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# \*\*\*\*\**FORERUNNERS*

*JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA*

*Affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa*

Volume XXXV, Number 3, Whole Number 104

September-December 2022



Happy Holidays from South Africa

## Highlights

Funny Names

British Wrappers to Kenya

Postzegel Overprint

Echoes from a War Long Past

*Search for Secretary and Treasurer*

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Lesotho Postal Services issued in 2007 this stamp showing an orchid (*Epidendrum radicans*). Denomination was M15 in sheets of 40. Printed by BDT International Security Printer.

Front Illustration:

South Africa Post Office issued this stamp in 2006 (October 2) to celebrate Christmas. It was part of a set of two standard denominated stamps. Printed by Cantor Security Printing.

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Vermeil at INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION Cape Town 2022; Gold at GREAT AMERICAN STAMPSHOW Sacramento 2022; Large Silver at LONDON 2022; Large Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2020; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW Richmond, VA 2017; Large Silver at WORLD STAMP SHOW NEW YORK 2016; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2015; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2014; Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JO'BURG, 2010; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2010, Richmond; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2009; Silver at STAMPSHOW 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006; Vermeils in 2005 at STAMPSHOW and C7NPLe, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at SESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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## Editorial Notes

Only a small group of dedicated members handle the day-to-day operation of our Society. Tim Bartshe is our President and takes care of the overall directions and outward communications. David McNamee is our secretary and treasurer handling member communication, book keeping, and the collection of the annual dues. I am the editor of our journal and that's really all I do. A couple of other people handle more specialized tasks: Clive Levinson handles the website and Moody Tidwell our auctions. In addition, we have two members that take care of our international interests and contacts: Jan Stolk in Europe and Uli Bantz in South Africa. It thus really boils down to the roles of the Secretary-Treasurer to keep our Society alive and our blood flowing.

Now that David justifiably has asked to be relieved from his duties, we are at risk of collapsing as a society unless a couple of members come forward and offer to take over the vacant posts. What we need is a person, or a couple of people, with some organizational skills of excel spreadsheets and some persistent drive when the dues need to be collected. David has promised to support the new person(s) getting started. So please come forward.

It was just announced that the *South African Philatelist* will transition into a purely electronic format at the end of the year or early next year. This means that you will have to arrange for your copy of the *South African Philatelist* to get printed if so desired. The same has for now some time been discussed for the *Forerunners* and is likely to be implemented next year. This will mean that paper copies will no longer be mailed out. The journal will only be obtainable from a link distributed via email or from our website. If you want paper copies you will have to take the PDF version to a local printer.

All the best wishes for the new year. *Peter Thy*

## Reduction in Ad Rate Schedule

A substantial reduction in the commercial ad rate schedule has been introduced. It is hoped that it will entice members and dealers more often to consider the *Forerunners*.

The deadline for the next issue will be March 15, 2023. Please let the Editor have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

Changes of address or email should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer David McNamee at [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com).



## Vermeil to Forerunners Cape Town 2022



Forerunners was awarded Vermeil at the recent Cape Town International Exhibition. This is again thanks to our writers without which this could not have been achieved. It is also worth to note that a couple of our members also achieved good recognition. Gordon Smith got Vermeil for his website and a Silver Bronze for Botswana Meter Marks. Moody Tidwell got a Gold for the first local issue of South Africa. We will return to the results in the next issue.

## Society Affairs

Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods January-April, May-August, and September-December. Subscription to the *Forerunners* is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). The basic membership fee is US\$20 for the electronic version of the journal. The print version can be obtained by adding \$5 for USA mailing addresses, \$10 for Canada addresses, and \$15 for the rest of the world. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals are due by January 1st each year. A sample copy of *Forerunners* can be downloaded at no cost together with application form from [www.psgsa.org](http://www.psgsa.org). Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com). All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

### Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent directly to the Editor. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a CD. MS Word files are preferred. Tables in Excel or text format are preferred; avoid complex Word tables. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in pdf, tiff, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should ideally not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editor if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or hand written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are still most welcome.

## President's Corner

It is with sadness that I write this note to you, but there is an elephant in our philatelic room that can no longer be ignored. It is many colored and in many ways outside of our invitation. The Society is in serious jeopardy of becoming extinct.

The good news is that the publication arm of our society is healthy. Our editor has done an outstanding job in keeping our award-winning journal *Forerunners* up and running for many years now. Any society that loses its journal is doomed to dissolve through disinterest. The content is still of a high quality and variability. The bad news is that mailing costs are now eating us alive and the reality of hard copy versus electronic version is becoming harder to justify. This can be solved by going totally digital for a minimal membership fee as is already in effect. At present most of our back issues (currently through issue 99) are on our website, which is of value not only to the membership, but all interested philatelists. This will solve at present our financial worries.

The next issue is our membership retention rate. Our total membership has hovered around 68 or so for the last couple of years until last year where the retention rate plummeted by 50 % to 34 in 2022. This alone is the most disturbing news, without people paying even minimal dues to receive the journal and maintain membership, we must admit the fact that we are offering something that the philatelic world no longer wants. This is a plea to either renew for next year to receive the digital copy of *Forerunners* or we will cease operation. At some point we must face the hard facts that interests change and we are aging and losing our zeal for collecting the Southern African area.

If we are to survive with membership stability, we will also need to address the fact that we no longer have the expert shepherding of our long-time Secretary-Treasurer David McNamee, who has resigned and will no longer be handing dues and printing duties for the journal. The latter is not at issue most likely since we will be going digital. The hard-copy arrangements are somewhat onerous in printing and mailing the issues to luddites like myself who like the feel of a tangible reference in my hands. The former needs to have someone with some accounting and bookkeeping skills which to my knowledge do not include the existing board of the society. Hence we will need someone to assume responsibilities for the Treasurer and membership rolls. Without that roll-filling individual, it would seem that we could not function as a monetized society and we would have cash on hand with no one watching the purse. Another critical elephant of color.

As you may be aware PSGSA is holding its convention next year at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver 26-28 May 2023. There will be seminars to be held and coordinated by Colin Fraser for the show and the Rhodesia Study Circle is also holding its convention along with us. We have an outstanding jury of six members, all competent British Commonwealth judges and all but one specialized in Southern Africa.

I hope this is not my last President's column, but we will need to think about where the Society is going and its future.

*Tim Bartshe*

## Options For Our Future

Our Society is facing two problems. One is that we will be without a secretary-treasurer at the start of the new year. The other is the raising mailing costs.

The ultimate solution to the latter will be to cease printing of the journal. We have prepared for that situation for a couple of years already by emailing all members a link to the digital version. Several smaller specialist journals have already done so (like the Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal). The South African Philatelist has also just announced that they will go completely digital in the beginning of the new year. If we do the same, it will mean that we will need to make some adjustments to our fee schedule.

**One solution** will be to make the journal free for all and dissolve our Society. The journal would then be prepared, perhaps in a different format, as long as we have a dedicated editor and a fair stream of submitted articles.

**Another solution** will be to retain our society and collect a small nominal yearly or biyearly fee to fund convention activities and the alike.

In both cases, we will need to make some accommodations for members that have already paid dues in advance. Members that will require a print version of the journal will have access to the high-resolution copy as they already have. This can be taken to a local printer/photocopy shop for printing.

However, we will lose those members without access to email and the internet. It is at this point not clear how many this will involve. Solutions may be possible.

Under all circumstances, without somebody keeping our mailing and due payment lists up-to-date, we will completely be prevented from operating.

Please let us hear about your views. You have the Holidays to think about it and perhaps we can discuss further, if not before, at our convention in Denver in May next year.

*Peter Thy*

## Preservation of Scale in *Forerunners*

Despite that we strive to preserve the original scales of philatelic material in *Forerunners*, often we fail for either practical reasons or because of technical or printing problems. It can be difficult to fit many large sized envelopes onto a couple of pages and reduction in size is necessary. In some cases the reduction will be given in the figure captions. More often than not the scans submitted do not conform with the Editor's computer and software. The results too often are that the original scale of an item is lost in the transfer. This is not necessarily a fault of the author. In some cases it is, however, clear that the author has little experiences with using his or her scanner and software. There is not much that can be done about this. In some cases, we try to estimate the real size if important (such as for stamps, overprints, and cancels). An additional complication is that adjustments in size may occur during printing. It is therefore important that illustrations in *Forerunners* are not used for research and expertizing purposes. If you submit articles with illustrations that require exact scaling, please include the dimensions of the originals in the captions.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Boston 2026 World Stamp Exposition** is already in preparation and scheduled for 2026. Go to <https://boston2026.org> for information.

**Great American Stampshow 2023.** Cleveland, OH, August 10-13. Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland.



### Rhodesian Study

**Circle** has announced its 2023 Conference and AGM for 21-23 April at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, UK. Visit RSC website <https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk>. The North

American section of the RSC organizes ZOOM meetings three times per year with the next meeting in January 2023. Contact David Spivack ([dspivack4@gmail.com](mailto:dspivack4@gmail.com)) or Colin Fraser for further information and access to the meetings.

**PSGSA**, in collaborating with the Rhodesian Study Circle, is planning a joint convention at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS), Colorado, May 26-28, 2023. Reserve the dates and await more detailed information with the next issue of Forerunners.



In May 2023, we will have a meeting of the PSGSA at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS) in Denver, CO. The show dates are May 26th-28th, 2023. As at previous shows, we will be convening with the Rhodesian Study Circle.

As part of our participation, there will be a series of talks relating to Southern African Philately. With our being a convening Society, there is an expectation that we will also provide exhibits for the competitive part of the show. The Entry Form and Prospectus can be found on the show website and we hope that you will consider exhibiting at the show. Exhibits can be a single frame (16 pages) or may comprise multiple frames. These could relate to any aspect of philately. The jury will include judges with specific expertise in British Commonwealth and Rhodesian philately.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver.

If you have questions about participating in the RMSS next year, please do not hesitate to contact either - Colin Fraser ([FraserStamps@cs.com](mailto:FraserStamps@cs.com)) or David Spivack ([dspivack4@gmail.com](mailto:dspivack4@gmail.com)). Prospectus and entry form can be found by going to <https://www.rockymountainstampshow.com/exhibits>. Alternatively, contact the Editor.



## PSGSA Website

The Society website has been updated to a more modern design. Of additions so far are a complete run of Forerunners, with the exception of the most recent issues. The webmaster is planning further reorganizations. Please contact him with your suggestions and offer your help with writing and stuff to place on the new site. Contact Clive Levinson, [LevinsonClive@gmail.com](mailto:LevinsonClive@gmail.com).

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## Search for Secretary and Treasurer

David McNamee has let us know that he will step down as our Secretary-Treasurer by the end of this year. We therefore urgently searches for a replacement. David has for longer times than we can remember served our Society. He has maintained the member records, collected the annual dues, and handled occasional correspondences. He was further instrumental in transition the Forerunners to full color printing and has led our current move into the electronic age. His retirement from Society duties are well deserved. We hope that one or two of our members will step forward to continue these important functions. Please contact our President Tim Bartshe ([timbartshe@aol.com](mailto:timbartshe@aol.com)) or the Editor for any questions or direct to David ([dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com)). David has promised to help the new secretary and treasurer getting started.

### Wanted

**Union Pictorials 1926-1929. 1/2d, 1d, and 6d Control Blocks. Scott 20-22. SG 30-32. Wanted by specialist collector. Please contact Moody Tidwell at [rudolph912@gmail.com](mailto:rudolph912@gmail.com).**

# Great Britain Post Office Wrappers to Clouds, Uplands, Kenya Colony

by John K. Courtis FRPSL



British Drapery and Textile Supplement wrapper to Clouds, Uplands, British East Africa

Two recent acquisitions of Great Britain post office postal stationery wrappers addressed to “Clouds,” Uplands, Kenya Colony underlie a fascinating story about the development of the areas of Uplands and Eldoret and the Tunstall family named on both wrappers. Both wrappers were stamped-to-order and show private overprinting.

The first wrapper is large 245 x 355 mm shiny buff and with a paper gauge of only 0.06 mm. It was mailed from London in January 1922 to Mrs. Tunstall at Clouds, Uplands, British East Africa. The contents were a *British Drapery and Textile Supplement* to the overseas edition of the newspaper the Daily Mail.



WHS wrapper to Eldoret, readdressed to “Clouds,” P.O. Uplands

The second wrapper, postmarked 6 years later from London on 22 MR 28 was also addressed to a member of the Tunstall family, in this case to Miss M.C. Tunstall. She was one of Mrs. Tunstall’s three daughters and worked at the *Government School*, Eldoret. The wrapper was readdressed to Eldoret, Kenya Colony. This uprated wrapper paid the 3rd weight scale

of 4-6 oz. and may have contained more than one magazine. Frequently the names of the magazines sent by *W. H. Smith* are typed on the gum of the wrapper to assist the dispatch staff in assembling the overseas mail. In this case no clues were given.

## Kenya Colony

The Colony and Protectorate of Kenya, commonly known as British Kenya, was part of the British Empire in Africa from 1920 until 1963. It was established on 11 June 1920, when the territories of the former East Africa Protectorate were annexed by the UK. This was an area in the African Great Lakes from the Indian Ocean inland to the border with Uganda in the west and is roughly equal to the same area as present-day Kenya.

The places of interest for the destinations of the two wrappers are Uplands and Eldoret and both are shown on the railway map on the main Uganda line (see red arrows)



Uplands is located on the western rail line approaching Nairobi



Uplands Post Office



Uplands Rail Station

## Uplands

Located about 40 km west of Nairobi, the Uplands railway station is in Kiambu county at an elevation of 2,405 metres. “Clouds” written in inverted commas on the readdressed wrapper does not represent a town name, but like most properties is the name of the family’s settlement or farm. The post office in Uplands opened circa 1905. It is illustrated above together with the Uplands railway station.

## The Tunstall Family

The addressee of the first wrapper in 1922 was Mrs. Henrietta Tunstall. On January 1 1910 she married William George Tunstall, who had been a Lance Corporal in the East African Supply Corps. They had three boys and three girls: Bryan Blatchford, William and Alfred; and Lucy Elinor, Muriel, and Mary Catherine, who was the addressee on the second wrapper. Henrietta’s husband William was originally from Mere, Wiltshire, England, where he had been in partnership with Charles Lander in the business of bacon curers. The partnership was dissolved in June 1892. He was obviously well qualified to become manager of the *Uplands Bacon Factory*, but for a time was a sawmillier with *Morson Sawmills*. He was born September 1857 in Darlington and died from dysentery and pneumonia on 22 April 1916 at the early age of 59.

*Uplands Bacon Factory* was started in 1906 when pigs were regarded as grazing animals and not kept in enclosures. By 1921, the factory was opened to slaughter and the process of hog carcasses into pork and related products. It grew in size to become the principal slaughterhouse for small scale farmers in the entire country. Financial issues and poor management practices conspired to undermine the company and there was an infamous massacre of unpaid tribal employees. These events occurred outside the mailing period of the wrappers but placed the Uplands Bacon Factory in a poor light.



Boer Settlers travelling by ox-cart to farm 64

## Eldoret History

Known as the White Highlands is a plateau in the central uplands of Kenya comprising Uasin Gishu and the area around Eldoret. It is located in western Kenya and west of the Great Rift Valley, situated 6,857 metres above sea level. Eldoret became the centre of European settlement in Kenya, and between 1902 and 1961 was officially reserved by the colonial government for the exclusive use of Europeans. In 1902, Sir Charles Eliot, then British Commissioner of the Protectorate, encouraged settlement of the Highlands for farming. He believed that only European settlers and agricultural farming could develop the region and generate the necessary funds to pay for the colonial administration. By 1914, there were around a thousand European settlers in the Highlands.

Empty pastureland that had been surveyed some years after the Boer Wars awaited displaced Afrikaner families to take up leaseholds in this area of western Kenya. In August 1908, 58 families of Afrikaners left South Africa for the Gishu plateau, travelling by sea to Mombasa and then by rail on the Uganda Railway to the railhead at Kibigori. From there they travelled 64 miles by ox-pulled wagon to the farm owned by Willy van Aardt where they made camp.

Settlers were allowed to take up leasehold farms on condition that the land would be developed within five years. Each farm was allocated a number and “64” was allocated to the main farm because it was exactly 64 miles from the railhead. The town that developed from this area was known as 64, or Sisibo. Official town status was granted in 1910 and a post office was established. Another 60 Afrikaner families arrived in 1911 and the following year the governor determined that the area was to become an administrative centre; the town was named Eldoret, a Maasai word for stony river, referring to the nearby Sosiani riverbed. A savings bank was built (supposedly constructed of mud around an immovable heavy safe that had fallen from a wagon) together with several shops and there was an increase in local agricultural trade.

## Government School

The Boers and the British both wanted schools to be established in the area, but there was a conflict. The Boers wanted their children educated in their Afrikaans language while the colonial regime would only build schools where children would learn and speak in English. When the Boers set up their own schools the colonial administration responded by building a

small school in the 1920's in Eldoret that enrolled all Europeans including Boers. But because the area was predominantly inhabited by Boers, the students were Boers while the teachers were primarily British. The government encouraged British settlers to move to Uasin Gishu.

The recipient of the second wrapper, Mary Catherine Tunstall, was originally a Senior Assistant Mistress within the Education Department at Nairobi, only 40 km from her parents in Uplands. She took up a position as a school teacher at the Eldoret Government School, also on the same rail line to Uganda, but 320 km away from Nairobi. The Kenya Gazette for 1938 lists her parents William and Henrietta as residing in Clouds, Uplands together with one son Alfred, who was then 31. The wrapper was readdressed to her at "Clouds" Uplands, the journey taking half a day by mail train which travelled three times a week between Mombasa and Kisumu on Lake Victoria.



The Government European School, Eldoret

### The Route

The route from London was by rail to Brindisi, steamer to Port Said and through the Suez Canal to Aden, transhipped to Mombasa where it went by train to Nairobi. It could have travelled to Mombasa by British, German or French packet depending on what day of the week it was posted in London. While the month and year can be read from the postmark, the day is missing. However, an interesting line of research could examine the *Kenya Gazette* which supplies the names and dates of ships arriving from London. After arriving in Nairobi, the drapery 1922 wrapper went by rail to the Uplands Railway Station where it was unloaded either for collection at the family's post box or for road travel to Clouds, Uplands.

The second wrapper, mailed six years later, followed the same route to Mombasa and Nairobi, and then by Uganda Railways to Eldoret. Mail was taken first to the Eldoret post office for sorting and then delivered by mail van to the Government School. As Miss Tunstall was likely on leave and visiting her mother at Uplands, the wrapper was readdressed to her at "Clouds" P.O. Uplands. The wrapper then travelled the reverse trip to the post office and the railway station where it travelled with outgoing mail on the mail train east to Uplands, and the Uplands post office. The Tunstall family held post office box 212, from where it was collected.

### Summary

Two post office postal stationery wrappers of Great Britain addressed to "Clouds" Uplands, Kenya Colony, were mailed



First train to Eldoret 1924



Eldoret Railway Station

from London in 1922 and 1928. They travelled to Mombasa via Brindisi and Aden and then on the Uganda Railways line to Uplands and Eldoret, both being railway stations and towns on this line. The *Drapery and Textile Supplement* wrapper was addressed to Mrs. Henrietta Tunstall, mother of six children, one of whom was a school teacher and the addressee of the *W. H. Smith* wrapper. This uprated wrapper was re-addressed from her school in Eldoret to "Clouds" P.O. Uplands.

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- The author can be reached by writing to [acapajjc@friends.cityu.edu.hk](mailto:acapajjc@friends.cityu.edu.hk)



# The “Postzegel” Overprint of 1895 South African Republic

by Tim Bartshe

## Introduction

The South African Republic postal authorities continuously miscalculated the demand and needs for postal values. This was either in not anticipating orders from the Netherlands due to rate changes or from stock run downs. The history of the postal issues is replete with provisionals from the Second Republic's inception in 1881 into the mid-1890's. This short piece deals with the last of the provisionals caused by a delay of shipment of the 6d value.

## History

The initial definitive design of the final issues of the Republic was a change from the Vurtheim issue of 1885, featuring a wagon first with the error of shafts and then revised disselboom of 1894-95. The deliveries of the disselboom issues were beginning to grow short and for some reason the post office decided to begin printing in two colors except for the ½d from grey to green. A large order of printing for the 3d, 6d and 1sh from 31 May 1895 was late in arriving (according to Criddle, Transvaal Philatelist volume 11, pages 18-22 due to being shipped via freight instead of rail) necessitating the need for printing the provisional 6d stamp. There was a need of a 6d stamp for payment of registration (pre-Sep 95), combination registration and postage, return receipt (avis de reception) and late fees for overseas rail mailings.



Figure 1. The revenue stamp base and the overprint. Note the differences of spacing for the overprint

## The Stamp

The 6d Zegelrecht value printed by Enschede and Sons of Haarlem (who printed virtually all of the regularly printed stamps for the ZAR) was called into action (Figure 1). A forme to cover a sheet of 60 of these revenue issues was set up with



Figure 2. Partial overprint on reverse gum caused by a fold-over. Note the vertical crease



Figure 3. SPECIMEN overprint sent to Bechuanaland archives



Figure 4. Forgeries of the stamp/overprint.

sans serif letters “POSTZEGEL.” The printing and setup was done somewhat with care using a green aniline ink; no errors of setting are verified, though Criddle mentions an inverted overprint, but it could be a forgery as not others are recorded. Also, pairs, one without overprint, are recorded from sheet misplacement and overprint on back from a fold-over is shown in Figure 2. It is reported by Yardley in Africa III that 1000 sheets were so treated to equal 60,000 stamps. Upon receipt of the shipment, it is assumed that the government withdrew the issue on 2 August 1895. Legitimate use of this issue appears to be limited to less than two weeks with the EKV being 24 July as reported by Alan Drysdall presumably on a stamp used in Pretoria. A longer story exists about the remainder of these stamps and the shenanigans of assistant postmaster W.E. Masters. I would encourage you to read Criddle's article in the above-mentioned reference for the correspondence and account of its use well into 1898.

An example with SPECIMEN overprinted on the provisional is shown in Figure 3 from the Bechuanaland PO archives. Forgeries on reprints are commonly seen and are on the incorrect perforations of 11 x 11½ (Figure 4).

All genuine issues are perforated 11½x11½ and only on the 6d rose. All other values are forgeries.

### Contemporaneous Uses

Examples of used values are shown in Figures 5 to 9. As mentioned above the earliest recorded use is 24 July from Pretoria. Most examples of the stamp are used from Johannesburg or Pretoria, any uses from July 1895 are definitely beyond doubt, others are from the hands of our friend Tamsen on his commercial mail as shown in the following examples.



Figure 5. Local postage fee of 1d plus 6d registration for ½ oz letter. Very early use of 26 July 1895. Johannesburg registration box

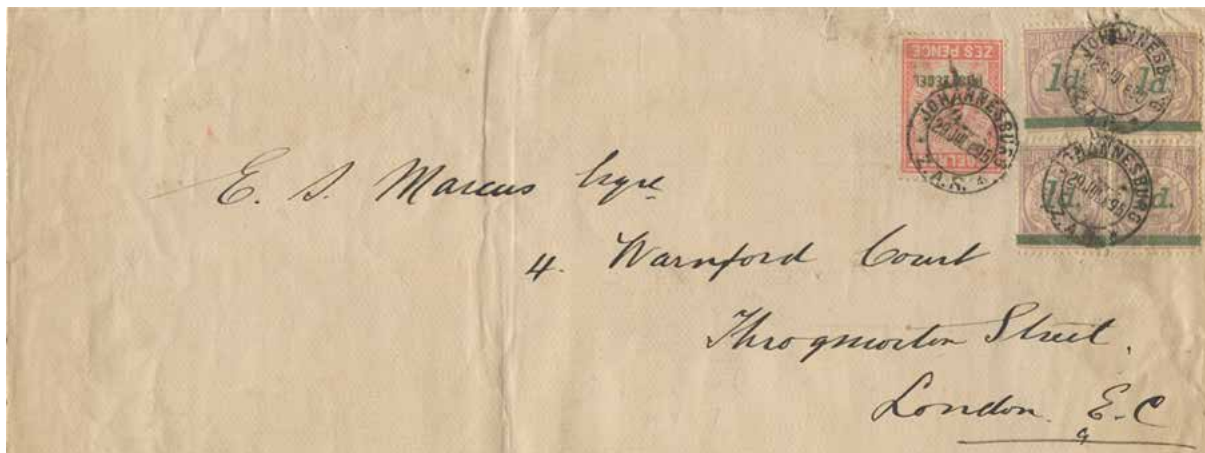


Figure 6. 6d used with 1d on 2½d to make quadruple 10d rate to England. 29 Jul 95, very early use. 1d on 2½d another provisional of July 1895 making up a shortage of 1d stamps shipped from Netherlands 29 June.



Figure 7. 6d Late fee train mail. UPU rate 2½d in various stamps. 17 MEI 97 cancel R.P.K. HEEN to Germany. Late use from Tamsen. Note that mail put on the train for either outgoing mail (HEEN) or incoming (TERUG) had to be placed in the mail bag a specified time prior to departure. After that time a fee was assessed of 6d for letters

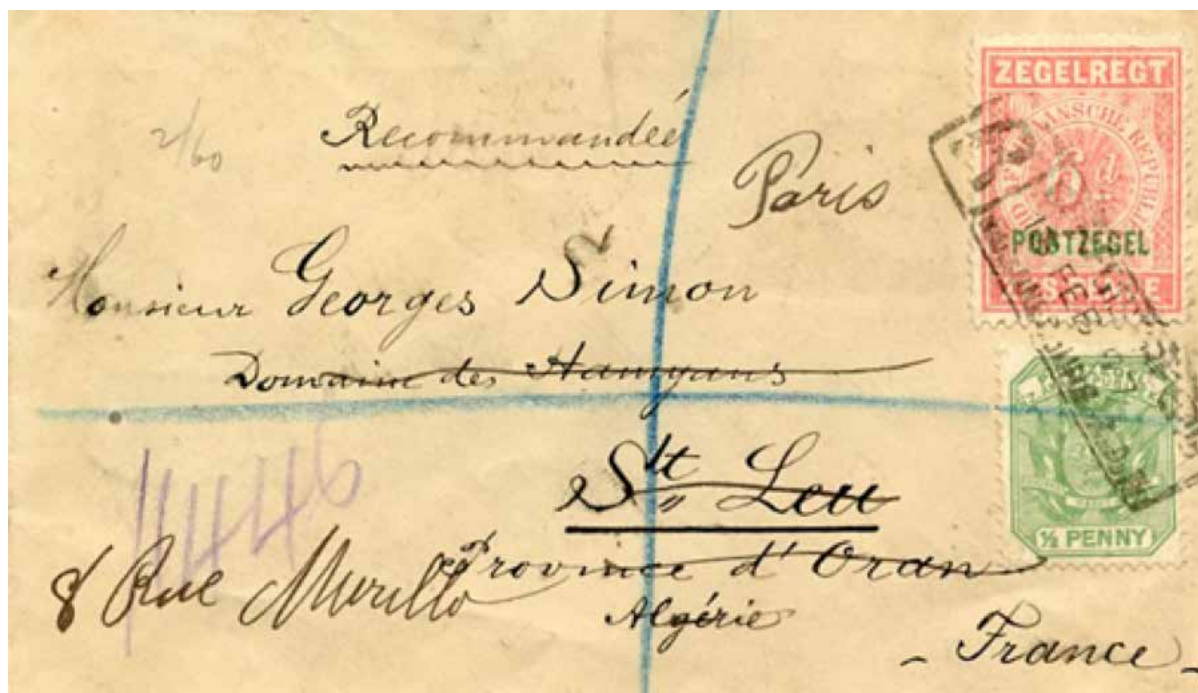


Figure 8. Additional 1895 Disselboon ½d stamp for combined rate 4d registration, 2½d UPU ½ oz letter rate. Johannesburg 17 FEB 97 to Algeria redirected to Paris.



Figure 9. Registered letter to Germany: 4d registration fee, 2½d letter UPU letter rate and 6d for advice on receipt (AR) fee. Johannesburg 11 Nov 95 arrival 2 Dec.



# Place Names I Once Thought Quite Funny

by Franco Frescura

From time to time most of us have come across a postmark from a place whose name has struck us as being decidedly odd, or strange, or uproariously funny. Who do you suppose would want to live in Piano Finocchio, in the Province of Pescara? Or in Turda Lot 1, in Roumania? Or in Hotazel, a village in the Northern Cape whose name is pronounced by locals as "*Hot-as-hell*"? Or to have a letterhead that gives your home address as Three Cups, knowing full well that the Dutch originally named it Drie Koppen to celebrate the fact that, following a slave uprising in Stellenbosch in 1724, they beheaded three of the ring-leaders and impaled their heads on spikes and placed them at the intersection of the main road to Cape Town? The British administrators who followed the Dutch were too stupid to know otherwise and translated the name to Three Cups.

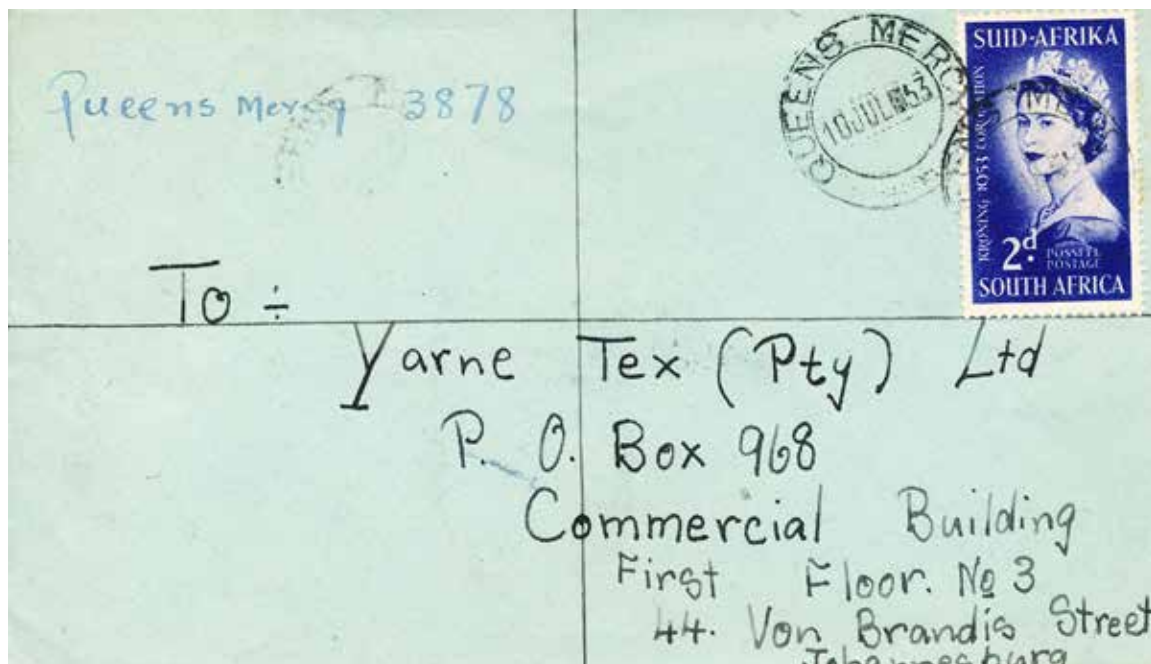
In 1977, I was asked by the organizing committee of the *Rand77 Philatelic Exhibition* to put together a small thematic collection of "*Art on Stamps*" which could be featured on the back pages of the Sunday Times. Of course the term "*Art on Stamps*" was a misnomer for a collection of stamp-like labels emanating from fictitious postal authorities such as Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, and Sharjar, featuring a variety of classical paintings of nubile maidens disporting themselves in various stages of undress, or designs that no self-respecting Muslim state would ever dare to publish. To complete the collection I created a page of postmarks including such titillating names as Wankie, Birchenough Bridge, Maidenhead, Amabele, Kuils River, and Nqutu. Fortunately I exhibited this under the nom-de-plum of *Miss Prudence Crudley*, which was just as well as a number of readers of the Times were suitably scandalized and

at least one letter was written to the Editor by a Zulu-speaking farmer in Natal who knew the meaning of Amabele and Nqutu. Still, the exhibition organizers got the publicity they were craving, and I earned an undeserved reputation for being an up-and-coming pornographer.

Still, the habit of looking for strange names on postmarks has stuck with me, and although I have never exhibited this small collection, it has made life fun. To quote the Goons, it all helps to pass the time, you know. Which is why, I suppose, I have now written this small article. I urge my kind readers to save their lawyer's fees and ask for their forbearance for any errors and omissions I might have made in the process.

Few people must have known of a post office called **Queens Mercy**, which was opened in 1935 in the Matatiele district of the Transkei. Initially the village was founded as a mission station and judging by its name, probably included a small mission hospital as part of its establishment. It is safe to say that its post office catered mainly to mission doctors and a small black rural clientele and it seems likely that this letter was addressed to a textile wholesale company in Johannesburg that supplied textiles to rural traders.

In 1968, a small retirement home was established outside Margate, a holiday resort on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal, to house elderly pensioners in a set of single rooms. Initially known as Azalea House, in 1973 the growing community was renamed **Village of Happiness** and given its own post office. In 2014, the complex was renamed the Margate Retirement Village, which wasn't half-as-nice. The name must have been the product of a very boring mind. The office date stamp used to



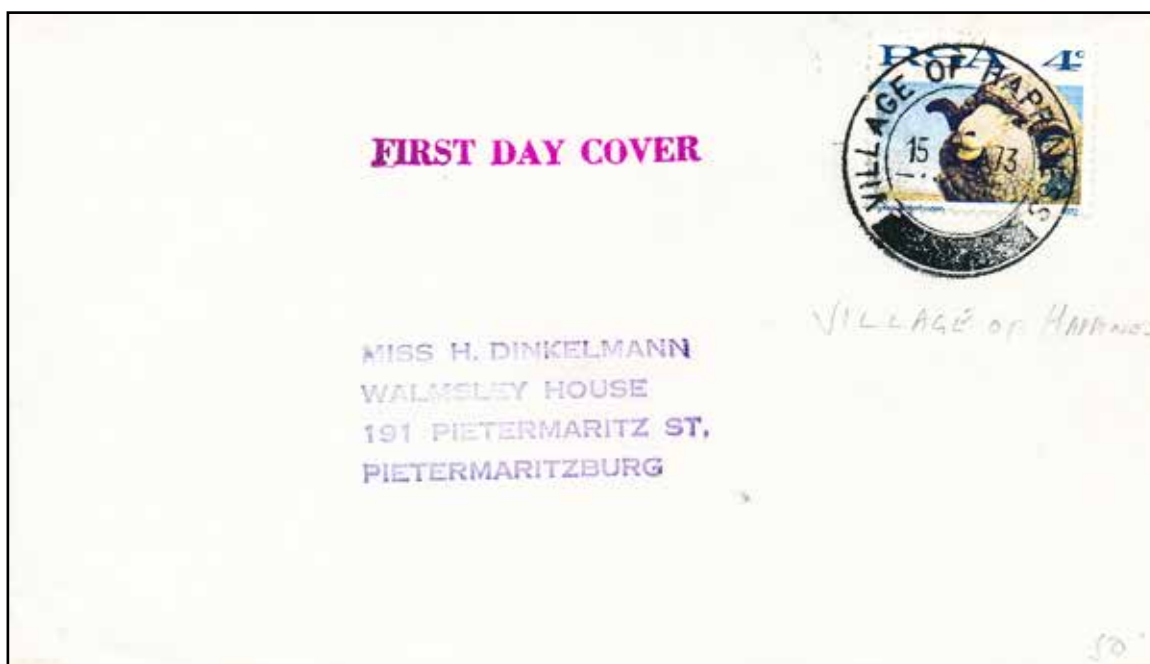
Queen's Mercy

cancel the stamp was known as a relief canceller and is recognizable as such by the broad black band at its base. This was probably its first date of usage.

The post office of **Mfongosi** was established in 1908 to serve the needs of a small rural community near the Tugela River, in the Nkandla district of Zululand. Initially known as Mfongozi, its name was amended to its present form in 1979. This area saw a minor gold rush in 1886, when small deposits of the mineral were discovered in its vicinity. Unfortunately these proved uneconomic and the diggings were soon abandoned. This letter is

also a first day cover as the stamp celebrating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was issued on 3 June 1953.

The settlement of Midway is located in Bingham County, Idaho, and was established in the immediate post-WWII era, when the United States saw the use of atomic power as the solution to its future energy needs. As a result, in 1950 its name was changed to **Atomic City** and when the world's first functional nuclear power plant was built on the site, known as the EBR-1, the town began to expand rapidly as a service and residential centre for the power industry. Unfortunately in 1955, the EBR-1



Village of Happyness



Mfongosi



Atomic City

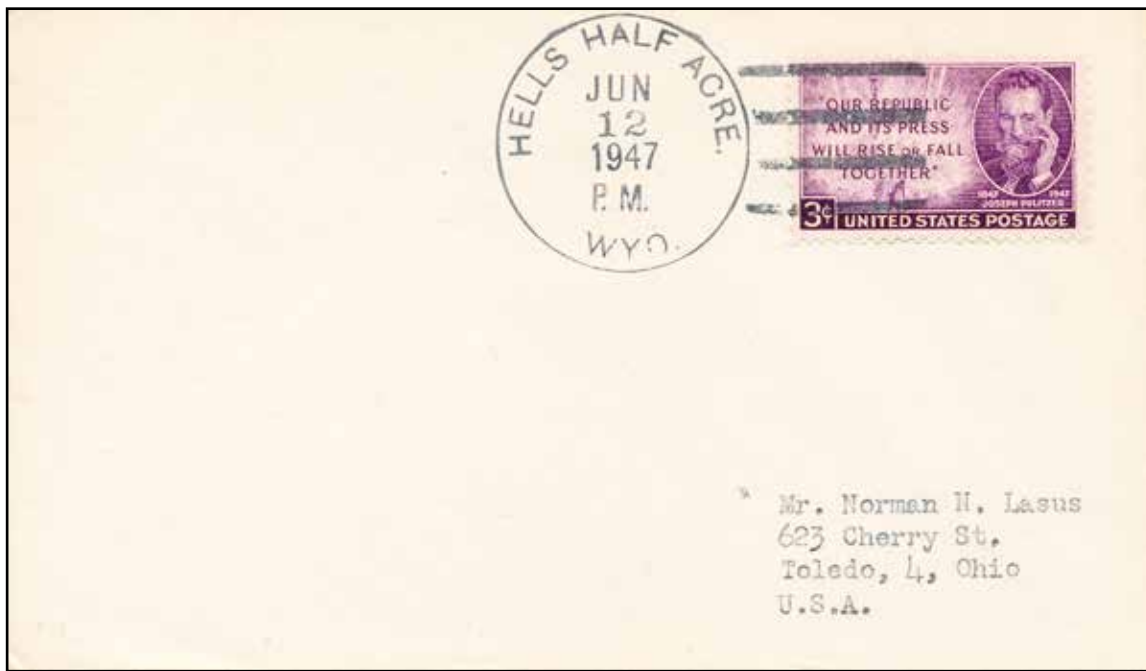
underwent the world's first partial melt-down, and when a nearby reactor exploded in 1961 residents abandoned Nuclear City as fast as their Chevies V8 could take them. By 2000, only 25 persons were still living there and despite the fact that over 50 nuclear power plants have since been built in Idaho, the ghost town shows no signs of recovery. More to the point perhaps, is that none of the children have since been born with arms growing out of their heads.

A post office known as Wachteenbietje was established in the district of Wakkerstroom in 1910. Its Dutch name was amended

to its Afrikaans equivalent of **Wag-'n-bietjie** in 1936. The post office was closed on 2 December 1974. It is doubtful that this was ever an established community of any meaningful size, and it is probable that this was an agency run from a rural trading store which dealt in basic staples for the benefit of farming families in the district. It was named after the Wag-'n-Bietjie, a deciduous tree native to southern Africa. Officially called the *Ziziphus mucronata*, or the Buffalo Thorn, it is best known for its distinctive system of small zig-zag branches armed with lethal-looking thorns which will snag onto the clothing and



Wag-'n-bietjie



Hells Half Acre

flesh of passer byes and force them to wait-a-little while they disentangle themselves. Hence its local colloquial name. The Zulu call it *umLahlankosi* and use it as a burial marker for tribal chiefs. Oh, and by the way, students of philately will recognize the name of the addressee, Dr TB "Tom" Berry, formerly President of Federation, Editor of the SA Philatelist and signatory of the Roll of Honour. He was also Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at Wits University, and a veteran of WWI, which he survived though he was gassed in the trenches. All in all, a most remarkable man.

**Hell's Half Acre** is a large geological formation located some 65 km west of Casper, in Wyoming. Also known as *The Baby Grand Canyon* and *The Devil's Kitchen*, it is the site of deeply erode ravines, caves, and other geological oddities which made it an ideal location in 1997 for the mythical planet of Klendathu in the science fiction film "*Star Troopers*". Inevitably some enterprising nature lover decided to improve upon this dramatic vista by adding a truck stop, a roadside diner and a motel on the edge of the ravine. Presumably this picturesque establishment also included a postal agency to the comforts it offered. By December 2005, common sense had reestablished itself, and the buildings were torn down. The site has now been cleared and would-be suicides are kept back from the precipice by a sturdy fence.

Given the reputation that European settlers in North America have now gained in their dealings with indigenous people, I have a strong suspicion that the origins of the name, **Indian Head**, may lie in the Land Wars which European colonists conducted against American First Nations during the latter part of the 19th century. During this time, and contrary to all treaties, the United States Government relentlessly used all means, legal or otherwise, to annex indigenous ancestral tribal lands for European settlement. One example may be found in the case of the

*Great Sioux Reservation*, whose boundaries had originally been set in 1868 by the Treaty of Fort Laramie which, by common agreement, had allocated all land in what is now South Dakota, west of the Mississippi River, for the exclusive occupation of the Sioux. This amounted to a total of 60 million acres and the treaty specifically stated that, in perpetuity, no colonial settlement would ever be allowed to take place in a region known as the Black Hills. This was also an area that, when the boundaries of the Great Sioux Reservation had been marked off for the purpose of the Laramie Treaty, the colonial surveyors had deemed it to be worthless. Nonetheless, this allocation had been made in favour of the Sioux in recognition of their belief system which held these grounds to be sacred.

In 1874 gold deposits were discovered in the Black Hills, and despite all efforts by the Sioux Nation to peacefully enforce the terms of the Laramie Treaty its leaders could do little to stop the influx of prospectors, miners and service providers fresh from the California gold rush. In addition, contrary to all its previous treaties, the Government in Washington could, or would, not respond to demands by the Sioux Nation to help it preserve its territorial integrity and took no action to safeguard Sioux interests. Faced with an erosion of Sioux authority many clans began to show signs of dissent and in 1876 the Teton Sioux in Nebraska, south of the Sioux Reservation, rose in revolt. Following an incursion into Sioux territory by the US Army 7th Cavalry Regiment led by Lt-Col George Custer, on 25 June 1876, the Americans were met by an allied force of Lakota Sioux, Arapaho and Northern Cheyenne under the leadership of Chief Sitting Bull, in a battle which took place at the Little Big Horn River, in the Crow Indian Reservation of Southeastern Montana. The Americans attacked first, in the courageous belief that they were faced with a settlement populated largely by women, children and men too old to fight, and four women



Indian Head

and two children fell in the first volley, but as the Americans galloped in they soon realized that they had been lured into a trap. As a result their force was annihilated, with a loss of 274 dead, including four scouts. At least 49 US troopers were seriously wounded, but the casualties suffered by the Sioux and their allies are not known as by the time US reinforcements arrived, all their bodies had been removed from the field. At least three Americans were captured alive and tortured to death later that night.

Following the battle the US Army brought in a sizeable force of reinforcements in an effort to bring the uprising to an end, and by 1877 most Sioux had returned to their reservation where their survivors, defeated, disarmed and dismounted, could barely clothe or feed themselves without assistance from Government agents. The Black Hills where gold deposits had previously been discovered, were excised from the Sioux Reservation and given over to white settlement, reducing its area to 27.7 million acres. However Chief Sitting Bull refused to surrender and in May 1877 he led a band of about 3000 of his followers north to the North-West Territory of Canada, now known as Saskatchewan. They were met at the Canadian border by Mounties who explained to them the Canadian legal system and settled the group at Wood Mountain, then the site of a police outpost. They remained there until 1881, when Chief Sitting Bull and most of his people returned to the United States under promise of an amnesty. Thus when the village of Indian Head was established in 1882 near Regina, in south-western Saskatchewan, these new settlers from Europe could not have been ignorant of this fact. Official histories are silent on this point, and we are only told by Wikipedia that:

*“The fertile land around Indian Head attracted Major William R. Bell, who came west from Ontario in 1882 to serve as*

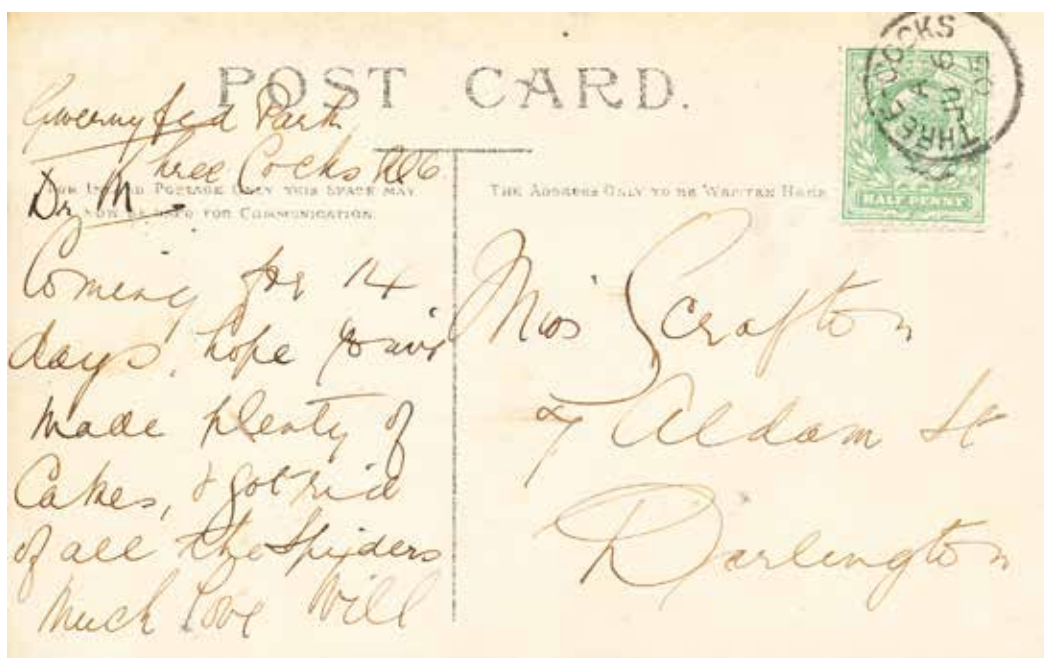
*general manager of the Qu’Appelle Valley Farming Company establishing the first corporate farm in Western Canada now known as the Bell Farm.”*

As a result the area became the arrival point of Scottish settlers to the region, who travelled by ox-drawn wagons moving ahead of the rapidly expanding Canadian Pacific Railway.

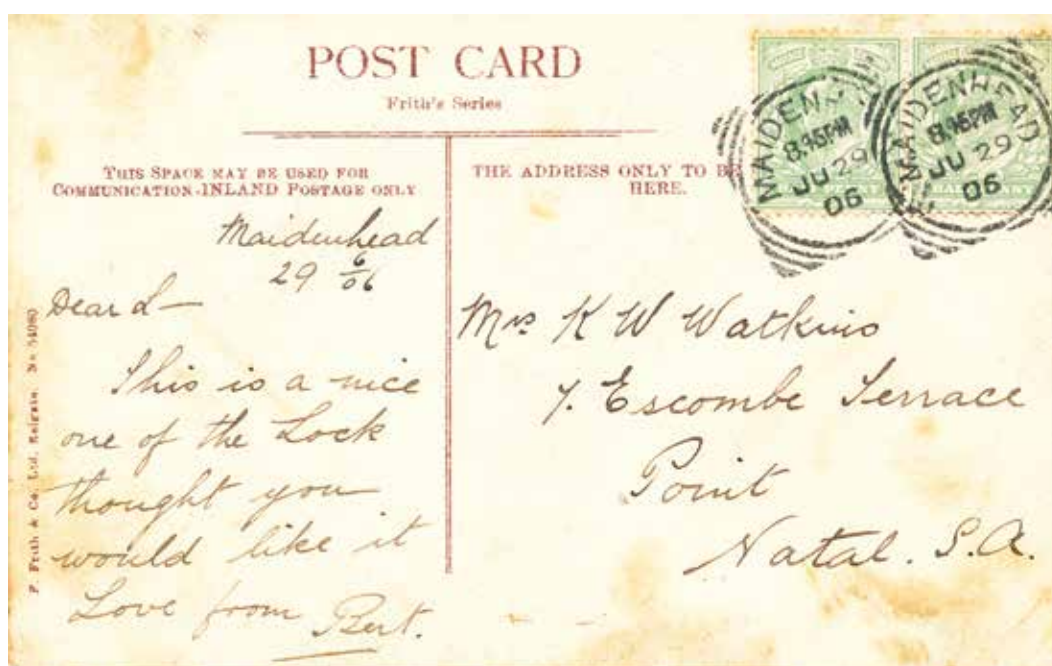
The village of **Three Cocks**, formerly known as Three Cocks Junction was a station on the Mid-Wales Railway, which derived its name from a 15th century hostelry known as The Three Cocks Inn. This establishment is apparently still in existence, but the station was closed in 1962. Both took their name from the armorial bearings of the Williams’, a family of local landowners who lived on the nearby Old Gwernyfed estate. These had supposedly been based upon the arms of Einon Sais, a Welsh prince who lived in Aberllynfi during the medieval era, but this is believed to be a matter of local folklore.

The town of **Maidenhead**, located on the River Thames, in east Berkshire, can trace its earliest settlement to the Roman occupation of Britain, when it was known as *Alaunodunum*. By the 9th century it had become known as South Ellington, which did not deter a group of Viking holiday makers from disembarking their longboats here, for the purpose of raping, pillaging and plundering their way through its neighbourhood. Its role as a landing place for ships was developed further during the Saxon era when, owing to local developments, it became known as Maiden Hythe, or New Wharf, and was recorded as such in the Domesday Book. In time this was distorted to Maidenhead, a name which, no doubt became the source of countless ribald jokes in the local tavern and inspired several saucy songs in Victorian Vaudeville theatre.

Which reminds me, I say, I say, I say ... have you heard about the lovely young lass from Cathay....



Three Cocks



Maidenhead



# WWII Descriptions Echo 80 Years Later In Shattered Ukraine

by Paul Albright



Censored cover from Lieutenant Woollacott to his fiancée in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, in November, 1943.

Some moving comments by Ukraine's embattled president brought to my mind a battlefield letter in my collection from a World War II officer to his fiancée. Twenty days (March 8, 2022) into Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivered a video address to Canada's Parliament in which he asked Canadians to "only imagine" bombs being dropped on cities "in your wonderful country."

*"Imagine that Canadian facilities have been bombed similarly as our buildings and memorial places have been bombed," stated Zelenskyy. "Of course, I do not wish this on anyone, but this is our reality."*

As I listened to Zelenskyy's comments on YouTube, I recalled comparable wording in a letter written by Lieutenant Bob Woollacott, an officer from Southern Rhodesia who was assigned to the 1st Airlanding Light Regiment Royal Artillery, one of the first airborne artillery units in World War II. As part of the Central Mediterranean Forces (C.M.F.), the 1st Airlanding RA served first in North Africa and then deployed to Italy in September, 1943, where it supported Canadian, New Zealand, and other Allied units until January, 1944.<sup>(1)</sup>

Two self-censored, "on active service" letters from Lieutenant Woollacott were mailed in November, 1943, at Field Post 312, which was allocated to the Canadian section of the C.M.F. The cover marked by Woollacott for air mail was neatly franked with three, 3-pence George VI revenue stamps.<sup>(2)</sup> The letters

were addressed to his fiancée, Joan Varrall, at Barclays Bank (her possible employer) in "Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, S. Africa."<sup>(3)</sup>

The couple had numbered their letters to each other, probably because some mail was lost or delayed in transit. The two letters from Woollacott that I have<sup>(4)</sup> were numbered 67 and 68. In his letters, he referred to comments that Ms. Varrall had made in her letters numbered 72, 74, and 78.

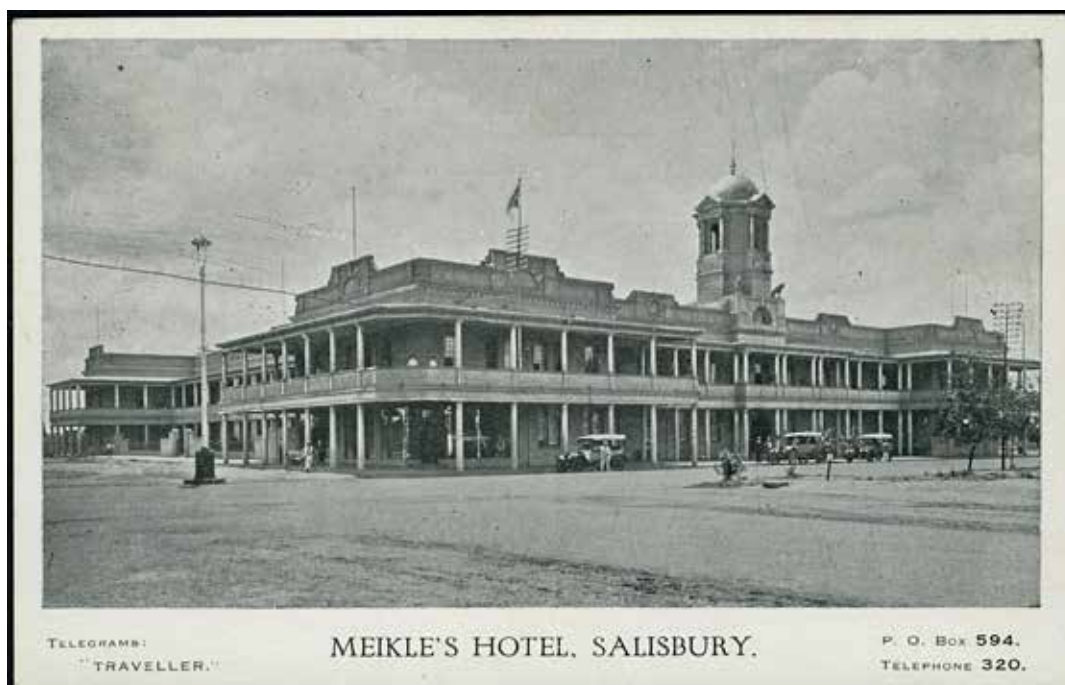
What captured my attention was Woollacott's use of strong, descriptive narrative to describe the warfare he had witnessed in Italy and asking his fiancée to imagine what such destruction would do to Salisbury. To quote his letter:

*"These Italian houses aren't much...generally and sanitation is very primitive but they do provide shelter from rain & cold. The (Italians) generally hop it from the fighting zone but some stay & take a chance..."*

*"Yes war can be cruel – very cruel and I thank the Lord my own home is safe from it all. I have seen hundreds of cities, towns & villages in three countries laid to waste or damaged & believe me it's not pleasant. Can you imagine for a moment, Salisbury after air raids, gunfire from both sides & then systematic destruction by one side: Meikles & the Grand, the Palace & Prince's Theatres,<sup>(5)</sup> all the big stores, flats & business buildings were shelled with stark, fire-blackened windows. The Government offices & many buildings completely demolished by...bombs & the roads blocked by rubble, steel girders, huge*



A British artillery crew with a 75 mm pack howitzer in Italy, November, 1943 when Woollacott wrote his letter. (Source: Commons.wikimedia.org)



Meikles was a prominent general store, restaurant, and hotel in Salisbury that was mentioned in Woollacott's letter. (Source: RhodesianStudyCircle.org.uk.)



The Palace Theatre, one of two in Salisbury that were mentioned in Woollacott's letter.  
(Source: RhodesianStudyCircle.org.uk.)

craters, burst water & sanitary mains. Everywhere in that core of the town would be destruction – all the factories, water works, power houses, petrol dumps complete wrecks: overturned and smashed cars, bicycles & trucks...broken glass everywhere.

*“And what of the people? Perhaps you think those beautiful Salisbury suburbs would be immune, but total war works to a plan and all those beautiful houses would lie in ruins – those that escape shells and bombs would probably have the roofs blown in deliberately, gardens & parks & hospitals & schools would be damaged. The whole place would be sown with mines & booby traps & lastly there would be the attendant loss of life itself.*

*“Not a pleasant picture, darling, but one that the folks in our ‘lucky land’ believe to be synonymous only with the things they see at the pictures or read of in the papers; they too easily dismiss all they hear of with ‘Too bad but it isn’t my home. Why should it worry me?’ I know I used to do the same thing but now my reaction is ‘Thank God that is not my home,’ and at the same time realise that it might well be were it not that most (his emphasis) people throughout the Empire are determined to win the war & are doing something about it. Afraid words are poor means to express such things but I think you can see how lucky Rhodesia has been to be well away from the war – long may it stay there!”<sup>(6)</sup>*

This lieutenant's resilient words from the Italian front in World War II resounded almost 80 years later in the statements by Ukraine's president to the Canadian Parliament.

Thanks for valuable research assistance from fellow collectors Robert Buchanan, Peter Thy, and Dann Mayo, and from the American Philatelic Research Library.

#### Endnotes

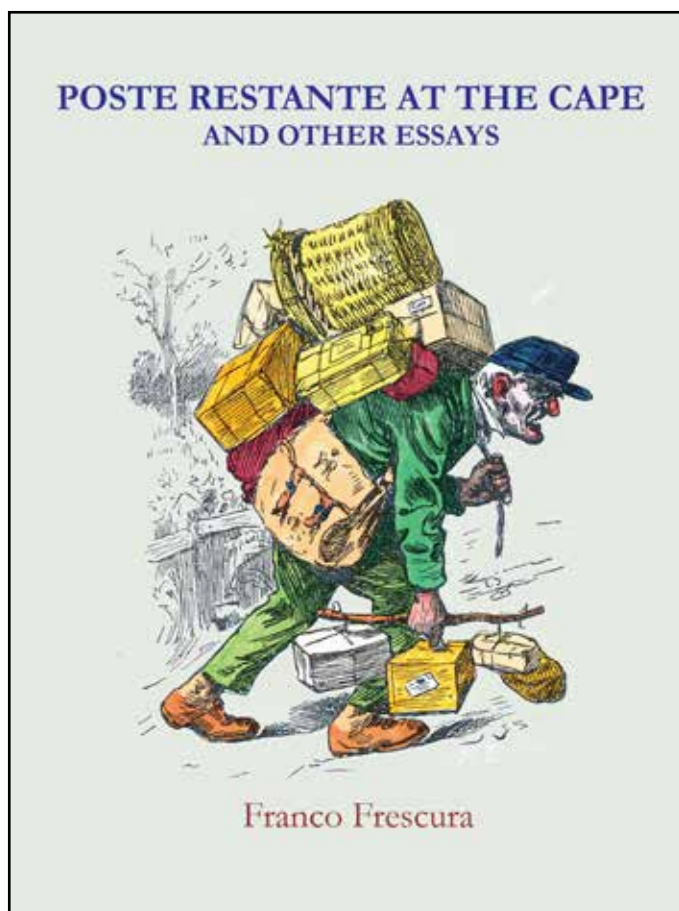
1. According to Wikipedia, Southern Rhodesian forces had the highest loss ratio of any constituent element, colony dependency, or dominion of the British Empire forces during World War II. In addition to serving in North Africa and Italy, Southern Rhodesian forces also were in Madagascar and Burma. The 1st Airlanding RA also was in the Netherlands and Norway in 1944-1945, but it is not known if Lieutenant Woollacott was with the unit then.
2. There is some question as to whether this air mail cover should have been franked at 10 pence.
3. Salisbury is now Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, which succeeded Southern Rhodesia in 1980.
4. The letters were purchased from a *Military Postal History Society* online auction in March, 2021.
5. These were the names of prominent shops, hotels, and theaters in Salisbury at the time.
6. Lieutenant Woollacott was not unrelentingly grim. He concluded his descriptive remarks about the war's destructiveness by writing *“Here endeth the lesson.”* Then he shifted the mood of his letter with a bit of macabre humor. *“Some of the lads had dug their slit trench over some age-old grave & came into contact with the remains. The moment Jerry started to buzz stuff over, they jumped into the hole & now swear that with every shell that landed the chap ‘turned in his grave!’”*

First published in the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin* (Vol. 60, No. 4, October 2022). Here reproduced with permissions with minor additions.



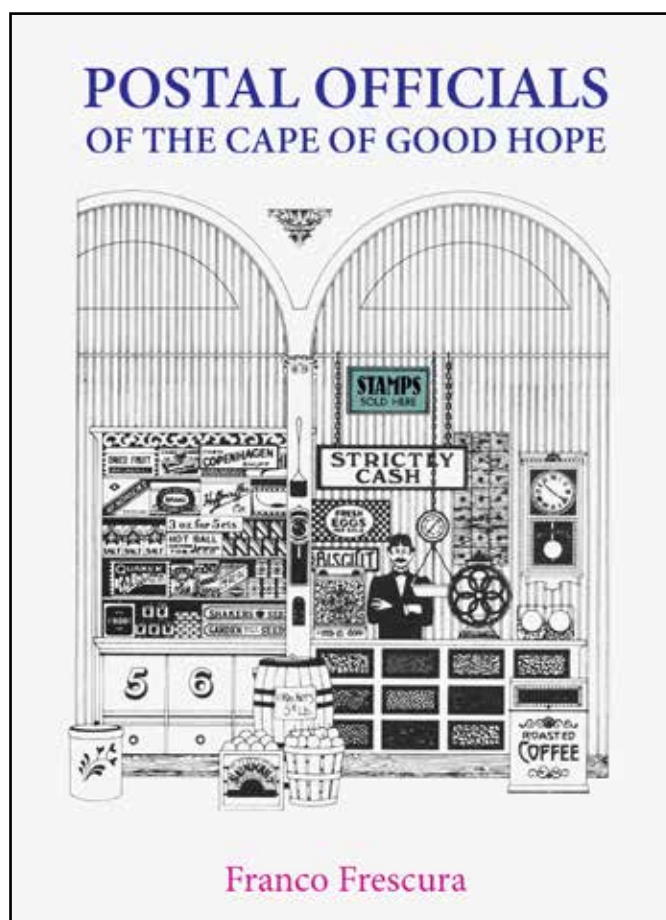
# New PSGSA Books

**Phansi Museum Press and the PSGSA have released two new monographs by Franco Frescura on the postal history of the Cape of Good Hope: Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays & Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope**



Franco Frescura, 2022. *Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays*. Phansi Museum Press, 302 pages, black and white, paperback, 8x10 inches. ISBN 9780620996570. Available in South Africa at R350 each from Phansi Museum (<https://phansi.com>) and for the rest of the world from Amazon.com (<https://www.amazon.com>) for \$20 each. Shipping and taxes are additions.

The book is a collection of essays dealing with aspects of the Cape of Good Hope, a land originally inhabited by Khoikhoi and San First Nations, first visited by Portuguese mariners, invaded by successive Dutch and English colonialist, settled by German armed farmers, prospected by Cornish, Italian, Australian and Californian miners, traded with by Jewish Lithuanians, and finally inhabited by a complex mixture of European, African, Chinese, Malay and Indian cultures. It was inevitable that out of this complicated cultural mix should emerge a number of puzzles, contradictions and enigmas, many of which continue to color our understanding of the South African history to this day.



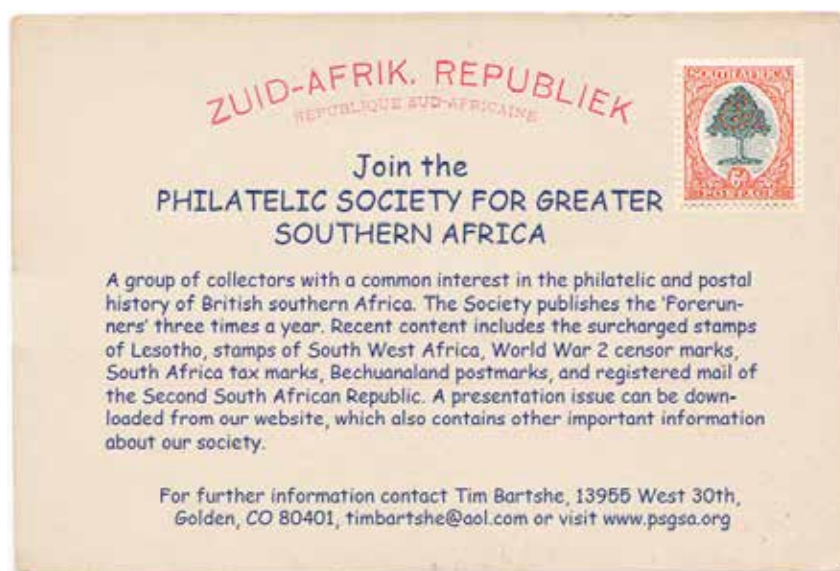
Franco Frescura, 2022. *Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope*. Phansi Museum Press, 300 pages, black and white, paperback, 8x10 inches. ISBN 9780620959247. Available in South Africa at R350 each from Phansi Museum (<https://phansi.com>) and for the rest of the world from Amazon.com (<https://www.amazon.com>) at \$20 each. Shipping and taxes are additions.

This is a book of data, including lists of postmasters, early visitors to the Cape, licensed stamp vendors, main post and sub-post offices, railway stations and returns of post office property. This book is an essential companion for students of Cape colonial genealogy and not the least of postal history.

Both books are published by the Phansi Museum Press of Durban in association with the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA).

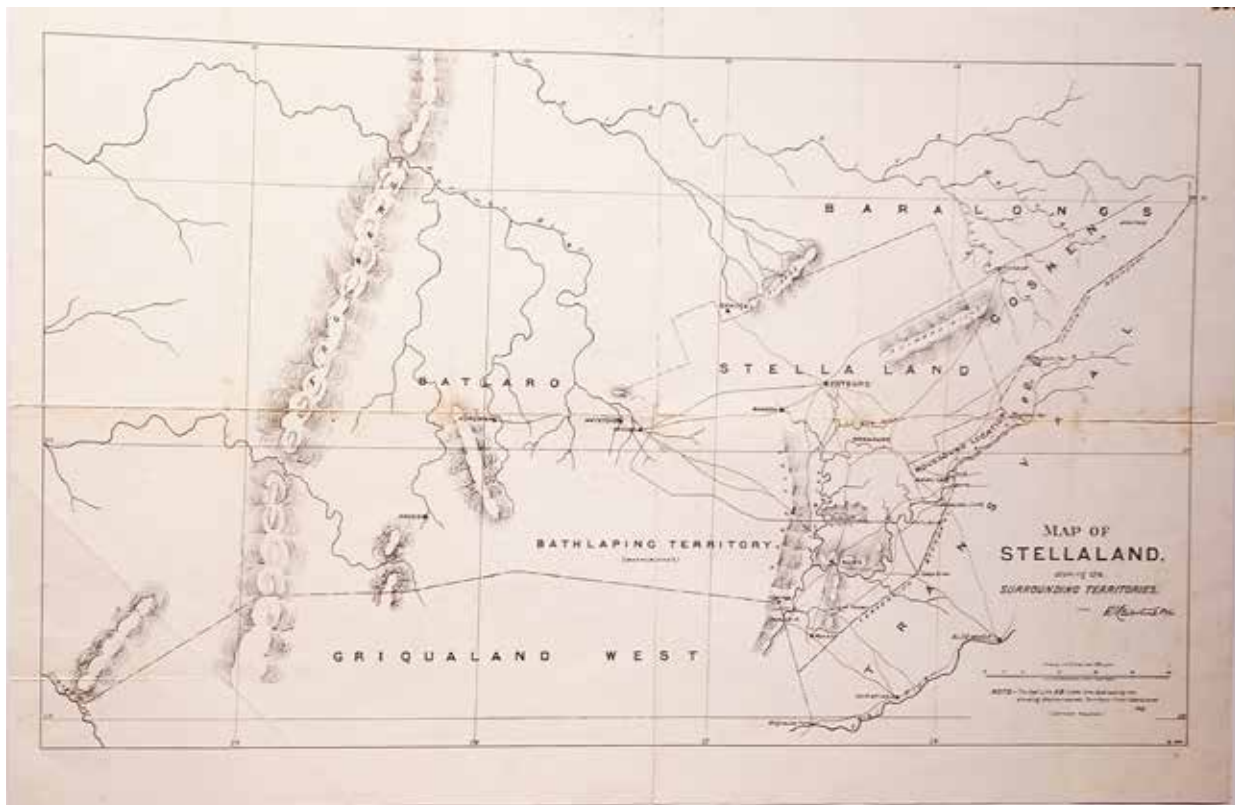
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Dickson, J.	102/26	meter marks	103/46		
duty mark	104/81	murals	103/54		
Editorial Notes	102/2	new book	102/25		
Editorial Notes	103/30	new book	103/54		
Editorial Notes	104/58	new book	104/80		
exchange journals	102/27	new books	102/25		
exchange journals	103/55	New Books	103/54		
For the Record	102/26	new books	104/76		
For the Record	103/54	New Books	104/82		
For the Record	104/82	newspaper tax mark	104/81		



This card is posted on the Society website and can be downloaded and printed for personal and society use. Distribute it to your friends interested in Southern Africa, give it to your favorite dealer suggesting that he/she should consider advertising in Forerunners, or simply distribute it at your local stamp show.

# Early Stellaland Map



Map of Stellaland Showing the Surrounding Territories Prior to 1885 (source unknown)

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# Botswana Government Service Envelopes - Update

by Gordon Smith

Here is a few additions to the Typology of "On Botswana Government Service" (OBGS) Envelopes from Forerunners Whole Number 89.

The following types are added to those described and illustrated in No. 89.

Please feel free to provide additional thought and information related to the development of this typology. The author can be reached at [gs@postalhistory.ca](mailto:gs@postalhistory.ca).

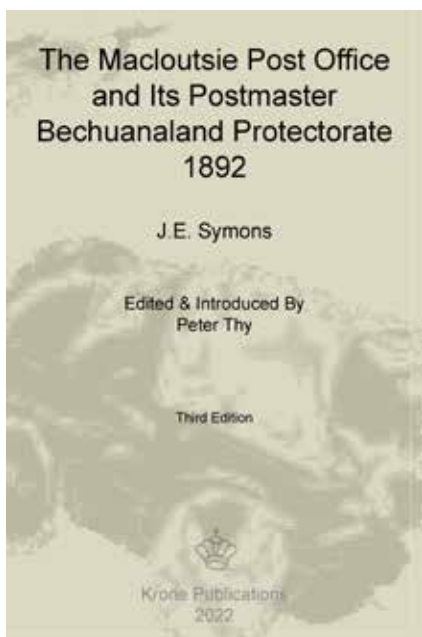
OBGS Type NssL04	<b>On Botswana Government Service</b>
OBGS Type NssU014	<b>ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE</b>
OBGS Type NssU015	<b>ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE</b>
OBGS Type UsS04	<b>ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE</b>
OBGS Type UsS05	<b>ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE</b>

1889 'On Her Majesty's Service' envelope used from Vryburg to Burmester of Cape Town from the Surveyor-General of British Bechuanaland.



# Forerunners Forum

## New Book



Krone Publications has released a new monograph in their series of Southern African Philately and Postal History.

J.E. Symons, edited by Peter Thy, 2022. The Macloutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1892. Krone Publications, 77 pages, black and white, paperback, 6x9 inches. ISBN 9798362084295. Available only on Amazon.com at \$8 each, plus tax and shipping.

The Post Office of Macloutsie and its first and only postmaster occupy a special role in the early postal history of southern Africa for a couple of reasons. First, the banks of the Maklutsi River in the north-eastern-most Bechuanaland Protectorate became the focal point for the Mashonaland occupation forces that crossed the river in 1890. Second, as the newly appointed postmaster to the police settlement of Macloutsie, J.E. Symons, writes in 1892 a couple of detailed accounts for the British Post Office Magazine about his travel to Macloutsie and the daily workings of the post office. Already in late 1892, however, the mail routes changed and the post office downgraded to an agency and the postmaster no longer needed. Symons, after about nine months at Macloutsie, is then reassigned to the office in Vryburg. Later we lose evidence for his whereabouts. That is until 1900, when he appears in Kimberley at its Telegraph Office. He there takes part in the defense of the town during the Boer siege and also takes up his old spare-time occupation of writing for the British Post Office Magazine. The booklet reprints his writings for the Post Office Magazine and offers a general introduction to the postal history of the area and to the life of Postmaster Symons, as we know it.

This is the third edition of a booklet first printed in 1997 and subsequently in 2002. The present third edition is expanded mainly to include Symons' writings during the Mafeking siege.

## 1d Vermilion Woodblock

David Feldman sold as part of their December 2022 British Empire Hausman collection this double woodblock (lot 61291, estimated at £600-1,000).

The auction catalogue description read: '1861 Woodblock 1d vermilion pair, neat barred triangle cancel, repair at lower right side with small amount painted in, small thin and a small light crease, an attractive example with fresh colour and good to large margins at top and bottom.' Sold at £1,200.

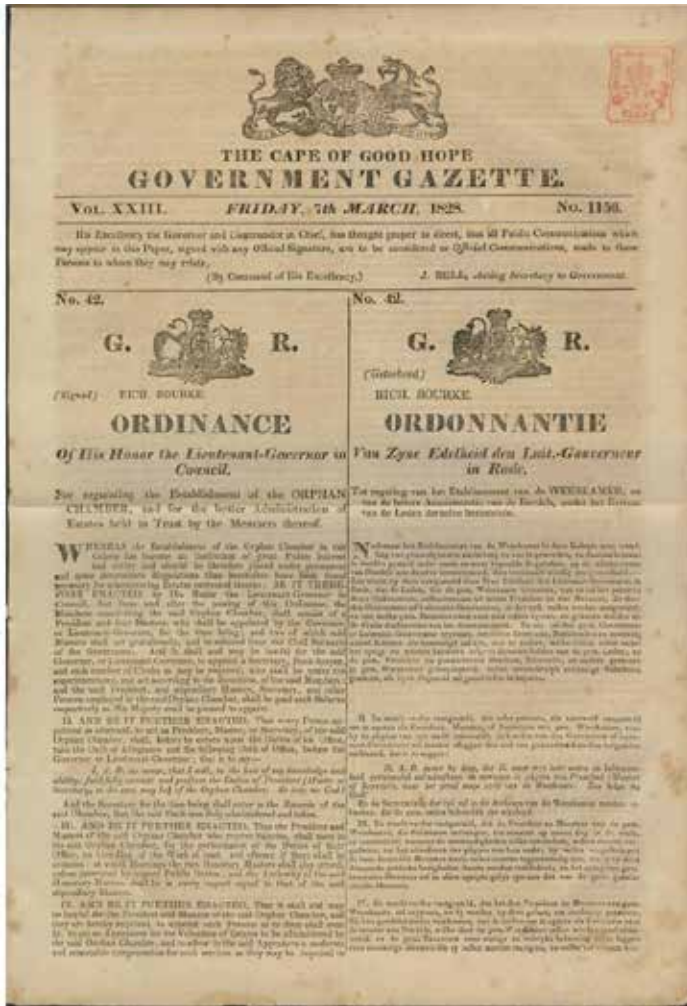


## Philatelic Federation of South Africa

The emblem of the Federation depicts a unique South African feature of early postal history: "Post Office Stones" were discovered on 7 March 1896 while excavations in Strand Street, Cape Town were in progress. The stones tell the story of early Cape history in which letters addressed to, or to be conveyed by, passing ships were placed under the rocks. The earliest inscription dated 1618. The lowermost center of the logo symbolizes the stone with letter underneath lying on the ground.



## Cape Government Gazette from 1828 With One Penny Newspaper Duty Mark



Newspaper tax was mandated in the Cape of Good Hope between 1826 and 1848. The tax was one penny for every sheet of newspaper or periodical where one sheet being equal to four newspaper pages with an additional of halfpenny for each additional sheet. The printed newspapers was to be taken to the Cape Town Stamp Department to be stamped and payment made. An alternative was to have the unprinted paper stamped or be affixed with a stamp mark on pre-printed paper.

The by far majority of examples of taxed paper is found on the Government Gazette for the simple reason that the gazette was often retained and filed besides were printed on superior paper quality. Click on stamp -->



## Bechuanaland Mail Runners



Postrunners arriving at Maun with mail from Livingstone, October 1928 (source unknown).



His Majesty's 'Runner Post' passing through the Chobe Swamps, Kabulubula. From E.H.L. Schwartz, The Kalahari and Its Native Races. H.F. & G. Witherby, London, 1928.



Zulu postman carrying letters in a cleft stick. Drawing by Robert Baden-Powell. Argyll Etkin, Oct. 2022, lot 1416.

# For the Record

466. Argyll Etkin conducted a Worldwide Stamp and Postal History auction in October 2022. Included was an unusual selection of **Bechuanaland** postal history and official documents and manuscripts. Also included was a strong **Boer War** selection with letters, autographs, photos, and other ephemera. There were several original drawings and watercolours. See page 81 for a Baden-Powell drawing.

PROTECTORATE POST.			
<p>It is hereby notified for general information that arrangements will shortly be completed for the establishment of a Postal Service, by Native Runners, between British Bechuanaland and Matabeleland via Bamangwato, when the following Rates of Postage will come into force:—</p>			
Correspondence posted within the Protectorate and Trans-Protectorate to be prepaid in British Bechuanaland. Foreign correspondence with the word "Protectorate."	LETTERS		Foreign Newspaper and magazines 4 oz. and for every additional 4 oz.
	Not exceeding 1 oz.	Every additional 1 oz.	
<b>1.—WHEN POSTED WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE.—</b>			
(a) Addressed to places within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices in Matabeleland, British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	2d	2d	2d
<b>2.—WHEN POSTED BEYOND THE PRESENT LIMITS OF THE PROTECTORATE.—</b>			
(a) Addressed to Places within the Trans-Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) Addressed to Offices within the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	2½d
(c) Addressed to British Bechuanaland, the Cape Colony, and other parts of South Africa	6d	6d	1½d
(d) Addressed to the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries.—The Rates specified in the existing convention between the Cape Colony and British Bechuanaland and an additional charge of	4d	4d	4d
<b>3.—CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO THE PROTECTORATE OR TRANS-PROTECTORATE FROM OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PREPAID AT THE RATES PROVIDED IN THE EXISTING CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CAPE COLONY AND BRITISH BECHUANALAND, and the following additional charges will be payable upon delivery:—</b>			
(a) When delivered within the present limits of the Protectorate	2d	2d	2d
(b) When delivered beyond the present limits of the Protectorate	4d	4d	4d
<p>Postal Agencies are being opened at the undermentioned places:— Within the present limits of the Protectorate at Kanye, Molepolole (Sechell's), and Shoshong (Kham's). Beyond the present limits of the Protectorate at Tati and Gaborone (Lobengula's). No Articles will be transmitted at Book or Parcel Rates beyond Unfading in British Bechuanaland so long as the Mails are conveyed by Native Runners.</p>			
<p>ERNEST C. BAXTER, Acting Postmaster-General. Tlokgeng, British Bechuanaland, July 28th, 1898.</p>			
Printed by Townsend & Son, Government Printers, Tlokgeng.			

Rate schedule for the first organized runner post between British Bechuanaland and Mashonaland, 1888. Lot 909.

Spink, lot 467, unissued essay, c1953.



467. Spink's November 2022 Stamps and Covers of the World sale contained beside a strong showing of Australia also included were a large selection of **Basutoland**, an exceptional **Stellaland** revenue collection, **Cape of Good Hope**, **Natal**, and **Rhodesia and Nyasaland**. Truly something for most of us.

468. **Rand Stamps** by their October 2022 Pretoria Fair and Internet auction sold a remarkably strong **Bechuanaland postal stationery** collection that contained several potential essays.



## New Books

Frescura, Franco, 2022. *Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays*. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 302 pages. Amazon.com.

Frescura, Franco, 2022. *Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope*. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 300 pages. Amazon.com.

J.E. Symons, J.E., edited by Peter Thy, 2022. *The MacLoutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1892*. Krone Publications. Amazon.com.

## Public Zoom Meetings

Several organizations and specialist societies have started offering Zoom presentations with regular intervals on subjects that may interest collectors of Southern Africa. These are often open to the public although may require registration to get the Zoom links. Those the Editor have enjoyed recently is the *The Collectors Club of New York* that variably offer talks with an African or Commonwealth connection (<http://collectorsclub.org>). Another group is the *British Empire Study Group* ([besgonline@gmail.com](mailto:besgonline@gmail.com)) that may be more aligned with our interests.

## Highlights from Journals

This regular column lists some of the more important articles on Southern Africa Philately and postal history that recently have appeared in other journals. It is based on our exchange journals as well as on those that by other means end up on the Editor's desk. If you find that some important articles are missing, please supply the relevant quotes.

Briscoe, A., 2022. The Langeberg Campaign. *South African Philatelist* 98, 204-205.

Coop, B., 2022. George Henry Tuckett Blantyre postmaster. *Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle* 73, 420-422.

de Plessis, A., 2022. The King George V issue for the Silver Jubilee of 1935. *South African Philatelist* 98, 212-213.

Dorn, C.K., 2022. Cape of Good Hope triangles. The 4-pence

blue De La Rue, 1863-1864. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 26, 128-144.

Ganze, E. and van der Vliet, O., 2022. De belastingzegels van Namibia. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 136, 8-12.

Harrop, K., 2022. Rhodesia & Nyasaland meter mail. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 409-415.

Hubbard, P., 2022. Further commemorative covers from Zimbabwe Rhodesia period, 1979-1980. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 403-408.

Hughes, M., 2022. Early Umtali postmarks. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 416-418.

Klugman, K.P., 2022. Natal: Private bank printed Victorian Natal postal stationery. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 26, 159-162.

Klugman, K.P., 2022. Natal: The Nineteenth Century registration markings of Natal. Part 4. The O.4 and O.5 registration data stamps. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 26, 145-158.

Klugman, K.P., 2022. Recorded use of the 1893 large Natal postal card lacking UPU wording. Postal Stationery 64, 332-333.

Knight, J., 2022. The colours of the penny Double Heads from the master plate. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 423.

Knip, E., 2022. De overdrukken van Zuidelijk Afrika, Part 1. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 136, 6-7.

Messenger, R., 2022. NVI (No Value Indicated) definitive stamps of RSA. Part IV – the Rhino stamp on postal stationery. South African Philatelist 98, 206-207.

Monteret, L., 2022. Premières liaisons maritimes avec Madagascar sous pavillon Français 1881-1888. Col.Fra, Whole No. 181, 10-19.

Palazzo, G., 2022. De belastingzegels van de Republiek van Zuid Afrika (1978-2007), Part 2. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 135, 6-10.

Ross, S., 2022. Butterflies on Malawi stamps 2007 definitive Project Nature series. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 431-434.

Ruijne, A., 2022. Nederlandstalige plaatsnamen in Zuid Afrika, Part 1. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 136, 22-27.

Soll, H.-J. and Kreckel, M., 2022. Mail traffic across lake Victoria to the Uganda railway 1902-1914. London Philatelist 131, 512-520.

Solomon, S., 2022. Zululand: A Trio of Covers. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 26, 163-167.

Stolk, J., 2022. Boete gerelateerde stempels. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 135, 32-34.

Stolk, J., 2022. Briefkaarten voor kennisgeving van strafport. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 135, 26-27.

Stolk, J., 2022. Eureka 243. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 135, 22-23.

Stolk, J., 2022. Geïllustreerde briefkaarten voor Cape Town 2022. FVZC Bartolomeu Dias, Whole No. 135, 14.

van der Vliet, O., Travelling taxes of South Africa: mail from southern Africa with fiscal accent. Part 3: the Republic period (1961-2009). South African Philatelist 98, 180-182.

Wilkie, A., 2022. Review of the Mashonaland 'provisional' pre-

paid postal stationery cards and their usage. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 426-428.

Wilson, A., Strutt, J., de Lange, H., Reah-Johnson, S., Spivack, D., and Hoffman, C., 2002. A census of full sheets of the Rhodesia Admiral issues. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 73, 437-439.

## Annual Article of Distinction Award

The next award will be for the current volume ending with this issue and will be announced in No. 105.

All feature and column articles of more than two printed pages will be eligible. The competition will be judged by an *ad hoc* committee presided by the Society President. The judgement of the committee will be final.

The winning article will also be eligible to be posted on the American Philatelic Society's 'Articles of Distinction Archive' ([www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction](http://www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction)).

## Past Print Issues of Forerunners

In an attempt to reduce valuable storage space, the past print issues of Forerunners are available to members willing to pay for shipping. Send a wish list to the Editor and he will let you know which issues are still available and the shipping expenses (only from No. 47). The most recent issues of the past two years will not normally be part of this offer. The full set in searchable pdf format is available on CD or on the Society website and takes up much less space.

## South African Philately Club

This is an online meeting place for collectors of southern Africa. It is a place for discovering new things, to ask questions, to help fellow collectors, and to meet new friends. You will have to register to get the full advantage of the site. It can be highly recommended and is certainly worth exploring. Go to <https://southafricanphilatelyclub.com>.



## Index for Forerunners

There are several pressing issues for our society that require volunteers to step forward. The preparation of a Forerunners index is perhaps the single most outstanding task. The Editor runs into this problem often. For example, recently, a member asked if an article he wrote some years ago ever appeared in Forerunners. The answer is that I really don't know. Other examples involve philatelic questions that we know have been covered in Forerunners but that cannot be found. An index will greatly improve the usefulness of Forerunners to our members and philatelists in general. The fact is that if we can't find something that has been written in the past, it may just as well not exist. So, consider stepping forward.

It is true that the archival edition of Forerunners (available on CD) can be searched using Adobe Acrobat or Reader functions. However, results of a simple search for say 'Rhodesia' will generate too many results. An author and subject index and a table of content would be so much more efficient.

## Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist in electronic format only: December 2022 (Volume 98, No. 6).

FVZA Bartolomeu Dias: September 2022 (Whole No. 135); November 2022 (Volume 35, Whole No. 136).

The PSGSA exchanges printed journals with the Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in electronic format. Forerunners is exchanged as an electronic document to all southern African specialist societies known to us.

## Society Publications

Frescura, Franco, 2022. Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 302 pages. Amazon.com.

Frescura, Franco, 2022. Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 300 pages. Amazon.com.

Smith, Gordon, 2020. Bechuanaland and Botswana Registration Labels: An Updated Typology and Listing. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Matheson, Ian, 2017. The "Officials" of South Africa. PDF on Memory Stick, \$30 pp.

Mordant, David, 2017. Barred Oval Numerical Cancellers of Cape of Good Hope 1863-1963. A Third Edition of the listing is also available downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Bartshe, Tim, 2003-9. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1. The Postage Stamps, 280 pages.

Vol. 2. The Telegraphs, 250 pages.

Vol. 3. Revenues and Postal Stationery, 205 pages.

Available on Amazon.com.

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 99 (CD-ROM). \$30 plus \$5 s/h. Early issues can individually be downloaded from the Society website.

Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope PSGSA Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

To order contact David McNamee using the address given on page 1.

## The Market Place

**South Africa OFFICIALS.** Want to purchase/trade for stamps overprinted official/offisiel. Collections, accumulations, units or pairs, for studying purposes. The usual is as interesting as the spectacular. Can offer Union and RSA stamps and covers. Send scans and price to Roald Sand, Bygdoy alle 27B, 0262 Oslo, Norway. roald.sand2@getmail.no

**Bophuthatswana used.** Wish to trade for used in/off cover, including revenues and postal stationery. Have all Homelands used, some mint and older general worldwide to trade. Write Will Ross, 4120 Schuylkill Dr., Calabasas, CA 91302.

**South West Africa postal stationery.** I am seeking pre-1969 items. Please send offer to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

**Mafeking siege "blueprint" covers.** Want to purchase or trade for covers with Mafeking siege "blueprint" stamps. Send photocopies or scans, prices, or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net

**South African postage due covers.** Looking for postage due mail from and to South Africa, all periods welcome. Please send offers to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

**Natal Postcards Wanted.** Used or unused picture postcards from 1906-1907 depicting scenes and events surrounding the Natal Native Rebellion. Contact David McNamee dmcnamee@aol.com.

**Botswana and Bechuanaland Official Free Marks:** interested in trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gordon.smith@ns.sympatico.ca.

**Botswana Meter Marks:** interested in all eras. For trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gordon.smith@ns.sympatico.ca.

**Zimbabwe Covers between 2008 (Jan 1) and 2009 (Apr).** Bob Hisey at bobhisey@comcast.net.

**Airmails from SA to South America.** Wanted airmail covers from SA to South or Central America between 1932 and 1952. Send scan or photocopy with price to Hugh Amoore, (9 Bishoplea Road, Claremont, South Africa, 7708); email to: hugh.amoore@uct.ac.za).

Send request for your free non-dealer membership ad to the Editor. Multiple ads per issue per member are admitted as long as space is available. Ads will run for several issues unless specified otherwise. Limits of 40 words plus name and postal and email addresses.

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Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

Non-premium positions:

1/1 page: single issue \$20, annual \$50, two years \$80.

1/2 page: single issue \$10, annual \$25, two years \$80.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

An annual advertiser will automatically receive the electronic version of the journal. Contact the Society Treasurer or Editor for any special requirements and for booking your premium spaces. All payment should be addressed to the Treasurer. The Editor will assist with ad designs if required.

STANLEY  
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AUCTIONS

# The David Spivack FRPSL Collection of Rhodesia Admirals

JANUARY 18TH 2023




1918:21 2d Head  
Die IIIB, perf 15,  
toned paper. Lower  
right corner block  
of four with sheet  
number 354,  
unmounted.  
Very rare, with  
just two blocks  
recorded, a  
wonderful multiple.  
Ex Gibbs, Baillie  
and Vestey.


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