



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

Journal Of The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa

March/June 1992

## \* INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Canada: Patrick Delmore, Box 234 Mount Brydges, Ontario, NOL 1WO

England: Athol Murray, Erlesdene Garden Cottage, Green Walk, Bowdon Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2SL

Germany: Werner K Seeba, Einstein Strasse 54, D-7000 Stuttgart 50

Japan: Yutaka Ohkubo, 31-18 Yushima, 2-Chome, Bunkyo-Ku, Tokyo 113

Malaysia: Jeremy Watson, 82 Jalan Burhanuddin, Helmi Taman Tun Dr., Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur

Netherlands: Dr. G.H. Jonkers, Oogarts, B. Knappertlaan 90, 3117 BC Schiedam

NZ/Australia: John Campbell, P.O. Box 12497, Penrise, Auckland

Scandinavia: Erland Hansen, Enighedsvej 13, 2920 Charlottenlund, Denmark

South Africa: Dr. H.U. Bantz, 47 Van Santen Dr., Horison View, ZA1 724

Switzerland: Martin Eichele, Philaclassica AG Box 563 CH-4001 Basel

United States: David Wessely, 125 Elma Drive, Elyria, Ohio 44035

## HIGHLIGHTS

\*New regular feature on the Zululand philately

\*Society to be listed in Stanley Gibbons

\*Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society joins the Reciprocal Listings Exchange

\*Society Translation Service now operational \*German colleague wins this year's 'Charles Lupo Memorial Award' \*

1991 Auction Report

\*Plans for Fifth Anniversary Convention - 'A Celebration of Greater Southern Africa Philately' - are well under way

\*Guidelines for 1992 Mail Auction

\*Enlightening Cape errors and varieties article discovered in non-philatelic journal

\*Announcements on two Society Spring Regional meetings

\*Joint meeting with Rhodesian group bretheran held

Forerunners is published three times per year: March-June, July-October, and November-February. The annual subscription rate is \$20US surface class. First class overseas mail is available for an additional \$1 OUS per year.

Society affiliations include: American Philatelic Society, the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, the Southern California Federation. PSGSA also networks with a number of other specialty groups. For more information about the Society and its services please contact the International Representative most convenient to you.

CONTINUING  
AN ESTABLISHED  
TRADITION OF  
EXCELLENCE

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| * Swizerland - Martin Eichele |                                   | * United States - David Wessely  |

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**Question & Answer Panel of Experts:** The following panel members are available to answer written questions in their designated areas of expertise. This service is available to members and non-members alike. A more detailed description of the Panel and its function is printed in the 'Question & Answer' section.

Syl C. Tully, Panel Chairman, RD #1 Box 3060 Hyde Park, VT 05655 - Areas of Expertise: Natal, Zululand, forgeries, all other areas not listed below.

Dr. U.H. Bantz (address on cover) - Areas of Expertise: South West Africa/Namibia.

R. Timothy Bartshe (address above) - Areas of Expertise: Orange Free State

Ron Carlson (address above) - Areas of Expertise: all revenues and locals, Griqualand East/West, Stellaland, Royal Niger Territories, Uganda Missionaries.

Alan Drysdall, 4 St. Philips Way, Bitterne, Southampton S02 5NH UK - Areas of Expertise: postal history of Transvaal and British Central Africa.

Morgan Farrell, Box 81162 San Diego, CA 92138 - Areas of Expertise: Interprovisionals and Union of South Africa.

Dr. G. H. Jonkers (address on cover) - Areas of Expertise: New Republic and Stellaland

Frederick P. Lawrence, 1707 Terrapin Hills Dr. MitcheIMlle, MD 20721 - Areas of Expertise: Mafeking Blue Prints and 'Mafeking Beseiged' Overprints.

Athol H. Murray (address on cover) - Areas of Experixe: Cape of Good Hope postal history

John Rightmire 1421 Sleepy Hollow Ln. New Braunfels, TX 78130 - Areas of Expertise: CGH after the triangles. Robert F. Taylor, 674

Chelsea Dr. Sanford, NC 27330 USA - Area of Expertise: Cape of Good Hope pre-Adhesives. Bill Wallace, P.O. Box 16381 San

Francisco, CA 94116 USA - Areas of Expertise: the Rhodesias. David Wessely (address on cover) - Areas of Expertise: the Bechuanalands.

Rae Wolpe, 15 High St. Medway, MA 02053 USA - Areas of Expertise: Cape triangles.

Individuals desiring to serve as a panel member, are invited to contact the Panel Chair.

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## Editor

Bill Brooks  
P. O. Box 2698  
San Bernardino, CA. 92406-2698

## FEATURE ARTICLES:

**Tony Davis The Nqutu Manuscript.** The author begins his inaugural installment of the 'Zulu Notes' feature with this very interesting bit of education concerning this rare and valuable cancel. Highlighted also was the problem of Natal postal officials' refusal to acknowledge the manuscript cancelling of frankings, much to the dismay of senders... **26**

**Tim Bartshe Fun With Forgeries.** The Society's OFS/ORC expert-in-residence, takes the reader on a very well-illustrated tour of Republic forgeries. Study of the text and illustrations should reduce the probability of the reader 'being taken'... **30**

**Frederick P. Lawrence Second Early Usage of Mafeking Siege Cancel Discovered.** In two previous articles on the siege cancel appearing herein, the author, discussed an earliest and late use thereof. In this follow-up mention is made of 'good things coming in threes' in that a second very early usage of the cancel was discovered and purchased for a ridiculously low price. The item in question follows the earliest reported usage of the siege cancel by eleven days... **33**

**Athol Murray & Tim Bartshe A Forged Cover Described.** An item purchased in a recent Society auction was discovered to have had a number of questions regarding its authenticity. The authors go into great detail concerning the genuineness of the post marks which were determined to be appropriate relative to time and place of usage. However, the stamp used appears to be one placed on the cover at a later date. The illustrations clearly point this out... **35**

**Werner K. Seeba Postal History: Bulwer/Ipolele District of Natal.** The author once again takes the reader on a nostalgic journey through the highways a byways of postal agency district history. Discussed herein are the little-known offices of a Natal district. Cancellor types, governmental listings, opening and closing dates, route distances and inter town service schedules are detailed. Included are a number of illustrations of cancellers used... **36**

**Franco Frescura Errors and Varieties in Early Southern Africa Postal Cancellers and Obliterators** (Guest Article). Some time ago the author forwarded a copy of this article which appeared in a 1989 issue of a non-philatelic professional journal devoted to the culture and art history of South Africa. Because of the information provided, the Editor felt that exposure of the research in a philatelic publication was essential to aid other Cape specialists in their 'searches for the Holy Grail'. This well-illustrated and documented piece provides invaluable insight into the use and misuse of cancellers, as well as explanations for some of the cancel 'oddities' encountered on the postal history journey. The author also lays excellent groundwork in outlining how it is that a postal system's infrastructure is laid-out and developed over time... **38**

**\* \* NEWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

**Welcome Aboard!!!**

**Erland Hansen - #9140**, Charlottenlund, Denmark. As mentioned on page 42 of the previous issue, Erland became the Society's tenth International Representative, responsible for 'spreading-the-word' throughout Scandinavia. Erland's philatelic interests include: Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand West, Natal, Orange Free State, New Republic, Stellaland, Transvaal and Zululand. His specializations include postmarks and interprovisionals. Erland's other affiliations include the Orange Free State and Transvaal Study Circles. As he said on his application: 'I'm trying to make some Danish collectors interested in South Africa before 1910, but only one seems to have these collecting interests and only Cape of Good Hope. So, I'm a little bit alone with my interests.'

**Paul M. Benson, M.D. - #9141**, Silver Spring, Maryland. Paul came to us after reading one of our entries in Linn's. His collecting interests include Orange Free State, Zululand and the Anglo-Boer War. Paul's specialty is the Boer War. His other memberships include the American Philatelic Society, Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, United Postal Stationery Society and Hawaiian Philatelic Society. He writes 'I am the editor of a medical journal and would be willing to assist in some related capacity.' (Yours truly and the Publications Program Chair will certainly take note of the good Doctor's kind offer in the future.)

**John A. Gehrig - #9142**, Orlando, Florida. John learned of our existence in the philatelic press. His interests include all of general British Africa. John is a member of the American Philatelic Society.

**Sheila M. Case - #9143**, Gaborone, Botswana. Sheila was referred to the Society by a friend. Her collecting interests include, general British Africa, the Bechuanalands, Swaziland, Botswana and the Homelands. Sheila's specialties include Bechuanaland revenues, Botswana postmarks and postage dues and the postmarks of Bophutatswana. She is also a member of the Botswana Philatelic Society.

**Richard C. Knight - #9144**, Capetown, South Africa. Richard learned of us via the journal's entry in Cape Town 1991. His collecting interests include the Rhodesias, Zanzibar to 1936 and the pence Issues of Ceylon. Richard's specialization is Rhodesian postal history to 1924. His other affiliations include Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town, Royal Philatelic Society/London, Rhodesian Study Circle, Society of Postal Historians, American Philatelic Society, East Africa Study Circle, Bechuanaland and Botswana Society and Ceylon Study Circle.

**Jack Harwood - #9145**, Sarasota, Florida. Jack came to us by way of a Society notice in Global Stamp News. His collecting interests are postal orders/notes of all countries and postal stationery of selected former British colonies. Jack's other memberships include the American Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Congress, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, Postal Order Society, United Postal Stationery Society, Sarawak Specialists Society, British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, India Study Circle, Cinderella Stamp Club (UK), Cinderella Stamp Club of Australasia, St. Helena, Ascension & Tristan Da Cunha Philatelic Society, Guyana Philatelic Society (Guyana), American Philatelic Research Library, Great Britain Collectors Club and two local Florida stamp clubs.

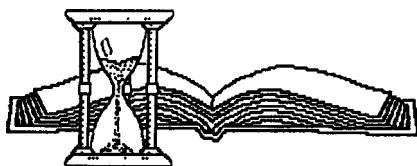
**Ronnie Jones - #9146**, Bloemfontein, South Africa. Ronnie learned of our group through Society entries in the publications of the Orange Free State Study Circle and Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society. His primary collecting interest is Orange Free State with a specialization in Telegraph materials. Ronnie's other affiliations include Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, Orange Free State Study Circle and the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa.

**N. James Corey - #9147**, Ripples, Canada. James became aware of us through the American Philatelic Society. His primary philatelic interests are the Union and Republican periods of South Africa; secondary interests include the pre-Union States and South West Africa. James is a member of the American Philatelic Society.

**John Campbell - #9148**, Auckland, New Zealand. John learned about the Society from our member-in-good-standing, Selwyn Picker, M.D., of Missouri. As you probably noted on the cover page, John has become our eleventh International Representative, covering the New Zealand and Australia area. His collecting interests include Anglo-Boer War illustrated postcards and covers, as well as military related materials of the U.S. for the Civil War and World War I periods. John's specialties involve illustrated-hand drawn and printed-materials related to his collecting interests.

**CALENDAR YEAR 1991 WAS A BANNER GROWTH PERIOD FOR YOUR SOCIETY. FOURTY-EIGHT NEW MEMBERS JOINED OUR RANKS - MORE THAN ANY OTHER TWELVE MONTH PERIOD IN OUR HISTORY!**

**EACH MEMBER IS ENCOURAGED TO 'SPREADTHE WORD' AND RECRUIT. A MEMBER OR TWO MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR CLOSEST INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR THE EDITOR.**



### MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

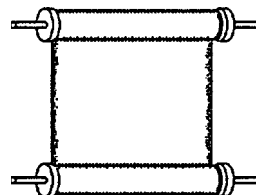
**Daniel A. Brouillette - #9009.** Hailing from the 'Land of 10,000 Lakes', Dan was born on November 29 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is married to Sally and has two children-Sharron and David. Dan is an insurance agency Vice President. He holds a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota, as well as an C.I.C. Insurance Degree. Dan's philatelic interests in order are as follows: New York City postal history, Indian Territories, Boer War, Gold Coast, Transvaal, Cape of Good Hope, Orange Free State, Natal, Indo-China, South Africa, Vietnam War years, Straits Settlements, Arizona Territory and Minnesota postal history. His other pasttimes include bird watching, astronomy, fossil hunting and volunteer community service with the handicapped and young people with chemical abuse problems. Dan travels to the Southwest every winter (he hates snow); has also been to the Caribbean and says 'shortly my wife and I will be 'empty nesters', then watch-out world, here we come.' His major travel desires include London, Cairo, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa and places yet unknown. Dan plans to semi-retire at age 55 and would really enjoy exhibiting world-wide while becoming a parttime dealer. He has been collecting for 36 years and has exhibited numerous collections on a regional level, having always attained gold/reserve and some grands. His prior specialties (since auctioned-off) have included Confederate States (several plating studies) and U.S. Banknote issues. The postal history of South Africa and forerunners is his newest field of interest which he states 'is a story in itself!'

**Bruce Greek - #9010.** Bruce was born in Cleveland Ohio on the eighth of December. He is married to Dolores and has one son, Henry by name. Bruce's professional field of endeavor is that of a reporter for chemical business publications. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering. His first philatelic love are plate blocks and First Day Cover of the US, followed by British Southern Africa, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and some former British North American colonies. Bruce's other leisure pursuits include gardening, reading-stamp and nature publications, military and general history; keeping up an old house and two old cars.

**Gordon Edgar Baker - #9011.** Born on August 29th in Birmingham, England, Gordon is married to Clarice. Two

children resulted from this union-David and Elizabeth. Banking was Gordon's profession. His primary philatelic interest is Great Britain. Other pasttimes include watching cricket and rugby, gardening and visiting places of historical interest.

**Spencer M. Ehrman - #9013.** Spencer was born on August the eighth in Portland, Oregon. He has three children-Spencer, Debra and Susan, and is married to Jacqueline. Spencer obtained a B.A. degree from Yale in 1941. Prior to retirement, he was owner and manager of wholesale grocery companies. His primary philatelic interests include Portugal and Colonies, German Offices and Colonies, French Colonies and British Africa. Spencer enjoys trout fishing-most of the western streams: Deschtes, Madison, Henry's Fork, Bow, etc.; reading mostly history involving the 6th through 17th centuries of Europe and the Middle East, Africa before colonization and playing bridge. He has travelled to England, Spain, Portugal, Egypt, Somalia, Kenya, Seychelles, Maldives, Greece, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malta. As Spencer says: 'I don't pretend to be an expert in philately just enjoy collecting and have an extensive collection in my areas.'



### THE HONOR ROLL

This feature honors Society members and publications which have received awards in competitive exhibitions. Whether the topic of an exhibit is/is not related to greater southern Africa philately, members are acknowledged for their notable achievements. Members are encouraged to notify the Editor when they become members of 'the Winner's Circle'.

**Stephen D. Schumann - #9119:** Gold at Philanippon 91 for 'Sarawak Postal Stationery Until 1941'.

**Gary J. Anemaet - #8930:** Silver at Chicagopex 91 for 'King Peter II-Land of the Slavs'.

**John Campbell - #9148:** Silver medal (literature) for 'The Place of the Stones: Mafeking'.

**Louise Christian - #8714:** Gold award at TEXPEX 91 for 'U.S. First Bureau Issues 1894-98'.

**Dave Wessely - #8803:** Vermeil at Aripex 92 for 'Study of the Bechuanaland 1885-1912, Both Stamps and Covers'.

*Honorlo//... canto'*

**Alan Hanks - #9105.** Silver plus AAPE awards at TOPEX 91 for 'Insects'.

Cape Town 91 Awards:

*Large Gold*

**Des Hyland - #9018.** 'The 1925-31 Bradbury Wilkinson Pictorial Definitives'.

**Alan R. Drysdall - #8923.** 'Transvaal-First Republic and First British Occupation'.

*Silver(w/with the felicitations of the Jury)*

**George van den Hurk - #8706.** 'Set of Three Border War Mail Publications'

**Alan R. Drysdall (with Dave Collis).** 'Moshonaland - A Postal History 1890-96'.

*Silver*

**Michael G. Leeman - #9026.** 'South African Bantam Covers'.

*Silver-Bronze*

**William C. Brooks - #8701.** 'Forerunners'.

**John Campbell - #9148.** 'The Place of the Stones - Mafeking-Mafikeng'.

**Dave Wessely - #8803.** Best of Show & a Gold at CUY-LORPEX'91 for 'Bechuanaland'.

**Gary Anemaet - #8930.** At Aapex 91: Gold for 'Bangladesh - 1971 Provisional Overprints' and One-frame Honorable Mention for 'AMF Markings of the New York City Airports'.

## EDITORIAL NOTES



Since the publication of the first issue back in September of 1987, Forerunners has 'come a long country mile', as we use to say in the hinterlands where I grew up. As my Swiss friend and fellow founding member, George van den Hurk has said on more than one occasion: 'We have gone from strength-to-strength'. With this in mind, please pay close attention to the announcement concerning the Fifth Anniversary Special Edition appearing just before 'Feature Articles'.

The journal's progression, from a six page stapled newsletter, to a forty-eight page plus award-winning journal, is due in no small part to the feedback and encouragement provided by you, the reader. My sincere thanks to all as we begin our sixth volume.

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As per our Publications Program Chairman's (Alec Page) suggestion, beginning with this issue, pages will be sequentially numbered for each complete volume.

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Enclosed with this issue are 'desired topics' lists for both the 'Bits & Pieces' and 'Feature Articles' sections. The subjects listed are those members have expressed an interest in seeing covered in your journal. Authors-to-be are encouraged to select one or more of them when taking pen in hand.

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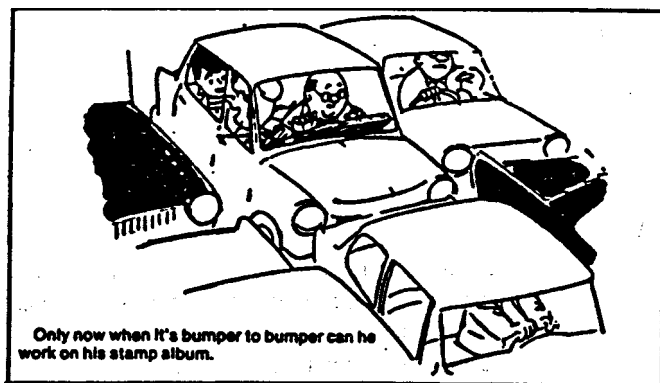
The results of the balloting for awarding of the Second Biennial Charles Lupo Memorial Award have been tabulated - see announcement in 'Feature Articles'. Instead of presenting the award every two years, we will now move to its selection on an annual basis.

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A Translation Service has been added to the benefits of Society membership and is now listed in 'The International Scene' feature.

\*\*\*\*\*

Other than previously published works, Forerunners has no original articles for future issues. Of course we can have an entire issue or two totally devoted to 'Bits and Pieces' if the readers so desire.



Only now when it's bumper to bumper can he work on his stamp album.

## **EI**      **CORRESPONDANCE**

*FORERUNNERS - Vol. VI, No. 1 - March/June '92 - p5*

'The latest FORERUNNERS arrived this morning - another excellent issue, making the overall volume something to provide a sense of achievement in its development.'...W.A. Page FRPS,L Dartford, UK

'Received FORERUNNERS #13 within three days of your mailing - GREAT ISSUE, etc.' ...T.P. McDermott, White Plains, New York

• Many thanks for the welcome packet and first issue of FORERUNNERS. I've thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Without question, it stacks up well against any of the dozen or so society journals which I receive.' ... Jack Harwood, Sarasota, Florida

• I showed the recent FORERUNNERS to Rhodesian Study Circle members and they were all impressed with it. I distributed the membership forms, so we may well get a few new members as a result.' ... Bill Wallace, San Francisco, California

• My best wishes to you and I look forward to receiving the next issue of FORERUNNERS. There is such a lot to read in it, I am still catching up on last year's' ... Joan Matthews, Herne Bay, UK

• Playing with your stamps on a fully loaded transcontinental 747 guarantees the acquaintance of at least two other collectors, and some lively conversation with the flight attendant. It's happened to me on four consecutive trips.' ... Rick Millar, Saunderstown, Rhode Island

### **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR BOARD**

#### ***Presidentia/Notes***

Guy Dillaway, President

Our East Coast regional meeting will be held May 1-3 at PHILATELIC SHOW in Boxborough, Massachusetts. PHILATELIC SHOW is a World Series of Philately event, so if one of our members wins the Grand Award, the exhibit will be entered in STaMpsHOW in Oakland, California this August. PSGSA is having its lavish Fifth Anniversary Meeting at STaMpsHOW. These two events are the first two major shows for our Society in 1992. Make an effort to show your collection in these events. Southern Africa has many interesting and easily collectable areas which most people do not seem to know about. We can show them and have fun at the same time.

I am Exhibit Chairman for PHILATELIC SHOW. Write to

(address on inside front cover) or call me direct (617899-1181, 7-11 pm est) for information and a prospectus. For STaMpsHOW, contact The American Philatelic Society, Box 8000-N, State College, PA 16803.

#### ***The Recruiting Comer***

Rick Millar, Vice President/Membership

At the request of our Board of Directors, I am formulating a recruiting strategy for our society as one of my first endeavors in the Vice President's office. I thought that our membership should see the lead paragraph of our proposed strategy:

'The fundamental recruiting objective of PSGSA must be to sustain the existing membership and provide a viable world-wide source of high quality new members to assure the organization's growth and success. Beyond this basic goal, effective recruitment mandates each new member to contribute something to the Society's purpose. JAN VAN RIEBECK is reported to have said, during his exploration of the CAPE area: 'We shall reap rewards from this land only to equal our efforts towards it.' The rewards were clearly found by his hard-working followers to greater southern Africa. Should **we seek** such commitment to contribution and participation from our members? YES! And ours will be an outstanding international philatelic endeavor.'

Regarding our immediate recruiting objectives, I have extended membership invitations to about 150 new APS members with stated interests touching on the PSGSA scope. Let's hope we get a strong response. Please be sure to 'talk up' PSGSA at your local stamp dub or in your encounters with fellow philatelists and dealers.

I hope that 1992 is a great (philatelic) year for you! Rick

Millar, VP/Membership

#### ***From The Program Chair***

Louise Christian, Director/Programs

Things are really progressing for our next annual meeting, which will be held during APS STaMpsHOW 92 in Oakland, California, August 20-23. We have already heard from a few folks who will be joining us - two from England, one from Germany and one/plus spouse from New Zealand. It will be great to have the opportunity to visit with these kindred spirits and learn from them.

The dinner plans are almost finalized, and the tab will be \$20 per person, which includes salad, entree, dessert, beverage, tax and gratuity. A no-host 'attitude adjustment'

*From the Program Chair... conto'*

will precede dinner. We will send out a special notice when final arrangements are made. Please let us know if you are interested in attending this gala affair. RESERVATIONS WILL BE A MUST!

In addition to our Northeast Regional meeting at PHILATELIC SHOW, a Society program is being planned for the WESTPEX 92 weekend, May 1-3, at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. You will find more on the meeting in this issue's 'Events of Note' feature.

As we will be celebrating our 5th anniversary - 'A Celebration of Greater Southern Africa Philately' at STaMpsHOW 92 let's get together and do it right. Best wishes, Louise.

***Facts, Figures & Other Matters*** Bill

Brooks, Secretary & Founder

With closing of calendar year 1991, the

Society experienced the most growthful year in its history. A total of forty-eight new members joined our ranks. Once again, Society releases in the philatelic press were the single greatest recruitment source. (A recent release covering our 'Celebration of Greater Southern Africa Philately' at STaMpsHOW 92, was printed in its entirety in *Linn's* which took up almost a quarter page in that fine publication!) Our affiliation with PFSA has yielded excellent results due to coverage in *The South African Philatelist* - one well-respected, David Crocker, has just recently joined the ranks and will be listed in next issue's 'Welcome Aboard' feature.

Another programmatic milestone has been reached with the introduction of the Society Translation Service which now becomes a permanent feature in the 'International Scene' section.

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Frederick Lawrence is hard at work on our Society one-frame exhibit for World Columbian Stamp Expo. My thanks to all the members who have been assisting him in this great opportunity to have the Society appear on the International show stage. Attendance at this event is anticipated to be in excess of 100,000!

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As in the past, this issue's column includes profile

information on the general membership. This issue's installment lists the professions of members, in rank order, drawn from all member biographies received (N=89) to date. Needless to say, we are an interesting group. In the next issue, we will take a look at member

place of origin. Until then, my very best for the new year of 1992.

EMPLOYMENT FIELD	NO .
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ENGINEERING	13
EXECUTIVE MANAGER	8
STAMP DEALER	7
TEACHING	6
PHYSICIAN	6
CONSULTANT	4
MILITARY	4
COLLEGE STUDENT	3
BANKING	3
DENTIST	3
PRINTER/PUBLISHER	3
SALES	3
ATTORNEY	2
GEOLOGIST	2
JOURNALISM	2
SOCIAL WORKER	2
APPRIOR	1
CITY PLANNER	1
CIVIL TECHNOLOGIST	1
COLLEGE PROFESSOR	1
<b>FARMING/RANCHING</b>	1
FINANCIAL PLANNER	1
GEOLOGIST	1
STATE GOV'T ADMIN.	1
GOV'T TAX OFFICER	1
HOTEL BELLMAN	1
JUDGE	1
LIBRARIAN	1
PRE-SCHOOL ADMIN.	1
PSYCHOLOGIST	1
TRAVEL AGENT	1
FOREIGN SERVICE	1
RETAIL SHIPPING	1
WHOLESALE/GROCERY	1
<b>TOTAL BIOGRAPHIES</b>	<b>89</b>
 <b>AVERAGE AGE</b>	 <b>51.4</b>



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*From The Arch/ves*

Tim Bartshe, Director/Archives

Once again, the mail box has been brimming with donated material and recent publications from our affiliated societies. From the Rhodesian Study Circle comes the latest four issues of their journal. Included are the final three installments of Stephen Johnson's serialized study dealing with the evolution of the headplates of the 1910 issues. Cecil Russell and George Stewart begin a series of articles on 'The Military and Air Force Camp Post Offices of World War II in Southern Rhodesia'. Last May, the Society held its 48th postal auction which was loaded with 466 lots, all dealing with the Rhodesias. Judging from the prices realized from the previous auction, these sales are well followed with a large number of vendors and bidders. This was also their first auction with illustrations!

The Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika's *Bado%mea* Dias contains some interesting articles: one on the Great Trek and the centennial held in 1938 and its associated postal history and cachets, and another on the Republic

- Upingtonia in German Southwest Africa. There are many others of modern interest; all in Dutch. Our thanks go to our friends in Holland for including our Society's announcements in their April and June issues.

The Transvaal Study Circle continues with its detailed series on each of the issues of the South African Republic, in preparation for their future handbook; kudos to Alan Drysdall for his excellent work as author and editor. The September Bulletin contains a -very interesting article on the Boer War and its effect on the postal service

- Kroonstad, by Richard Stroud. Thanks to both societies for their continued support.

We now have a copy of Ian Mathews' *Transvaal Philately* in the library. This volume is the most updated publication available on the market today, and while the

First Republic is slighted, for a number of reasons, it does deal with a number of other areas in great detail and in a style uniquely Ian's. The postal history of this area is dealt with in more than adequate detail to aid the interested student to do more study without starting from scratch. This includes a listing of all post offices and he attempts, and probably for the first time, to list all the post mark types and where they are known to have been used. Dr. Gerrit Jonkers contributes some of his vast knowledge on the New Republic and David Crocker, likewise, with revenues and telegraphs. Overall this is an excellent reference work, and although a little expensive, it has lots

- clear photographs loaded with some color. Until the Transvaal Study Circle publishes its handbook, this is the best single volume around.

*\$\$\$ Treasurers f~epon'\$\$\$*Ron Carlson, Treasurer Fiscal Year 1990/91 Report

1991 opening balance	<b>\$456.26</b>
Deposits	<b>\$10,122.97</b>

Dues received	<b>\$2,691.25</b>
Trust donations	<b>523.92</b>
Auction realization	<b>6,662.30</b>
Other received	<b>245.50</b>

Debits	<b>\$8,092.79</b>
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Postage	<b>\$1,076.89</b>
Printing	<b>811.04</b>
Auction vendor payments	<b>5,754.81</b>
Reserve for 1992 Convention	<b>230.00</b>
Other (bank, PO Box, auction)	<b>220.05</b>

1991 Closing Balance	<b>\$2,486.44</b>
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General ledger transactions (line items) 271

PSGSA enjoyed a year of growth in both membership and its financial resources. The growth in membership and a strong level of renewals attests to the popularity of the Society's theme and services. All but a few members renewed, a couple being lost due to the rise in international postal rates; but the group has remained strong in its support, which is sincerely appreciated and essential to our continued growth.

The auction represented a significant financial risk as the costs are high (catalog printing + postage), but it should be noted that \$440 was netted, or about 7.5% of the gross realization, thus demonstrating the market potential we have, both to sell and buy material.

1992 represents a year of challenges as postage and printing costs represent a major area for careful management - sincere thanks goes to Guy Dillaway for his assistance and guidance. Our recruiting efforts have expanded and will be further enhanced by plans to hold

*Treasurers Report... Comb*

the Society's annual convention at APS's STaMpsHOW 92 with a hospitality suite.

Our revenue profile is being addressed, including expanded advertising by dealers in the Journal for greater southern Africa material. A list of potential firms has been submitted to the Editor for review. Revenue received would fund extra activities or additional journal pages, i.e., basic services will be funded by dues only; we will not become dependent on advertising revenues to support the Society. Please send in your recommendations as to your favorite dealers and auction houses to the Editor. A marketing packet will be sent to them, soliciting the placement of ads in our journal and auction catalogue..Ron

THE  
SOCIETY  
TRUST



This feature provides year-to-date and prior year's contribution data. The figures shown clearly demonstrate the significant generosity of the membership for which the Board is sincerely thankful. With these contributions, your Society is able to do that much better to the benefit of all.

All contributions prior to June 30, 1991

\* mint U.S. postage - \$569.00 \*

general operating fund - \$233.75 \*

awards fund - \$300.00

All contributions July 1, 1991 to present

• mint U.S. postage - \$0.00 (All mint postage donations have been exhausted!)

• general operating fund - \$146.15 (Robert Hisey, Robert Taylor, Ian Jamieson, H.P. Hager, Dr. H.U. Bantz, Jim 'Ryan, Eugene Bowman in honor of Paul J. Wolf)

\* library - \$50.00 (Robert Taylor)

\* auction lot materials - \$26.77 (Louise Christian and Jim 'Ryan)

\* Awards Program - \$0.00

Once again, thank you for your 'contribution to the cause'!

Just as we have finished the 1991 auction with its enormous success for the Society and its vendors, it is time to call for lots for our fourth annual auction. The following is a listing of the guidelines for the submission of material for inclusion in same. We already have material from three members, none of which were vendors in our previous sales, so for all of you newer members and old, please read carefully, in order to ease the load for your poor auctioneer and make sure that your materials sells and at the best realization.

- Material will be accepted until May 31 by Tim Bartshe (address inside front cover). Make sure that the material arrives prior to the cutoff date, as NO lots will be included that arrive after that date!

- Any and all material pertaining to the greater southern Africa area is suitable. Historically, postal history and B-O-B material receive the largest number of bids, but postage stamps and literature also sell well.

- Lots sent pertaining to countries not within our area of interest will not be included. Countries such as Angola or Mozambique fall into this category unless the material is postal history dealing with greater southern Africa.

- Lots consisting of individual stamps or sets should include the following: (a) catalog numbers-both Scott and Gibbons, if possible; (b) condition and faults, if any, and any other descriptors, such as postmarks, etc.; (c) present value from catalog and year quoted; and (d) minimum price you wish to sell the item, otherwise, the auctioneer will set the price at which he believes the lot to be worth.

- The minimum realization value of lots should be in the \$1.00 range. Low-value items should be included in larger lots or sets in order to keep the auction in the 600 +/- goal. There is no upper limit of value for lots.

- Descriptions of lots consisting of collections or bulk material shall be the sole responsibility of the vendor with a general description, number of items included, catalog value or at least a reasonable estimate of same and an estimate of sale price. Remember to be reasonable in your expectations of price realized, as such lots generally command only a small fraction of 'catalog' value, and any such overvalued lots will not be included in the auction!

- Lots of postal history should include any commentary that the vendor wishes to be used to describe his/her lot. Remember, that the better described lots will set a better image in the mind of the bidder, as the auctioneer does not have the knowledge of the material that the vendor 'does, any specialized descriptions will help increase realizations.

- Vendors who are members in good standing, will be charged a 10% sales commission with no buyers fee charged to member bidders. Non-members will be charged 15% and 10% commission respectively.

- Paid commercial ads will be accepted for placement in the auction catalog, with the applicable rates being described in the Classified Section of the Journal. Potentials subscribers to this service should keep in mind that this auction catalog reaches approximately 200 collectors around the world. Copy and fees must reach Tim Bartshe by May 31, 1992 for inclusion.

- Auction catalogs will be distributed to all members in good standing for no charge sometime in July. Non-members wishing to receive the catalog must remit \$3US in cash or equivalent in mint US postage to cover the costs of printing and mailing to: Bill Brooks, P.O. Box 2698 San Bernardino, CA 92406-2698 USA.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL BUYERS & SELLERS IN '92!

**dt11 1**

INTERNATIONAL

THE

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### Notes From Abroad

This feature affords the opportunity for our hard-working International Representatives and non-US members to communicate to the Society about events and other matters philatelic in their geographic areas. We would like to hear from more of you as time goes on (please).

\*\*\*\*\* South African Stamp Scene

#### Discussed

Early member Des Hyland from Ficksburg, RSA. sent a very nice letter stating: 'The stamp scene in South Africa has changed quite considerably. Material (good material) is extremely difficult to get and prices at auction have gone crazy! Southeby's has held two auctions lately and in a number of instances prices have been 10 to 12 times estimate. Crazy, if you are a buyer but lovely if a seller. Unfortunately, I am still one of the former... The annual philatelic exhibition took place in Cape Town this year. There were really some outstanding exhibits. A total of almost 700 frames (15 pages each) were exhibited in the competitive section. To give you an idea of how high the quality was, there were seven Large Gold and 13 Gold awards made...'

Our International Representative/RSA, Dr. H.U. Bantz writes: 'FORERUNNERS received a Silver-Bronze at Cape Town '91 ...I think it is not bad. You had to compete this year with Putzel's new book on SWA postmarks, with G. van den Hurk's 'Border Mail', with Peter Reiner's ' UNTAG Mail', etc. An exceptionally stiff competition. It will take years before we will have another series of such marvellous publications ...Ulli Bantz'

\*\*\*\*\*

### First Flight Covers Available

Our friend, Terry Devine, President of the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa, sent ten complimentary cacheted First Flight Covers/Atlantic Ocean, South African Airways, dated '1991-11-03'. We thank his group for their thoughtfulness. Write to the Editor if you desire one. Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-serve basis until they run out.

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### Season's Greetings

From our comrades in the Dutch Philatelic Society For Southern Africa, we received a very attractive Christmas card wishing us all the best, signed by their Secretary, Jan Stolk.

Another kind holiday message was received by Buzz Cousins who is spearheading the formation of the 'SA & RSA Study Group (Australia). Buzz indicated that once the group has a few more members, they will certainly give strong consideration to joining the Reciprocal Listings Exchange. In addition, he stated that our Fifth Anniversary Convention will most assuredly be brought to the attention of their members.

### STANLEY GIBBONS TO LIST PSGSA 11

In a letter dated 19th December 1991, from the Catalogue Editor, D.J. Aggersberg: '...am now happy to confirm that the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa will be added to the list of specialist societies included in our Part I (British Commonwealth) catalogue.'

The fact that we are now going to be listed in SG is in no small part due to the efforts of our very own Jim Ryan up Calgary, Canada way. Jim made the initial contacts with the Catalogue Editor which resulted in our newly acknowledged status via the above listing. Thank you Jim, for creating this opportunity for us.

### The Reciprocal Listings Exchange

Any specialty group whose philatelic focus falls within, or is contiguous to, the areas covered by the Society, is heartily invited to participate in this information exchange. General information about a specialty group, its activities and special events is welcomed for publication in Forerunners. All that is required is that PSGSA be provided the same opportunity in the publications of the participating groups. Exchange of publications between the participants for library-enrichment purposes is encouraged.

Those participants wishing to publish information releases concerning their special events herein, should take note of the submission deadlines listed in the Classifieds Section.

In this issue, we welcome the our friends at ABWPS.

**The Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society** - Formed in 1958 to study all aspects of the philately of the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 to 1902, excluding the British Occupation issues, i.e., the V.R.I. and E.R.I. overprints, which are the province of the Transvaal and Orange Free State Study Circles.

Areas of study include British and Republican military mail and associated postal markings; British and Republican civil mail and associated postal markings; censor markings and censor labels; prisoner-of-war mail and camp markings; burgher, refugee and concentration camp mail; mail from the Australian, Canadian, Rhodesian and New Zealand contingents.

The basis of study was originally the then outstanding work by Stephen G. Rich of Verona, New Jersey - his 'Philately of the Anglo-Boer War 1899 to 1902'. Since 1958, much original research, study and documentation of new information has been undertaken, and a great amount of knowledge and expertise is available through the Society.

The Society's journal - 'The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist' - is published quarterly, and contains new information, articles, queries, answers, items of interest, Society news, reviews and editorials. A year's issues comprise over 100 pages of well-illustrated information. A new member is entitled to receive all issues of the journal in the year of joining. Back numbers can be supplied, as far as these might be available.

The annual subscription is 5 pounds (approximately \$ 10US/Canadian/Australian/NZ or R18 RSA), and the financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

*Meetings are arranged on a regular basis in the UK and in South Africa, Canada, USA and elsewhere to coincide*

Shrewsbury (October/November) and in Leamington (in May for the AGM/Convention).

Postal auctions, open to all members, have been normally held once a year, subject to sufficient material being submitted. Currently auctions are held twice per year.

Publications so far published comprise:

\* The Prisoner-of-War Camps in South Africa (i.e., the British and Boer Camps, and the burgher, refugee and concentration camps)

\* The Prisoner-of-War Camps Overseas (i.e., the camps in Bermuda, Ceylon, India, St. Helena and Portugal)

\* The Camps on St. Helena for Boer Prisoner-of-War \* The

Boer and British Censor Seals

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\* Other publications in preparation include the following topics: The Republican Campaign, The Hospital Services and the Camps in India for Boer Prisoners-of-War.

ABWPS's postal auction number 17 had 69 total lots including some very unique items such as a Natal Government Telegraphs Form used from Censor Pietermaritzburg to Censor HQ Chieveley Camp requesting permission for a newspaper correspondent to be attached to Column.

ABWPS membership information: Peter M. Prime, Secretary, 56 Mount Way, Waverton, Cheshire CH# 7QF, UK

**The Aerophilatelic Society of South Africa - Founded** in 1954 with 110 current members throughout South

*Africa, Europe, the UK USA and Canada. Members are bound together by the by-monthly The Aeroletter. Contained therein is news of aeroplanes on stamps, information on classic airmail history in South Africa, news of new flights and routes of recent origin. Further information: Colin Plen, P.O. Box 391499, Bramley 2018, RSA.*

SPECIAL EVENT COVER: ASSA had a special cover flown (Centenary of First Hot Air Balloon Ascent) on 28th October 1991. Please contact their President, Terry Devine if you desire to buy one: P.O. Box 10001, Aston Manor 1630, RSA.

**The Bechuanalands & Botswana Society - Founded** .

in 1985 to promote and encourage the study of the philately and postal history of 'The Bechuanalands', namely British Bechuanaland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Botswana The Society's members. are scattered around the world with strong contingents in **the UK and RSA**. The Society publishes **The Runner** **Pmt** on a quarterly basis. The journal has gained wide-spread recognition as an excellent

*RecorocaIL stingsExchange... conto'*

source of specialist articles and information. Two meetings are held each year in the UK at Spring and Autumn STAMPEX. Regular auctions are also held. Membership is 8 pounds per annum. Further information: Mike George, Hon. Secy., P.O. 108, St. Albans, Herts AL1

**Dutch Philatelic Society of Southern Africa (FVZA)** - Founded in 1988 by Dutch collectors focusing upon the following countries: South Africa, South West Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Angola and Mocambique. The Society publishes Bartolomeo Dias four times per year. Articles appear in one of three languages: Dutch, Afrikaans or English. A postal auction is held twice each year and a packet exchange is also offered. Further information: Secretary FVZA, Jan Stolk, Wilgensing 166, 3053 CA Rotterdam, Holland.

**East Africa Study Circle** - Founded in 1979 with a world-wide membership of 150, the group's purpose is the recording and publication of information pertaining to the philately of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, with all their forerunners and ramifications. Three meetings are held each year, two of which coincide with B.P.E. and STAMPEX. Displays and talks are given by members at these sessions. In addition, EASC has a growing library to which all members have access. The bulletin 'O.B.E.A.' is issued three times per year. Bound volumes of early issues are available. Other publications appear periodically - 'The Post Offices of Kenya & Other Postmarks, 1890-1903.' Further information: Roy Dunstan, Chantry Ct., Warminster, Wilts, BA12 9AL, England

**Orange Free State Study Circle** - Founded in 1953 to further the study of the postage, revenue and telegraph stamps, the postal stationery, markings and history of the Orange Free State and the Orange River Colony. There are over 80 members in the UK USA, South Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe and other parts of the world. A quarterly bulletin is issued that contains articles by members, questions and answers, meeting reports, membership changes and much other useful information. Meetings are held three or four times per year in or near London. Postal auctions, open to all members, are regularly organized, often in conjunction with the Transvaal Study Circle. The group's three-volume Handbook is acknowledged as THE seminal reference work on the subject. Books on the postmarks and postal history of the OFS/ORC are also available. Current projects include a series of maps concerned with the postal history of the OFS, censor marks used in the OFS during the AngloBoer War and a re-write of Volume I of the Handbook

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Information: J.R. Stroud, 28 Oxford St., Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1 LO, England.

**Rhodesian Study Circle** - Founded in 1948, RSC has a world-wide membership of over 400. It publishes a quarterly journal and holds regular meetings in England, South Africa, Zimbabwe, with occasional session in Canada and the US. Features in their publication include columns on recent issues of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi to encourage the study of modern material. Further information: Membership Secretary, D. Lambert, 25 Carr road, Nelson, Lancaster BB9 7JZ, UK

**South Africa Collectors Society** - Founded to encourage and promote the collecting of stamps and postal history of both Union and Republican periods, the Homelands, South West Africa, Cape of Good Hope and Natal. Periodic postal auctions are held. The Society has held joint meetings in the past with the Rhodesian Study Circle and East Africa Study Group. Further information: A. R. Chiffon, 56 Framfield Rd. Micham, Surrey CR4 2AL, UK

**South West Africa Stamp Study Group - Founded in 1975**, the group's intention is to study and record all philatelic material concerning SWA & Namibia and to create reference material - especially for the period from 1961 onwards. The group meets monthly, either in Johannesburg or Pretoria. It publishes the monthly Newsletter. Further information: Hon. Secy., Mrs. Marge Viljoen, P.O. Box 36473, Menlo Park, ZAA-01 02, RSA.

**Transvaal Study Circle** - Founded in 1965 with the aim of promoting study of the stamps and postal history of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek/Transvaal and aspects of the Nieuwe Republiek, Stellaland, Goschen and Swaziland. Membership is world-wide. TSC publishes the quarterly Me Transvaal Philatelist. Many of the articles published therein incorporate research results which will eventually be compiled into a comprehensive Handbook of Transvaal philately and postal history. Meetings are informal affairs and held at irregular intervals, coinciding with visits by overseas members to the UK. There is also an annual meeting in South Africa. Postal auctions, usually in 'association with other specialty groups with interest in southern Africa, are held periodically. Membership is 10 pounds per year. Further information: Secretary/ Treasurer, Jeff Woolgar, 132 Dale Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 6QH, UK

PSGSA members aware of other groups who should be listed, send contact name/address to the Editor.

### Events of Note

Listed below are shows and exhibitions from around the world which members may have an interest in attending. Any reader aware of other events which should be listed, please send information to the Editor. Any reader having additional information on, or who attends one of the listed events, written comments would be appreciated.

**Grenada 92** - April 17-26 - Grenada, Spain, FIP, Youth. U. S. Commissioner: Roberto M. Rosende, c/o The Philatelic Foundation, 21 E. 40th St., New York, NY 10016.

**WESTPEX 92** - May 1-3 - San Francisco, California, Association for Western Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc., Cathedral Hotel, Van Ness at Geary. Exhibit prospectus and other information from Charles R. Waller, P.O. Box 1992, Pittsburg, CA 94565. PSGSA SPRING WEST COAST REGIONAL MEETING!!! PROGRAM PLANNED. PSGSA 'BEST EXHIBIT' AWARD. Contact general member and Society host John McChesney-Young, 2120 8th St. Berkeley, CA 94710-2374. This is a World Series of Philately event!

**PHILATELIC SHOW 92** - May 1-3 - Boxborough, Massachusetts - Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs. Boxborough Host Hotel, Route 111 at 1-495 (Exit 28), Boxborough. PSGSA NORTHEAST SPRING REGIONAL MEETING AND PROGRAM. SOCIETY 'BEST EXHIBIT' AWARD. Contact Society President Guy Dillaway for prospectus and meeting details - P.O. Box 181, Weston, MA 02193. World Series of Philately event!

**WORLD COLUMBIAN STAMP EXPO 92** - May 22-31 - Chicago, Illinois. Spring meeting of the American Philatelic Society, World Series of Philately exhibition competition PSGSA's 'BEST EXHIBIT' AWARD TO BE PRESENTED! US Postal Service, Rosemont/O'Hare Expo Center, Rosemont. ONE FRAME EXHIBIT ON THE SOCIETY WILL BE ON DISPLAY DURING THE COURSE OF THE SHOW. Prospectus and other information: World Columbian Stamp Expo 92, 7137 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60656.

**OLYMPHILEX 92** - July 30-Aug 7 - Barcelona, Spain. FIP. Information from Moms Rosen, 7013 Pheasant Cross Drive, Baltimore, MD 21209.

**GENOVA 92** (Thematic) - September 18-27 - Genoa, Italy. FIP. Data from George T. Guzzlo, 134 Berkeley Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217.

**SESCAL 92** - October 9-11 - Los Angeles, California Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, Hyatt at Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles. Exhibits will include philatelic literature. World

**STaMpsHOW 92** - August 27-30 - Oakland, California Annual meeting of the American Philatelic Society. World Series of Philately finals! PSGSA 'BEST EXHIBIT AWARD'. Oakland Convention Center. Prospectus and hotel reservation information: APS, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803. **SOCIETY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION HOSTING CELEBRATION OF GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA PHILATELY** - all specialty groups in the Listings Exchange have been invited to participate. Banquet, Memorial Award presentation, program and a Society hospitality suite available for general philatelic camaraderie and informal discussions. For further details, contact Louise Christian, Director/Programs, P.O. Box 369, Placentia, CA 92670 USA. Banquet reservations through Louise ARE A MUST. Attendance confirmations are already being received from our colleagues afar in the UK, NZ, Germany and Canada which indicates that this will probably be the largest gathering of greater southern Africa philatelists to ever be held in North America!

### *SESCAL 92... canto'*

Series of Philately exhibition event. PSGSA 'BEST EXHIBIT' AWARD! Prospectus and general information: James A. Bowman, 3459 Township, Simi Valley, CA 93063. **SOCIETY FALL REGIONAL MEETING AND PROGRAM!** Contact Louise Christian, especially if you would like to do a program: Box 369, Placentia, CA 92670.

**PRETORIA 92** - October 6-10 - Pretoria, RSA. National Stamp exhibition held in Pretoria in conjunction with the Annual Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Prospectus and other information: Box 50011, Wiondo Park 0149, RSA.

**URUGUAY 92** - October 12-21 - Montevideo, Uruguay. FIP. Contact: Fred Blau, US Commissioner, Box 59153, Chicago, IL 60659.

**ROYAL 93 ROYALE at ORAPEX** - April 30-May 2 '93 - Ottawa, Canada 65th Annual Convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Ottawa's 5th National Stamp Exhibition, R.A. Stamp Club, Ballroom, Radisson Hotel, Queen and Lyon Sts., Ottawa Data from Chairman, P.O. Box 2788, Station 'D', Ontario **KIP 5W8**,

**ANOTHER JOINT PSGSA MEETING WAS HELD WITH THE RHODESIA STUDY CIRCLE HELD ON JANUARY 25TH, THANKS TO OUR MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO, FOUNDING MEMBER BILL WALLACE. MEETING REPORT IN NEXT ISSUE.**

Members are encouraged to arrange meetings in their area. If you need assistance, write the Editor.

## Society Translation Service

The following is a list of members who are willing to translate from one language to another. Members desiring to have something translated are to contact the volunteer translator direct with their requests. Copies of items translated into English, which focus upon philatelic areas falling within the Society's scope, should be sent to the Editor. Said items will then appear in the journal to be shared by all.

If any member wishes to become a Society Translator, please notify the Editor and include the language(s) to/from for which you wish to provide translation assistance. We thank those members who appear below for their willingness to further the Society cause.

- Bob Hisey - Afrikaans to English & German to English - 7227 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33872 USA
- H.U. Bantz - Afrikaans to English, German to English and vice versa - 47 Van Santen Dr., Horison View ZA-1 724, Republic of South Africa

## The Bookie Reports

Jim Ryan

With this installment, the reader should note the presence of a checklist for Union philatelic literature and rather extensive coverage of the territories studied. Corrections and additional information are always welcomed.

The final installment of this 'key works' project, shall cover the Rhodesia Complex, the Anglo-Boer War, Backof-the-Book and Republic of South Africa stamps. My Union listings include some postal history information applicable to the current Republican period. Good hunting, Jim

### I. Union of South Africa

#### Key Works - Postal History

1. The Encyclopaedia of South African Post and Postal Agencies, R.F. Putzel, RDPSA. Vol. I (A-E) 1986, Vol. II (F-M) 1987, Vol. III (N T) 1989, Vol IV (U-Z) 1990
2. The Handbooks -of South African Postmarks, R.F. Putzel. Vol. I (A-B) due February 1992, Vol. II publication in late 1992; two volumes per annum are to be expected until completion.
3. South African Postal, S.J. Vermaak, 1979
4. The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa 1892-1975, H.O. Relsener, 1975
5. South African Postmarks (Routine handstruck cancellations, 1910-1966), T.B. Berry, 1967

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#### Key Works - Handbooks/Catalogs

1. 1952 (Jan van Riebeeck Tercentenary) Handbook/Catalogue of Union Stamps, Kaplan, et al.
2. 1955 Volume II to above
3. 1960 (Union Diamond Jubilee) Handbook/Catalogue of Union Stamps, Sheffield, et al.
4. 1964 Volume II to above
5. 1979 Handbook/Catalogue of Union Stamps, S.J. Hager. Any reader having details on this work, please write me.
6. 1986 Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961, S. J. Hager. This volume does not include postal stationery.

#### Key Works - Pre-1925

1. The Interprovincial Stamps and Postmarks of the Union of South Africa, Berry and Vermaak
- 2 The De La Rue Georgians of South Africa (Contains full coverage including SWA overprints, usage in Bechuanaland Protectorate, Basutoland and Swaziland. Interprovincial information and speculation and a wonderfully constructed bibliography.), H.E. Lobdell, 1944, reprinted in Springbok and probably The South African Philatelist, originally in Collectors Club Philatelist.

#### Checklists - Stamps and Postage Dues

1. South Africa 1926-1928 Pictorial Issue (Historical Background), O.R. Sanford and K. van Ingen, 1980
- 2 A Study -of the Bradbury-Wilkinson 1925-1931 Pictorial Definitives, P. Vogenbeck. Mentioned in Springbok Nov/Dec 1991, p. 121.
3. The Springbok Half Penny, Ward, 1958
4. The Springbok Half Penny, Sanford and van Ingen, ?
5. Ibe Ship Penny, Ward, 1958 6. The Ship Penny, Sanford and van Ingen, ? 7. 2d Union Building Postage Stamp, R.D. Allen, ?
8. South Africa Union and Republic Soil Or Roll Stamps, Allen, ?
9. The Postage Due M s of S= h Africa, Allen, ?. Note: A useful supplement appeared in Springbok Nov/Dec 1991, pp. 110-111.

Checklists - Air Mails (see Forerunners, Vol. III, No. 2, pp. 8-10, 'Areophilately' by George van den Hurk)

1. The Airmails of British At 1925-1932, comp. N.C.

**Bookie Reports .. comb'**

Baldwin, Aero Field Handbook No. 2, 1932

2. Air E=d South Africa, LC. Wyndham, 1936

3. Speedways of Thought: The Romance of the Development Of the Telephone, the Telegraph, of Wireless Telephony and the Air Mail, Union of South Africa Department of Posts and Telegraphs, 1937

4. Air Mails of South Africa, N.C. Baldwin, 194?, reprinted from Aerofield.

5. Air Posts of South Africa, compiled by Baldwin and M.F. Stem, reprinted from Aerofiekl, 1958 (?)

6. South African Air Mails, Stem 1968, issued with a loose price list?

7. Priced List of South African Air Mails, numbered by Stem, compiled by Birrell, 1975

8. Air Mails of the Republic of South Africa Land SWA), 1961-1981. Uys, ?

9. Par Avion in Southern Africa, Birrell, 1986

Postal History Checklists

1. Maritime Marks of South Africa, Allen, ?

2. Supplement (to Maritime Marks of S.A.), Allen, ?

3. British Maritime History Volume III: The Union Castle Ocean Prat Offices, P.A.C. Cattell, 1984

4. The Mobile PPO Offices of South Africa, 1937-1969, Berry, ? st

5. The Mobile Pmt Offices of South Africa, 1937-1983, W.A. Page (PSGSA member), 1989

6. A revision of Alec Page's work should appear in the Fall of 1992.

7. Railway Stamps of South Africa, H.S. Hagen and S.P. Naylor, ?

## II. Small Territories

Griqualand

1. 'The Postage Stamps of Griqualand West', H.R. Holmes, appeared in London Philatelist 71/174, 200 and 72/1, 47 and also a a monograph, 1963

2. 'Private Treaty Catalogue of the Postal History of Griqualand', Harold Hollander **Philatelists**, Hout Bay, RSA, Oct. 1988

3. ML Currie Express Stamps of East Griqualand, Mullins,

The Postmark and Postal History Society of Southern Africa Occasional Paper #3

4. the Early Postal History .of the Griqualands and the Bechauanlands, Occasional Paper #3

5. Notes on the Stamps Of Griqualand West With Autotype Illustrations, Napier. DETAILS APPRECIATED, I HAVE HJMR INFORMATION.

New Republic

1. De Nieuwe Republiek, 1884-1888, Dr. G.H. Jonkers, FRPSL (PSGSA member), in Dutch with an English summary, in print

2. Swaziland and New Republic: Their Stamps and Postal Histories, J.H. Harvie Pirie, FRPSL

3. 'The Minor Republics-New Republic', Sidney Goldfield in Forerunners, Vol. I, No.1, p. 5

Stellaland

1. De Postzegels van Stellaland, Leon de Raay, Dutch text (200 pp.), 1934

2. Portions from The Handstruck Letter Stamps Of the Cape of Good Hope from 1792-1853 and the Postmarks from 1853-1910, A.A. Jurgens, 1943

3. The Bechuanalands: A Brief History of the Countries and Their Postal Services to 1895, A.A. Jurgens, 1946 (ome chapters therefrom)

4. Bechuanalands, Stamps, Stationery and Postmarks, Holmes (some chapters therefrom, read in conjunction with #3 above)

5. 'The Minor Republics-Stellaland', Sidney Goldfield in Forerunners, Vol. I No. 1, page 5

6. 'Stellaland Revisted', various contributors, Forerunners, Vol. III No. 3, pages 15-28. EXCELLENT READING, START WITH THIS AND GOLDFIELD.

Zululand

1. The Postmarks of Zululand, T. Davis and H. Joseph, 1982 Very fine reading, well-documented study. Will our Library every get a copy?

2. 'The Bertram McGowan Zululand' Robson Lowe auction catalogue, Dec. 1951

3. 'The Colonel J.R. Danson Zululand I, Robson Lowe, June 1971

4. The Postage Stamps of Zululand, B.W.H. Poole, 1909

5. the Postal Markings of Natal, W.R. Hart, et al, 1977 6.

The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage **Stamp**,



*BookieReaoits:... conto'*

**Vol. II: The Empire** in Africa Robson Lowe, 1949

7. 'The Postmarks of Zululand', W. Newlands, South African Philatelist, Dec. 1952 & January 1953

8. 'The Cancellations of Zululand', Robson Lowe, **The Philatelist**, December 1950 and January 1951

9. 'History, Post Offices and Cancellations of Zululand', Dr. K Pennycuick, Stamp Collecting, March 14 & 21, 1952

Swaziland

1. Swaziland and New Republic: Their Stamps and Postal Histories, J.H. Harvie Pirie, 1956

2. Robemark Catalogue Handbook of Swaziland, 1978 edition, any others? OTHER CITATIONS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME! (Write Jim at: 4419 17 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB, Canada T3B ON7.)

ON A CLOSING NOTE: Enclosed as an insert with this journal issue is a copy of the two-sided, four page 'Supplement to The South African Philatelist, May, 1939'. This insert is the complete Subject Index for Volumes I-XII. Our thanks to Jim for his furnishing us with this.

## THE FORERUNNERS FORUM

### Question s And Answers



As part of its services to members and non-members alike, the Society provides an excellent resource to the reader through this feature. On the inside cover page, a panel of experts is listed. Any reader may utilize the voluntary services of the Panel in obtaining answers to questions which may have plagued them for some time concerning a cover, cancellation, postal rates/routes, etc. The procedure is simple: Send you questions(s), along with a clear reproduction of the item(s) in question, to the Panel member(s) with the relevant area of expertise. A detailed description, e.g., color, perforations, watermark type, etc., should always accompany any illustrations. This will aid the Panel member in accurately responding to your question.

The Panel member will forward his answer, along with the question and reproduction, to the Editor for publication in Forerunners. Panel members will also return a copy of the response directly to the questioner. Please bear in mind that a question may require an extended period of time for research and may also require collaboration with others.

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Questions are accepted on an ongoing basis. Any submission which 'stumps' the panel will appear in the 'Unanswered Challenges' feature.

Questions falling outside the scope of the Society, that pertain to British East or West Africa, should be submitted to the Editor. These items will be forwarded to the appropriate specialty group for a response.

Membership on the Panel is open to Society members in good standing who have experience and knowledge in a specific area not yet listed. Anyone wishing to serve is heartily invited to express their interest to the Panel Chair, Syl C. Tully (address inside front cover).

Readers are also invited to respond to questions and answers previously published in the journal by sending their comments directly to the Editor. Additional insights and information are always welcomed as a way of broadening the scope of our knowledge.

**Question #21:** 'Here is a copy of Transvaal Sc #171 (SG#271), 4p olive & sage green. I am not familiar with this particular cancel type. Can you identify it for me?' - Bill Brooks, San Bernardino, California



**Answer by Alan Drysdall:** 'The cancellation is not - for once! - too difficult. This is a Second Republic panel-type datestamp, which Mathews designates type 14a (see illustration below). The lower part of circumference is not struck, nor of course is the name of the office. The month of the date is indecipherable from the photocopies. It might be December, but it could equally well be June, July or September. If I had to guess, it would be 'SEP'. The day is definitely '24', and the year '95'.



**Question #22:** 'I have seen 'D1' marks on the front of covers of pre-Union South Africa. What is the significance of these?' - Werner Seeba, Stuttgart, Germany

**Answer by Alan Drysdall:** "D' marks of two types, a 23 mm coded '1' or '2' and an 11 mm type coded '1' or '3', were struck on incorrectly or incompletely addressed mail when the list of box holders was to be checked to see if the addressee could be identified. You will note that a box number - 2664 - has been added to both cards you sent me copies of, which are to the same addressee. It is possible that the code number identified the checker. (It is also possible that both series of marks run from '1' to '3' or even higher.) I don't recall seeing such marks struck on mail addressed anywhere other than Johannesburg or one of the suburbs.'

## Unanswered Challenges For The Scholar



This feature includes questions which have 'stumped' our Question & Answer Panel. The reader is now invited to take up the challenge. Please forward all speculations directly to the Editor for publication herein. In last issue's installment, Challenge #1 was discussed, as taken up during the program at the Society meeting at SESCAL. One of the unresolved questions was as to why the cover under study was stampless. What follows is additional speculation in response to the previous issue's discussion.

**Challenge #1:** 'Can anyone speculate as to why the cover shown on page 10 of the Oct '89/Jan '90 issue is totally stampless? Perhaps something to do with the Boer War?'

**Speculation by Roy Setterfield (England):** 'The undecipherable marking in the top left corner is obviously T 8d', and not '8p'. As to the absence of a stamp, I am reminded of a letter posted from the UK to Ladybrand, RSA a few years ago, which was returned FITS - not claimed and returned - and that it had been inadvertently mailed with no stamp on it.

'I am more interested in the relationship between the Taxe 25 and the New York 10c to pay. Have there been any answers yet on that aspect?' NO, as of this issue there

have not, Roy. So, dear reader, the challenge continues. Please take a look at the cover on page 18 of the previous issue and see if you can help out on this one.

The previously mentioned Society program also focused upon a second challenge regarding a cover which has remained with this column since early 1989 (see page 19 of the previous issue). As you read in last issue's column there was no shortage of speculation on this one - and yet no definitive answers either. We now have the answer.

**Challenge #2:** Why is the cover shown on page 12 of the Jan/Apr '89 issue a 'fake' cover?' (Syl Tully originally sent a photocopy of the item to the Editor and through the gauntlet down.)

**Answer via Syl Tully (Vermont), Tim Bartshe (Colorado) and the Orange Free State Study Circle Bulletin of last quarter of 1988:** After reading the discussion concerning the 'fake' cover in the previous issue, Syl Tully wrote during December last and finally gave up his 'secret' - he informed that the cover had been fully discussed in the above-mentioned publication. Being of sound mind and body, yours truly called upon the good graces of our OFS persona, Tim Bartshe, and requested a copy of the, relevant OFSSC Bulletin entry. I am now going to take the liberty of quoting verbatim, the article 'The Forger At Work' by A.G.M. Batten, FRPS,L, RDPSA. You may wish to pull out and look at page 19 of the previous issue as you read along.

'The illustration is of what purports to be an OFS/Cape combination cover which on the reverse bears an inscription in manuscript in the same writing as that of the sender Bloemfontein, O.V. Staat, 6 Jan 1870. The cover is addressed to V.A. Sybouts, Singelover, de Koepelkerk SS45, Amsterdam.

'The stamps on the face of the cover are:

- 1) An OFS 6d pale rose (of 1868) SG 4, cancelled by two strikes of what is commonly known as a cork canceller comprising nine or ten horizontal bars forming roughly an unenclosed circle. The stamp and its postmarks appear to be genuine.
- 2) A Cape of Good Hope block of four comprising four single stamps of the 'Four Pence' on 6d deep lilac (3 x SG 27 and 1 x SG 27b - variety 'Fonr' for four on top right 4d).
- 3) Two CGH One Penny rose reds - SG 23a. The stamps mentioned under 2) and 3) above are cancelled with four strikes of the Cape Town numeral '1' in a box enclosed within a nine barred oval.

'Postal markings not on the stamps include: a) a circular Cape Town handstamp - code B - dated JA 13 70.

b) a London Paid handstamp dated 22 FEB 70. Code letter M under London and Code letter C above date (in red).

c) the letters PD (sloping sans serif) within an oval (in red) - applied in London.

d) on reverse a double circle handstamp - arrival mark dated 24 Feb 70.

e) on the face there are three red crayon lines beneath the Cape Town c.d.s. - their significance is not clear. (rated at 1 s/1 d ? - Ed.)

f) the bottom left corner of the face of the cover is endorsed 'per mail steamer via England' in manuscript. Above the OFS 6d stamp the word 'Holland' appears.

'This cover was the pride of my collection of 21 O.F.S. combination covers and I bought it in the late 1950's or early 1960's. I do not know from whom I bought it or the price paid for it.

- However, when last year I decided that, since we were moving to a small flat and will not have the space to house my 325 volume collection of stamps covers and postal history, I should offer the collections suitably lotted at public auction. This was amongst those sold. It was offered with a valuation figure of 800 pounds against the catalogue entry and was sold for 1200 pounds.

'When the purchaser sought to obtain a certificate of genuineness, the cover was declared to have been faked. This was indeed unwelcome news involving, of course, the refunding of the 1200 pounds less the commission.

- Let me make it quite clear that I do not question this decision in any way. The cover, to those interested, is quite spectacular and thirty years ago or more I felt that I had acquired a gem. In retrospect, I suppose I should have taken more care before acquiring it but neither at the time did I consider it necessary to have it vetted nor have I at any time since.

- Now I have had to decide what to do with the cover. The most important thing is to ensure that it does not come on to the market. Hence these notes, together with the photograph which will appear in the Bulletin of the OFSSC and elsewhere and, I hope, should safeguard the position as far as possible.

'The cover has found a good home in a well protected forgery collection. I could not bring myself to deface the item in any way - but what a sad story I is.

- I have never collected in a serious way stamps or postmarks of the Cape but looking at the cover [afresh in](#) the knowledge of what has occurred, I do venture the

following comments:

'First of all what is felt to be right about the cover:

1. A letter to Europe from the OFS at this date would have needed Cape stamps.
2. The 6d OFS and 1/6d in Cape stamps would appear to be the correct rate. (For those who have the Christie's Robson Lowe catalogue for the 26th October 1987 Sale, a comparison may be made with the cover illustrated in colour on the front which was possibly addressed in the same hand and which bears a similar postage rate).
3. The actual Cape stamps would have been the ones currently in use.
4. All the stamps and markings appear (at first sight) genuine in themselves.
5. The OFS stamp appears to be tied to the cover with the cork canceller.

- Secondly, what is wrong:

1. Although not a fault in itself, none of the Cape stamps is tied to the cover.
  2. The lower left stamp of the four 4d Capes is slightly displaced to the right in relation to the stamp above it, resulting in the bars of the barred oval which overlap both stamps not being exactly in line.
  3. In a similar way the lower right is displaced slightly to the left in relation to the stamp above it. If these two stamps were correctly positioned the box of the barred oval cancelling both of them would be its correct size instead of being reduced in width as one looks at the cover.
  4. The two one penny Cape stamps bear obliterations which are more intense than those on the 4d stamps.
  5. The bars of these cancellers do not marry with their counterparts on the 4d stamps.
- However, in spite of these last two inconsistencies, it is conceivable that at one time, perhaps on their original cover, they did marry up to produce two perfect strikes; but now, due to displacement, do not.

- So we are left with a cover which should originally have had Cape stamps attached. One must assume that they were removed and replaced with the present ones. For what purpose? Perhaps to obtain an example of the Cape 'Fonr' variety on cover. What sacrilege! If this were the case! A sight of the cover beneath the stamps might give a clue.

*Unanswered Challenges... cont'd*

• One last intriguing thought. The cover is addressed to a V.A. Sybouts. Was he perhaps a relation of Mr. H. Sybouts, the first Postmaster-General of the Orange Free State, and did perhaps the cover originate from him?

• In conclusion, one might ask whether anyone has seen the original cover before that is, before thirty years ago? It would indeed be interesting to have information as to its past history.'

If you enjoyed, and at the same time were intrigued by the above example of what is in store for the OFS collector, you may wish to consider membership in the OFS Study Circle. You will find them listed as one of our fine participants in the Reciprocal Listings Exchange.

**Challenge #3:** 'Does anyone have information about the Ed Waal Forwarding Agents, Durban and Delagoa Bay? I would like some history on the company. In the only list I have seen of pre-Union forwarding agents, they are not mentioned. I have two of their labels, both cancelled at Point/Natal in the 1890's. One is one piece with a 1 d postage stamp, cancelled October 10.'

**Challenge #4:** 'I have a 1/2p Swaziland overprint of the first issue (Scott #2). The 'SW is omitted on it, but Robson Lowe only shows it missing the 2p. Mine is cancelled 'EMBEKELWENI' (numeral cancel #718). Anyone have any knowledge of this?'

**Challenge #5:** 'Has anyone seen/own, or have a photocopy of a non-philatelic interprovisional cover franked by stamps from all four pre-Union states?'

**Challenge #6:** 'When were Union of South Africa bilingual circular cancels used on provincial revenues?'

**Challenge #7:** In the previous issue, page 20, a cropped portion of a grey colored cover of a 16-page booklet by Rich is shown. It was published by Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co. and referred to as 'Booklet Number Forty-one'. The booklet covers the issues of the Union through 1921. I have asked literature buffs about this one and none are familiar with, much less its value. Can anyone help?

**Answer by Guy Dillaway (Massachusetts):** 'The Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co. published a large series of philatelic booklets on many different countries and subjects. None of them have copyright dates. I have never had the entire series in stock. The usual price is in the \$10 to \$20 range, depending on condition. The paper is poor and tends to disintegrate easily.'

**Challenge #8:** This one came in the form of a 'Bit and

Piece" on page 28 of the previous issue and was entitled • A Mysterious Letter Wrapper' - collection of Athol Murray (England). Athol asked the question 'Why two One Penny stamps' followed by three definitive speculations.

**Speculations by Guy Dillaway:** 'This is a single weight letter as evidenced by the manuscript red '5' which indicates 5d credit to the UK and 1 d credit to the Cape Colony. 6d is the correct amount that should be on the cover. The most obvious answer for the underpayment is that a 4d stamp is missing (either fell off or was removed). The second possible choice is that the two 1 d stamps were added at a later time and a 6d stamp is missing. One would need to examine the cover and lift the stamps to determine this. I suggest sending it for a certificate.

• It is unlikely that the deficient postage went unnoticed by the postal authorities in Cape Town and London. Since there is no indication of postage due, or of any amount paid in cash to make up the difference, I favor one of the first two scenarios. It might be helpful to know if the crease in the stamps follows a crease in the cover. I have several mixed franking 6d covers where the stamps are on the left side, so it is not an unusual practice.'

## \* \* BITS AND PIECES

This feature provides an opportunity for members to share interesting little tidbits of information and illustrations in a short-order format. Items appropriate for 'Bits' include interesting and/or unusual cancels, covers, rare stamps and the like, related to the philately of greater southern Africa. Reactions, comments, etc., to items appearing in this column are encouraged.

In the event that you, the reader, are wondering what you might be able to contribute to 'Bits' in the future, an insert with this issue includes a cumulative listing of items which members have indicated they would like to see appear herein. Why not look it over - you may be surprised what you will find that you can send it for all to enjoy.

Once again, Werner Seeb sends us a very old illustration - 'The Postholder or Postal Agent, 19th Century'.



In the "Fifty Years Ago" feature, Linn's recently listed the following: 'Linn's Nov. 22, 1941, issue began with a lengthy consideration by George W. Linn of the mysterious black 4-penny Cape of Good Hope triangle, which Linn concluded (based on decades in the printing business) was probably a press proof.' Any of you readers who are triangular issue specialists care to comment?

Reg Foster of Pinetown, RSA, shares very interesting Boer War material from his collection. Shown below are two covers which would brighten anyone's day. Illustration 2 should be of special interest to member Ralph Myerson who had a nice entry on page 25 of Forerunners No. 10. this an a example that turned up used in 1901.

Illustration 1. Boer War - Diyatalawa Camp - addressed to Harold Carlisle who appeared on the Programme for 'Hellers World Entertainers' with nice cachet 'Deliver not for P.O.W.' Only the second one recorded. For our enjoyment, the actual programme is reproduced on the next two pages.

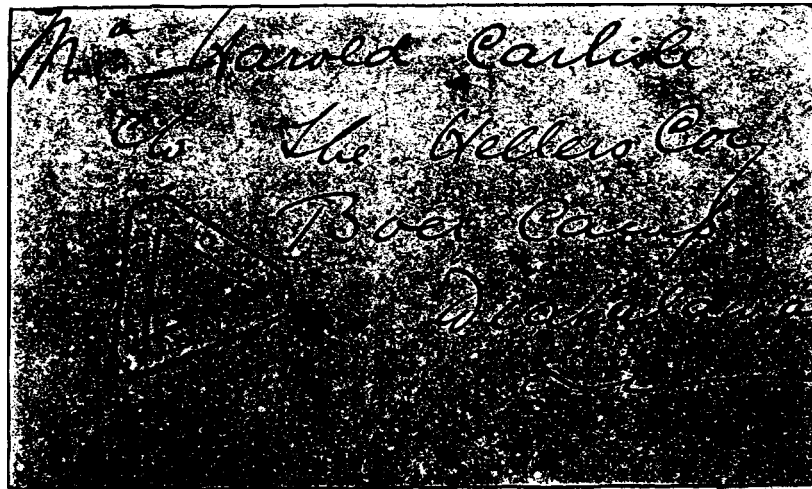
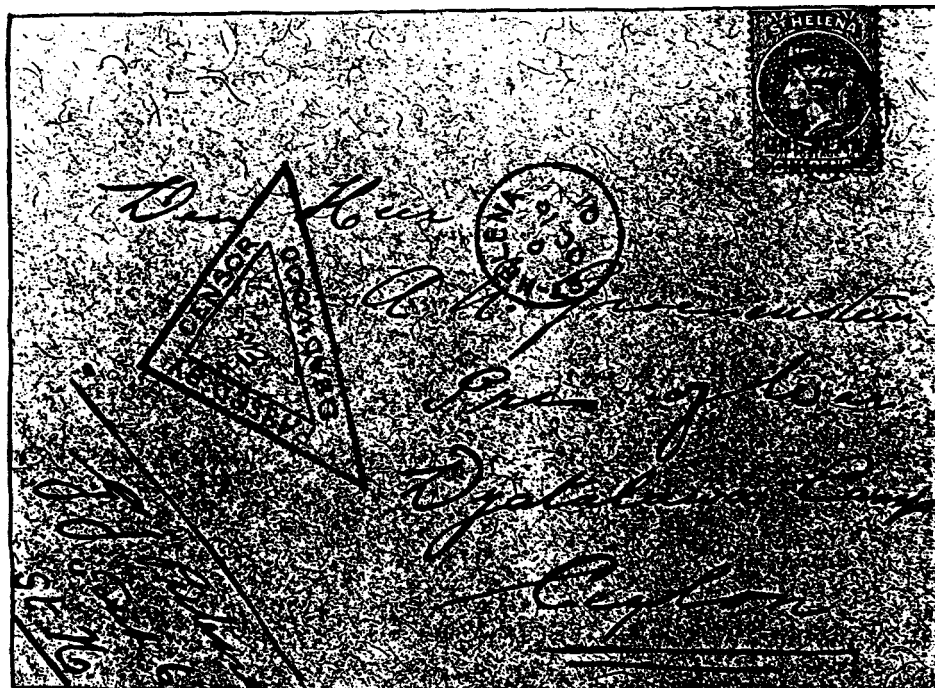


Illustration 2. Boer War - P.O.W. intercamp mail St. Helena to Diyatalawa. Triangular purple censor for Deadwood Camp signed by E. Wilson. St. Helena single circle date stamp with indicia 'C' which is very rare and has only been recorded for 1902.



# Heller's World's Entertainer

## A BOMBSHELL OF MERRIMENT.



G. W. HELLER,  
ANGLO-AMERICAN ENTERTAINER,  
MESMERIC BIOLOGIST  
AND  
KING FUN MAKER.

**Middle. Maudeena Heller,** The Modern Witch of Endor,  
In her Marvellous Performance entitled  
**SOMNOMOSTO!**

Psychic Marvels! Psychomancy!! Mental Telegraphy!!!  
Wonders of Karma!!!

☞ Middle. Maudeena Heller whilst in a Somnomostic condition gives accurate answers to questions absolutely unknown to any one but the person thinking of it, regarding past, present and future events. This is undeniably the greatest Neotric bewilderment ever presented to the world at large.

**NANKA**, an Asiatic Marvel, must be seen to be believed; & then you can't believe it.

The Anglo-American  
**BIOGRAPH**  
LIFE MOTION PICTURES,  
Comic, Sensational, Military and Sporting.  
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**Miss VERA HAVELOCK**  
in the  
**CHAMELEON OR SUN-DANCE**  
with Prismatic Colour effects.

**Harold Carlisle,**  
BARITONE & DESCRIPTIVE VOCALIST.

**Hellerism Vs. Spiritism**  
a curious piece of Business, Causing Roars  
of Laughter.

**SARONY AND FOLKA.**  
COMEDY SKETCH ARTISTES  
**A Rehearsal! Marriage Agency!! Burglar Alarm!!!**

**Prof. J. A. DODDS,**—Musical Director.

A GALAXY OF STAR PERFORMERS.



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Presented by Heller's World's Entertainers is one of great interest and merriment.

It will please your wife and sister. Your daughter can see it, assuredly, while it is impossible not to laugh; no trace of coarseness is shown; tasteful, chaste, piquant and artistic to the greatest degree.

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Heller's Entertainment has been given in all the largest Towns and Cities of America, Europe, Africa, and Australia, and can be given in any Hall. It is seldom that strictly first class Dramatic Companies can visit small Towns on account of the lack of scenery and stage machinery. The Hellers go anywhere and everywhere and always get

**Crowded** and

**Delighted** -

**Audiences.** -

Prof. Heller's Entertainment is reduced and novelties introduced suitable to stage accommodation.

**Brilliant Music**  
**Beautiful Dress**  
**Pretty Scenery**  
**Costly Accessories**

BOER ENCLOSURE  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

JAN 9 10

# HELLER'S WORLD'S ENTERTAINERS.



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**Middle. MAUDEENA**

and a Specially selected Company.

Presenting the most refined, fascinating and bewildering  
novelty combination in existence composed of **MORE NEW**  
**FEATURES**, up-to-date **LAUGHABLE ODDITIES**  
and better Entertainment than any other similar enterprise.

**THE HELLERS** have just concluded a highly success-  
ful tour of Australasia and New Zealand.



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Our Entertainment is interesting alike to the grave and  
reverend Scientist, the Seeker after Sensation and the Masses,  
who only ask to be provoked to side-splitting mirth,

**DON'T** miss seeing our First Night's Entertainment. You  
will be so fascinated by its great merits that

**YOU ARE SURE TO COME AGAIN.**

**Everything New**   
 **Up-to-date.**

**THE HELLERS** begin where others leave off.



The American Philatelist, page 116, February 1991 issue ran the following in its Fifty Years Ago ...• feature:

**'Baden-Powell Passes.**

One of the legendary figures to philatelists, Lord Baden-Powell, died in Kenya, Africa, January 7, 1941, of heart ailments. Founder of the world-wide Boy Scout movement almost four decades ago, he has done as much for humanity through precept and example to its youth as has any man since Christ. His fame rests secure and deserved forever. To stamp collectors he is best known because of his likeness on Cape of Good Hope No. 179 and 180, the locally produced Mafeking Siege stamps that so intrigue the imagination of most of us. Englishman of noble rank and nobler character, he will, at his request, remain in the Africa he loved so well, scene of his greatest work. Author, actor, soldier of distinction, founder of the Scouts and, so say some authorities, descendent. of Pocahontas of early American fame, Baden-Powell led a colorful and vastly useful life.'

Our International Representative/UK, Athol Murray, furnishes us with a number of unusual cancellations for the balance of this and the right column. Shown below is the dated town oval handstamp of 1853 which was not intended as a defacer - the triangular obliterator served this purpose. The former was used for dispatch and receipt purposes in either red or black ink - the colour being of no significance - triangular stamps thus cancelled are very scarce.



SG 6a



KALK BAY

SG 6a

Transvaal Cancellation

POTCHESFSTROOM



SG18

The very rare PORT ELIZABETH MAIL BAG SEAL used as a defacer.



Recorded as having been used on one day -.,28 January 1859

SG 3

POST- RETIEF



SG 20

PIQUEBERG





On this and the following page, we have four wonderful Boer War related covers. These were furnished by John Campbell, our NZ/Australia International Representative.

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Illustration 1. Two simple but neatly addressed covers to Boer prisoners in Ceylon and St. Helena. No mention is made to indicate in which camps they were being held. The Ceylon cover also has a postage due stamp 'T 15 Centimes' indicated twice.

BRIEFLY ADDRESSED PRISONERS OF WAR MAIL

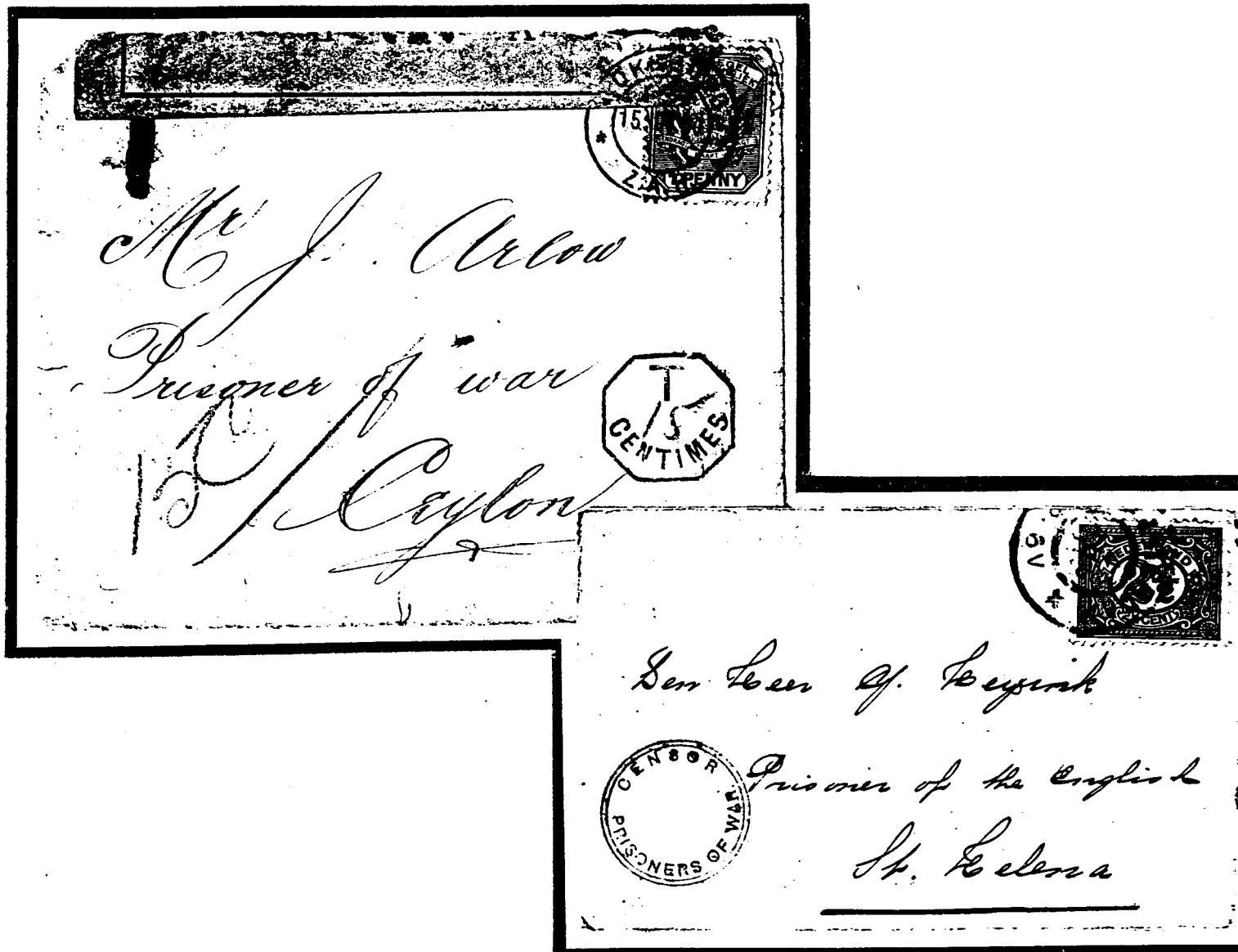
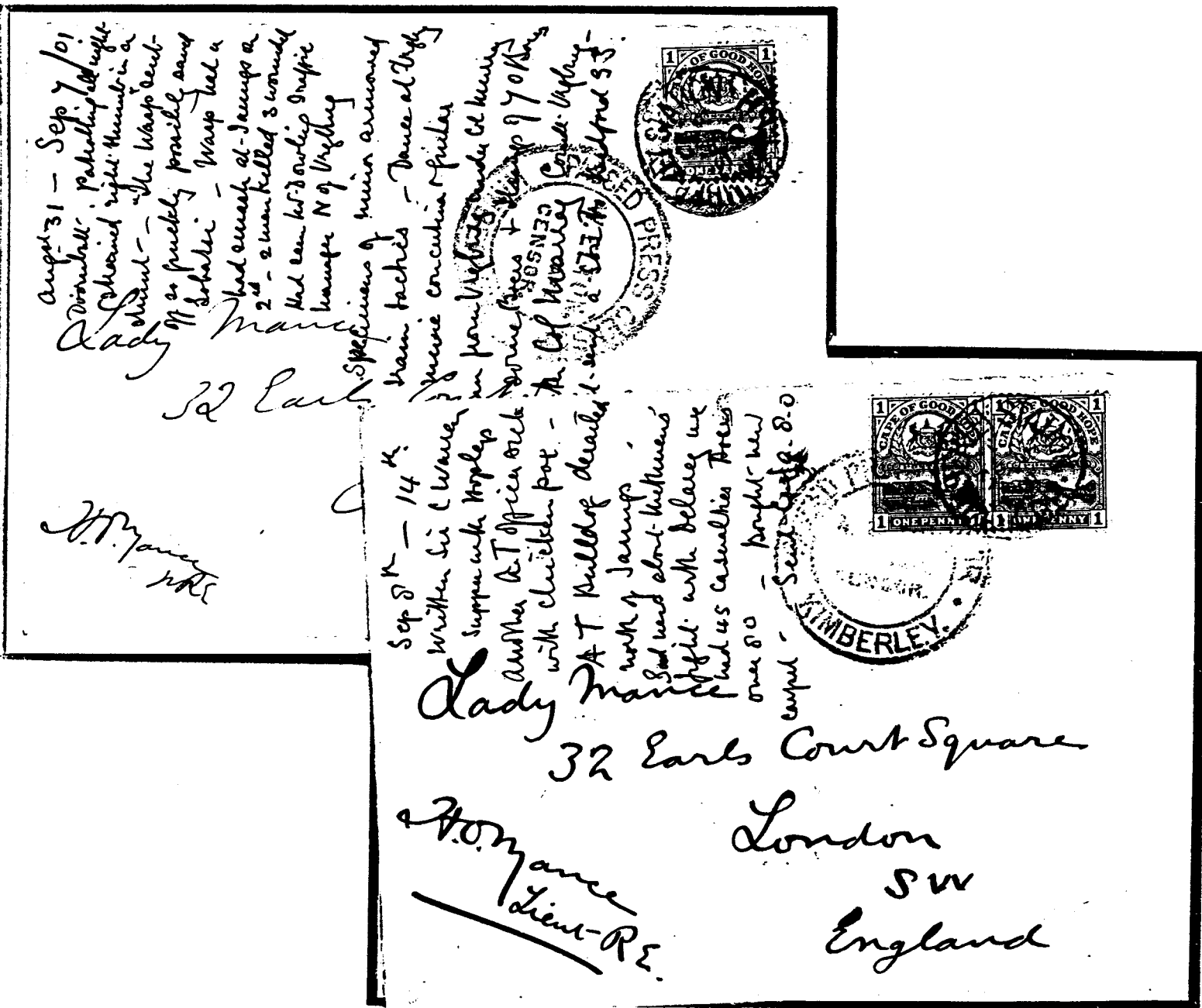


Illustration 2. Kimberly Censor Mark - Both covers show the censor mark of 'PASSED PRESS CENSOR-KIMBERLEY-W. ELTON, Capt.' on correspondence to a Lady Mance of London, from her son Lt. H.O. Mance, Royal Engineers. It appears that Lady Mance made diary notes on the envelopes of mail sent from her son; noting items of news mentioned in letters, dating the period talked about.

'KIMBERLEY' CENSOR MARK



## The Society Publications Program

PSGSA has established an active program to support, sponsor and publish various categories of works, e.g., occasional papers, monographs, books, etc. The Publications Program Committee has been established to assist writers in all phases of the publication process, from concept development to research to production of the finished product. The Committee will assist in the review process as drafts are developed. If collaborators are desired for a particular work, the Committee may also be of help. Individuals desiring to utilize the resources and technical assistance provided by the Committee should contact the Chair: W. A. Page, FRPS, L, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3LG, England.

In addition to the Committee, this journal feature provides members the opportunity to list their present research efforts and request reader assistance in their 'search for the Holy Grail'. Readers are encouraged to use this service as much as possible - to research in isolation with a view towards publishing is akin to 'reinventing the wheel'.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jim Ryan is hard at work on a project to eventually produce a comprehensive bibliography covering all aspects of greater southern Africa philately. Readers are encouraged to send Jim a list of all books, articles, etc., in his/her library. Jim's address is 4419 17 Ave. NW, Calgary AB, Canada T3B 0N7

\*\*\*\*\*

Guy Dillaway is presently working on a manuscript dealing with postal rates and foreign destinations from the Cape during the 1853-65 triangular period. He is especially interested in all 3p and 4p rates to the UK and 1 p+1 p rates to Holland. Guy would appreciate front/back photocopies of covers and will purchase items, condition not of paramount importance. (Address inside front cover)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Members: As you know, the Orange Free State issued a large number of provisionally-overprinted stamps to pay the fees required to send telegraphs. The first of these many issues were put into use in 1885. During the remaining 15 years or the Republic, these stamps were canceled predominantly with the very° same cancellors used for postal duty. I am presently doing research involving the usage of these telegraph stamps with 'postal' cancellations. I wish to compile data pertaining to these Issues through the Republican Era using the following parameters:

(1) Stamps must have a readable date stamp displaying the town name and the complete or nearly complete date.

(2) The printing and setting of the particular telegraph overprint is needed as well as the denomination and color. The printing and setting information is gained from the OFSSC Handbook, volume 1, chapter 15, pp. 247-60.

(3) The type of cancellor is required using Batten's numbers, if possible, otherwise send a tracing, photocopy or detail measurements including the diameter of the plug, height of letters and presence/absence of stops and OVS.

Any respondent wishing to send the stamps themselves to me, will be repaid any postage costs. Any copy costs will also be reimbursed. Thank you for your assistance, Tim Bartshe (address inside front cover).

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1989, I published a monograph on the Mobile P.O.'s of South Africa. It is now my intention to prepare a revised edition, in light of new (and corrected) information received mostly from the Pretoria Postal Museum. I would thus be grateful to those collectors, who have holdings of Mobile P.O. covers, to get in touch with me. The original publication is already out of print. Alec Page (address at beginning of this column).

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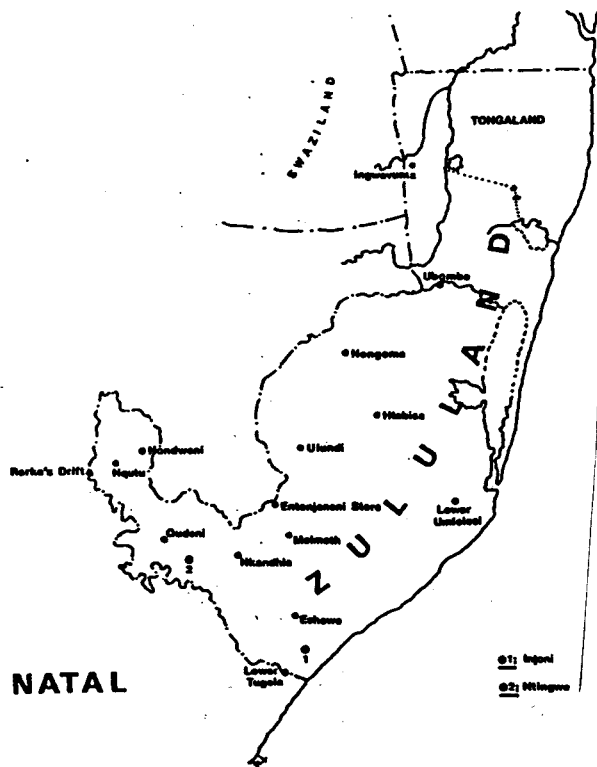
## NEW JOURNAL FEATURE!!

### Zulu Notes

Tony Davis, Canada

This being the first in a regular feature on Zululand philately, a few words of introduction are in order. I have been collecting Zululand for some 10 years now, specialising in the postal history and postmarks. My interest was sparked because two fellow philatelists collected this small country, and what started out as a collecting interest soon developed into original research through archives and postal records. One result of this interest came in 1984 when I co-authored 'The Postmarks of Zululand.'

Zululand material is scarce on today's market, and many a dealer who advertises material 'from Aden to Zululand' should amend their range 'from Aden to Zimbabwe'! Through this column I hope to take the Society's readership through Zululand postal history **and even into** some modern related subjects (such as the recent theft and sale of archival covers). For the first column Installment, I will detail the Nqutu manuscript markings, preceded by a map of Zululand in the 1880's.

Zululand in the 1880's

## THE NQTU MANUSCRIPT

In many a philatelist's one country collections are those back-of-the-book items which do not quite fit into the mainstream of collecting. These stamps include the fiscals, cinderellas and forgeries. In the field of Zululand philately there are many of these odds and ends. But perhaps the most intriguing of these are the manuscript postal markings of Nqutu.

This small Zululand town had its own postmark during the 1888-1898 period, the standardized black double circle which was in use from early 1893 until the Natal annexation. However, a number of stamps have appeared with a manuscript marking for Nqutu, spelled in either the same manner or as 'Enqutu'. I had seen more than half a dozen examples of this manuscript which led me to research its origins.

Could the Nqutu manuscript marking be for fiscal purposes or postal? The manuscript, interestingly enough, is recorded in both red and black inks. There was a small, thriving mining community in the Zululand goldfields at the time, as well as numerous concessionary operations, and a Zululand administration which was active in its revenue

collecting.

The theory that the Nqutu manuscript had postal significance was also possible as had been the case in numerous other far-flung outposts of the pre-20th Century British Empire.

No cover with the manuscript had been reported so the speculation continued. But in the last couple of years, the mystery has effectively been solved.

In my research of Zululand resident magistrate and resident commissioner papers, I found part of the solution.

Nqutu's resident magistrate, Edward A. Pennefather, had written to the area's resident commissioner on January 4, 1889, requesting that Nqutu's postmaster be supplied with an 'obliterating stamp', as postal officials had had to write on the stamps themselves as a means of cancellation. This in itself was not a problem for the postmaster, but rather the increasing volume of mail (from settlers and miners) which was taking up too much time.

The pen markings were also causing some confusion in that the Natal postal authorities did not recognise the manuscripts but were taxing any letters from Nqutu as not being prepaid. Examples of these manuscript cancellations are shown below.

Figure 1. Manuscript cancellations - Nqutu, Zululand - 1888 issue, 2d and 4d each cancelled postally in manuscript 'INQUTU 27-1-89'. These definitive values with the Nqutu manuscript are from the Roberts sale.



The text of the letter (actual copy-Fig.2) from the resident magistrate to the resident commissioner is as follows:

'I have the honour to request that an obliterating stamp may be furnished for the use of the Post Office here.

At present the only means of obliterating the postage stamps is for the acting post master to do it with pen and ink. As there are often fifty or more letters for each post, this involves nearly an hour's work. Besides this complaints have been made by persons residing in the district, that the Natal postal authorities do not recognise such obliteration, and the letters are charged as not prepaid.

Although I feel sure that the Natal postal authorities have no right to make any such charge, or to claim that the postmasters in Zululand shall obliterate stamps in whatever

way the Natal post office may choose to order. I beg that my request for an obliterating stamps may be complied with, to avoid further inconvenience.

I have the honour to be (signature), from most obedient servant, Edward A. Pennefather, AC & RM Nqutu'

Figure 2. Pennefather's letter requesting an 'obliterating stamp'.

*Nqutu*  
24<sup>th</sup> January 1889

Sir

I have the honour to request that an obliterating stamp may be furnished for the use of the Post office here. At present the only means of obliterating the postage stamps is for the acting post master to do it with pen and ink. As there are often fifty or more letters for each post, this involves nearly an hour's work. Besides this complaints have been made by persons residing in the district, that the Natal postal authorities do not recognise such obliteration, and the letters are charged as not prepaid. Although I feel sure that the Natal postal authorities have no right to make any such change, or to claim that postmasters in Zululand shall obliterate stamps in whatever way the Natal post office may choose to order, I beg that my request for an obliterating stamp may be complied with, to avoid further inconvenience.

I have the honour to be  
Sir

Your most obedient servant.  
Edward A. Pennefather  
AC & RM Nqutu

To the Honourable  
The Resident Commissioner

*Zulu Notes... cont'd*

There are recorded examples of the Nqutu markings up to July 1889, indicating that steps were likely taken in response to Pennefather's request. Though that does not explain the 'gap' until early 1893 for the earliest recorded usage of the black double circle Nqutu cancellor. Another mystery to be solved. (There may be a possible tie to the nearby Rorke's Drift post office, whose large violet postmark is recorded from mid-1893, but that's another story.)

The first recorded cover with the Nqutu manuscript marking only came to light in a Stephan Welz/Sotheby's sale held in Cape Town in October 1991. Lot 422 (Figure 3) was described as follows:

'1889 Enqutu Manuscript Cover franked 2 x id Zululand overprints (S.G. 2; the one applied over Tvl 2d Arms issue) just tied by 'Enqutu' manuscript cancel '14 4 89' and with single circle Rorkes Drift transit in black alongside '15 4 89' (Enqutu was the earlier form of spelling for Nqutu), addressed to Stellenbosch with transit/arrival backstamps

G.P.O. Natal, Cape Town and Stellenbosch, cover vertical crease at left and tone spotting (primarily on reverse) but an extremely rare and early manuscript on full cover R2500 -3000'

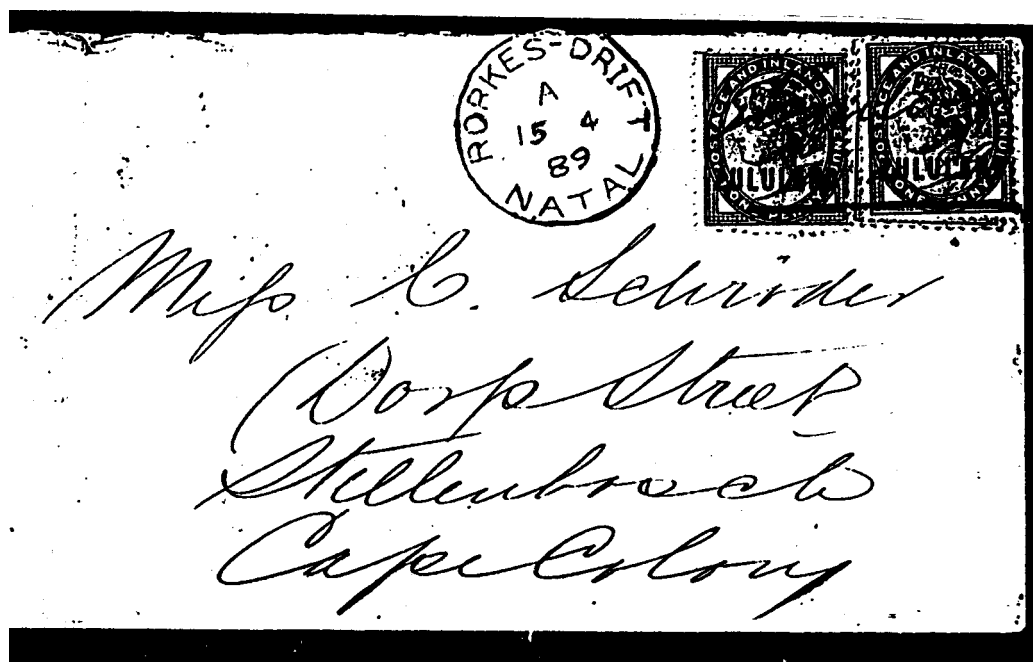
The auction cover was part of the Scroder correspondence of that period and was estimated at R2,500 to R3,000 and realised a healthy R6,820 (about US\$2,800)!

The earliest reported Nqutu manuscript marking is September 1888, and as Deferred to earlier, the latest reported usage is July 1889 - a period of only 11 months. Covers, such as the one sold in Cape Town, are therefore exceedingly scarce. Manuscripts on cover for Zululand do prove rare in that even in the Christies/Robson Lowe April 1989 sale of the T.V. Roberts postal markings collection, the only Zululand items were two examples on stamp of the Nqutu manuscript, both dated January 27, 1889.

Manuscript cancellations do tend to be back-of-the-book material - at least until we can unravel the postal history behind the marking and provide it with a suitable place in Zululand philatelic research.

(Now what do I do with my Zululand Inyoni manuscript marking?)

Figure 3. Lot 422 in the Stephen Welz/Sotheby's sale - an Nqutu manuscript on cover.



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## THE RESULTS ARE IN!!

### Second Charles Lupo Memorial Award

Forerunners is proud to announce that Werner K Seeba's 'One Hundred Years of the Barberton Post Office' received 40% of all ballots cast for the best feature article to appear in the journal over a two volume period. The award, a framed parchment certificate, will be presented at the Society's banquet to be held at our Fifth Anniversary Convention during STaMpsHOW 92 in Oakland next August.

A very close runner-up was 'The Cape of Good Hope Triangles: Their Forgers and Forgeries' - text by Rae Wolpe & photos by John Rightmire. Other feature articles receiving votes included 'Stellaland Revisited' (Alan Drysdall), 'Back-of the-Book' (Ron Carlson) and 'South African Military Censorship of World War II' (Irving Baron).

As you are aware, each issue of the journal now carries at least five feature articles. This totals fifteen plus articles per volume. Therefore, the decision has been made that the Memorial Award will be presented on an annual basis, instead of covering a two-year publishing period - having thirty articles to choose from just seemed like too many at this juncture.

Articles appearing in the 'Zulu Notes', 'Modem Issues' and 'Back-of the Book' features will also qualify for the Memorial Award ballot.

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## FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

### TO BE PUBLISHED

As mentioned in the previous issue, the July/Oct '92 edition will be a very special one, one celebrating the Society's fifth year anniversary. In concert with our convention's theme of 'A Celebration of Greater Southern Africa Philately', the above issue is soliciting one article covering each of the past/present countries and eras falling within the Society focus. An article covering a country or era may focus upon any philatelic topic related thereto.

In the event that more than one article is received on the same country, e.g., RSA, the one with the earliest postmark will appear in our Fifth Anniversary Special Edition. (The others will appear in the Nov '92/Feb '93 issue.) The deadline for receipt of Special edition articles is May 15.

Thus far, the following article commitments have been received: Bechuanaland (Dave Wessely), Cape pre-adhesive period (Bob Taylor), Griqualand West (Ron Carlson), New Republic (Dr. Gerrit Jonkers), OFS (Tim Bartshe), Transvaal (Alan Drysdall), the Rhodesias (Bill Wallace), Union of South Africa (Louise Christian) and Zululand (Tony Davis).

The following countries/eras are still seeking authors: Anglo-Boer War, CGH adhesives, Basutoland, Botswana, Interprovisionals, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nyasaland, Republic of South Africa, Stellaland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Therefore, dear reader, please step forward, take your pen (or word processor) in hand and join the Special Edition bandwagon! It would be a shame (and a pox upon your household) if the greater southern Africa philatelic literature landscape was to be left partially bare in our Fifth Anniversary Special Edition. By the way, some of you will have received a gentle arm-twist postcard by the time your copy of this issue arrives.

A final note on the special edition: Members who will be attending the August Convention will be receiving their copy at the Society meeting. Those not attending will receive theirs by mail as always.

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### Important Announcement

In case you did not notice, the annual membership billing, trust donation and back issue order forms have been included with this issue. The purpose is to eliminate the costs of a separate mailing. Please pay your 92/93 dues **PRIOR TO July 1 st** to avoid us **having to mail you a reminder**. Receipt of the 1992 auction catalog and 5th Anniversary Special Edition requires payment of next year's dues. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

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## FEATURE ARTICLES

Submission of articles is accepted on an on-going basis. The individual issue deadlines are the 15th of May, September and January. Articles should be in double-spaced, typewritten form and have a maximum length of five pages, not including illustrations. The latter should be the clearest copy possible. Originals of charts and graphs are preferable. Lengthy articles should be serialized. Periodically, articles will appear which have been previously published elsewhere. This occurs when the subject of the work is judged to be of strong interest and value to Society members. Appropriate credit is always given. Also, Forerunners has published 'guest articles' by non-members. Guest authors **received** a complimentary copy of the issued in which their article appears.

Any reader desiring a topic to write on is invited to review the 'Feature Articles Desired Topics List' insert. It is a list of topics which readers have indicated they would like to see appear in the journal. Any reader desiring to **add to** the list, please feel free to do so by sending in your suggestions for future topics to the Editor.

## Fun With Forgeries

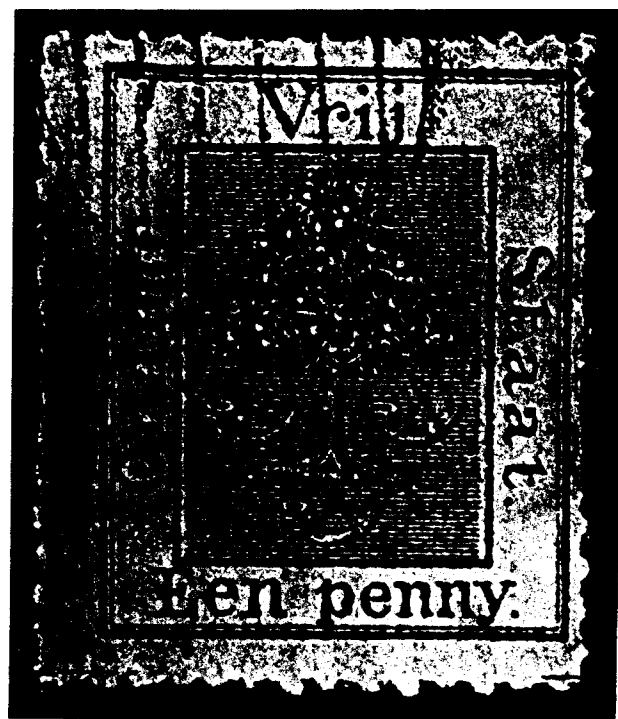
Tim Bartshe, Colorado

No one, who has been collecting in our area of interest for any length of time, can say he has no forgeries or reprints in his stock. It is a problem that we all face, regardless of what area of philately we pursue: WEEDS. The stamps of the Orange Free State are not immune; in fact forgeries were recognized as early as seven years after the first stamp was issued.

The Reverend R.B. Earee first discussed them and went into great detail on the differences between the genuine and the forgeries, which have now been attributed to the

Spiro Brothers. These stamps are generally quite crude in overall appearance; the tree having little detail, e.g., oranges, and the colors are not crisp and bright like the de la Rue issues. The perforations are also wrong, giving the rough appearance of rouletting or a too-clean appearing 12 1/2 gauge as opposed to the 14 gauge of the originals.

Four values produced by the Spiro Brothers are known to exist: the 1 d dull red-brown, the 4d blue, the 6d dull carmine to bright rose-carmine, and the 1 s deep orange. The 4d was apparently printed from a poor quality ink, because they exist in faint bluish grey color, having probably faded from light exposure. Examples of each value are shown in figures 1 through 4. Note the four different cancellers used to deface the forgeries, none of which were ever used officially within the Republic.



FIG

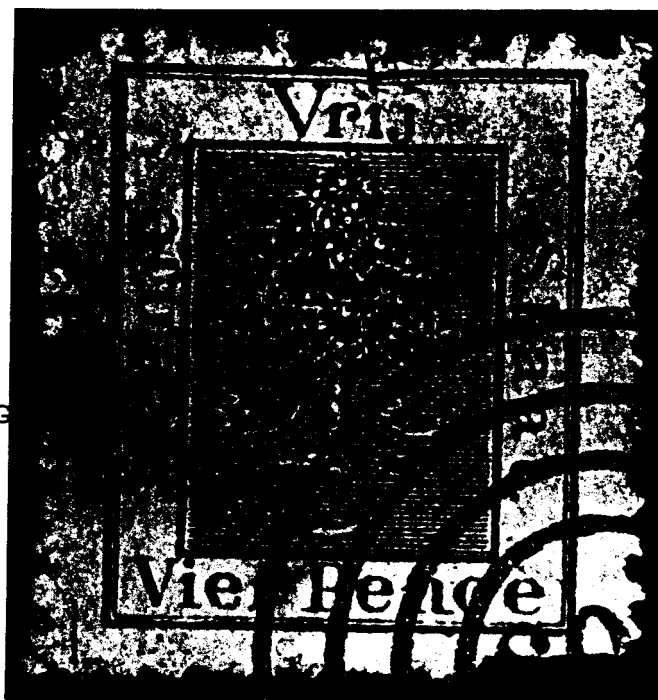






FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4

A second type of forgery exists, which of is a far superior quality and, on quick glance, might fool. It is perforated 14, but the paper is thicker and almost a pale buff in color. The 'j' of 'Oranje' is almost level with the other letters, the letters are all a little larger, and the top of the tree touches the second line of shading instead of the first line as in the genuine. The 6d carmine, 1 s orange and brown, and the 5s green purportedly exist, although I have seen only the 1 s orange shown in figure 5.

The Orange Free State Study Circle Handbook describes a third forgery of the 5s which they report as a very good one, with a yellow-green color compared to the deeper green of the genuine. I have not seen this forgery, but feel it should be mentioned along with the others.

Due to frequent rate changes, numerous provisionals were produced. These locally surcharged stamps produced the kind of errors that draw the forger into the arena. The 4 on 6d exists with a double surcharge, one inverted, and is one of the great rarities of the OVS. Figure 6 is a forged example of this rarity. Not only is the font a poor imitation of the genuine, the stamp is of the color of a printing released at a later date with a Senekal datestamp of 1895, many years after its original issue. Figure 7 shows a forged inverted surcharge and Figure 8 displays an attempt by a forger to create his own variety, having never existed in the genuine!



FIGURE 5

*Fun With Forgeries... cont'd*

I have seen the 1 d on 5s double surcharge forgery in a collection that I purchased. I returned the lot to the auction house with a note stating that the majority of the value, as originally estimated, was in the forged error. I was refunded my money. The company, however, has subsequently listed this lot in their auction catalogs at least three times since then, touting the forged error as genuine!

When the rate decreased again from 4d to 3d, printing of the provisional produced a pane of double surcharges. Who knows how many forgeries of these double surcharges were produced. One type is shown in Figure 9.

The next two rate decreases, to 2d and finally to 1 d, produced a pane of the inverted 2d, Figure 10, and a number of double surcharges of the 1 d on 4d and 1 d on 3d. Another great rarity exists from the former provisional: the triple surcharge 1 d on 4d. Only a few genuine examples are known, and Figure 11 is not one of them!

As you might now guess, there are a lot of weeds out there. Fortunately, most of the forgeries of the Republic issues are easily detected and are not likely to end up in one's collection as representative of the genuine. Unlike their Boer neighbor to the north, the forgers generally applied their energies to only the rarest of varieties. The more dangerous forgeries of the Orange Free State exist in the occupation overprints and will be dealt with in a later article.



FIGURE 7

FIGURE 8

FIGURE 6

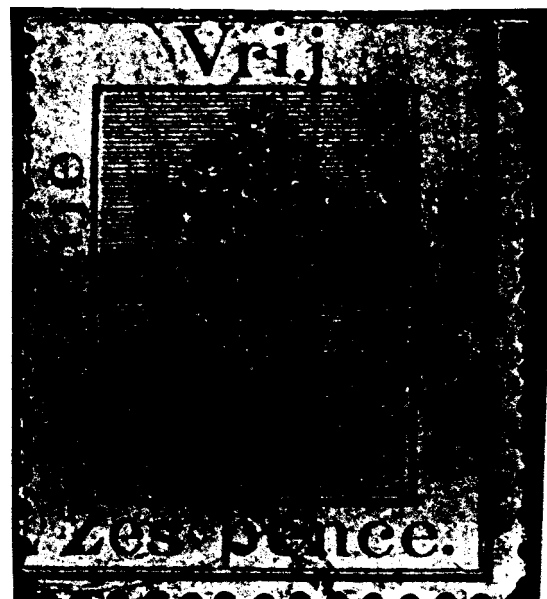
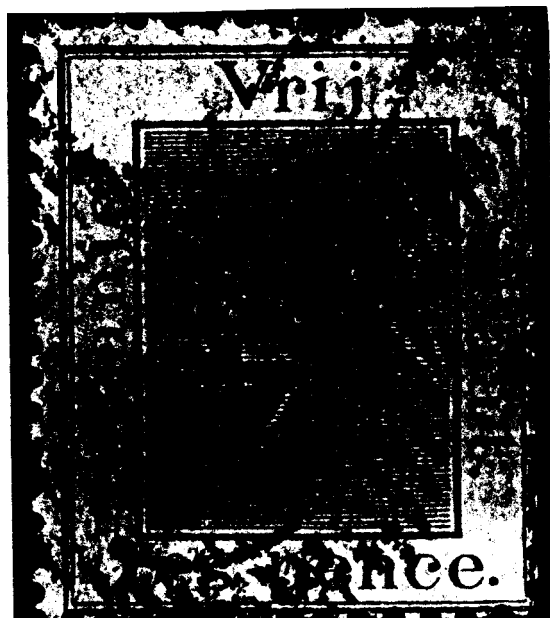




FIGURE 9



FIGURE 10

#### Second Early Usage of Mafeking Siege Cancel

Discovered Frederick P. Lawrence, Maryland

In Forerunners, Vol. V, Nos. 2 and 3, July/Oct '91 and Nov '91/Feb '92, I reported on the discovery of (1) the earliest reported usage of the Mafeking siege cancel, the single circle 25mm MAFKING C.G.H. (Goldblatt cds 25), on an upfranked Cape of Good Hope postal card, paying the 1 d foreign card rate, from Mafeking, March 4, 1898, to Mainz, Germany, with 'B' time control index letter, indicating PM cancellation, and (2) the latest reported usage of this cancel - on a 1905 Christmas post card, at the 1 d foreign card rate, from Battersea SW, England, addressed to Major Panzera of siege-fame, in Mafeking, forwarded to Francistown, Bechuanaland Protectorate - as a transit mark, January 27, 1906, with 'A' time control index letter, indicating AM cancellation.

An old adage says that 'good things come in threes.' In this, the following issue of Forerunners, I am pleased to report the discovery of a second early usage of this cancel. The accompanying illustration shows a March 15, 1898 strike of the cancel, with 'A' time control index letter, on an otherwise unused Cape of Good Hope postal card, revalued by surcharge ONE PENNY over three half pence. This strike follows the earliest reported usage by only 11 days. The card is clearly philatelic, and, as there is no

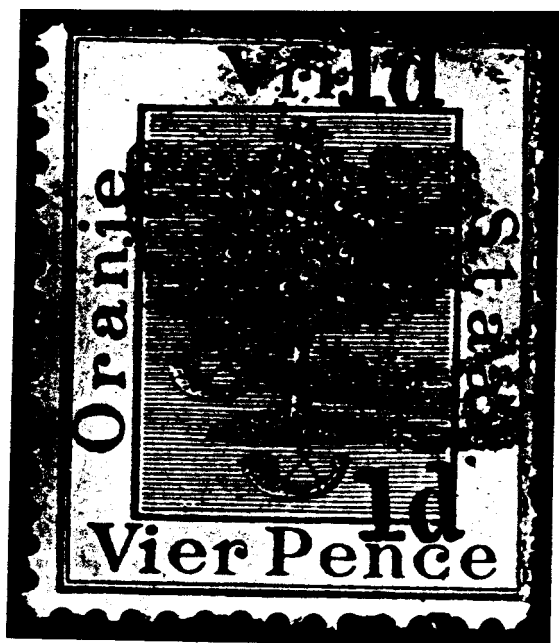


FIGURE 11

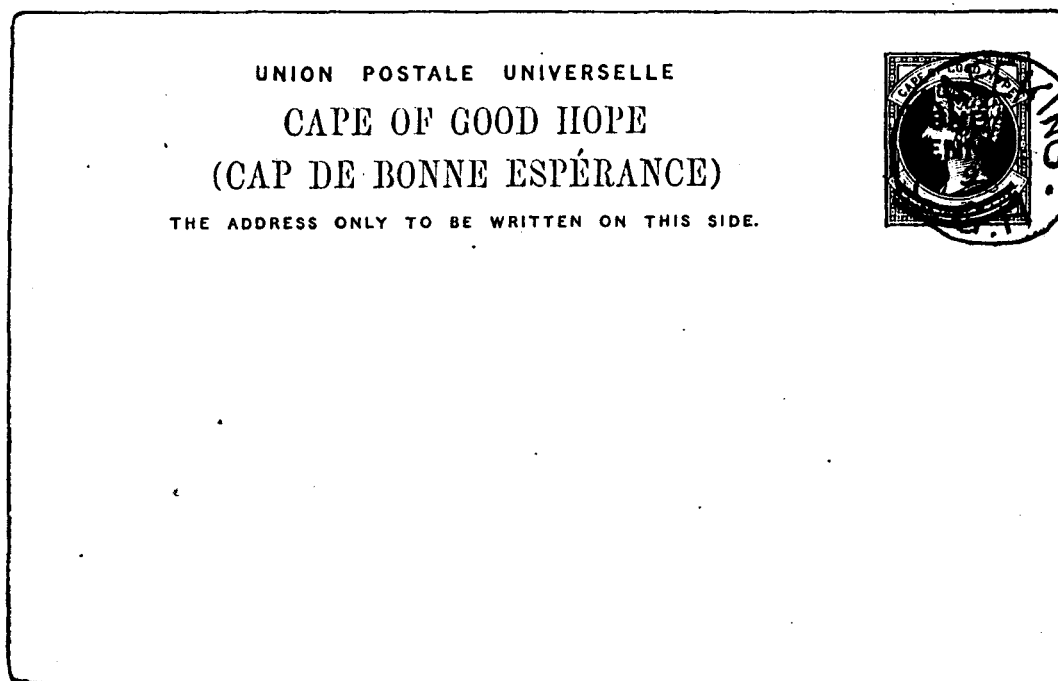
*Second Early Usage... cont.'*

otherwise obvious philatelic attraction to the surcharged postal card, I conclude that the philatelic motivation for this favor cancel was the existence of the cancel itself, recently having been put into service in Mafeking. The discovery, then, of this March 15, 1898 philatelic strike of the Mafeking siege cancel strongly suggests that the March 4, 1898 earliest reported usage-to-date is from very early in the life of this cancel, close to, if not perhaps (?) the first day of use.

The card was discovered in a dealer's cover box at the November '91 ASDA - National Postage Stamp Show in New York and was purchased for an embarrassingly low price. Although I purchased only one other modern-day

Mafeking cover, for a hoped-for someday Mafeking philatelic history exhibit, at the show, the discovery of this early strike of the Mafeking siege cancel made the \$89 Washington - New York round trip excursion fare AMT-RACK train ticket seem like a first class transportation investment!

So, now, three important usages of the Mafeking siege cancel have been discovered and reported within the scope of less than a year, which I view as nothing short of amazing, given that this cancel began a short-lived, approximately eight-year period of usage, almost 92 years ago today! Who will next contribute to our further understanding of this fascinating Mafeking cancel? Anyone having additional information on this cancel, or pre-siege and/or post-siege examples of its use, is urged to contact me (address inside front cover under the Question and Answer heading).



Cancel is 25mm "Mafeking siege" cancel  
(Goldblatt CDS 25):

MAFEKING

A

MR 15

98

C.G.H

## A Forged Cover Described

Athol Murray, England & Tim Bartshe, USA

An item from the recent Society auction, surfaced recently with a number of questions as to its heritage, not to mention its legitimacy. The cover in question, shown in Figure 1, measures 69 x 118mm and is franked with the 4d blue with border, SG 24. The stamp is heavily damaged with the value tablet torn away and both top corners missing. The hooded oval cancel (Goldblatt DTO 1), in red, belongs to GRAAFF REINETT and is dated OC 8/1866. The stamp is canceled with a barred-oval (approximately 26 x 20mm) numeral canceler '2' used at Port Elizabeth (Goldblatt BONC 7), measuring 7mm high in a box approximately 9mm square. A further circular cancel was applied to the left of the BONC, Elizabeth/Cape Colony, dated A/OC 5/66?.

So far, so good. Both of the Port Elizabeth cancelers were issued in 1864 and the DTO canceler was in use at Graaff Reinett beginning in 1854. The problem arises when the cover is looked at in closer detail. Figure 2 shows only the stamp itself. This cancel, Goldblatt STO 1, measures 26mm from base to the apex which is seen just to the left of the stamp. Further magnification, Figure 3, reveals straight

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edges along the inner portion of the bottom right of the canceller and at the apex just under the trace of the letter 'C', indicating that the original stamp which had done duty had been removed. One can envision, without much imagination, the ghost of a 4d triangular, apex pointing to the upper right except a portion of such a triangular stamp would obliterate the address as would a rectangular one. If such a happening did occur occasionally, it was rare. The squared-off edges at the bottom right of the triangular defacer immediately raises suspicion, as do the parallel bars at the apex or the defacer. These parallel bars do not match those below, being thinner, crisper and closer together. The thicker bars of the BONC cancellation which tie the stamp to the cover are possibly drawn on ft.

The postmarks, as shown, are genuine and from the 1st of January, 1858, prepayment of postage was compulsory. There is no doubt that the envelope has been through the postal system, possibly without a stamp. Even in those days such mail sometimes passed through unnoticed; however, given the combinations that presently exist on this cover, it has all the appearances of having been manufactured.

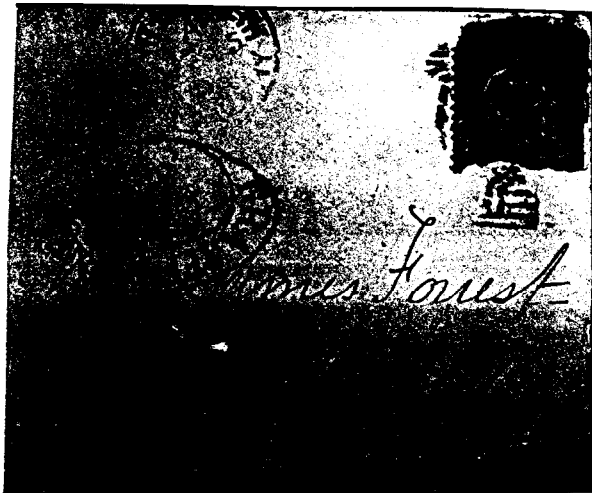


Figure 1.

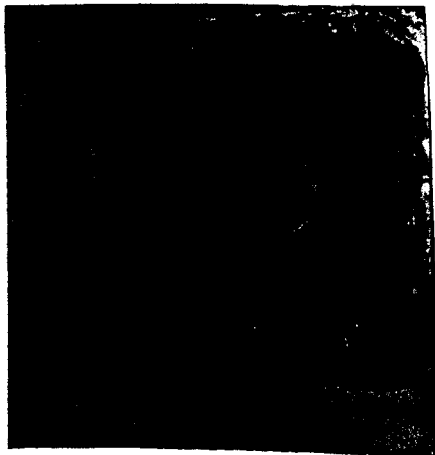


Figure 2.

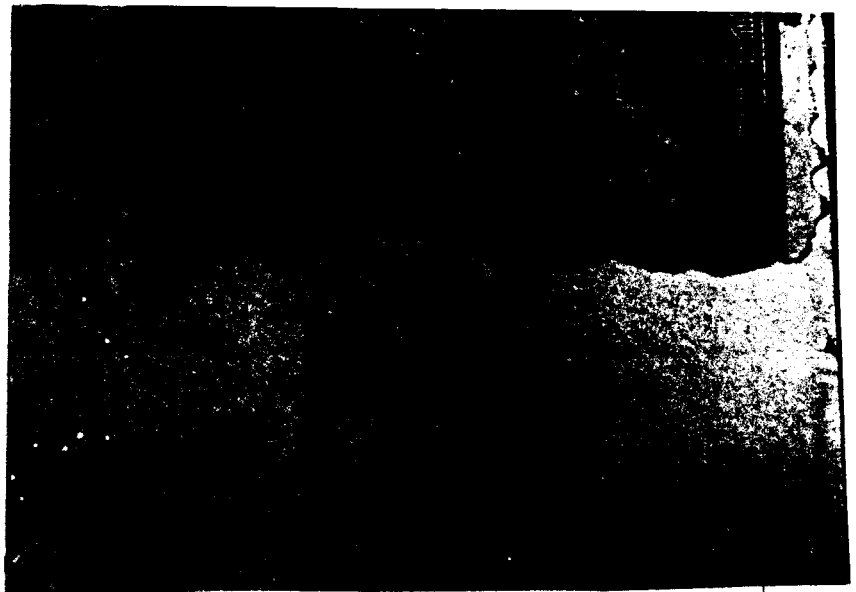


Figure 3.

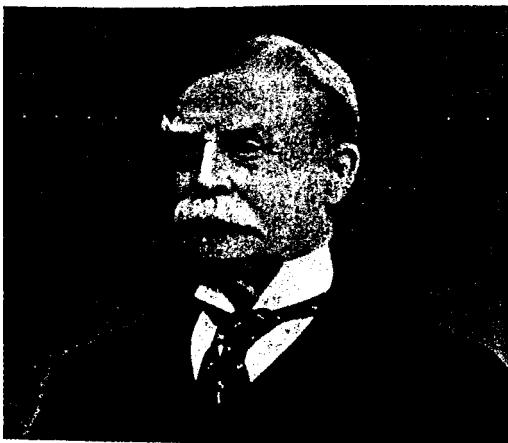
## Postal History: Bulwer/Ipolele District of Natal

Werner K Seeba, Germany

**THE PLACE:** Bulwer is the municipal town of the magisterial district of Ipolele, west of Pietermaritzburg. The town, which reposes at the base of the great Machwaqau Mountain, 6,834 feet high, has a salubrious climate and an altitude of 5,177 feet above sea level.

The first streets were layed out in 1890, and the town was named after Sir Henry Ernest Gascoyne Bulwer (Figure A). He was born in England on December 12, 1836 and died September 30, 1914.

Figure A.



*Sir Henry Bulwer.*

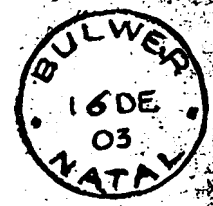
In 1875, Sir Henry was appointed as the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal. He served in this capacity until 1880 when he became Governor of Natal and Special Commissioner for Zulu Affairs until 1885.

Bulwer is an important farming center with the usual government buildings which house the post office, in addition to other structures including churches, schools and a library. There is also a fine hotel, large agricultural hall and several pretty residences including ones of brick and stone construction.

**THE POST OFFICE:** In 1893, the local post was transfered from Polela to the Village of Bulwer. 'Village' was dropped from the designation as per PMG Report 189. A single circle date stamp (cds) of 22mm. diameter (Kantey type N) was issued to this newly designated post office. The cds also served the dual purpose as receiving mark (Figure B). It also served additional functions of marking money orders and Registered Mail slips beginning in 1896.

The telegraph office opened June of 1895 (POC No. 162).

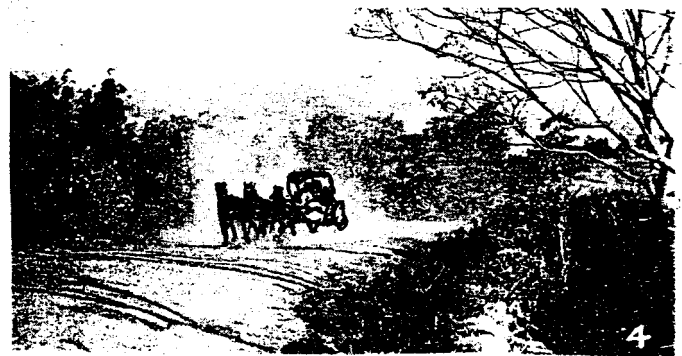
Figure B.



According to the Postmaster General's Annual Report of 1897/98, the Bulwer Post Office handled 1,872 official letters, 8,775 ordinary letters, 130 postcards, 325 parcels, 4,563 book and sample packets, 7,946 papers and 237 registered articles for a total of 23,611 items.

After 1901, there was a postal carriage connection to Himeville (Figure C) via Highbury, which left Bulwer every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:30 am., arriving Highbury at 7:45 am. and Himeville some four hours later.

Figure C.



During the months of winter (April through September), the postal route passage time was an additional two hours. From Donnybrook (Ixopo District), the postal carriage ran to and from Bulwer on a daily basis, along a country route over land richly suited for cattle and sheep farming.

The Bulwer Telegraph Office closed on February 1, 1907 (POC No. 303). In 1909 a Trunk Call Office opened, listed as a PTA in 1910. It was redesignated as a P.O. in 1911 and has been known as such since that time. In 1913, a Mrs. M. M.H. Gace was listed as the Postmistress (UPOC No. 13, dated February 2, 1913).

The railway line from Pietermaritzburg to Riverside/Cape, via Bulwer Station (T.O.) and Donnybrook was finished during February of 1907. Total distance for this portion of "the line was 106.75 miles or 171 km.

**Post Offices and Agencies in the Ipolele/Bulwer District.**

P.O. COLEFORD - near Himeville, H.O. Bulwer. Village on the Umzimkulu River between Underberg and Zwartberg, 33 miles/52.8 km from Bulwer. Coleford opened 1897 as

P.O.A. 74 (Figure D).

Figure D.



During 1897, the canceller was used 4,600 times at the Postal Agency. Coleford was listed as a P.O. in 1902; an S.O. in 1911; and P.O.A. again in 1912. It was designated as a P.T.A. on February 4, 1924; a P.A. on June 20, 1955; closed on June 11, 1962, reopening again at a later date; and finally closing on September 5, 1972.

P.A. ELANDSKOP or Elands Kop (Elandshead, H.O. Pietermaritzburg, but situated in Bulwer district.) Post carriage connections from/to Bulwer. The P.O.A. 31 was used there until 1900 when it closed. It was reopened as a T.O. on December 1, 1904 (PMG Report) and a post carriage connection was made to Impendhle every weekday, departing at 11:00 am, passing through Normanhurst and Boston at 11:45 am and 12:25 pm, respectively; arriving finally at Impendhle at 2:45 pm. The return journey from Impendhle was also on a daily basis during the week, departing at 6:30 am, via Boston at 8:35 am, Normanhurst at 8:55 am, arriving at Elandskop at 10:15 am.

Coleford listings were: P.T.A. (1909), S.T.O. (1911), P.T.A. 1912 until 1913 when it was officially designated as a Railway Station, being one of the highest in elevations on the Natal Rail System at 1,397 meters.

P.O. GARDEN CASTLE, H.O. Bulwer, 43 miles (68.8 km) distance from Bulwer near the Drakensberg Mountains. Mail was at first addressed via Bulwer. It opened as a Postal Agency in 1895, using the P.O.A. 39 canceller which was used through 1904. During this period, 12,000 items had been handled. Garden Castle was listed as P.O. in 1910; S.O. in 1911, P.A. in 1912, P.T.A. in 1923, P.A. in 1938 until closure on March 12, 1962.

P.O. HIGHBURY, H.O. Pietermaritzburg, but in Bulwer district. As a Postal Agency, it was first listed in 1893. The P.O.A. canceller 10 (Figure E).

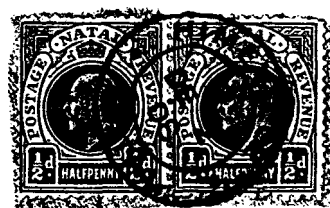
Figure E.



The usage period for this canceller was 1894-96 during which time 11,600 items were processed. The office was temporarily closed until reopening in 1901 as a P.A.; later designated as a P.T.A. in 1912; finally closing on October 14, 1968.

P.O. HIMEVILLE (Figure F), H.O. Bulwer, 26 miles (39.6 km) west thereof near Berg. Sometimes also called Underberg. The town was named after Albert Henry Hime, Prime Minister of Natal (1899-1903). The township lies at the entrance of the Sani Pass, an important trade route to Basutoland/Lesotho. The office first opened in 1901, according to the PMG's report of the time. A postal carriage service had been established, running from Bulwer to Himeville and vice versa. It left Himeville on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 am via Highbury (2:00 pm) and arrived at Bulwer at 3:45 pm. The fare was 10/-. Its listings included S.O. (1903), P.T.A. (1908), P.O. (1909), S.T.O. (1911), P.T.A. (1912), P.O. (1925), P.T.A. again (1927), P.O. again (1932) and has been to this day.

Figure F.



P.O. HILLTOP or HILL TOP, H.O. Bulwer, 13 miles (20.8 km) from Bulwer. Opened 1897. First listed in the PMG's report of 1898, using P.O.A. canceller 9 (Figure G)

Figure G.



The canceller was used at the agency from 1898-1901. During that time, the office handled 2,700 items.

Various listings of Hilltop were as follows: P.O.-1910, S.O.-1911, P.A.-1912, P.T.A.-1913 and P.A.-1914 onwards until closure on October 11, 1955.

P.O. POLELA, Ipolele District, H.O. Pietermaritzburg. Opened 1885. Middle of 1893 was transferred to Bulwer.

**Bulwer... cont'd**

According to the PMG Postal Affairs report for the period January 1890 through June 1891, the volume of mail handled at Polele included: Official letters-676, ordinary letters-5,434, postcards-26, parcels-182, books and sample packets-884, papers-5,031, registered items-61 for a total of 12,233 items processed.

P.O.A. STEPMORE, H.O. Bulwer, which was 21 miles (33.6 km) from Himeville. P.O.A. 46 canceller (Figure H) was used at the agency from 1906 to 1910.

Figure H.



Stepmore was listed as a P.A. in 1911; temporarily closed on January 5, 1953; and re-opened again and finally closed on May 14, 1955.

P.T.O.A. TAYLORS, H.O. Pietermaritzburg, but in Bulwer/Underberg district. There was a military training camp named Underberg Lager for which postmarks exist for two 10-day periods in 1905 and 1907. Government listings of the office show the following designations and periods: P.A.-1908-1911, T.O.-1923-1927, and T.O. again 1933-1949 when it finally closed.

P.A.UNDEEN, H.O. Bulwer, 30 miles (48 km) therefrom. First listed in 1892. The agency handled 2,800 items in 1893. P.O.A. 12 canceller was used (Figure I). It was upgraded to P.O. until 1904 when it was downgraded to its original P.A. status at that time. It finally closed on April 4, 1913. '

Figure I.



P.A. WATERMEAD, H.O. Bulwer. Listed open during the period 1900-1907. The P.O.A. 75 (Figure J) canceller was recorded used for the period 1902-1904.

Figure J.



It was closed from sometime around 1904 and then reopened on January 1, 1917. Watermead finally closed on November 14, 1928.

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## Guest Article

### Errors And Varieties In Early Southern African Postal Cancellers and Obliterators

Franco Frescura, South Africa

(This article was originally published in *the South African Journal of Culture, Alt History*, 1989, 3 (3), pp 195-202. Being that this particular Journal is not philatelic, it was felt that philatelists would greatly benefit by publication herein. There is an incredible wealth of information provided.)

#### Abstract

The development of a postal infrastructure throughout southern African during the nineteenth century often took place under difficult conditions. This **was** not assisted by the fact that many local procedures were based on foreign administrative models and that most materials necessary to the everyday running of even a small postal agency had to be Imported from England. This meant that errors originating from Europe often took years to rectify and that colonial postmasters were sometimes forced to make ad



## Errors and Varieties... cont'd

hoc variations in order to meet local conditions. The nature of these adaptations is perhaps best illustrated by the manner in which local cancellers and obliterated, being hand-held instruments used to cancel postal adhesives and process mails, were used and, at times, abused. In this paper the nature of errors and apparent 'errors' recorded in the make-up of colonial and early Union postal instruments is examined and their probable origins and historical relevance discussed.

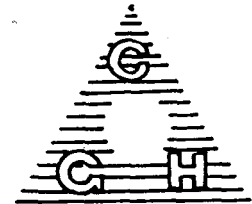
### Preamble

The development of a Colonial administration in the Cape of Good Hope during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries relied heavily upon the ability of officials in Cape Town to maintain efficient and regular links of communication with their remotest outposts. Initially the Dutch used their network of military Field Comets to also deliver mail and disseminate government ordinances to illiterate burghers living on the outskirts of the Colony. However, after the British annexation of the Cape in 1806, these were gradually supplanted by a system of post offices based upon the English model. After the introduction of pre-paid postal adhesives to the Cape in 1853 similarities between the two postal services increased to the point when, in 1864, they began sharing the \_ same form of cancelling instruments, which usually also originated from the same English suppliers. Thereafter, the postal infrastructure in the two countries underwent parallel, if not quite simultaneous, developments.

However, the process of translating a postal system, designed to meet the needs of an industrialized country to a region lacking in the most basic infrastructural support, imposed a variety of stresses and demands upon the local Post Office. Owing to the distances involved, these could often only be resolved by using local ingenuity and the limited technology available to colonists. Thus we find that although the first hand-held stamp with movable dating type was issued to Cape Town as early as 1816 (Figure 1), and possibly a little earlier (1), its use did not become widespread until 1853 (Figure 2). Even then it was limited to only a relatively small number of post offices, possibly as few as 109 (2). It was only after 1864 that dating stamps began to be issued to post offices as a standard item of equipment (Figure 3) (3). However, the practice of cancelling postal adhesives with them did not become official policy until after 1882 when they began to replace the triangular and oval barred obliterated used previously (Figure 4).

### Introduction

Since the introduction of an official postal service in



**Figures 1,2,3 and 4** Examples of the first hand-held stamps with movable dating type which replaced the triangular and oval barred obliterated used previously.

southern Africa during the latter part of the eighteenth century (5), a variety of errors have occurred, from time to time, in the make-up of hand-held postal instruments used in the cancellation and processing of local mails. Considering the nature of the early colonial postal infrastructure and the manner in which its development took place during the mid-nineteenth century, it is surprising that such mistakes are relatively few and far between. When they did occur they may be attributed to two major causes.

Firstly, this country is possessed of seven different languages and numerous local dialects. In many cases their orthography was not fully established until well into the twentieth century and, in the case of local vernaculars, these are still being amended to the present day. Notable examples of this may be found in the evolution of the words 'Zuid Afrika' in 1910, to 'Suidafrika' in 1925 and 'Suid-Afrika' in 1933 as well as, more recently, the rationalization of Zulu names such as Umfolozi to Mfolozi.

It is also true that the affairs of the colonial Post Office were controlled for many years from a headquarters located in London, some ten thousand kilometers away, by officials unfamiliar with local languages or their orthography. Post office cancellers were manufactured in England and thus, when an error was made in their make-up, this was often only identified when the instrument concerned reached southern Africa. Consequently -it often took a considerable amount of time before mistakes could be rectified. This was true not only for the Cape and Natal but also for the Boer Republics of the southern African interior who are known to have purchased their dating town cancellers from the same firms as the Colonial Office (6).

*Errors and Varieties... cont'd*

A second important aspect in the use of colonial hand-cancellers, is the function and sometimes apparent 'misuse' of their date slugs and time codes. Although postal items bearing strikes with inverted, reversed or missing date slugs may be found from time to time, these are not uncommon and are subject to a rationale which is at once functional, sensible and simple to explain.

Although research in the field of southern African postal history is now reaching an advanced stage of documentation, to date such variants have tended to be treated as little more than oddities within the larger framework of postal development. This is incorrect. Not only does their study reveal much of the inner workings of a post office infrastructure, but the abuse of a canceller does not cease at the misspelling of its name. Instruments are known to have been damaged, worn out, vandalized and amended. They have also been altered, either in jest, or as part of a publicity stunt.

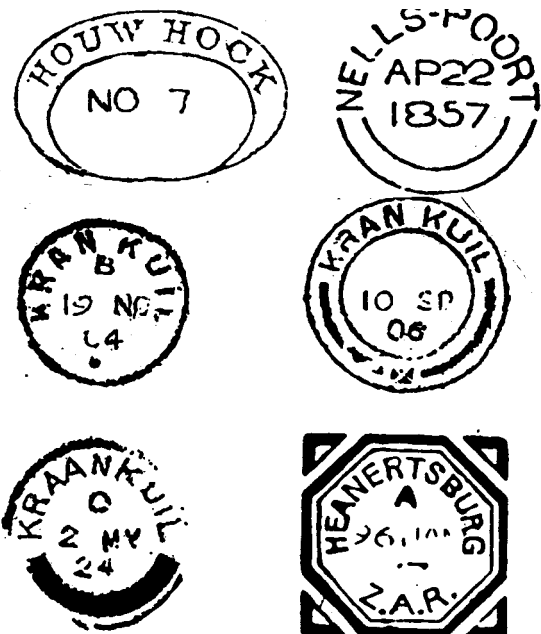
For the purposes of this paper it is proposed to distinguish between those errors which have arisen as the result of the initial preparation of, or the subsequent tampering with, the hand-canceller itself, and those which are the outcome of day-to-day practical usage.

**Errors of structural make-up****Errors of orthography**

Although not common, these are known to have occurred from time to time. They can probably be attributed either to a misspelling on the part of the Post Office official responsible for drawing up the brief of the die-cutter, or to the latter's unfamiliarity with local languages.

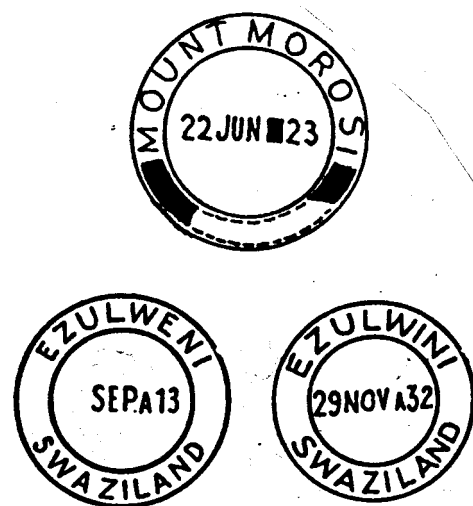
The first such errors were recorded in 1853 when some 90 post offices in the Cape were issued the double oval dated town cancellers. Included amongst them was an instrument for Sir Lowry's Pass inscribed 'Sir Loury's Pass', one for Oudtshoorn inscribed 'Oudsthoorn', and one for Houw Hoek, a small village in the division of Caledon, inscribed 'Houw Hock' (Figure 5). This canceller was to remain in use for the next 48 years until recalled to stores in 1901 (7). Subsequently, in 1857, a double arc dated town canceller for Nelspoort was dispatched from England to Cape Colony (8). This post office's name was given at that time as 'Nells-Poort' (Figure 6), probably the result of an English official's Anglicization of the Dutch surname Nei -to Nell, both names being derived from the same Irish Gaelic root (9). Another example **was recorded** at the Cape post office of Kraankuil, near De Aar, which was known as

'Krankuil' (Figures 7-8) throughout the colonial era until the misspelling was rectified soon after Union (Figure 9). Haenertsburg, in the Transvaal Republic, suffered a similar fate in the early 1880s when the London firm of T. B. Berri, who manufactured their postal canceller, transposed the 'A' and the 'E' to read 'Heanertsburg' (Figure 10). It is not known when, if ever, this error was rectified.



**Figures 5,6,7,8,9 and 10** Examples of cancellers showing errors of orthography.

Since then similar errors have also been noted for Mount Moorosi in Lesotho, issued with a double circle canceller inscribed 'Mount Morosi' (Figure 11), at Ezulwini in Swaziland where this post office was issued with a double circle canceller inscribed Ezuiweni (Figures 12-13). In both the cases the error was rectified at a later stage when new instruments were issued to them.



**Figures 11,12 and 13** Double circle cancellers showing errors of orthography.

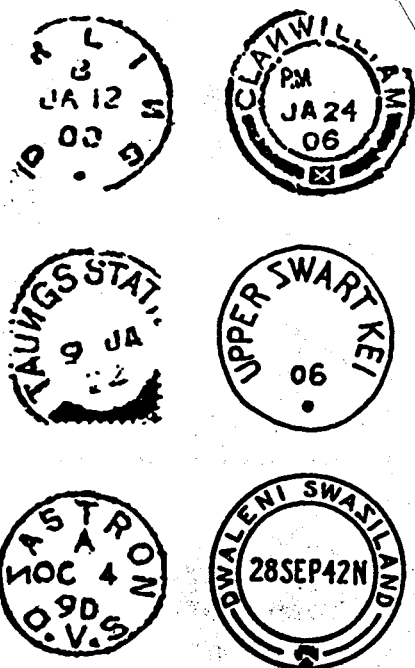
One canceller which, in the past, has been the subject of some discussion (10) was issued by the Cape Colonial Administration in or about 1891 to the post office of 'Wartrail' (Figure 14). Although it is doubtful that its name was ever meant to be read as 'Wart Rail', official sources put the issue beyond doubt in 1978 when they confirmed it to be War Trail' (11).



Figure 14 Cancellor of the post office of Wartrail.'

#### Errors of die-cutting

This is probably the most common source of error in the make-up of a canceller. It arises from the fact that the die-cutter has to engrave a mirror image of the name upon the steel plate. Whilst most of the alphabet seems to have offered few problems to this process, over the years the letters 'N' and 'Z' have proved to be singularly awkward. Cancellers with reversed letters have been recorded for Darling, Clanwilliam, Taungs Station, Upper Zwartkei, Zastron and Dwaleni, Swaziland (Figures 15-20). In most cases these were either replaced or amended within a year or two of usage, but in Dwaleni's instance this canceller is recorded to have been in service for nearly 30 years.



Figures 15,16,17,18,19 and 20 Cancellers which reversed letters.

Similar die-cutting difficulties appear to have been experienced at various times in the manufacture of the Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor (Figures 21-23) issued at Cape Town in the 1860s and 1870s.

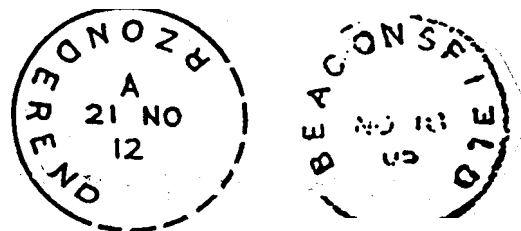


Figures 21,22 and 23 Examples of die-cutting difficulties in the manufacture of the Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor.

#### Relief cancellers

The single circle relief canceller has been a feature of the southern African postal service since at least 1898 (12) when the first such instruments were issued to a small number of post offices in the Cape Colony. Their function was to replace, on a temporary basis, those cancellers which had been returned by postmasters to stores for repairs and maintenance. It is doubtful that they were ever intended to serve as permanent office cancellers in their own right although some are known to have remained in use for as long as nine years. In spite of the fact that Cape reliefs were larger and generally better finished than their counter parts elsewhere in the country, issued from about 1902 onwards, at least two errors of make-up have been recorded to date.

The relief for River Zonder End is unique in that its working runs across the top of the canceller in an anticlockwise direction (Figure 24) while that for Beaconsfield shows a reversed letter 'E' (Figure 25).



Figures 24 and 25 Relief cancellers showing errors of make-up.

Relief cancellers issued subsequently by the Union Postal Administration, also known as 'skeleton cancellers' (13), are noted for their rough appearance and uneven lettering (Figure 26). At least one, recorded to have been : used at Worcester between 6 December 1912 and 5 February

*Errors and Varieties... Conto'*

1913, was misspelt as 'Worcestor' (Figure 27), an error which appears to have been rectified on or about 4 February 1913 when a new relief canceller was issued with a broadly spaced 'S.A.' at the base (Figure 28). Similarly the relief at Caledon Square, Cape Town, delivered a strike more likely to be read as 'Caledon Sore, CT' (Figure 29).



Figures 26,27,28 and 29. Relief cancellers are noted for their rough appearance and uneven lettering.

#### Cancellers modified with official sanction

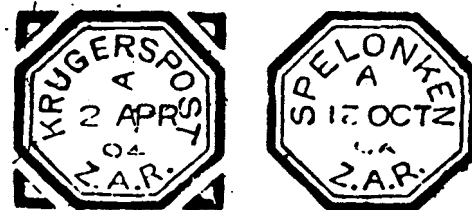
It is probable that, wherever possible, alterations of a minor nature were carried out locally without necessarily referring the canceller concerned back to its original manufacturer. This certainly appears to have been true in the case of post offices at Mtentu and Klipdam. When the Tembuland post office of Umtentu changed its name to Mtentu in April 1884, the initial letter 'U' was removed, either locally, or in Cape Town, thus giving its canceller strike its subsequent unbalanced appearance (Figure 30). Similar action was taken at Klipdam No. 1 when this post office, near Barkly West, simplified its name to Klipdam in July 1894 (Figures 31-32). It has not been possible, to date, to narrow down the periods of transition for either of these cancellers.

Structural changes could also be made to instruments for the sake of greater efficiency. One such case was recorded at Spelonken, in the ZAR, which originally used a squared octagonal dated town canceller similar to that of Krugerspost (Figure 33). This type of instrument, manufactured by the firm of D.C. Berri of London (14), was introduced in southern Africa in the late 1880s as part of a larger group of experimental cancellers which delivered squared circle, crested circle, and compass wheel impressions (15). Like the squared circle canceller, the squared octagon's sharp corners had a tendency to tear letters

and wear unevenly. It would appear therefore that at some stage during the 1890s the postmaster at Spelonken took unilateral action and amended his instrument to deliver an octagonal strike (Figure 34). It is not recorded how his superiors in Pretoria reacted to this initiative but, in view of the fact that none of the other post offices employing squared octagonal cancellers are known to have followed suit, it is unlikely to have met with official sanction.



Figures 30,31 and 32 Examples of cancellers modified with official sanction.



Figures 33 and 34 Examples of structural change made to the squared octagonal canceller.

#### Vandalized cancellers

Various cases are known where official post office instruments have fallen into private or enemy hands and have either been vandalized or somehow altered in the process. However few, if any, instances have been recorded where such instruments have subsequently been returned into official postal use. For this reason the canceller of the Cape post office of Lady Grey Bridge raises a number of interesting questions.

Up to about 1897 this office used a canceller of a type where the name was split into two (16), 'Lady Grey' being placed in the upper segment of the circle and 'Bridge' in the lower (Figure 35). After this time, however, a second instrument appears to have been commissioned with the name running sequentially in a clockwise direction about the inner perimeter of the circle (17). In or about 1901 the face of this canceller was altered, with its outer circle being deliberately broken, probably filed, into small segments (Figure 36). Strikes recorded to date indicated that it found use in its mutilated form between 4 November and 18 December 1901. The circumstances behind this action are not known but it is unlikely to have been done with the official sanction of the central Postal Administration in Cape Town. It cannot be precluded that it was an isolated act of protest on the part of a bored or disillusioned postal official, done in the knowledge that this office was

scheduled to be closed in the immediate future.

The closure of the Lade Grey Bridge postal agency was announced in Post Office Circular No. 249 of 1 August 1902 (18). However, this appears to have been a temporary measure for in 1904 this office was recommissioned as a Railway Telegraph Office which therefore was not involved in the processing of mails. In August 1905 it was renamed 'Huguenot' (19) and in August 1906 its status was revised and upgraded to a Telegraph, Money Order and Savings Bank Office, thus returning it to full postal service (20).



Figures 35 and 36 The canceller of the Cape post office of Lady Grey Bridge before and after 1897. In or about 1901 the face of the second instrument was altered.

Another and perhaps better documented case of a vandalized canceller was recorded in Johannesburg in the late 1890s when the instrument at the De Beurs post office, the Bourse, was amended, quite sardonically, to read 'De Beers' (21).

#### Damaged cancellers

These are distinct from 'Vandalized Cancellers' (above) in that the instrument concerned may have become damaged accidentally and not as a deliberate act. One such example is recorded to have been used at Bremersdorp, Swaziland, from 1927 to about 1938, although it may have been damaged as early as

November 1932 (Figure 37).

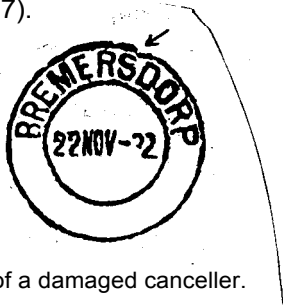


Figure 37 'Example of a damaged canceller.

#### Wear and tear

Although most cancellers used in southern Africa since the 1860s were relatively sturdy and capable of delivering a consistently clear strike, some types of instrument appeared to have been particularly susceptible to wear and clogging up through an accumulation of dirt and dried ink. This was particularly true of the squared circle

experimental instrument issued to a limited number of Cape post offices from about 1882 onwards (22), which had a tendency of clogging up (Figures 38-40) as well as wearing badly on its outer corners.



Figures 38,39 and 40 Cancellers showing wear and tear.

#### Errors of terminology

Southern Africa's social norms and linguistic practices are rooted deeply in the country's colonial past. One of the results has been the fact that the local geographical and infrastructural nomenclature has, from time to time, found itself out of phase with the changing political climate. As a result, such anachronisms as 'Potchefstroom Non-European', 'Durban Indian' and 'Kaffirskraal' have only been done away with in more recent times. Others, however such as Kaffir Rivier (Figure 41), have yet to be obliterated from our records.



Figure 41 Example of a canceller with terminology not yet obliterated from the records.

#### Functional varieties

##### Induced 'errors'

Until recently few postal historians challenged the long-held belief that the use of inverted or reversed date and time code slugs in a hand canceller was the result of carelessness on the part of some junior postal official. However, a perusal of official documents from the colonial era presents a somewhat different picture.

*E171215 and Varieties... cont.'*

Instructions given to postmasters in the Cape Colony's Post Office Circular Number 5 of 1 June 1882 state, among other things, that:

'The figures of the Dated Stamp must be carefully adjusted at the beginning of each day, and so soon as this is done, a clear impression must be made in a book to be kept as a record (23).'

This point was reiterated later in the same document when postmasters were also warned that: 'The impression of each Stamp should be not only legible, but perfect in every particular (24).'

In view of the frequent references made to these instructions in subsequent Post Office Circulars, it becomes obvious that the Post Office Establishment laid particular stress upon the correct use of their postal instruments. Similar regulations were published in about 1903 under the title of 'instructions for the Guidance of Head Postmasters in the Cape of Good Hope' where it was stated that:

'Every precaution must be taken for the safe custody of the office date stamp, obliterating stamp and seal,... At the close of business each day all date and obliterating stamps, and seals, must be collected and placed under lock and key by a responsible officer (25).<sup>0</sup>

The significance of these instructions is clear. Cancelling instruments were handed out daily by postmasters of larger offices to the various counter clerks employed under them. Upon issue, an impression of the canceller concerned was struck into a specially designated 'Impressions Book' where the official taking delivery of the instrument also signed it out to his name. During the course of the day this instrument was to be in his constant possession and leaving it unattended was considered to be a serious breach of Post Office conduct. The Instructions of 1903 also stated that:

'When a stamp is fitted with an index letter, or figures, indicating the time, the index letter or figures must be changed punctually at the appointed times, and each of these changes must be shown in the stamp impression book. The object of the index letter or figures is to indicate the hour at which a letter is received or despatched; if, therefore, they are not changed punctually, a Postmaster may become answerable for a delay which is not real, but apparent. All impressions must be made in the book and initialled by the officers effecting the changes' (26).

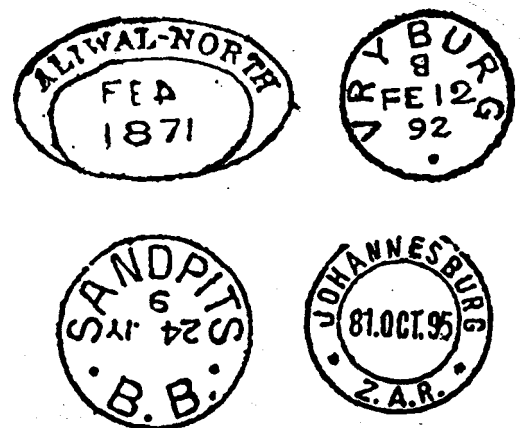
Thus it is clear that postal officials were also expected to make regular changes to the time code of the instrument in

their charge at predetermined times of the day. This was done because the time and dating applied by a postal official to a letter was considered to be contractually binding and valid evidence in a court of law. Thus extreme care had to be taken that the information applied by them to the mail was as accurate as possible. In the eventuality of a dispute or a delay, the Post Office administration could then identify the official responsible through its records. Therefore, the strike delivered by a cancelling instrument did not only apply certain information to a letter, such as its origins, date and time of mailing, but it also served to identify the person in charge of the instrument at any particular time.

If this was indeed the case, then the time code must also be seen to have been functional as a security device, a hypothesis supported by other studies of the Colonial Post Office elsewhere in the British Empire (27).

Thus, in such cases where a postal official was permitted, through any number of reasons, to absent himself from his post during the day, then his canceller would be passed onto another person who, in order to indicate that the instrument was now in his possession, would make subtle, but temporary, changes to its make-up and enter a strike of this under his own name in the Impression's Book. Such changes would have been in force for a few hours or a day at most.

Whatever the truth of the matter, it must be concluded that changes such as those illustrated for Aliwal North, Vryburg and Sand Pits (Figures 42-44) were brought about by unpredictable and transient conditions, significant only in that they record a momentary hiccup in the daily routine of a post office. The same may also have been true of the Johannesburg strike with the transposed day slugs (Figure 45).



Figures 42,43,44 and 45 Examples of cancellers showing induced errors.

## Corrective errors

Postmasters were expected to take good care not only of their finances, stock of stamps and cancellers but also of the letter and numeral type necessary to make the daily update of their instruments. The Instructions to Postmasters of 1903 stated that: 'If the type is required to replace pieces lost, two-pence in stamps, for each type required, must be enclosed to the Controller of Stores' (28).

Additional type was also distributed sparingly and postmasters were expected to requisition their Stores in good time for the numeral type to be used in a coming new year. Old type was similarly expected to be returned. Often, however, matters did not run smoothly: type could be lost in the mail, a requisition be delayed, a wrong slug be despatched. Upon such occasions a postmaster would be forced, by circumstances, to take interim measures, which would provide him with temporary relief until such a time as the necessary materials arrived from his Head Office. As a result, a number of ingenious short-term solutions are known to have been used. Often these would involve the simple use of a stand-in numeral or letter: the letter 'S' for a '5', 'B' for an '8' and , as in the case of Zastron on 4 October 1890 (Figure 19), a 'D' substituted for the zero.

In the case illustrated (Figure 46) the postmaster at Sea Point used an inverted '4' as a surrogate '7'. On New Year's Day, 1900, however, the postmaster of Lady Grey must have run out of zeros for he used the numbers '19' to represent that year (Figure 47). By the 6 March, nearly three months later, his additional type had still not arrived (29) and this abbreviation was still in use. The postmaster at Burghersdorp, faced with a similar problem on 15 January 1900, merely omitted the year type from his canceller altogether(30). Where no surrogates were possible, locally-made hand stamps could always be used (Figure 48) and when all else failed the necessary additions were made in manuscript (Figure 49).



Figures 46,47,48 and 49 Examples of cancellers showing corrective errors.

## Conclusions

Varieties to be found in the make-up of southern African postal cancellers and obliterators may thus be ascribed to three major factors:

- errors in the structure of the instrument occurring during its initial overseas manufacture.
  - changes made to the structure of the instrument locally and subsequent to its manufacture.
  - non-structural and ad hoc variations made to the instrument, usually to meet the daily and short-term needs of a local postal infrastructure.
- Their rarity tends to vary considerably from factor to factor. Some, by their very nature, were transient and may have been the result of some postal official's temporary indisposition. Others, however, may have found use for much longer periods, months or even years, before the error was finally rectified. Generally speaking, however, scarcity ought to be measured according to three major criteria:
- the size of the post office concerned and the traffic of mail it handled.
  - the instrument's period of usage.

the nature of the error or variation.

Thus, although an inverted time code or date type may be a relatively rare occurrence in the life of an individual post office, this was a practice which found daily use in the running of a larger postal infrastructure. As such it was not rare and, barring some interesting exceptions, is probably not worthy of individual in-depth research.

Similarly, a study of reversed and inverted letters and numerals may produce a number of striking and amusing varieties but will reveal little of the social, political and economic factors involved in the running of a postal service. Their scarcity need only be measured according to the size of the post office concerned and the instrument's duration of service.

On the other hand the deliberate alteration or vandalization of postal instruments provides a field rich in historical research and discovery. The structural form of a canceller may be tampered with for any number of reasons but, be they acts of war, willful destruction or deliberate re-utilization, they are all the product of historical factors and human events. As such then each impression delivered by such a canceller retells a story and reveals **something of the human condition.**

### Errors and Varieties... contd

Therefore, whatever their nature, it becomes obvious that variations in the make-up and usage of post office instruments are not the esoteric manifestation of technical failing or human error, but are direct reflections of the inner workings of a postal infrastructure.

### Acknowledgment

I will to extend by grateful thanks to my colleagues Mike Nethersole, Athol A. Murray, Gustav Bulbring, Colin Johnson and Werner K Seeba whose assistance in the formulation of these ideas has been invaluable.

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22. F. FRESCURA, 'The experimental dating and obliterating cancellers of the CGH', *Post Office Stone* 15(3), September 1983, pp. 3-21.
23. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, *Post Office Circular* No. 5, 1 June 1882. (Cape Town, Cape Times, 1882).
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25. Cape archives, Cape Town: Post Office of the Cape of Good Hope, 'Instructions for the Guidance of Head Postmasters in the Cape of Good Hope', c. 1903.
26. Cape archives, as above.
27. M. PULLAN, *Hong Kong Study Circle Bulletin* No. 228, November/December 1980.
28. Cape Archives, as above.
29. STEPHAN WELZ AND CO., *Postage Stamps and Postal History of the World* (Johannesburg, 22 February 1989) Plate 13, lot 175.
30. STEPHAN WELZ AND CO., as above, Plate 13, lot 172

### MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW !!

Attend the Society hosted 'Celebration of Greater Southern Africa Philately at APS STaMpsHOW 92. This is PSGSA's 5th Anniversary Convention. Hospitality Suite/Society Exhibit from World Columbian Stamp Expo 92, Program, Banquet, Awards and just plain good old philatelic camaraderie! Write to Louise Christian, PSGSA Director/Programs for details and banquet reservations (address inside front cover). page ... SEE YOU THERE!



## Modern Issues

John Otten, Editor

In this, my second installment, I thought I might start out by sharing a true-to-life story as communicated by one of our early members, Roy Setterfield. Following Roy's entry I will return to news about up-and-coming issues from the southern Africa area

### Malawi's Colourless Fire-Finch - SG 313a

Roy Setterfield, England

Many minor errors, missing colours, etc., occur in the production of stamps. Some are spotted by dealers in their normal supplies, and their presence is soon reported. Others may be received by small post offices or agencies, and they may never come to light; some may turn up later in mixtures or kiloware and their provenance is not known. But a few, by pure chance, are spotted at the time of use or soon after, and their history can be deduced. This is the story of one of the latter.

As a district officer, I had a small office in Cholo (now Thyolo) in Malawi. Entering the office at 7:30 one morning, my 'Number 2', Stafford Mpoya, was standing at the opposite side of the room, with a letter projecting from his breast pocket and on the envelope. ... I pounced ...

- Stafford, what have you got there - A letter?! 'Yes, but the stamp on it?' 'Just an ordinary stamp', he replied.
- No, it is NOT ordinary - may I have it? 'I'll give you ten shillings for the envelope - no, not the letter. And if and when I sell it, I'll give you half of whatever I get.' 'O.K.', he said.

Stafford knew how crazy some of these Europeans are, and also that I had a liking for birds and butterflies, which he could understand; and also for old stamps, which of course he could NOT understand.

From five yards away, I had spotted that there was something different about the stamp on the envelope protruding from his pocket. Something peculiar. Upon examination, the stamp was the common four-pence Fire Finch, SG 313. BUT - no fire, no red colour! Later that same morning I told a friend who promptly sent his son to the Head Post Office in Umbe - as that was the postmark - to examine all the 4d stamps there for similar examples, but no success.

Stafford said the letter was from a colleague at Mikolongwe. Ah, so! The research station at Mikolongwe sends all its mail via Umbe, not via the village P.O. So if the missing red was a single specimen, or part of a sheet (or even a whole sheet), most of them would be used on local mail and destroyed. (Actually, used envelopes were in much demand for you-can-guess-what.)

I have seen one other example, a loose stamp with Mikolongwe postmark noticed in his mail by an agricultural manager in Limbe, the present whereabouts of which is unknown. (Oh, yes, I certainly have tried to acquire it!) This of course lends further support to the theory that this error was issued at the Mikolongwe office. So, watch out in that there may be some additional copies laying around, but selfishly, I hope not ... Roy

### South Africa press releases

Call for proposals for 1993 special date stamps in two categories: (a) those for use on a permanent basis to give prominence and publicity for places or events of national or exceptional historical interests and (b) those for use on a temporary basis to commemorate important historical events or to focus attention on current events. Must be received by 31 March 1992, Managing Director, South African Post Office Limited, Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001.

Closure of Philatelic Counters on 1 January 1992 due to being uneconomical returns:

Transvaal - Alberton, Bedfordview, Boksburg, Braamfontein, Brakpan, Brits, Carletonville, Kempton Park, Klerksdorp, Newspruit, Pietersburg, Roodepoort, Rustenburg, Sasolburg, Springs.

Natal - Empangeni, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Pinetown, Vryheid.

Orange Free State - Bethlehem, Harrismith.

Cape Province - De Aar, East London, Fish Hoek, Grahamstown, Kimberley, Oudtschoom, Queenstown, Bryburg, Walvis Bay, Worcester.

Special Permanent Date Stamps:

Somerset East Museum & Rorke's Drift Museum

### New Issue Order Addresses

**Botswana Postal Services:** Philatelic Bureau, P.O. Box 100, Gaborone, Botswana Standing order accounts in the following currencies: British pounds, US & Canadian dollars, Deutsche marks, Swiss francs, SA rands

**Malawi Postal Services:** Malawi Post Office Philatelic Bureau, P.O. Box 1000, Blantyre

**Republic of South Africa Postal Services: Philatelic Services and INTERSAPA,** Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001. New issue service for the following: RSA, Namibia, Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei

*Modern Issues... conto'*

Recent & New Issues

Republic of South Africa

\*December 5, 1991 - 'The Antarctic Treaty', two denominations of 21 c and 50c

\*January 2, 1992 - set of four post cards

\*February 6, 1992 - 'Environmental Conservation', three denominations of 27c, 65c and 85c

\*May 9, 1992 - 'National Stamp Day', five 27c denominations

\*July 9, 1992 - 'Antique Cape Furniture', ten 27c denominations

\*October 8, 1992 - 'Aston van Wouw', four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

Bophuthatswana

\*January 9, 1992 - 'Old Maps of Africa' - second set of this series. Four denominations of 25c, 40c, 50c and 60c

\*April 1, 1992 - 'Easter Stamps' - 10th set of this series. Four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

\*June 18, 1992 - 'Acacia Trees', four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

\*November 19, 1992 - 'The Lost City', five 27 stamps Ciskei

\*March 19, 1992 - 'Cloud Formations', four denominations of 25c, 40c, 50c and 60c

\*June 4, 1992 - 'Satellites over southern Africa' - four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

\*August 20, 1992 - 'Agricultural Implements' - Second set of this series. Four denominations of 27c, 45, 65c and 85c

\*November 15, 1992 - 'Hotels in Ciskei', four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

Namibia

\*January 30, 1992 - '21st Anniversary of the Conservatoire', four denominations of 20c, 25c, 45c and 60c

\*April 16, 1992 - 'Freshwater Angling', four denominations of 20c, 25c, 45c and 60c

\*July 2, 1992 - 'Swakopmund: Jewel of the Namibian Coast', four denominations of 20c, 25c, 45c and 60c

\*September 10, 1992 - 'Equalization of the Disabled', four

denominations of 20c, 25c, 45c and 60c

Transkei

\*February 20, 1992 - 'Flowering plants - Orchids', four denominations of 25c, 40c, 50c and 60c

\*April 4, 1992 - 'Heroes of Medicine', four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65 and 85c

\*July 16, 1992 - 'Waterfowl', eight issues, two each of four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

\*September 17, 1992 - 'Fossils', a second set of this series, four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

Venda

\*March 5, 1992 - 'Industrial products-Clothing Factory', four denominations of 25c, 40c, 50c and 60c

\*May 21, 1992 - 'Bee types', four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

\*August 13, 1992 - 'Inventions', second set of this series, four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

\*September 2, 1992 - A set of eight picture postcards

\*October 15, 1992 - 'Crocodile Farming', four denominations of 27c, 45c, 65c and 85c

In closing this issue's installment, I heartily invite readers to send me items of interest concerning modern issues. It would also be appreciated if someone would send me the address of the Philatelic Bureau for Zimbabwe. Until next time, John Otten, P.O. Box 577, Urbana, IL **61801 USA**.

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Late Arrivals & Announcements

A JOINT MEETING OF THE RSC AND PSGSA WAS HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO ON JANUARY 25, 1992 (as reported by founding member Bill Wallace).

The meeting was held at the home of Dr. Tom Yazman (RSC). Attending were Paul Buechner (RSC, PSGSA), Hank Ibsen (PSGSA), Graham Stott (PSGSA), Bill Wallace (RSC, PSGSA) and Jeff Weiss (PSGSA).

Regrets were sent by Bob Gibbs (RSC), Jack Joyce (RSC), John McChesney-Young (RSC, PSGSA), John Pask (RSC), Peter Sargent (RSA) and Steve Schumann (PSGSA).

The meeting began with Tom showing a group of Rhodesia 1/2d double heads of which he plans to form an exhibit from. We received a telephone call from Bill Brooks, Founder of the PSGSA, who spoke to each of the members present. This was followed by a telephone call from Syl Tully (RSC, PSGSA). Paul showed a range of his Rhodesian collection, followed **by a display of South**

### *Late awls... canto'*

African states by Hank. Bill showed some Rhodesian proofs, specimens and revenues. Graham followed with a study of SWA postage dues.

After the displays, a lively discussion was held on the future of collecting stamps of southern Africa, getting publicity for our groups and the differences between flyspecking, nitpicking and splitting hairs.

At 5:30 p.m. three of the wives, Jan Buechner, Trudy Ibsen and Janice Wallace joined the group for a trek to a nearby Thai restaurant.

Several future meetings have been planned. The next is a PSGSA meeting at WESTPEX in San Francisco, May 1-3, a joint RSC/PSGSA meeting in late June and the PSGSA Fifth Anniversary convention at STaMpsHOW 92 in Oakland, August 27-30. For details on these and other future meetings in the northern California area, please contact Bill Wallace, P.O. Box 16381, San Francisco, CA 94116, USA. For information on the WESTPEX meeting and program, please contact John McChesney Young at (510) 548-5130.

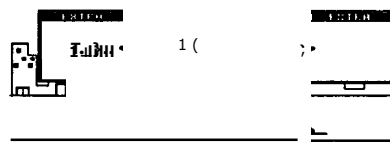
Anyone coming to STaMpsHOW 92 will have the opportunity to see a copy of the Society's exhibit from World Columbian Stamp Expo, according to our hard-working exhibit project manager, Fred Lawrence. The exhibit will be stationed in the Society hospitality suite.

#### PSGSA Publication Services

Society Publication Sponsorship, Sales Agency and Consignment Sales Service Announced ...Through its Publications Program, authors are invited to submit their written works for publication under sponsorship of the Society. Arrangement details available from Alec Page, FRPS, L, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 3LG, England.

The Society's Library/Archive Service is available to act as sales and distribution agent for overseas publications. In addition, the Society will be willing to sell major works submitted on a consignment basis. Inquiries are invited. Interested parties should contact R. Timothy Bartshe, 8826 W. Custer Pl., Lakewood, Co 80226 USA.

#### FORERUNNERS - Vol. VI, No. 1 - Mar/Jul '92 - p49



#### THE CLASSIFIEDS

Revenues derived from classified ads are used to defray publication costs and improve the quality of Forerunners. Submission deadlines are the 15th of January, May and September. Ad placement guidelines are as follows:

- Brief ads are free to non-dealer members and are run indefinitely. Members placing ads are requested to notify the Editor when they wish their entry to be withdrawn. No more than one ad per member per issue, please.
- Ads may be run by individuals not belonging to the Society. The commercial ad rates apply in such cases.
- The rates for non-members and commercial ads are:  
**Small Ads** - 5c US per word per issue. Separate numbers and symbols count as a word; return addresses are not counted. **Large Ads:** 1/4 page - \$8US/issue or \$20US/yr, 1/2 page - \$14US/issue or \$35/year; full page - \$20/issue or \$45/year.

Payment preferred in US dollar denominated instruments made payable to 'PSGSA'. Pounds sterling bank drafts accepted, but a 10% additional premium required to

account for bank service charges. READERS: PLEASE TELL **ADVERTISERS** THAT YOU SAY THEIR AD IN **FORERUNNERS**.

**Balloon Flight Covers** available: Aerophilatelic

Society of Southern Africa is raising funds by selling special covers flown by hot air balloon on 28 October 1991 - Centenary of the First Hot Air Balloon Ascent. Inquiries: Terry Devine, Pres., P.O. Box 10001, Aston Manor 1630, RSA (V6N1)

**Want to purchase:** Postal Orders/Postal Notes of all countries, all reigns, any condition, single items or quantities. Also needed are sources for current postal order issues of Swaziland, Malawi and South Africa. If you have even a single item, please contact Jack Harwood, P.O. Box 32015 - Midtown Station, Sarasota, FL 34239 (V5N3) - **Want to contact:** There are only a few Frama collectors in RSA. If there are any collectors in the United States, I would love to have you contact me. Terry Devine, P.O. Box 10001, Aston Manor 1630, RSA

**Strongly Desired:** Small triangular numeral postmarks of the Transvaal of 1904, but used far into the SA/Union period. Werner K Seeba, Einstein Strasse 54, D-7000 Stuttgart 50 Germany (V5N3)

**Wanted:** Embossed revenues from V.O.C. cut squares or documents and any other Dutch material from South Africa. Hans Paul Hager, 1251 Almaden Ave., San Jose, CA 95110 (V5N3)

**Wanted to buy:** Covers from, to and/or through Mafeking, 1885 to present. Forming new exhibit. Frederick P. Lawrence, 1707 Terrapin Hills Drive, Mitchellville, MD 20721-2739 (V5N2)

**Buying:** Postage due covers to/from Bechuanaland. Dave Wessely, 125 Elma Drive, Elyria, OH 44035 (V4N3)

**Wanted:** Transvaal 1900 issue 'no stop' varieties, Sc#s 202-12/SG#s 226-36 (a-e). fine/used. Peter Quenet, 20330 Martinsville Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 (V4N3)

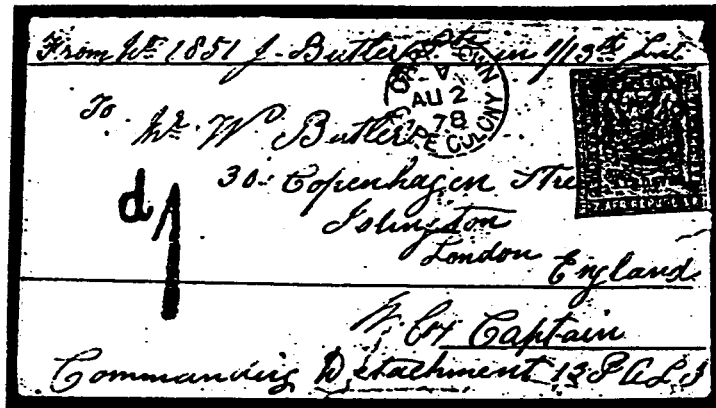
**Completing collection:** Need as many clean postmarks as possible on various stamps and covers - primarily from different post offices. Have extensive want list available. Erland Hansen, Enighedsvej 13, 2920 Charlottenlund, Denmark (V5N3)

**Covers sought:** WWII Military covers used in Africa from the following areas with various cancels, etc.: Indian FPOs, EA/APOs, APO-U-MPKs, Egypt, Sudan, British Somaliland (1938-40 censors, Italian Posta Militare, German Feldpost, etc., Walter Bjork, 54 W. 84th ST., New York, NY 10024 (V5N2)

**Call for help:** Are any members paying substantial discounts for fiscally and telegraphically used SA high values? And at what discounts? Jim Ryan, 4419 17 Ave. N.W., Calgary, AB Canada T3B 0N7 (V5N2)

**For sale:** Breaking up extensive British Africa collection, mostly complete through KGVI. Send want list to Tim Bartshe, 8826 W. Custer Pl. Lakewood, CO 80226 (V4N3)

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**For sale:** The Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa has an extensive collection of Modern First Flight Covers for RSA & Homelands for sale. All proceeds go to support ASSA activities. Contact T. Devine, P.O. Box 10001, Aston Manor 1630, RSA (V6NI)

**Seeking:** Would appreciate hearing from members with a listing of each post office for the pre-Union states, plus a list of recommended philatelic literature. Dan Brouillette, 1358 Hillcrest Dr. NE, Fridley, MN 55432 (V4N3)

#### The Trading Box

This feature is strictly reserved for members who: (1) HAVE greater southern Africa material they would like to trade for materials of any kind, e.g., 'Have Natal stamps/postal stationery to trade for British Carribean; (2) HAVE material of any kind they would like to trade FOR greater southern Africa material, e.g., 'Have French Antarctica and classic Japan to trade for Griqualand West and interprovisional period items'; and (3) HAVE greater southern Africa material to trade for SAME, e.g., 'Would like to trade RSA mint for same of Botswana, Zimbabwe and/or Malawi'. In otherwords, an ad placed in The Trading box must either include greater southern Africa material one is looking for, or greater southern Africa material one wishes to trade away. Ads run indefinetely until withdrawn by the member. THIS IS A MEMBERS ONLY ACTIVITY.

Interested in trading with members who collect current (1960s) onwards) Swaziland postmarks. If you have this type of material, please write Paul Raynor, 1466 Hope Road, North Vancouver BC, V7P 1W8

#### TIM ring sox... contbf

Want to trade for postal orders/postal notes of all countries, reigns, any condition, single items/quantities. Also needed are sources for current postal order issues of Swaziland, Malawi and South Africa. Have philatelic material of all sorts for exchange. Jack Harwood, P. O. Box 32015 - Midtown Station, Sarasota, FL 34239

-Want to trade for covers from/to or through mafeking, 1885-present. Forming new exhibit. Frederick P. Lawrence, 1707 Terrapin Hills Dr., Mitchellville, MD

Have Ireland Sc#'s 161-2, never hinged, Catalog \$42US and New Zealand Sc#'s 179-81 light hinged, catalog \$33US. Will trade for any Cape of Good Hope (no triangles) and Orange Free State, preferably with postmarks or mint of equal value. Roland L Terry, 1212 Klnau St. #2103, Honolulu, HI 96814

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