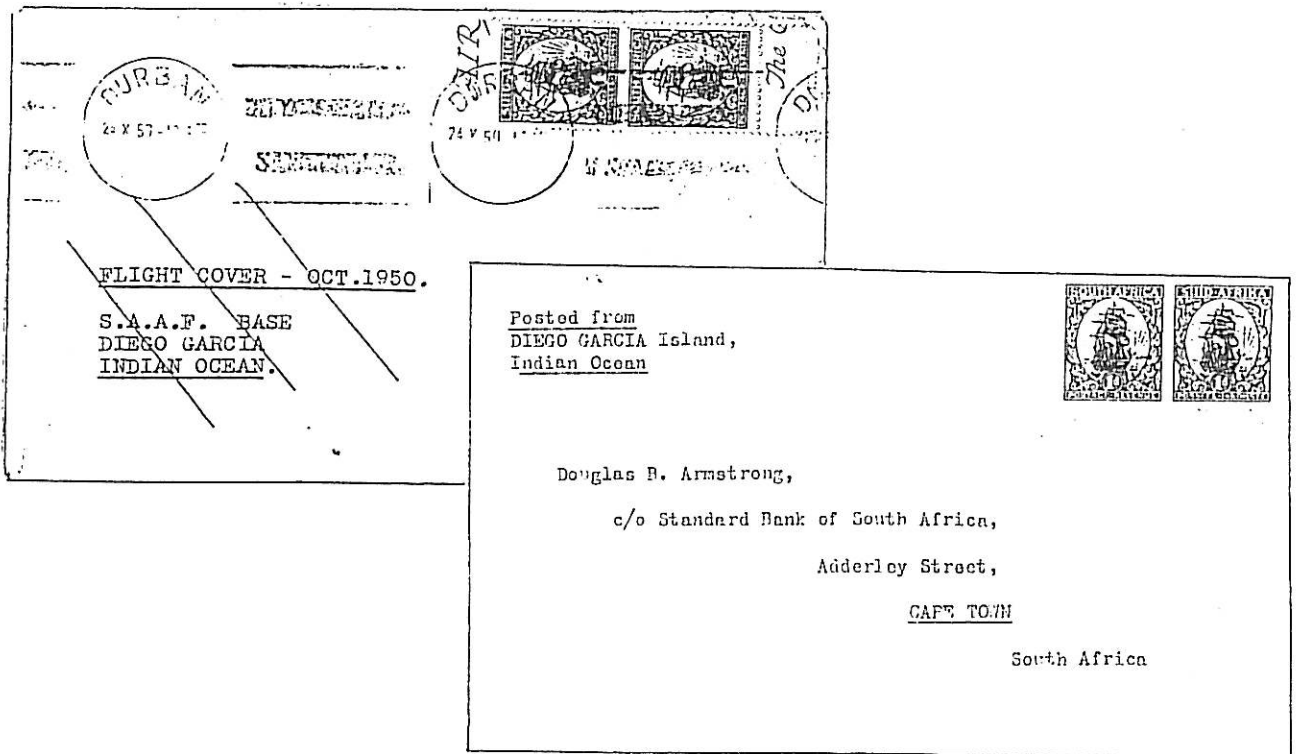
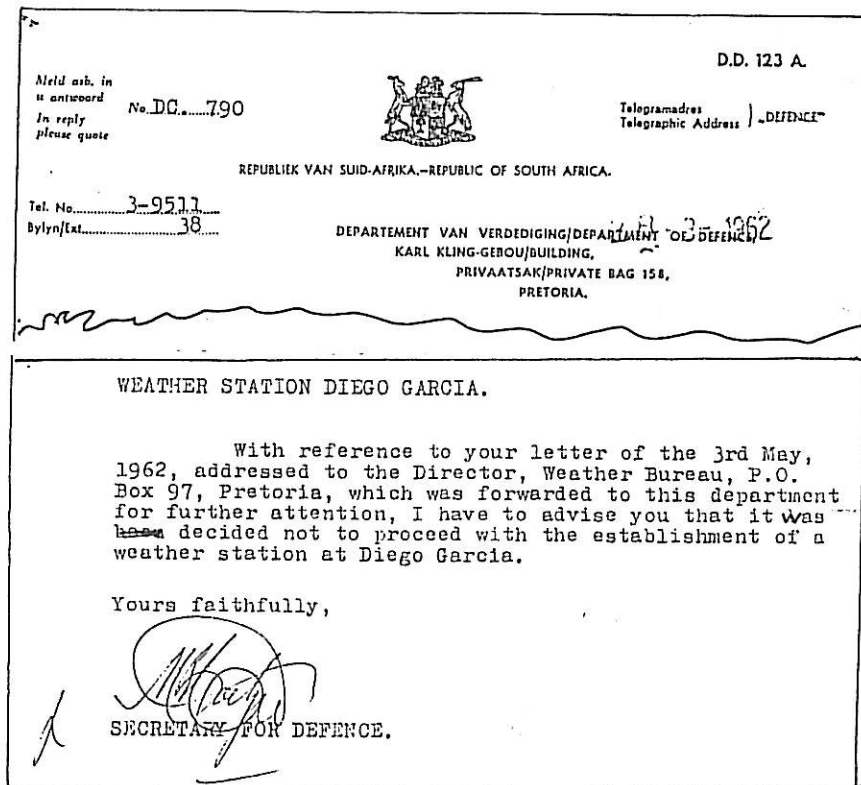


Fig.7. S.S. "Edwin Cook" cover.

Fig.8. S.W.F.H. "Highes" cover.



Figs.9 & 10. - The returned mail from the aborted Diego Garcia voyage.



28th. March 1951 -- The Ministry of Defence letter Fig.11

POSTAL STATIONERY — POSTCARDS

The Springbok, Vol. 42 (4), pp.76-7, has a report of the meeting in Carlisle on 24 September 1994. One of the subjects mentioned was postcards, and the apparent lack of material... Please read on.

Of late I have attempted to do research on the Republican Postcards, as I thought I had a reasonable quantity for a catalogue listing. Alas, that is not so.

The extraction of the Government's listings was taken from our magazine and other sources and as such for the 1½c it had 29 separate and distinct orders over the period from 2 May 1961 to 29 March 1971; of the 3c, from 29 March 1971 to 21 September 1979; the 5c, from 11 January 1980 to 3 February 1982; the Prepaid Printed Postage Paid, from 29 April 1991 to date, the 3c has 20 and the PP 7 to date (October 1994).

This listing of the 1½c and the 3c gives very little means of true identification of the various printings, and my holding is 1½c NONE (probably sold with the Union issues in error); of the 3c some 40 packets of mixed quantities from 20 to 10, of the 5c 25 packets plus a 5c with 3c postage stamp; insufficient to make a catalogue listing. However, all material gleaned will be passed to Tony Chilton who has a great interest in postal history, which implies that all listings I hold will be passed to him. A South African Catalogue listing, now extinct, lists only 6 of the 1½c...

The printing of postcards during this period is 40/32/36; however the present policy of the South African Post Office (PLC???) is the sale of postcards as singletons; my South African correspondent travels from Post Office to Post Office to *try* to get me sets of cards.

What shall I do with my holding? Offer it for sale either in the Exchange Packet or the Society Auction, which may help some of our South African membership.

PS. Please do not ask for details of the holding. Yesterday I received a packet, with four lots of six, two are identical with a previous set of 10.

RDA

THE UNION STAMP DEPOT / P.O. BOX 2185, CAPE TOWN

In April 1929 postage stamps overprinted Official /Offisieel were made available to the public and were valid for normal postal use. However, no announcement was made and there was no Philatelic Agency in those days and I presume overprinted stamps could only be obtained from the G.P.O. Pretoria on request.

I have a cover dated Cape Town 12 July 1929 addressed to a stamp company in Birmingham, England, franked with two 1d Pretoria typo. overprinted stamps from Set 2. The flap is rubber stamped with the above legend in two lines. Presumably it was (?is) the name of a philatelic firm, and nothing whatsoever to do with the G.P.O., but can anyone definitely confirm my opinion?

Patrick H. Williams FRPS,L

SOUTH AFRICA + SWA + NAMIBIA + HOMELANDS

A selection always in stock, all grades listed, um, mm, og etc. Mostly modern, some earlier available. Free lists on request, please advise particular interests. Wants lists welcome, new issues supplied. A few larger blocks of modest stamps available for South Africa from KG VI period, details on request.

TRIMARK STAMPS, PO Box 401, NORWICH NR1 3UL

R D Allen

THE RSA FIRST DEFINITIVE 2½c

In the past I have written about the usefulness of stamp catalogues, the good and the indifferent. My last effort to correct a catalogue has borne fruit. Several, and I do mean several, errors/misprints have been corrected.

In the past six months or so I have been working on the RSA 1st definitives, the 2½c, my intention for the Exchange Packets, and have been searching for information about this particular issue and perhaps for the other values, for pleasure and perhaps even profit, if only in knowledge.

The watermarks seem to cause me a great deal of time, as although the SACC states 'RSA' it does not give shape or size. In one of my older catalogues compiled by the South African Stamp Study Circle, published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa and a 'copyright' publication which was not continued after the death of the compiler, Dr H.J. Raubenheimer, there is set out more detail which is reproduced in this article. The single RSA mark is the same size. Due acknowledgement is made to this publication which is worth acquiring if seen at auction or sale.

For examination of this 2½c stamp I have used:

(a) a 'Morley-Bright' Inst-a-Tector for the wmk's; this is a handy item, not cumbersome, and can go into a jacket pocket. No liquids are needed;

(b) a small but useful U.V. lamp, name not known. Its markings are: 220-230V---50 Hz, other markings thereon: 10W over a small square with a smaller one therein, MODEL MD-108V3 over 'NUR FOR WECHSELSTROM'. Bottom right outside: 'UV-test'. Overall measurements are 7" x 4", or 180 x 120mm.

Watermarks

I have found a few with a much larger formation, nothing has been seen or states the size of the wmk. The size of the single wmk is the same as the singles on the multiple, that is repeated to emphasize the fact.

When I started to sort out this issue, I began with the wmk's, two piles, one for each main type, then sorting out Type I with Type II. In the matter of the Type I's — but before that differentiate the 1st issue with the 'redrawn':

1st: 'VAN': the 'V' is above the 'A' (first one) of 'AFRIKA'.
Redrawn: 'VAN': the 'A' is above 'IK' of 'AFRIKA'.

Now Type I (SACC 201); faint lines on the outline of the building, (a) without stepping stones in front of the door and (b) with the stones.

U.V.'s

Some had a 'pinkish' back, slightly produced but without the green; see *The Springbok*, Vol. 42 (1), p.13, 'One Swallow'. As stated by David and others no decision was given as to the cause. I sent the items to South Africa. I quote the reply, thanks to Stanley Naylor. '(a) NOT aniline ink; not used these days; (b) NOT Xylol, not used these days as much as in the past; (c) POSSIBLY Swiss paper as Harrison does not let the colour through; (d) Most likely cause, these stamps have been tested many times to show up the watermarks using various chemicals and the chemicals have caused the ink to dissolve into the paper and therefore to show when viewed from the back' (see view of Mr James, below — Ed.).

COLOUR

Descriptions are various, and some not even a colour, but I have access to Stanley Gibbons *Stamp Colour Guide*, which was mentioned in South African publications that they would use it to describe the colour of issued stamps, but with such a variety of colours, shades and what have you, that, in my opinion, was a dream, and *Methuen Handbook of Colour*, has five pages each of 42 shades, etc., pages 14 to 18 inclusive. I assure you that I shall not go so deep, but according, if possible, to the listed shades.

Under the UV lamp, colour changes, and one example will explain, the 'violet' turned out to be 'pink', and not floral.

Watermarks, reverting back, the SACC 291; states S3; 291a H3; 291d tête-bêche reversed, H3, now look at the illustration and come to your own conclusions.

Finally: I do hope this has made these 2½c stamps easier for identification or complete abandonment except for a straight run of the first and the redrawn issues. Your suggestions would be appreciated more so if you are of the opinion I am in error.

RDA

Response from G. James of Brackley

A distribution, in a distinct shade of bright violet, was made in January 1966 and printed from cylinders 12/11. The mint examples in my collection show pinkish violet smudges on both face and back of the stamps.

No other printings of this value show a similar feature.

Distributions from cylinders 12/11 were replaced in April 1966 by those from cylinders S27/'60'.

It would be interesting to hear of dated postmarks of these 'colourful' items.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

[From SASSC Handbook]

STAMP COLOURS.

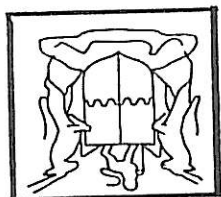
The sequence in which the colours are printed on the stamps can be determined by the order, reading from left to right, in which the cylinder numbers appear on the sheet's margin, for all denominations except the 1c in which case the grey colour is printed first and then the red.

WATERMARK.

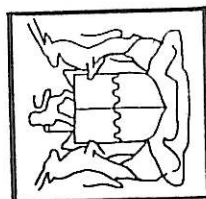
Up to the time of preparation of this catalogue, two main types of paper have been used for the printing of the Republic's stamps:- unwatermarked and watermarked with the Republic's Coat of Arms in skeleton form. The latter, illustrated, is referred to throughout the list as "Arms" watermark, and should be considered to be in the upright position unless otherwise stated.



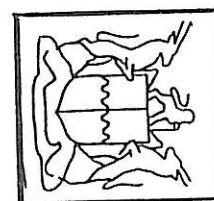
Upright



Inverted



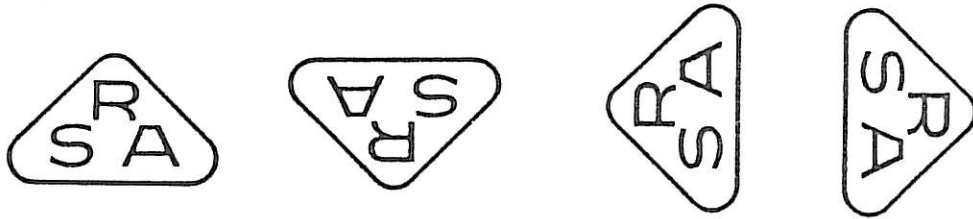
"Facing" left



"Facing" right

The (Multiple) "Arms" watermark, looking at printed surface of the stamp.

At this stage, information has been received that tenders have been called for a supply of stamp printing paper which will bear a new watermark, - "RSA" in a truncated triangle.



Upright

Inverted

"Facing" left

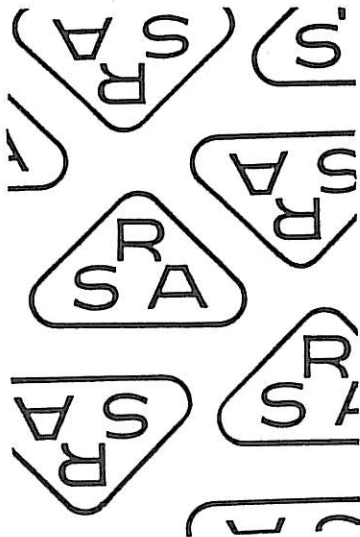
"Facing" right

The (Multiple) "RSA" watermark, looking at the printed surface of the stamp.

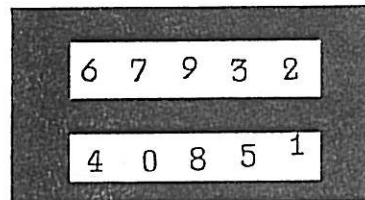
FURTHER EXPLANATORY NOTES

PAPERS

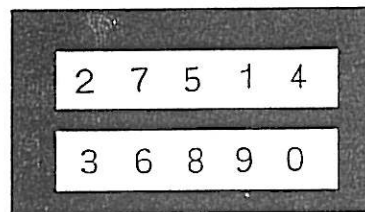
There are two RSA watermarked papers in use. The one, Harrison, has the marks on the sheet all facing in the one direction; the other, Swiss, has the marks in tête-bêche formation as illustrated here.



Tête-bêche RSA watermark



Type I



Type II

Sheet numbers

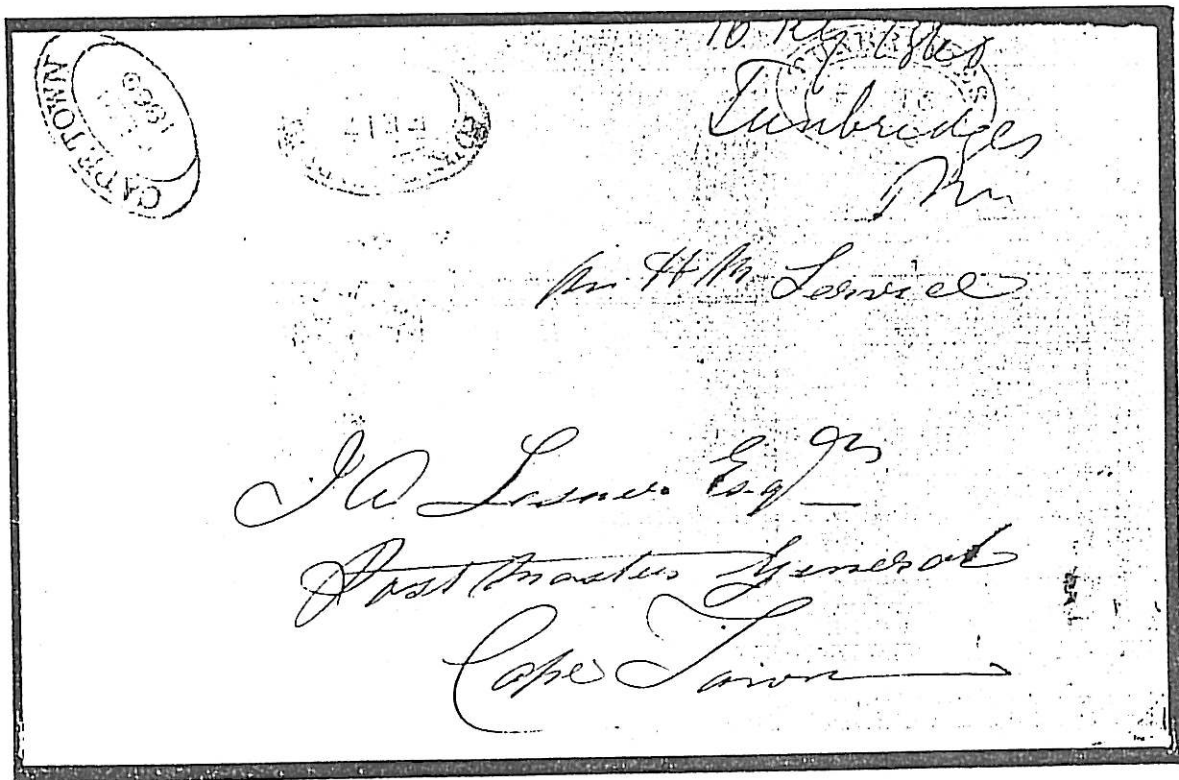
The watermarks on both papers may show very clearly or they may be entirely absent, or with any of the degrees between. They are all described as RSA watermarked paper. The Swiss paper can be distinguished from the Harrison by the printed side being slightly lighter and the gummed side slightly darker. They are described as coated papers and they are chalky surfaced. They are both fluorescent under the ultra-violet, or "black" light and then the two types are even more readily distinguished from each other; the gummed side of the Harrison shows white while that of the Swiss is coloured, from a dull brown to a mottled blue.

THE OVAL DATE STAMP OF 1853

A wrapper to J.A. Le Sueur Esq., Post Master General, Cape Town with manuscript 'On H.M. Service' and 16 May 1860 Tunbridges.

Despatch handstamp in red 'TUNBRIDGES 16 Feb 1860'. The only recorded copy of this mark.

Transit oval strikes of PORT ELIZABETH 17 Feb 1860 and CAPE TOWN 21 Feb 1860.



Tunbridges Post Office (Port Elizabeth) listed only from 1856 to 1862.
Classified extremely rare.

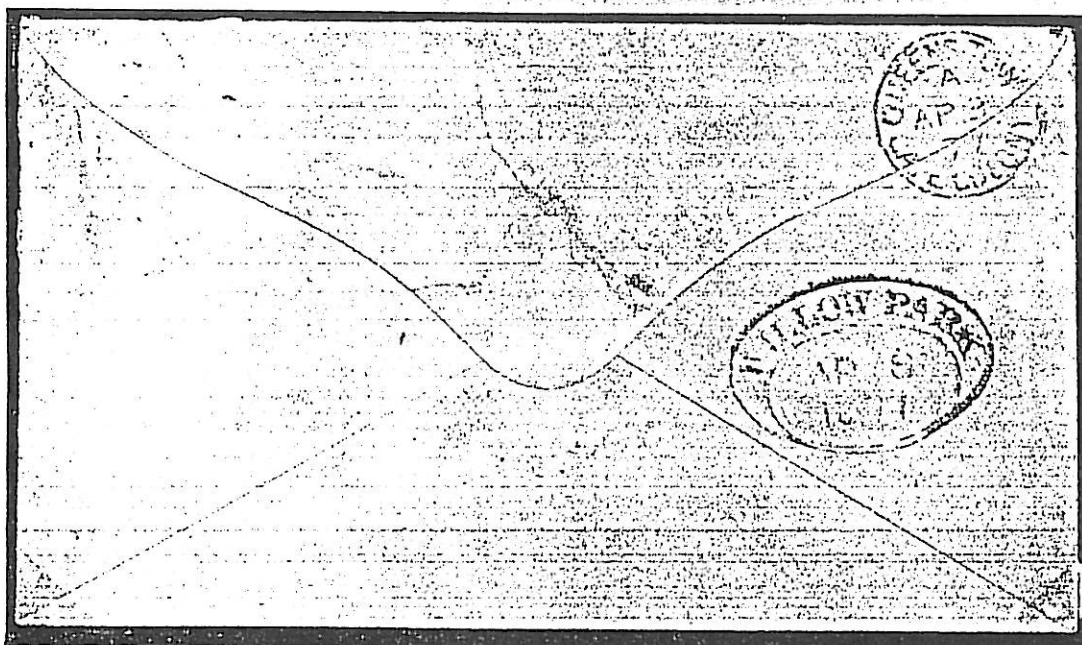
(Page width makes it necessary to reduce the item to 80% - Ed.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please see page 28 and more importantly read the request for VOLUNTEERS for two important posts in your Society. It may be that you would prefer to restructure the way THE SPRINGBOK is produced, and also the content and style. TELL the Honorary Secretary your constructive views.
D.W.Painter.Hon Editor

THE DATED OVAL HANDSTAMP OF 1853

An 1877 envelope with a fine strike of the UNRECORDED OVAL
HANDSTAMP OF WILLOW PARK 8 April 1877 – one other copy known.



Willow Park P.O. recorded from 1868 to 1884. A Deputy Postmaster was appointed on 18 Feb 1868. The Office was on the road between Queenstown and Dordrecht. Office closed from 1 Jan 1884.

Postmark classified : Very Rare.

Athol Murray

OTHER SOCIETIES

Alec Page has met up with an acquaintance who is now a member of a society called The Revenue Society of Great Britain, formed in 1990. The Hon. Secretary is Tony Hall, 53a High Street, Whitwell, Hitchin, Herts SG4 8AJ.

Revenues have now achieved more recognition as such, even now in the competition field, and this Society does encompass world-wide revenues in all aspects.

DWP – Ed.

Bill Branney

The 10 cent stamp by Hein Botha from the 5th Definitive Issue showing the flaws found on the DIDYMAOTUS design

10c Succulent. Plates – 1949-1950-1951-1952. 'A' Pane. Magnification x6. Original printing.

- 1/1 Black dot in front of 'H' of Hein.
- 1/7 Blue dot under second 'D' of Didymaotus.
- 2/1 Black speck above 'H' of Botha.
- 2/2 Speck in front of 'D' of Didy.
- 2/3 Black speck 17/4.5mm.
- 2/4 Large spot above 'O' of Didymaotus.
- 2/5 Black spot behind last 8 of date.
- 2/8 Black dot lower perf line (midway).
Black dot top perf line 1/26.
- 3/2 Black speck in stone above Lapid.
- 3/3 Tiny blue speck 3.5mm above 'AO' of Didymaotus.
- 3/4 Broken 'R' in Lapidiformis.
- 3/5 Blue speck below 'D' of Didymaotus.
Black speck below 'I' of Hein.
- 3/6 Dot top curve of 'C' of 10c.
White patch in curve of 'B' of Botha.
- 3/7 Crack in lower part of 'B' of Botha.
- 3/9 Fuzzy 'U' in Didymaotus. Black dot 16.5/2.5mm.
- 4/3 Tiny blue dot behind 'A' of RSA.
- 4/5 Small black dot above '1' of date.
- 4/6 Small black dot above 'AO' of Didymaotus.
- 5/2 Malformed 'I' of Didymaotus.
- 5/10 Tiny break in 'B' of Botha.
Small black dot above and behind date.
- 6/5 Purple dot above and right of 'S' of RSA.
- 6/7 Black dot under '0' of 10c.
- 6/10 White line in 'F' of Lapidiformis.
- 7/1 Tiny black dot under 'A' of Lapidiformis.
- 7/7 Small black dot in front of 'D' of Didymaotus.
Lines in last '8' of date.
- 7/8 Blue dot 6mm right of 'A' of RSA.
- 8/2 Lines in first 'I' of Lapidiformis.
- 8/10 Dot below '0' of 10c.
- 9/8 Blue dot under '0' of 10c.
- 9/9 Blue dot above flower 4mm from perfs.
- 9/10 Blue dot between 'I' and 'F' of Lapidiformis.
- 10/4 Specks above Botha (near stone).
- 10/6 Specks in 'B' of Botha.

[Whilst this concludes his original lists, Bill Branney has continued his studies of this issue in the long dark winter evenings, so there will be more to follow. – Ed.]

UNION COILS: A SLIGHT CORRECTION

In *The Springbok* 42 (4), p.86, it is stated that I have at least two of every issue of the Coils of the Union and Republic. Alas, that statement did not last long, for during December 1994 I received a Philatelic Auction Catalogue with a very nice horizontal pair of the Union Monocoloureds illustrated with a right marginal cyclometer marking. The 'blurb' stated that it was *one* of two horizontal pairs and gave the estimated price, which was well beyond the limits of my pocket. Unfortunately it did not copy well, but to me it seems to be the Union Catalogue R.24 and the screening is visible so it could be from the first printings, 105 in the S.A.C.S.

The question is, was it leaked or even presented? I feel it was leaked to a stamp collector as the margin was cut to give a complete cyclometer number. The photocopy is not too clear, but the coloured copy from the auction has been mounted in that particular album.

This is not the first time that printed matter has needed to be corrected as soon as possible.

RDA

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

Members, eyeing S.A. Lot No. 1851 in Western Auctions' sale of 5.11.94, may have been intrigued by the description of one item therein: 1930-45 1d tête-bêche pair in strip of 6 rejoined *but it is an original T/B strip* (italics mine).

Having purchased this mixed lot, I can include herewith a photocopy of the item described above.

To me it comprises two half booklet panes, at some stage of their preparation, joined by a stamp-hinge; also, the selvages have been multi-punctured to take the binding threads.

However: stamp colours are identical; the watermark heads appear to 'line-up' accurately.

Therefore, members, please, how was the original collating collector some 60 years ago so certain that the item was as described above?

I would have assumed that the printed reel/roll (cylinder engraving as G. Ward, *The Ship Penny*, Fig. 12, p. 26) was slit continuously to give three reels of booklet-pane images which were then intermittently chopped T.D. into individual panes — maybe via intermediate 'sheets'.

Any unseparated tête-bêche pairs would have been acquired euphemistically 'by accident' at the stage prior to primary slitting (full-width reel ends?); the rarity being indicated by the SG Part 1 pricing (£850).

I would welcome any comments of members — maybe the vendor is a member?

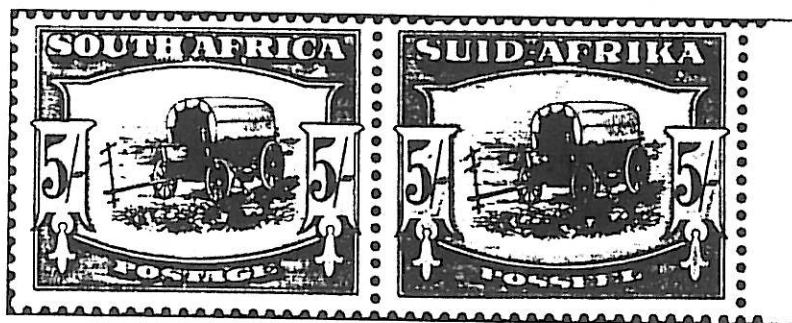


Inverted watermark. Ships engraved slightly out of register with frames (see SAHC 1979 p. 285)

John Philpott

5/- HYPHENATED ISSUE 1 — SAC/H 52

The handbook (in the last two editions) lists a cylinder variety – v. 4 Broken yoke. No position or illustration is given. Can anyone please tell me the position and also what the flaw looks like? Does the break go right through the yoke? How far is it from the pin? How wide is the break? I have a copy (Afrikaans) with a clear nick in the yoke but I'm reluctant to call it v.4 without some conviction that it is.



Broken Jukskei.

Patrick H. Williams

ELEVENTH ROW FLAWS OF THE PENNY SHIP

TWO MEMBERS ADDRESS DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF A FAMILIAR TOPIC...

The majority of the 18 issues which, together, make up the hyphenated series of the 1d Ship are distinct enough to be distinguished one from the other. Or become so once variations in size, screening and shade are summoned to the assistance of ocular evidence.

Two areas, however, may give rise to a little confusion. The first is in separating Issues 12, 13 and 14, where deteriorating cylinders alter, sometimes radically, the appearance of individual stamps. The second is Issues 16, 17, 18 and 19 when the life of each Issue was as short as a sergeant major's temper, thus limiting the researcher's material.

This short note is addressed to those who are uncertain as to whether the stamp they are looking at belongs to issue 14. Of course, the easiest method would be to identify a cylinder flaw, but advocates of Murphy's Law will attest how rarely this occurs in real life. Then again, a clear postmark date would help, but is seldom there.

In such circumstances the presence of an eleventh row repetition flaw (ERR flaw) could prove decisive. Now the Handbook provides an excellent explanation of this phenomenon but for anyone who lacks the bible the origin of ERR flaws lies with the inking roller. This – to state the obvious – picks up ink from a trough prior to the latter's transference to the printing cylinder. In so doing tiny hard impurities may be drawn up too; and these become embedded in the roller. In turn the printing cylinder is scarred. However, because the circumference of the inking roller measures only five sixths that of the printing cylinder the scars are repeated in six different places, each separated by a distance equal to one sixth of the circumference of the printing cylinder. In layman's terms this means the same flaw will appear on stamps eleven rows apart but in the same vertical plane. (See the diagram opposite.)

ERR flaws are not common. I believe I am right in saying that, apart from Issue 14, they are to be found only in Issue 8 of the Ship (the well-known 'St. Elmo's Light') and the ½d and 1d of the War Effort, Bantam series.

Quite why Issue 14 should have proved so vulnerable is uncertain, although the coincidence of the outbreak of war may have had something to do with it. Suffice it to say, they surface quite early in the life of the cylinders, to judge by dated copies in my possession; and all appear as black smudges, emanating as they do from the Head cylinder. I appreciate the Handbook also lists a red 'auditor's tick mark' in six equidistant positions on the right hand margin but as people rarely include the selvedge when posting a letter I have not included it.

Francis Eustace

The nature and cause of these flaws are well documented, e.g. SAHC 1979, p. 8. The flaws should total six per printing cylinder, i.e. per sheet.

The most popular occurrence involves the Issue 8 unhyphenated rotogravure 1d (SG 43d).

Four of the flaws thereon are described as 'St. Elmo's Light' (6/3; 17/3) and 'Red dot in sea' (2/3; 13/3): where are the other two?

Simple arithmetic and measurement led me to the conclusion that these other red marks should be found c.1mm below the top frame of 10/3 (and 21/3!!).

By sheer good luck, I have an authenticated 10/3 (in pair with 10/2: V9) and, lo! and behold, there was the red spot halfway up the upright of the 'R' of 'AFRICA'. QED.

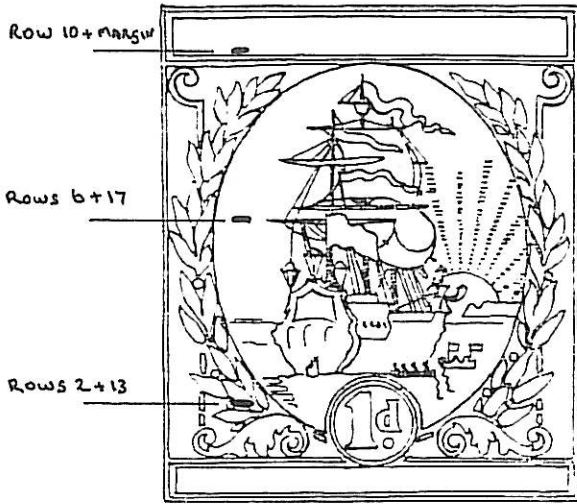
Can anyone confirm red-spot No. 6 on '21/3', i.e. on the blank 'stamp' below 20/3?

I am certain that my discovery must have been known for over 50 years but I cannot remember having seen it mentioned. I cannot find it in the penny bible (or is it just an old testament?) by Gordon Ward.

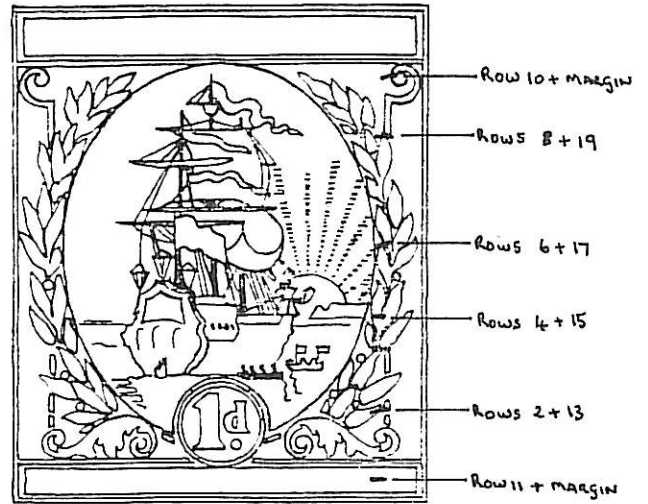
(E.W. Merriman's extensive study did not apparently touch upon this issue — Ed.)

John Philpott

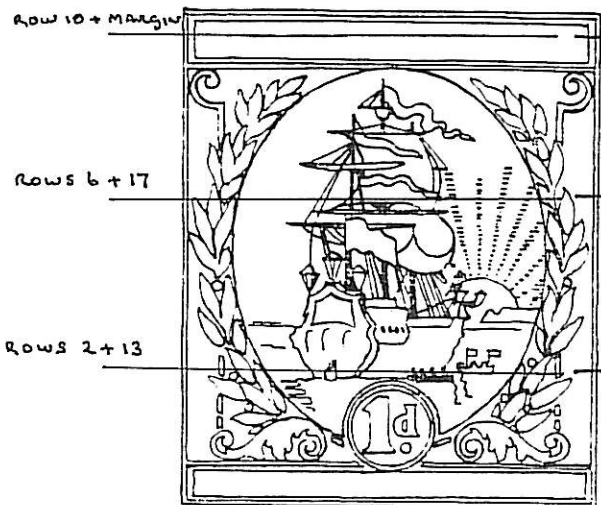
ELEVENTH ROW REPETITION FLAWS
ISSUE 14



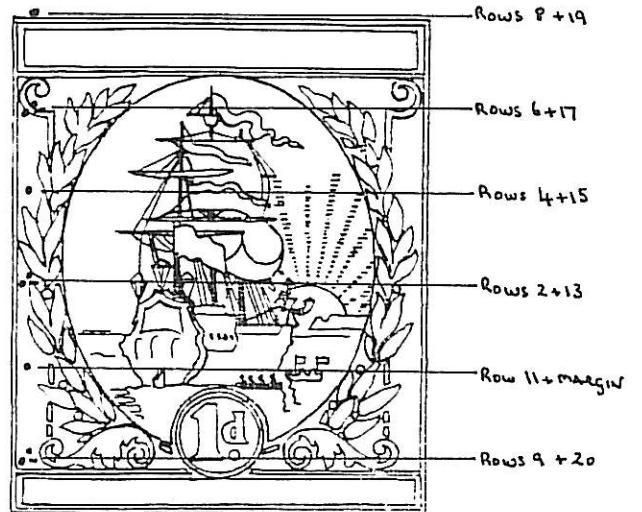
COLUMN 3



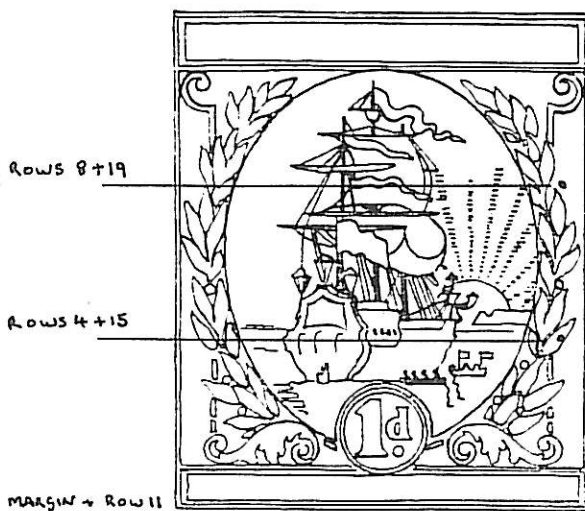
COLUMN 4



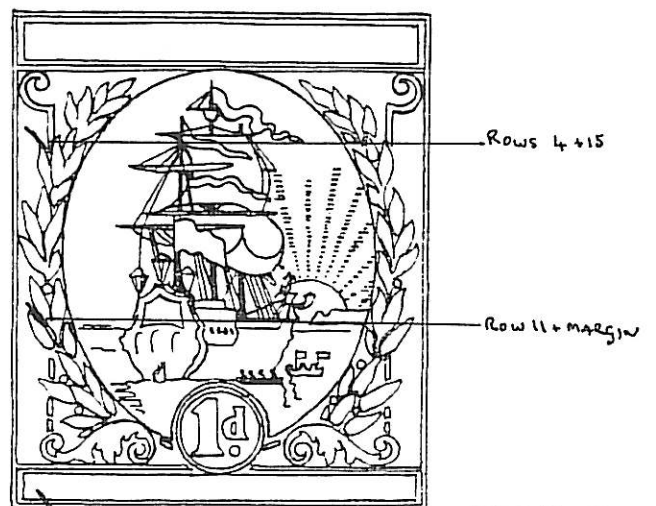
COLUMN 5



COLUMN 8



COLUMN 10



COLUMN 12

WIND OF CHANGE??

The South African Stamp Study Circle enjoyed the privilege of a discussion with the new Senior Manager at Philatelic Services, South Africa, at a meeting of that Society earlier this year, and we are indebted to that Society for the following extract from their *Newsletter* for February 1995. The highlights of the discussion with Mr Franco Frescura are stated to be as follows:

- 1 Items either produced or promoted by Philatelic Services which did not have a specific function, and resulted in exploitation of collectors intentionally or otherwise would be abandoned.
- 2 Commemoratives would probably be single stamp issues of standardised mail rate (i.e. 50c). This would promote the theme of the stamp within the country and also reduce the cost to collectors.
- 3 There would be more special issues (c.25 per year).
- 4 Special issues to be available for longer (1 year)
- 5 Special issues were poorly controlled in the past with regard to distribution and use at many post offices – definitives were generally preferred by post office staff. This situation to be addressed.
- 6 First and Second class mail or equivalent to be looked into.
- 7 Were 1c and 2c denominations really necessary – multiples of 5c probably better.
- 8 What to do with excess unused commemoratives. Franco suggested overprinting the unpopular values with current letter rate. Not well received by the Post Office.
- 9 A fourth Readers Digest strip would probably go ahead, but for future issues, Franco has recommended a single stamp of current standardised mail, with an advert in the margin for Readers Digest. This is done in the UK for Boots. The whole subject is controversial. The Post Office has a large quantity of Readers Digest I strips and Franco invited suggestions on how to dispose of these. Many members agreed that they should be available on a limited basis to subscribers, possibly in a pack of three with the other two issues.
- 10 Major errors to be scrupulously hunted out at printing works and depots and destroyed.
- 11 Full sheets would still be made available to societies for plating. To facilitate this, a certain number of sheets (e.g. 1 in 10,000) would be set aside for study.
- 12 All stamps except definitives might be issued in sheetlets of 10. Post Office staff apparently prefer this format to any other, and it is successfully being used in Namibia and other countries. Collectors would certainly not be encouraged to collect complete sheetlets, and printing information like cylinder numbers etc. would only occupy a small portion of the sheet (e.g. 4 stamps or even fewer). The sheetlet format would also mean that Philatelic Services would not waste so many stamps when they removed the cylinder block – this was a big problem before.
- 13 Most printing information on commemoratives (e.g. cyl. nos.) is not actually of any use to the Printers and some, like the colour bars, are a big nuisance. Nevertheless they will be retained in the interest of continuity. What about putting all the data under one stamp? Bar codes would be added to the margin near the cylinder number.
- 14 Sheetlets will be printed six up.
- 15 Definitives would probably be issued in sheetlets of 20.
- 16 Franco would like to see R1 as the highest denomination. This is not generally seen as practical, but his gesture to keep our costs down is appreciated!
- 17 A new definitive next year (one year early).
- 18 An alternative for high values is being considered, such as the adhesive labels from Australia where the value is laser printed on demand. These labels are very attractive, and much nicer than a till slip.

- 19 There still needs to be improved clarity on Issues, Printings, Reruns and Reprints and similar terms, as Franco would like some of these to be accurately reflected on the sheets.
- 20 Unnecessary markings on booklet covers to be avoided to prevent a repetition of what has occurred with current booklets, where so-called plating has occurred. There is still a large supply of booklet panes in perforated sheet format, and when these are used up, future panes would be imperforate on the outside margins, and cut up by guillotine.
- 21 Maxicards to be phased out.
- 22 FDCs should properly be called commemorative covers. These will be continued. SAA covers probably to be phased out.

Members are apparently welcome to comment to the SA Philatelic Services at 'Private Bag X505, PRETORIA 0001, South Africa. – Ed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The 1995 RSA programme was revised almost before No. 1 of *The Springbok* had reached the front doormat so I shall just state that it has been changed.

FRAMA machines have gone out from 1 December 1994. I do have some articles from Hr R. Lasar on the subject of the dangers of fraudulent marks and labels that he has found which will be published this year.

With the incorporation of the TBVC states into the Republic, there will arise the difficulty of the stamps of those territories being valid *only* within those areas and not elsewhere. How much notice will be taken of this in practice, the student will be keenly on the look-out for, no doubt. – DWP

COLLECTION DISPOSAL SALE

Alec Page tells us that the collection of Mr Peter Twiss will be in the sale held by Messrs Phillips of London on 15 June 1995.

WORKS OF REFERENCE FOR DISPOSAL,

FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE P.A.C. CATTELL

The 4 volumes of the *Encyclopedia of South African Post Offices*, by Putzel

The Maritime Marks of South Africa, with *Supplement*, by R.D. Allen

The Ship Penny, by Gordon Ward

South African Postmarks 1910-66, by Dr T.B. Berry

Handbook/Catalogue of the Union of South Africa (Tercentenary edition, 1952)

Please contact the Hon. Editor.

HAPPENINGS

David Haigh tells me that he gave a display at Lanarkshire Philatelic Society in December last as part of a 'Sports' theme evening. He presented covers for the 1976 'All Blacks' Rugby tour of South Africa, and at the same Society's Annual Exhibition at Hamilton, his covers of the 60th Anniversary of SAA were part of that event. Nice to hear what has been shown as it could stimulate more exchange. Your Hon. Editor has accepted an invitation to show South Africa to Southampton at the Unity Club, Southampton Road, Eastleigh on Tuesday 6 June 1995.

Bill Branney and Fred Clark have got their heads (and collections) together in a study of the 1c Kafferboom type II. They have reached the point where they need to study full sheets or large blocks; particularly from Cylinder 273-274 A-B-C-D.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Resignations

P. Haigh (10) D.L. Smith (281) I.A. Burniston (687)

New Members

976 E.F. Day from Rayleigh SS6 8SF. Collects Union, Homelands & Rhodesia
977 E. Bridges from 47441 Moers, Germany. Collects King's Heads & 1d Ships
978 J.L. Diss from Norwich (see notice in this issue)
979 A. Nicholson from Bridgewater. Collects Union, Airmails & TPOs.
980 P. Howard from Northampton.

Change of Address

614 H. Gardiner to Cowlinge CB8 9QQ
683 E.G.B. Bussell to Ontario K4M 1B2, Canada
973 J. Grist to London W12 8LE

PACKET NEWS

SACS PACKET/COVER ACCOUNT 1994

Sale of Stamps/Covers	4891.75	Members' Payments	4268.29
Sale of C/Books	10.90	Postage	97.96
Commission	489.02	Less Postage Recovs	40.36
			57.60
Bank Interest	46.58	Insurance	127.17
		Transfer to Gen. Fund	400.00
			4853.06
		Cash at Bank	585.19
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	5438.25		5438.25

From the foregoing you will see just how much support YOUR SOCIETY gets from the efforts of the Packet Secretary and those members who produce the goods that do sell. The request for material is repeated: do please get among the spares and unwanted areas of your accumulations (yes, we all have them) and get them along to Cumbria.

Now the stern part.

Despite an earlier reminder regarding the delays that are not explained nor apologised for, Bill Branney, as a responsible man and officer of your Society does rightfully protest that delays are still happening and do cause a considerable problem. We are all aware that the Post Office gives problems in handling and rarely explains or makes amends, so it is asked that you do observe the rules and thanks are made to those who do so.

Regarding Insurance of the Packet (please see rules of submission). When a claim is made then the rate goes up by half of one per cent. Suggest you photocopy the rules relative to Packets – enlarged even – and keep them handy.

Bill has asked me to seek agreement of members on the Packet circuit to supply him with their telephone numbers. Ordinarily we do not need them, but when he has to do a ferreting job to run down a Packet that has stalled somewhere, phone is the quickest way to solve the problem. Please consider adding your number for him on the next invoice. The Society does maintain strict confidentiality of addresses and telephone numbers where stated – officers listed are prepared for it!!

ENQUIRIES

We have always asked for an SAE from enquirers and it is with regret that this is more noticeably absent. As Editor I will acknowledge receipt of articles as it is rarely possible that your item will appear in the next issue, and I prefer to thank you anyway.

DWP