



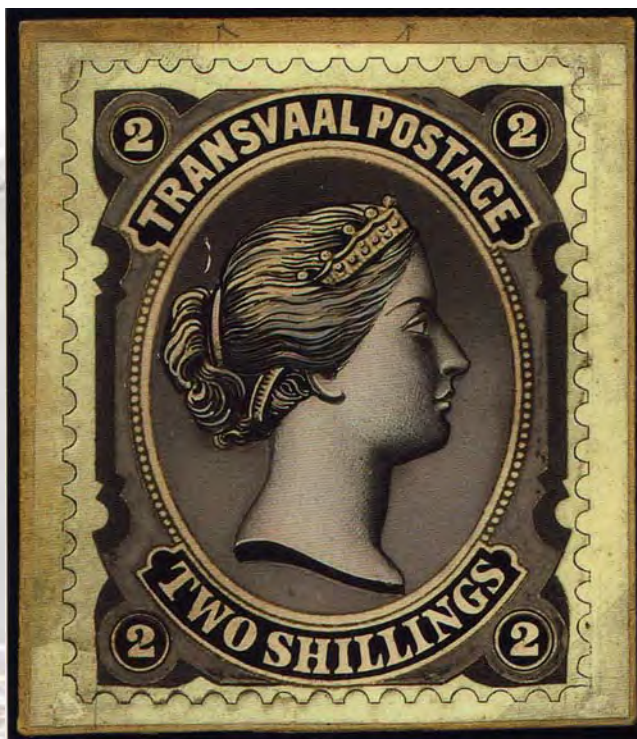
******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

Affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Volume XIX, Number 3, Whole No. 55

March-June 2006



Photographic and hand colorated Bradbury & Wilkinson essay
for the 1878 Transvaal Queen Victoria 2/- issue. Offered by
Argyll Etkin in their May 2006 Auction.

Highlights of This Issue

Philatelic Short Story

Crocodile Pools

Cape Mail Packet

Cigarette Surtax and Postage Dues

Mail to Occupied Europe

Early Airmail Rates

Postage Due Markings

SWA Coronation Issue

Why Collect Rhodesia

Amy Mollison

**Title and Synopsis Pages in Exhibiting
Subject and Author Index**



Stephan Welz & Co.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

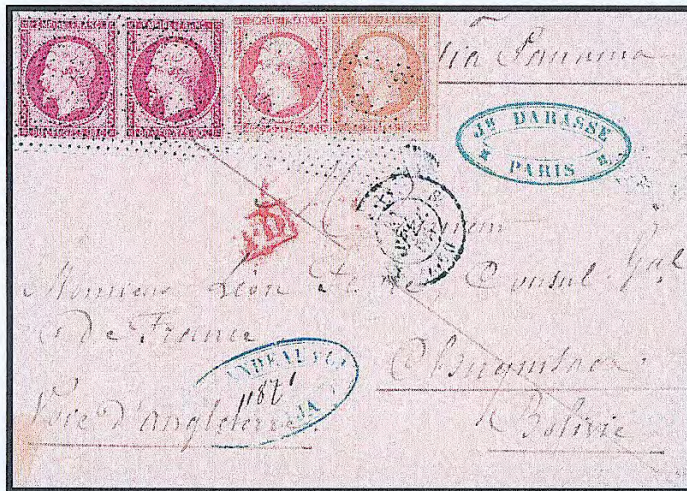
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The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa

OFFICERS

Founder

Bill Brooks, 2854 W. Calle Vista Dr., Rialto, CA 92377;
billpatti99@sbcglobal.net

President

Alan J. Hanks, 34 Seaton Dr., Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2K1, Canada;
alan.hanks@sympatico.ca

Vice President

Left vacant

Treasurer

Bob Hisey, 7227 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33872; bobhisey@comcast.net

Secretary

Ronald Strawser, 5819 Alderfield Ct., Houston, TX 77084-5888;
strawser5@earthlink.com

Directors

Timothy Bartshe (Library and Archives), 13955 West 30th, Golden, CO
80401; timbartshe@aol.com

Ashley Cotter-Cairns (Marketing and Advertising), P.O. Box 603, Hudson,
QC, JOP 1H0, Canada; acottercairns@hotmail.com

Jan Stolk (International Affairs), Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele,
Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net

Robert Taylor (Programs), 674 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27330, USA;
floyd@olivianc.net

Peter Thy (Publications), see address below

Speciality Editors

Hans Ulrich Bantz (South West Africa and Namibia), P.O. Box 6913,
Westgate 1724, South Africa; ulib@mweb.co.za

Timothy Bartshe (Boer Republics), see address above

Andy Carr (Zululand), 15270 Highgrove Rd., Alhambra, CA 91804-3104;
a_carr6453@bellsouth.net

Alan Hanks (Rhodesians), see address above

Frederick Lawrence (Forgeries), 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-
3219; ieconsulting@cox.net

Chris Miller (Censorships), 161 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading
RG4 7JR, UK; cpbmiller@aol.com

David Mordant (Cape of Good Hope), P.O. Box 119, Featherbrooke Estate
1746, South Africa; mordant@icon.co.za

Will Ross (Modern Times), 4120 Schuykill Drive, Calabasas, CA 91302;
wil4d99@hotmail.com

Jim Ryan (Books), 4419 17th Avenue NW, Calgary AB T3B 0N7, Canada;
jfsipryan@hotmail.com

Kendall Sanford (Aerophilately), 613 Championship Drive, Oxford, CT
06478; kaerophil@gmail.com

Jan Stolk (Taxed Mail), see address above

Peter Thy (Bechuanalands), see address below

Web Page Editor

Clive Levinson, 186-8120 No 2rd, Suite 812, Richmond, BC, V7C 5J8,
Canada; clivel@bundu.com

Journal Editor

Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112; thy@kronestamps.dk

<http://psgsa.thestampweb.com/>

Please report address and email changes.

Front Illustration:

Bradbury & Wilkinson essay for the 1878 QV 2 shilling issue for Transvaal. Photographic and hand colored in gray, black, and Chinese white. Offered in Argyll Etkin's May 2006 Auction as lot 909 and sold at £4,255, including premium and compared to an estimate of £1,200-1,800.

***FORERUNNERS

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Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006, Vermeils at STAMPSHOW 2005 and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at SESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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Editorial Notes

This issue completes another volume of over 130 pages that again is filled with interesting philatelic information and news. Many society members have helped in this endeavor and the Editor's gratitude goes to all. Forerunners was awarded a Large Silver at Washington 2006. This is a high medal level for a small photocopied society journal at an international exhibition. We can be satisfied. Other features offered by the Society such as the website and the publications program attest to the good health of our society. We have by now published or co-published three books and several CDs. Other monographs are being planned or are in preparation. Don't hesitate to approach either Bob Hisey or the Editor if you have an idea or a manuscript.

The Editor is still in grave need for articles and smaller pieces. Particularly needed are small news items about stamp issues, auctions, findings, significant articles in other journals, new or old books, people stories, questions, request for help, work in progress, and in fact anything else happening or being discussed among members and other collectors. The Editor has tried to write in past issues a small regular column titled 'News from Botswana' and invites similar columns covering other southern African geographic or philatelic areas.

This issue brings something new and unique for philatelic society journals. Ashley Cotter-Cairns submitted a fine piece of postal history fiction. He has titled his short story 'Proving Cover.' Enjoy it and don't forget to encourage him to do it again. We further are pleased to be able to introduce two new authors to Forerunners. Robin Pelteret of Cape Town discusses and illustrates a couple of BSAC telegram forms received at Crocodile

Pools in Bechuanaland during the Mafeking Siege. Brian Trotter discusses the use of South African cigarette surtax labels as postage dues. We also bring a narrative of the Cape Mail written in 1899. Surfing the internet caused the editor to stumble over a brand new site devoted to Cape Colony postal history and philately. It is written and maintained by Yannis Lazarides. It is very well done and stuffed with information. Visit www.capepostalhistory.com and judge for yourself. Further, Jan Stolk discusses a cover from Angola to Holland delayed for about eight years due to war in Europe (the Editor's apology for going outside our traditional geographic boundaries). Our regular columnists continue their themes. Chris Miller discusses mail to occupied Europe. Jan Stolk shows newly-found postage due markings. Uli Bantz continues his narrative of South West Africa stamp issues. Alan Hanks resumes his regular Rhodesians column with a personal account of why to collect Rhodesia. Tim Barthse continues his exhibiting theme with a discussion of title and synopsis pages as used in US exhibiting. He uses as an example his own Orange Free State exhibit that just was awarded a gold at Washington 2006. Other noteworthy articles are about Amy Mollison and her achievements in aviation.

The deadline for the next issue will be October 15. Please let us have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

Society Affairs

The Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. The journal is published three times per year for the periods July/October, November/February, and March/June. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). The membership fees are \$25 to North America and \$30 by air to Europe and southern Africa. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$9. Presentation issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from psgsa.thestampweb.com. Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) £ Sterling bank draft at current exchange rate with 'payee' left blank, (3) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (4) Paypal to the Society Treasurer at bobhisey@comcast.net. All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

Back Issues Available

Back issues of the Forerunners are in stock and available for purchase. These are listed by whole number: #1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28/29,* 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34-46. The price per copy is #1-3, \$2; #4, \$4, #6-11, \$3; #12-13, \$4; #14-15, \$5; #16-17, \$6; #22-27, \$7; #28/29, \$10; #30-33, \$7; #34-55, \$9. Prices include shipping by lowest rate. Many back issues only exist in few remaining copies. Send orders to the Editor together with payment. * Combined as a British Africa Anthology with articles from 15 speciality groups celebrating PSGSA's 10th Anniversary during PACIFIC 97.

Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board or directly to one of the Editors. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a floppy disk or CD. MS Word files are preferred. Avoid complex tables, unless in text format. Illustrations should be scanned at at least 150 dpi and submitted in tif, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editors if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are most welcome.



President's Corner

Hello again from sunny Ontario, thank goodness, as we had a whole batch of really cool weather earlier in Spring. The AmeriStamp Expo here in Toronto in April was a great success and it was great to have Tim Bartshe serving on the jury. Pat Stilwell Walker was the jury chair and on the Wednesday preceding the show gave a wonderful presentation on Irish Postal History to the Philatelic Specialists' Society here in Toronto. The show, which has been held in Toronto before, was a great opportunity for local collectors to see some different material on display, with postcards and display exhibits included, as well as a world wide team competition, which excited ample comments.

My wife and I have just returned from Washington, where we attended the annual meeting of the American Topical Association. This group does not hold their annual show when there is an International event, but all the meetings went off as planned and an enjoyable tour of the city was held on Wednesday morning. Unfortunately, we could not be there on Tuesday for the African meeting, but I enjoyed meeting Tim again and also Bob and Elizabeth Hisey. Stamp shows are super places for renewing acquaintances, which we normally cannot manage.

What can one say about the show? It was held in the Convention Center, which is huge and necessitated a lot of walking, and there seemed to be acres of exhibits and dealer's booths. The Banquet was one of the best we have ever attended and there were many happy award winners. The organizing Committee and everyone involved are to be congratulated and we are told it will be "bigger and better" in New York in 2016. I hope I shall be able to attend once again.

The recent articles on "Surcharged Stamps of Lesotho" by Morgan Farrell have been of particular interest to me as they contained various butterfly stamps in the series, which I have never seen here in Canada, but had to obtain from a new issue service or dealers south of the border. Since my topical interest is in insects (particularly butterflies) these articles were of much use in checking what I had in my collection. In addition, they illustrate what a wide variety of subjects "Forerunners" covers, not only in the countries found but also the variation across the years – quite remarkable!

Nobody has yet come forward to offer to relieve Bob Hisey as Treasurer, so I hope my appeal in the last journal has not fallen on fallow ground.

Until next time...

Speciality Editors for Forerunners

The Editor and the Forerunners depends on our Speciality Editors. These are listed on the first page of each issue together with their speciality areas. The duty of a specialist editor is straight forward. He or she will

1. assist the Editor by reviewing and editing,
2. write an occasional article,
3. search and promote writings from potential authors, and
4. supply news items for the Forum and Society sections.

It is not a requirement that the Speciality Editor will write an article for each issue, but it will certainly not be discouraged. An

important function is to seek out potential authors and encourage them to write articles for Forerunners. This may involve technical and editorial assistance to potential authors. The Editor may also need assistance with evaluating and editing submitted articles whose subject is outside his own expertise.

The ideal description for a Speciality Editor: Broadly knowledgeable philatelist. Specialist collector and perhaps exhibitor. Active in organized philately. Well versed with the existing literature and specialist journals. Perhaps already writing articles for the specialist journals and hopefully also for Forerunners. Admittedly, few of our existing Speciality Editors will fit this description so don't restrain yourself from coming forward.

As a regular reader of the Forerunners you will be aware that some areas are well represented on the pages of Forerunners. Other are poorly represented. It is difficult to hide that the Bechuanalands recently have been overrepresented. Nobody has complained, but it would be ideal if we could produce a more evenly balanced Forerunners. Look at the Speciality Editor list and decide if you can help. Contact the Editor even if your subject is already covered.

Show Reports

Guy and Barbara Dillaway received GOLD for 'Prestamp Postal History of the Eastern Cape Frontier' at MANPEX, Manchester, Conn, in April 2006. At WASHINGTON 2006 several exhibits with Southern Africa themes received honors. **Leo Crandel** got SILVER BRONZE for his book 'The Delagoa Bay Story.' **Franco Frescura** received LARGE VERMEIL for his book 'The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope 1792-1910.' **Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald** a SILVER for 'The Pseudo-Siege of Schweizer-Reneke.' **Forerunners** received a LARGE SILVER. **Lutz Heffermann** got a GOLD for 'The Triangular Stamp Issues of the Cape of Good Hope 1853-1864.' **Bob Hisey** LARGE VERNEIL for 'The "Officials" of South Africa—1926-1946.' **Clive Sergay** LARGE GOLD for 'Zululand 1879 to 1898.' **Tim Bartshe** GOLD for 'Orange Free State, Republican Postage Issues 1868-1900.' **Ron Strawser** VERMEIL for 'The Belgian Congo Mols Issues of 1894-1925.' **Chris Miller** VERMEIL for 'South Africa Civil Censorship in WWII.' **Guy Dillaway** GOLD for 'Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope 1853-1866.' **Peter van der Molen** LARGE VERMEIL for 'The Postal Stationery of Basutoland.' **MaryAnn Bowman** LARGE GOLD for 'Cape of Good Hope - The Triangular Issues' (also nominated for Grand Prix International). **Mohamad Sayeed** GOLD for 'Cape of Good Hope: The Triangular Issues and Usages. **Alan Uria** GOLD for 'Rhodesian Double Heads, 1910-13.' Congratulations to all for a job well done.

Search for Society Treasurer

Bob Hisey has after many years of services expressed a wish to 'retire' as society treasurer and to concentrate on his Orange Free State Philately books. Please come forward and contact Bob or any other board members if you are interested in taking over this important society function.

Washington 2006

by Tim Barthse

Well, if you were asleep and just now woke up, you missed the greatest show in North America since at least AMERIPEX in 86. The show was a huge success with a few hundred dealers (yes I found some goodies to go into my exhibits) and 4000 frames of exhibits including something from the Queen herself and other famous people.

I list in random order here exhibits of interest to southern Africa collectors and their medal levels (point score in parenthesis):

Orange Free State, Republican Postage Issues 1868-1900

Tim Bartshe Gold (94) 5 frames with felicitations from the jury
Cape of Good Hope—The Triangular Issues

MaryAnn Bowman Large Gold (98) 5 frames special prize & considered in the final analysis for the Grand Prix International—Congratulations MaryAnn!

Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope 1853-1866

Guy Dillaway Gold (93) 8 frames with special prize

The 'Officials' of South Africa—1926-46

Robert Hisey Large Vermeil (85) 5 frames

Forerunners

Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa/The Editor
Large Silver (77) Literature

The Postal Stationery of Basutoland

Peter van der Molen Large Vermeil (85) 5 frames

South African Civil Censorship in WWII

"Corny", England (81) Vermeil

Cape of Good Hope: The Triangular Issues and Usages

Mohamad Sayeed, UAE

The Triangular Stamp Issues of Cape of Good Hope 1853-1864.

Lutz Heffermann, South Africa (91) Gold

Rhodesian Double Heads 1910-13

Alan Uria, South Africa (93) Gold

Zululand 1879-1898

Clive Sergay, South Africa (95) Large Gold

The Admiral Issue 1913-1922--British S.A. Company (Rhodesia)

Patrick Flanagan (90) Gold

The Mozambique Company

Y Khai Weng au, Singapore (85) Large Vermeil

The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope 1792-1910

Franco Frescura, South Africa (88) Large Vermeil Literature

Also present in the exhibits area were the Society One-Frame exhibits where societies were allowed to place a 16-page highlight of who and what they were. PSGSA was represented thanks to the assistance of Bob Hisey, Peter Thy and Alan Hanks. Tim Bartshe designed and mounted the Society's entry. In a short while, with some minor modifications, this will be up on the web. I hope you all will enjoy it. For those who will be at Chicago and the APS Stampshow this August, it will also be in the Society frame section.

The Rhodesian Study Circle had a joint meeting with the PSGSA, were amongst others Danny Swart, Pat Flanagan, Ian Matheson (present president PFSA), Alan MacGregor, and Colin Fraser. Numerous talks were given and displays put up in a frame on the Rhodesian issues.

Our Journal

by The Editor

The Forerunners has recently been competing at three national and one international exhibitions. These were APS STAMPSHOW 2006 in Grand Rapids (Vermeil, 80 points), CHICAGOPEX 2005 (Silver, 72 points), C7NPLE 2005 in Toronto, Canada (Vermeil), and WASHINGTON 2006 (Large

Silver, 77 points). The detailed score sheets exist (or has survived) only for STAMPSHOW, CHICAGOPEX, and WASHINGTON.

Time has come to evaluate the results and the detailed comments left by the judges on the score sheets. The scores for society journals are split up between 'philatelic significance' (45 %), 'authorship' (40 %), and 'editorial & publishing' (15 %) at US national exhibitions. Each of these areas is further broken down into a number of subgroupings. We can compare the scores for each of the subgroupings relatively to the overall medal level. CHICAGOPEX upgraded authorship treatment and all editorial and publishing aspects, while downgraded philatelic significance and authorship organization and clarity (but not treatment). STAMPSHOW upgraded all authorship aspects (except treatment), but downgraded philatelic research and membership services. WASHINGTON downgraded originality/significance/treatment and upgraded technical matters/presentation without detailed breakdown.

In addition to the numerical grades, some specific comments were also included on the score sheets by the judges. CHICAGOPEX notes "lots of interesting research; well written up; but more history than postal; nice to see modern material (Lesotho surcharges); some illustrations are muddy and layout is often cluttered." STAMPSHOW notes "good articles; but not many referenced; needs book reviews, more membership information (on chair activities, new & address changes, etc); quite a few articles are just reprints .. still good information?; fonts variable; also quality of illustrations." WASHINGTON did not provide written comments.

These scores and comments reveal little common ground that might have helped shaping our editorial policy. However, some issues may be pointed out. We clearly need to strengthen our membership service sections. This include board activities, ongoing research, requests for help and information, questions, book reviews, significant articles in other journals, new members and address and email changes. Clearly the printing quality of the journal could also be improved, but this depends on financial considerations and membership basis. Further, is it correct that too many articles are more historical than postal? The editor would also welcome feedback on whether the Forerunners is 'cluttered'?

But all in all, satisfactory results that tells us that we are doing something right. The fact is that large silver medal level at international and vermeil at national exhibits are high for a black/white photocopied newsletter with a limited circulation as our Journal.

Let the editor have your comments on these medals as well as your own observations and judgements.

And don't forget your articles, comments, and news.





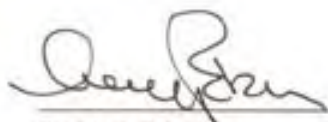
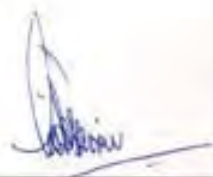
WASHINGTON 2006

The organizers would like to express their appreciation
of the contribution to the success of Washington 2006
made by

Peter Thy

in displaying an exhibit entitled
Forerunners

which was awarded a
Large Silver Medal


President of the Jury
President of Washington 2006

Proving Cover

Short Story by Ashley Cotter-Cairns

Butterflies flapped in Joseph's stomach as he approached the low-key shopfront of Weiser's Stamps. Weiser's was the reason Joseph Lochman had begun stamp collecting. And now, unless his eyes had fooled him, the shop was about to help him complete an important chapter of his hobby.

The stamp shop was like a magnet to a young boy with a curiosity for knowledge. Every day, on his way to school, he'd pressed his face against the grimy glass of the bus window, desperate for a glimpse of the enticing, yet dingy and badly-lit premises. The other boys made fun of his fascination for 'boring old stamps'. But Joseph knew better. Stamps held the key to a lot of secret treasures.

Joseph learned about royalty and leaders, railways and telegraphs, the opening of vast, wild continents to the 'civilised' world for the profitable plunder of natural resources. The colonies were savage, dark places, and the Old World – France, Spain and especially Britain – was the illuminating torch, chasing out the shadows.

Joseph still remembered his first visit to Weiser's with his father. Given time to study the contents of the window, instead of rushing past on the bus, Joseph felt a sting of disappointment. Pretty commemorative sets seemed to dominate: flowers, uniformed soldiers marching, antique motor cars. Wondering if he'd made a mistake, Joseph frowned up at his father's greying, lined face.

He found support there. Hans Lochman had been a philatelist in his youth. The collection, partly an inheritance from Hans' grandfather, and partly a continuing labour of love, had been left behind in the scramble to leave Nazi Germany. 'We gave it to a border guard as a bribe,' he told Joseph, the day his son voiced his interest in beginning a new hobby. 'You can look up the value of any stamp in a catalogue by Gibbons or Michel. But every one of those stamps was priceless. You owe your existence to that collection. Let's go inside.'

Hans gave him a smile full of encouragement, love and respect. Joseph smiled back and waited politely to one side, while his father pushed the door open for him. A tiny bell overhead struck a spring-loaded clapper with a PING!

Before he knew it, Joseph had followed his father into the shop. For the first time in his young life, he sampled the heady philatelic perfume of antique papers, slowly rotting behind leather in the dark.

The first thing Joseph noticed about Weiser's was how cool it was. The sun, highlighting dancing dust motes as it beamed in through the window, seemed weaker, lacking heat and light. Shadows cast by the window displays played on the far wall, squares and rectangles a faded black against framed sets and display cases loaded with accessories and books.

The counter looked old and careworn. Joseph's nose barely reached above it. Open catalogues and albums covered about

half the working space. Behind the counter, row upon row of albums, many held together by tape or elastic bands, lined floor-to-ceiling shelves. Their dark, sombre colours seemed to add to their allure: the books were all uniform shades, hues one day Joseph would learn to identify as aquamarine blue, olive green, lake brown, charcoal black and aniline scarlet.

He felt his eyes widening as he tried to take everything in, and for the first time since starting 'big school', Joseph felt like a little boy again. Apart from the gaudy window dressing, everything inside Weiser's was adult. One glance at the serious tomes told him that; anything and everything might lurk in this shop, and you'd have to be serious about stamp collecting to be there. No time-wasters allowed.

Then Weiser himself appeared, and all other thoughts were chased away.

The man was tall and thin, but stooped. A life bent over books had twisted his spine into a permanent curve. Half-glasses hung from a chain around his neck, bouncing on a dark blue sweater above a conservative checked shirt. His head was balding at the top, his remaining hair grey and wispy. He held a pair of tweezers in his right hand, as if his entire day was spent in readiness for philatelic action.

But his eyes had lost none of their sharpness. Joseph, taught from an early age to hold eye contact when speaking to somebody, felt himself pinned to the spot. He fought the urge to writhe like a young boy being questioned by a headmaster. His mouth felt suddenly dry, yet sweat prickled along his spine and beneath his arms. In the moment before Weiser smiled, for all Joseph knew, he was about to scream at him to leave this place and never return.

When Weiser did bare his teeth in the approximation of a smile, things got worse for the boy. Yellow teeth, and unless the light deceived him, they were almost pointed. Joseph was reminded of an old dog sitting before its bowl, waiting for meat. The man stood as still as a stone; only his eyes and lips moved.

Hans cleared his throat and smiled back at Weiser, while Joseph felt mesmerised.

'Good afternoon.'

'Hello. How may I help you, gentlemen?'

Weiser's voice did nothing to calm Joseph's instinctive fear. It was polite, calm, level and well-constructed; but like the shop, it seemed colder and darker than it should, and undeniably serious. This voice would have done justice to a police detective, or a politician.

But here they were, in a stamp shop, and they were the customers. Hans sensed that his son felt intimidated, and did his best to lighten the mood with a jocular tone of voice.

'Joseph, here, would like to take up philately.'

Weiser threw off his lethargy. He almost shook his head, like a wolf flinging snow from its fur, and his new smile had genuine warmth and enthusiasm written across it.

'Well, you've come to the right place. Pull up a chair, and let's see what takes his fancy.'

Hans dragged two high stools across to the counter. He helped Joseph up onto one, and perched himself on the other.

'I can't place your accent,' Weiser said to Hans. 'You are from eastern Europe?'

'We have relatives across the entire region. Or, perhaps "had" would be a better term, if you get my meaning.'

An unspoken exchange passed between the adults. Joseph knew they referred to the Holocaust; his father had explained some of it, and he'd read more at the local library. Hans had lost dozens of relatives; but he'd been lucky enough to keep his own life, to rescue his wife, too, and go on to have a child in a Nazi-free world.

'I do get your meaning,' Weiser stated, his lips pulled into a tight, grim line. 'But we live in happier times now.'

'What will Joseph need to get started?' Hans asked.

'That depends. What does he want to collect?'

Joseph noticed that Weiser referred to him as if he were not in the shop, sitting five feet away, impatient to begin. Both adults looked to him for an answer. He gazed around him, helpless, at the amazing array of books, albums, covers.

Swallowing past the catch in his throat, he managed to croak out: 'Not the colourful ones, not birds or flowers or cars.'

Weiser smiled, as if this answer pleased him. 'Perhaps young Joseph would like to collect... Kings.'

Kings. The very word sent shivers down his spine. England had not had a king since 1952, ten years after he was born. There had been dozens of kings down the ages, all were now long dead, and that seemed appropriate. Joseph was drawn to history like a moth to a flame.

'Kings?' he repeated.

Weiser turned away and ran his fingertips (topped with long, almond-shaped, filed nails) along the row of spines on the shelves behind him. He stopped at a brown volume, plucked it from the shelf and removed a thick elastic band from around the outside.

The book fell open, revealing hundreds of stamps, tucked behind semi-transparent strips glued into rows and columns. There were numbers written alongside the stamps, which he would later learn were SG catalogue references.

As Weiser turned the pages, more and more stamps flashed past Joseph's eyes. He saw seahorses and lions, crowns, King George V's bearded face on every one. Many had intriguing postmarks, from places he'd never heard of: PUCKLECHURCH, DUNMOW, WAMBROOK.

'There's too many,' Joseph said, his voice betraying a hint of desperation.

'This is just Great Britain,' Weiser told him. 'Every country in the world has stamps. It seems overwhelming right now, I know. You need to read, learn about stamps and countries that issue them, then decide what you want to collect.'

'Perhaps a book,' Hans suggested.

'I have just the thing.'

Weiser ducked below the counter and rummaged around for a moment. Joseph took the opportunity to look at his father; Hans squeezed his knee in a reassuring manner and smiled.

Weiser popped back into view and handed over an old, dusty volume. *Getting Started in Stamp Collecting*. It looked about a

million years old.

'I could sell you something new, but this one has all the information you'll ever need. It's been here for a very long time. Take it, with my compliments.'

'That's very kind. What do you say, Joseph?'

'Thank-you very much,' he parroted, opening his new reference work.

'Here's what I suggest,' Weiser continued. 'There's nothing better for a new collector than to get his hands dirty.'

'Tweezers,' Joseph piped up. 'The book says you should handle stamps with tweezers.' He had already begun perusing the introduction; he seemed to have shocked himself with the interruption.

'Forgive me, of course you should use tweezers. I meant, get your hands dirty by sorting lots of stamps from all over the world. Read about them, mount them in an album, look them up in catalogues. Then, one day, you'll know what it is you want to specialise in.'

Weiser disappeared through a doorway between the shelves and returned with an old ice-cream carton. 'There's a few thousand stamps in here. I haven't had time to sort them out yet. Joseph might enjoy the challenge.'

He reached into a drawer on his right and pulled out several pairs of tweezers. 'Try these for size.'

Joseph took each of the tweezers in turn and tested them for spinginess. Meanwhile, Weiser placed a bright orange album in front of him – Joseph was mildly disappointed to read the words *Junior Deluxe* on the front cover – and an SG catalogue from 1952.

'It's old, so the prices are out of date, but the information is as good as ever,' he explained, more to Hans than to Joseph. 'What about a magnifying glass?' Weiser asked.

'We have an excellent one at home,' Hans told him.

Weiser smiled. 'That's good. Just some stamp hinges, and you'll be all set.' He found two packets, paper envelopes with bright yellow and green lettering on the front, and added them to the pile. 'Unless there's anything else?'

'Can I just have a look at that envelope?' Joseph asked, pointing to an upright dealer's stockbook on the counter.

Weiser lifted the heavy book and placed it on the counter in front of Joseph. A smeary, oxblood Maltese cross obliterated a twopenny blue. Queen Victoria's face looked ghostly pale against the postmark. The price written beside it seemed a King's ransom to Joseph, but oh, he wanted it.

'That's over a hundred years old,' Weiser told him.

And so, before Joseph had ever sorted, identified and hinged a single loose stamp, the seed of his specialisation was sown.

'What do you specialise in?' he asked Weiser.

The old man stared at him with his keen, dead eyes.

'I'll tell you one day, young man, when you might understand better.'

Now here he was again, more than thirty years later. As his love for rare postmarks had grown, so Joseph's visits to Weiser's had diminished. He'd come to know the old man's stock as well as the dealer himself, and eventually left a phone number for

Weiser to call if anything new might come along.

He'd never received word. His last visit was more than a decade ago. By then, Weiser had seemed a shadow of his former self. Any magic or malice Joseph had imagined in the old dealer was long absent. Bent, half-broken by the death of his wife and manning a fading business relying on a fading hobby. A video games shop next door was always crowded with kids at weekends, while Weiser's premises remained cold, dark, forgotten by the young.

Joseph took a moment to check out the shopfront. Nothing had changed in his absence. The same old commemoratives, trapped in their plastic prisons and faded by years of watery afternoon sunlight; a watermark detector still bearing a price in shillings and pence.

And yet, the reason he'd stopped at all, rather than walking past with a nostalgic pang for his youth, was selotaped to the other side of the plate glass.

It was an enlarged photocopy of a cover. In shaky capital letters, somebody (but surely not Weiser, surely he could not still be alive?) had added a description:

PROVING COVER
SUNDAY'S RIVER FERRY
DAMAGED BY SEAWATER IN THE DISASTER
CIRCA JUNE, 1859
POST OFFICE CLOSED SHORTLY AFTER

The photocopy, though grainy and rough from the enlargement process, made his palms itch. Joseph didn't need his Putzel encyclopaedia to check out the office details: he knew it by heart. Sunday's River Ferry was top of his wants list, and had been since he began focusing on South African port, railway and river cancels.

His collection had been exhibited internationally and had won multiple awards, yet it lacked one tiny office: this one. All Putzel could tell him was that Sunday's River Ferry had opened in 1859, and it was unlikely that any mail had survived. He'd never heard of any other cover or postmark being sold, and Joseph had made it his business to ask dealers and auctioneers all over the world to keep him in mind, should one ever surface.

Of course, he'd not bothered to contact old Weiser. It always surprised him when the shop was still there on his rare visits to Portsmouth.

Gathering himself mentally, Joseph pushed open the door. The crude bell sounded out the same old PING! It made the hairs on the back of his neck rise, just a little. For a moment, he was twelve years old again.

Joseph had no idea who might greet that bell and show him the cover. He half-hoped that Weiser had sold up, or left the business to an heir. But to his amazement the man himself, more bent and wizened than ever, shuffled out to serve him.

'Hello, sir. Long time no see.'

'You remember me?'

'Of course. How is your father? Still with us?'

'No, sadly, he passed away about twelve years ago.'

'I'm sorry to hear that. He was a gentleman. I take it you're here about the cover in the window?'

Joseph blinked. 'How did you know?'

'I started you in philately. I know what you specialise in. That item's a dream ticket for you.'

'It is. Your memory is remarkable.' Joseph peered around him. 'May I see the original?'

'Of course.'

Weiser turned towards a counter, unlocked it with a small silver key and retrieved a stock card. 'I've not seen you for some time,' he remarked. 'At least ten years.'



'I don't often make it back to Portsmouth,' Joseph replied.

'Going to visit family?'

'My sister sold Dad's home and relocated to Cowes. I try to visit her and the kids a couple of times a year.'

'I love the Isle of Wight. I used to go there often, day tripping with my wife. I'm a bit past hiking now though. So is she, God bless her.'

Weiser carried the stock card over to the counter and laid it down in front of Joseph. He tried to savour the moment. The envelope had taken more than a century to come into his possession. His hands shook a little as he lifted the plastic protector closer to his face to examine the cover more closely.

'Take it out, by all means,' Weiser told him.

'I don't dare.'

Weiser smiled and handed him a pair of tweezers. 'Go on, get your hands dirty.'

Joseph's scalp bristled at the words. They took him right back to his first visit. Surely Weiser's memory wasn't as good as that?

But all thoughts of the old man diminished, as Joseph gingerly lifted out the envelope from its mylar prison. He noticed that it was extremely fresh. Perhaps too fresh for such an old item. One should always keep an open mind about the ultra-rare. It could be fake...

But his heart told him that the cover was genuine, though bitterly disappointing. There was no postage stamp, as he might have expected for an early Cape item, especially one recovered from a wreck. And there, almost certainly unique, the sole survivor of Sunday's Ferry post office. A neat, crisp, clear oval cancel from July 13th, 1859.

But Joseph saw no sign of the water damage that the advertisement had described. He turned it over twice, frowning. A nice, neat cover, doubtless. But it seemed worlds away from its description. He laid the cover back down and looked quizzically at Weiser.

'Nice item. I thought it was a wreck cover though?'

'It is. There's a handstamp on the back.'

'I don't think so. I didn't see—'

Joseph was automatically turning the cover back over to prove his point, when his breath stopped in his throat. There, on the backflap, overlapping the main area of the cover's backside, was a clear, purple advice mark: "DAMAGED BY WATER/RECOVERED FROM THE WRECK AT SUNDAY'S RIVER FERRY/JUNE 1859".

At the third attempt, Joseph managed to swallow. Something in his dry throat clicked painfully. Weiser's shop seemed airless all of a sudden.

'I'm sure that wasn't there a minute ago,' he said.

'The light in here can be deceptive,' the old man told him with a tight smile.

'Why remark on water damage, when there is none apparent?' Joseph wondered aloud. He was still dazed by his apparent inability to spot a large, purple handstamp from two feet away.

'No damage? There are water stains all over the cover.'

Joseph shook his head. 'I must disagree. It's remarkably fresh and free of soiling.'

He turned the cover over again. This time, he swore he felt his heart stop for a moment. Darkness crowded into his vision. Remembering his first-aid training, Joseph tensed all the muscles in his body to raise his blood pressure and avoid fainting. He forced deep breaths into his lungs.

'Are you all right, sir?' Weiser asked.

A good question. He didn't feel right at all. And judging by the condition of the envelope on the counter in front of him, he must be sickening for something.

Green-brown stains played across the entire front of it. Some of the ink on the address had run. It looked for all the world as if it had just been plucked from the bank of a flood-swollen African river.

There was no way he could bring himself to touch it again yet (even with tweezers), but Joseph knew that, if he did, he would find more water stains on the backside.

'How... how did you do that?'

'Do what, sir?'

'Switch the covers. One minute it was undamaged, now it's a wreck cover.'

'I think you must be distressed, or unwell. Sometimes, finding the very item one has searched for all one's life can have that effect.'

'I'm not crazy!' Joseph declared, though the very act of saying it seemed to prove the contrary point. He didn't like the cracks he could hear in his voice. He wondered if this was what it felt like to go mad and be aware of it.

'I'm certain of your sanity. That's why I know you'll buy the cover and complete your collection. Only a madman would allow a moment's disorientation to ruin the passion of a lifetime.'

Almost on autopilot, Joseph reached into his jacket pocket, pulled out his chequebook and signed over a four-figure sum. He handed it to Weiser, took a receipt, plus a large folded paper envelope with Weiser's company details printed on the side.

Inside that was another envelope, smaller, rarer and far more valuable. Even thinking about it made a small corner of his brain itch: later, he told himself. Enjoy it later: face it later. Perhaps with fine malt whisky inside him to give him courage.

Any sense of joy he felt was tempered by fear of what he had just bought. Perhaps the owner of something so rare should be scared of it.

There were some worries that an insurance premium could not take care of.

Joseph took his purchase and left without another word. The bell above the door, once a jaunty sound that put a spring in his step, made him start and hurry his footsteps. The door closed behind him with a thump. *I'll never come back here*, Joseph promised himself. *No matter what I see in the window*.

He crossed the street, unlocked his car and turned to look back at Weiser's one last time. All the lights were off. A sign on the door, in large, red letters, told him that the shop was closed for the day.

Traffic was gridlocked all over Portsmouth. His business at Weiser's had taken too long, and now Joseph was forced to negotiate rush hour. In addition to the stress of fighting for space

among the commuters, Joseph had no idea how he'd afford to cover the cheque he'd just written. Sunday's River Ferry had been an expensive way to complete his collection.

The lines for the shuttle across the Spithead to Ryde were terrible, as ever. Even the addition of a smart new craft, with larger vehicle capacity, hadn't helped much. Typical England, he thought. Spend a fortune on infrastructure, but forget to update the management, so everybody waits just as long as before.

He inched forward as the latest boat was loaded, and was about to roll up the ramp when a pimply-faced youth wearing a bright green jacket held up one greasy palm in a traffic cop's gesture. Great, just great. Now he would be another forty minutes late.

Someone waving from the ferry communicated with Joseph's guide. Cars were shuffled closer together, and they made room for his sedan. He waved a thank-you to the young man and eased his way to a stop, almost touching the car in front of his.

Joseph regarded the sky through the windscreen. Cloudy, some whipping breezes. He liked to walk on the deck if the weather was fine, but he felt like keeping warm today. The events of the afternoon had shaken him up. He left the radio and heater on. Five to six, time for the shipping forecast. With a lurch, the ferry moved away from the dock and began its trip into the choppy waters of the Spithead.

The BBC announcer sounded ageless; his pitch-perfect voice could have come from any point in broadcast history. 'There are severe gale warnings in Cromarty, Forties, Wight,

Portland and Plymouth.'

Joseph wrinkled his nose. There was an awful smell in the car, like long-rotten fish or damp cloth. He glanced instinctively towards his expensive purchase on the passenger seat.

For the third time that day, the proving cover made Joseph's throat constrict. But this time, he knew, would be the last. Water, the colour of lichen growing on trees deep in a forest, poured from inside the envelope. Within moments, he could feel cold dampness lapping around his shoes.

Joseph tore off the sodden Weiser's envelope and held the proving cover in his hands. Gallons of water poured from within the mylar, flooding over his lap and filling the car's cabin. He didn't bother to try the door; Joseph knew his fate. He held it in his hands.

The edges of the cover had turned black: it was a mourning cover.

Outside the window, the ferry moved out into the main part of the channel, where the seas were unexpectedly rough for July.

There were no customers in the shop, but Weiser didn't care. He had plenty of time to wait. The local newspaper was spread out in front of him.

He opened a large album he kept out of sight below the counter. On the left-hand page was a cutting about the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise in Zeebrugge. Weiser cut neatly around the story in the Portsmouth paper about the Spithead ferry disaster and pasted it onto the right-hand album page.

THE END

Mashonaland Stationery Used in Bechuanaland

by Peter Thy

The postal services of the Tati District were transferred to the British South Africa Company (BSAC) in early 1894, although the district remained under the Bechuanaland administration. When the railway reached the north-eastern border of the Protectorate, the Postal Agency in Tati was in July 1897 transferred to Francistown closer to the rail line. In July 1898, the Protectorate resumed



control over the postal services of the Tati District. BSAC adhesives and stationery were thus in use in the Tati District of the northeastern Protectorate between 1894 and 1898. There were only two postal offices/agencies affected (Tati 1894-1897 and Francistown 1897-1898). Here is shown a Mashonaland inland postcard used in Francistown (FE 3 98) to Bulawayo.

Both the inland (1d) and the international (1.5d) Mashonaland cards are known used in Francistown. This writer is not aware of stationery cards used at Tati, but they might exist. It is also likely that other types of stationery were similarly used. Contact me if you know of or own such stationery.

Crocodile Pools

by Robin Pelteret

Some years ago, I was presented a leather-bound portfolio containing issues of the MAFEKING MAIL and PROTECTORATE GUARDIAN dated 14th and 21st October 1899 and 1st edition MAFEKING MAIL SPECIAL SIEGE SLIPS dated 1st November 1899 through to 2nd June 1900.

My immediate interest was the “Siege Slips” for, at the time, I was researching the history of the first and subsequent editions. So it was that I gave scant attention to two rare British South Africa Company’s Telegraph forms in the collection.

One telegram, written in cursive, is from “Ludwig”, dated London 13th to Gordon Wilson, Mafeking, the canceller, “CROCODILE POOLS 22 MAR 00 SOUTH AFRICA”. It reads: “Delighted hear from you all well but most anxious for your relief markets firm fond thoughts & wishes”.

The second is from London dated 22/3/00 to Lady Sarah, Mafeking: “Thankful cable first victories everywhere relief Lady Smith wild enthusiasm London empire absolutely determined union Jack South Africa queen goes Ireland instead Italy”.

Some years later, I began to cogitate their origin, the personalia involved, and their likely mode of delivery to Mafeking.

The “Lady Sarah” is of course Lady Sarah Isabella Augusta Wilson (née Spencer-Churchill) (1865-1929), famous for having been permitted to enter Mafeking in exchange for the release of a certain P Viljoen, who had been imprisoned for horse theft prior to the start of hostilities. Her experiences are related in “South African Memories”.

“Gordon Wilson” is Gordon Chesney Wilson (1865-1914), her husband, then one of the besieged.

The person “Ludwig” was a little more elusive. He appears to have been Mr. Ludwig Neumann (1859-1934), a former

diamond merchant and banker, and, at the time of dispatching the telegram, a member of a group led from Blenheim Palace by Lady Georgiana Curzon (later Lady Howe, and a sister of Lady Sarah Wilson) and Lady Chesham, their objective to raise funds towards the establishment of a hospital in support of the British war effort in South Africa.

The Siege of Mafeking lasted from 14th October 1899 until 16th May 1900.

In the early days of the siege, unstamped mail was sent sporadically out of Mafeking under private treaties contracted with “native” runners. From mid-March 1900, an official service was put in place with postage stamps being attached to all the items. Entrance and egress was managed through the same paid courier system.

It was in 1897 that a Telegraph Office was first listed at Crocodile Pools (Siding), situated as it was on the Cape Railway in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and en route to the then embryonic Rhodesia. It was evacuated by Imperial troops on 21st October 1899, to be occupied by Boer forces.

Crocodile Pools had proven to be the most strategically vulnerable point on the Cape railway running between Mafeking and Bulawayo, for, nearby, the railway line crossed a bridge nestled between kopjes and only a couple of hundred meters from the Transvaal frontier. The battle of Crocodile Pools - a series of sporadic skirmishes between Col. Plumer’s force and a mainly German-officered light artillery group between 16th January and 26th February 1900 - reaching a climax between 12th and 14th February 1900. Crocodile Pools (Siding) was finally reoccupied on 17th March 1900 by a Col. Holdsworth.

The “native” couriers of Mafeking carried mail along the so-called southern route via Kimberley, or a northern route via

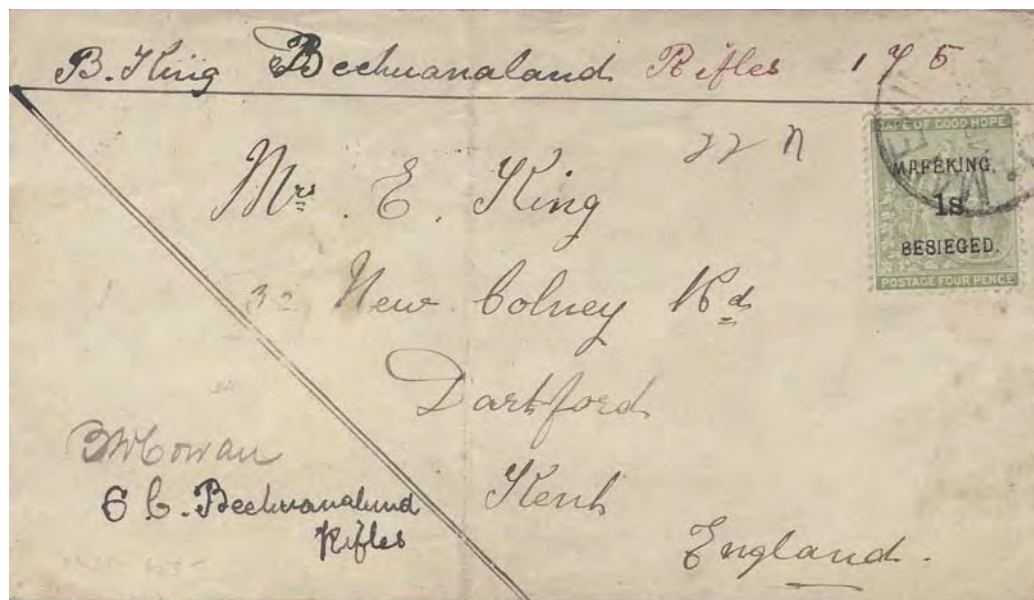


Illustration 1. Mafeking Siege mail, northern route.

THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S TELEGRAPHS.

If the accuracy of this Telegram (being an Inland Telegram) is doubted, it will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and, if found to be incorrect, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Cablegrams. When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid, and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the number so paid for, the Sender of the reply must pay for each excess word.

N.B.—This Form should accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

CAPE UNIFORM TIME is observed by THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S OFFICES.

Handed
in at

London 13th 12 57^{PM}

Received
here at

2 56^{PM}

Delivering Office.

From

Ludwig

To

Gordon Wilson

Agfeking

Delighted hear from you all
well but most anxious for your
relief. Markets firm fond thoughts
& wishes

No. of Messages

Dated Stamp of



Illustration 2a. British South Africa Company's Telegraphs form cancelled "CROCODILE POOLS 22 MAR 00 SOUTH AFRICA"

THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S TELEGRAPHS.

If the accuracy of this Telegram (being an Inland Telegram) is doubted, it will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and, if found to be incorrect, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Cablegrams. When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid, and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the number so paid for, the Sender of the reply must pay for such excess.

N.B.—This Form should accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.
CAPE UNIFORM TIME is observed by THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S OFFICES.

Handed
in at

London

at

10-11 .M.

Received
here at

7-41 P. .M.

No. of Messages

Dated Stamp of

22
3
0

Delivering Office

From

To

Lady Sarah
Mafeking

*Thankful cable just received
everywhere relief Lady Smith
wild enthusiasm London empire
absolutely determined union Jack
South Africa Queen goes Ireland
instead Italy*

Illustration 2b. British South Africa Company's Telegraphs form hand dated 22/3/0 (22 MAR 00).

Gaborone, Mochudi, Ootsi or Ramouits Siding to Bulawayo, thence to Salisbury and Beira (Illustration 1). Once it was reoccupied, they passed through Crocodile Pools en route to Gaborone. It appears likely that the postal agency was mobile and under the control of the Military Administration in Cape Town. One can only wonder at the reasons for its existence in the first place. The use of the appellation “SOUTH AFRICA” in the canceller adds to its curiosity.

The “CROCODILE POOLS SOUTH AFRICA” canceller was a double circle date stamp with a date (dd/mm/yy) in a single line across the centre, and dates from 20th March 1900 onwards. The franked telegram is dated 22nd March 1900 (Illustration 2a and 2b, Illustration 3). By which route they were transmitted and how they were reached Mafeking can only be speculated at. Suffice to say that both are in pristine condition.

By 1902, a Telegraph Office named Crocodile Pools again is listed, finally to be closed 1 November 1914.

And where geographically was Crocodile Pools; and what of it today? Over the years, this has been debated at length in the literature. Situated in Botswana, Crocodile Pools (Siding), now more commonly known as Ngotwane, is a railway siding 14 km. to the south of Gaborone (Illustration 4).

Nearby, a stream of that name joins the Ngotwane river from the east near the Ngotwane railway dam. The Transvaal-



Illustration 3. Detail of Crocodile Pools Siding cancellation

Botswana border runs north up the middle of the Ngotwane river, turns east at this point, following the course of the Crocodile Pools stream and thence straight along some hill ridges towards Tlokweng / Kopfontein border-post (Parsons). The Union of South African map (Surveyor-General, 1923) shows it taking a somewhat different route. The exact location of the postal agency remains a mystery.

What is certain is that correspondence bearing the canceller “CROCODILE POOLS SOUTH AFRICA” is scarce and very desirable to military historians and philatelist alike.

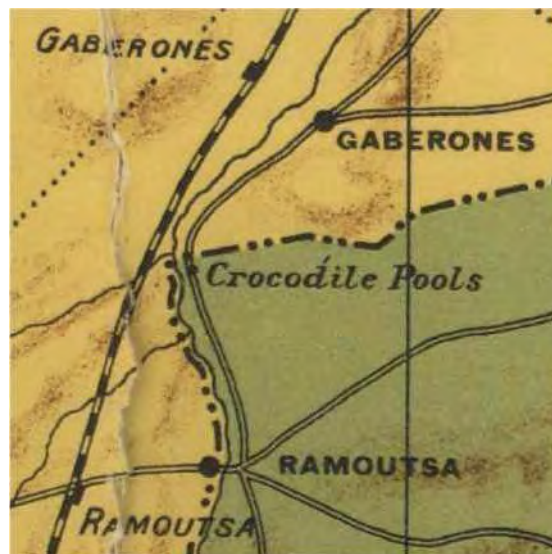


Illustration 4. Section of South African map of 1923 locating Crocodile Pools at approximately 23°S45' and 25E°50'.

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The Cape Mail

by Ernest E. Harrhy

"Is the Mail in?" is the leading question asked in the capital of the Sunny South on Tuesday mornings, and eager are the glances cast in the direction of the mast head on Signal Hill, where once a week the inspiring red white and blue flag, denoting the good ship's arrival, proudly floats.

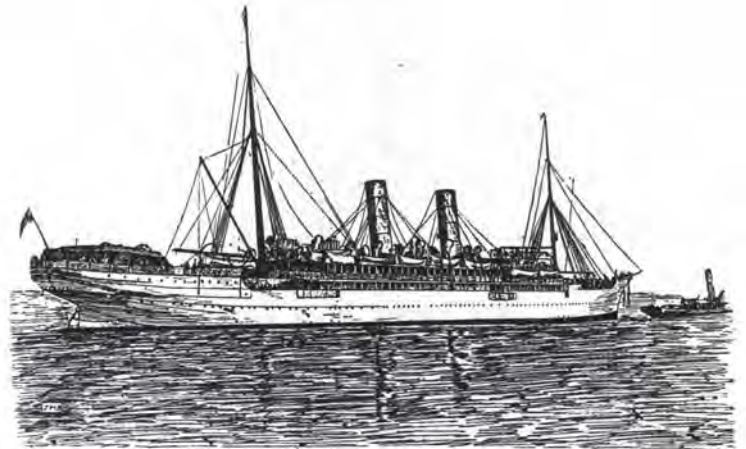
The joint contractors for the Cape Mail Service are the Union Steamship Company of Bishopsgate Street and the Castle Mail Packets Company of Fenchurch Street, London, and each Company despatches a steamer on alternate weeks. The combined fleet at the present time consists of the following steamers:

Union S.S. Co.	"Briton"	Tonnage	10,248	tons.
	"Scot"	"	7,815	"
	"Norman"	"	7,537	"
	"Mexican"	"	4,661	"
	"Moor"	"	4,464	"
Castle Co.	"Carisbrook Castle"	"	7,500	"
	"Dunvegan Castle"	"	5,958	"
	"Tantallon Castle"	"	5,636	"
	"Dunottar Castle"	"	5,625	"
	"Norham Castle"	"	4,392	"
	"Hawarden Castle"	"	4,380	"

All these boats are most luxuriously fitted up for the comfort of passengers, and their postal convenience is catered for by the appointment as Ocean Postmaster of the Purser, who sells stamps and disposes of the letters posted on board immediately the ship makes port. Cape stamps only are purchasable from that officer, as the ship to all intents and purposes is a Cape Post Office so soon as the shores of Old England are left three miles astern.

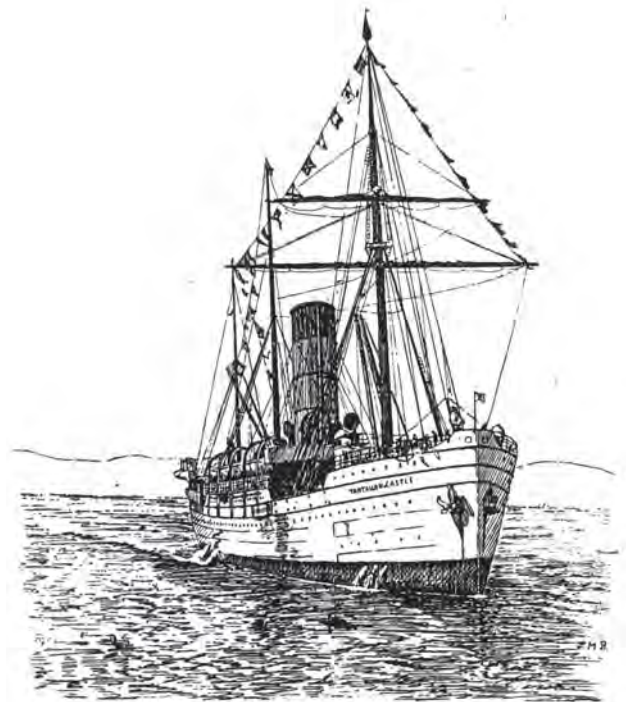
The crack vessels of the Service can be relied upon to put in an appearance in Table Bay on Tuesday morning; but when a few of the slower boats such as the "Norham Castle" or the "Mexican" turn up from twenty-four to forty-eight hours later, remarks anything but complimentary are liberally hurled at the heads of the local Agents of the two Companies. As the arrival of the steamer at Cape Town later than daybreak on Wednesday entails a week's delay, so far as the public of Cape Town and its important suburbs is concerned, there is perhaps some excuse for an exhibition of impatience on such occasions, and for the letters clamouring for a fourteen-day service which appear at regular intervals in the South African press.

The outward-bound mail steamer leaves Southampton at 4 p.m. on Saturdays, and calls at Madeira only en route. Before she enter Table Bay the mails are brought on deck, and immediately the breakwater is rounded and pratique obtained, if she is unable to steam straight into dock, the bags are transferred to the steam tug which is always in attendance. On the quay mail vans of the English pattern painted red and conspicuously lettered "G.P.O." are in readiness to convey the immense array of bags and boxes disgorged from the capacious hold of the vessel to the General Post Office.



R.M.S. "Scot."

A drive of twenty minutes duration and the palatial building, in Adderley Street, recently erected at a cost of about £200,000, is reached; and at the Parade entrance an army of Coolie attendants promptly passes on the mail bags to the electric lift which elevates them to the Circulation Branch on the first floor, where they are placed on a tramway intersecting the sorting rooms and conveyed to the openers' tables, whence the correspondence is in turn transferred to the stampers and sorters. In the Newspaper Branch the mountainous heaps of newspapers and books receiving attention suggest to the initiated that the publishing



THE "TANTALLON CASTLE" ENTERING TABLE BAY.

offices of Great Britain have a big mortgage on the soul of the Cape Postal Service.

The correspondence is rapidly sorted and got ready for despatch up country; and within a few hours after the anchorage of the Mail Steamer in the Bay, the Cape Town letter-carriers are busily engaged delivering to the addressees the letters so eagerly awaited since the moment the liner was observed to be standing in.

The up country mails are sent forward with the least possible delay, there being no less than four opportunities during the

The homeward-bound mail steamer leaves the Cape shortly after half past four on Wednesday afternoon; and the train conveying the mails from up country arrives in Cape Town soon after midday and runs through the metropolitan terminus to the docks alongside the steamer, where the "through" mails from the North are at once put aboard. The last load of mails is dispatched from the General Post Office to the docks soon after 4 p.m. The departure of the mail steamer is usually witnessed by a large crowd of people, many of whom go down to see their friends off by the boat, whilst others, more especially new arrivals

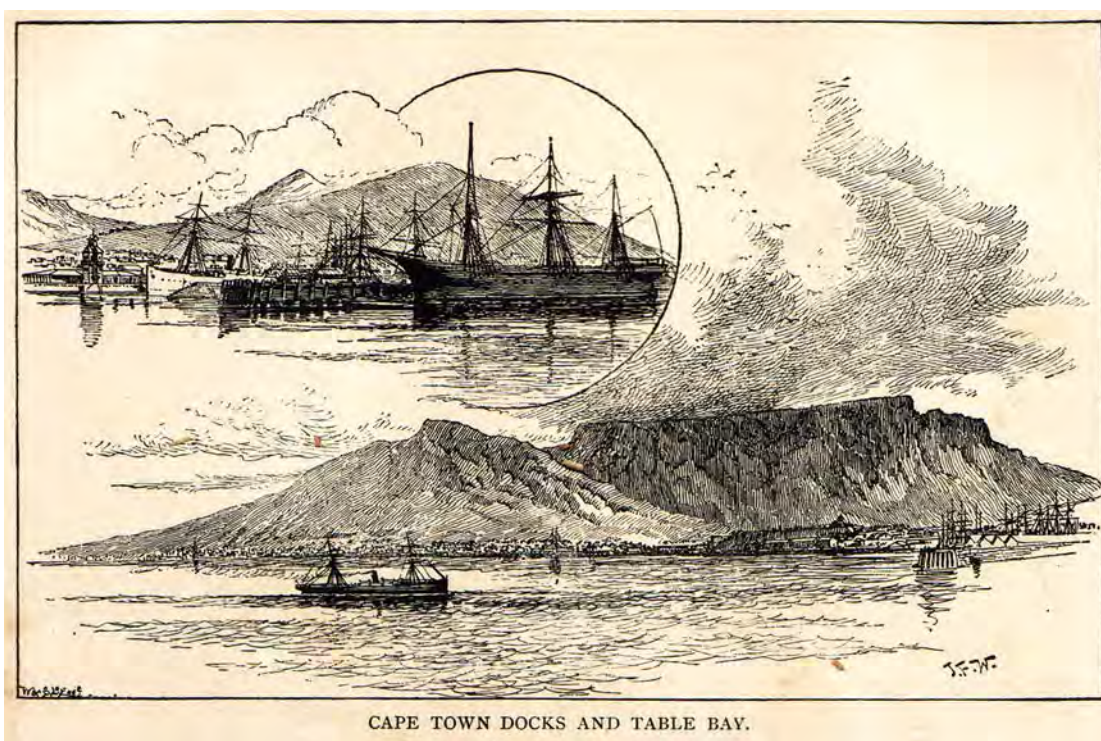


THE MAIL TRAIN ON THE KARROO.

twenty-four hours by which they can be despatched by train from Cape Town. A Travelling Post Office, styled the Western T.P.O., is attached to the train leaving Cape Town at nine in the evening, and the strain on the staff during the long and dreary journey is very heavy. The Western T.P.O. men travel as far as Deaar, a distance of 500 miles, where they are relieved by the Eastern T.P.O. officials working between Deaar and East London, *via* Rosmead junction; and they in turn hand over the Orange Free State and Transvaal mails at Naauwport to the South African Republic T.P.O. running between that point and Johannesburg. The distance by train from Cape Town to Johannesburg is 1,014 miles, and the journey is performed in about 60 hours.

from Europe, attend purely to gaze upon the link which connects them with their kith and kin across the sea.

The larger mail steamers, such as the "Dunvegan Castle" and the "Briton," are each capable of carrying 630 odd passengers of all grades and a crew numbering about 200; and during the months of April, May and June, when the rush to Europe is very marked, the Companies have as much as they can do to furnish the necessary accommodation. A similar rush sets in in the opposite direction at the end of the English summer, when holiday-makers flock back to South Africa. In addition to the mail steamers the two Companies despatch an intermediate steamer each alternate week; and these boats are largely patronised by passengers, as are the extra, intermediate boats which have to be run at the busier



CAPE TOWN DOCKS AND TABLE BAY.

times of the year. These additional steamers call at St. Helena, Ascension, Las Palmas, Teneriffe, Madeira and Lisbon in turn, and convey mails to these several ports.

The quickest outward passage to Cape Town made by a mail steamer during 1898 was accomplished by the "Dunottar Castle," the time being 16 days 2 hours and 9 minutes, whilst the "Carisbrook Castle" made the fastest homeward trip of the year in 16 days 1 hour and 25 minutes. The subsidy granted to the joint companies performing the Mail Service represented £693,000 for the year 1898, and for 1899 the sum of £694,000 is payable. The existing contract was entered into in 1893 and expires in September 1900; and tenders have already been called in the public press for a Cape Mail Service to run for five or seven years from January 1901.* Rumours are afloat that the White Star Line and one or two other powerful companies are tendering; but whether the Castle and Union Companies are the successful tenderers or not, it will, I think, be generally conceded that they have served the Cape well in the past and have been a very important factor in the development of Africa south of the Zambesi.

First published in St. Martin's-Le-Grand, Volume IX, 245-249 (1899). See Forerunners #49 for another article written by E.E. Harthy, together with a portrait (p.82). The Castle Line advertisement and the view of Cape Town docks and the Table Mountain are from the 1889 Castle Line guide (South Africa and How to Reach it by the Castle Line).

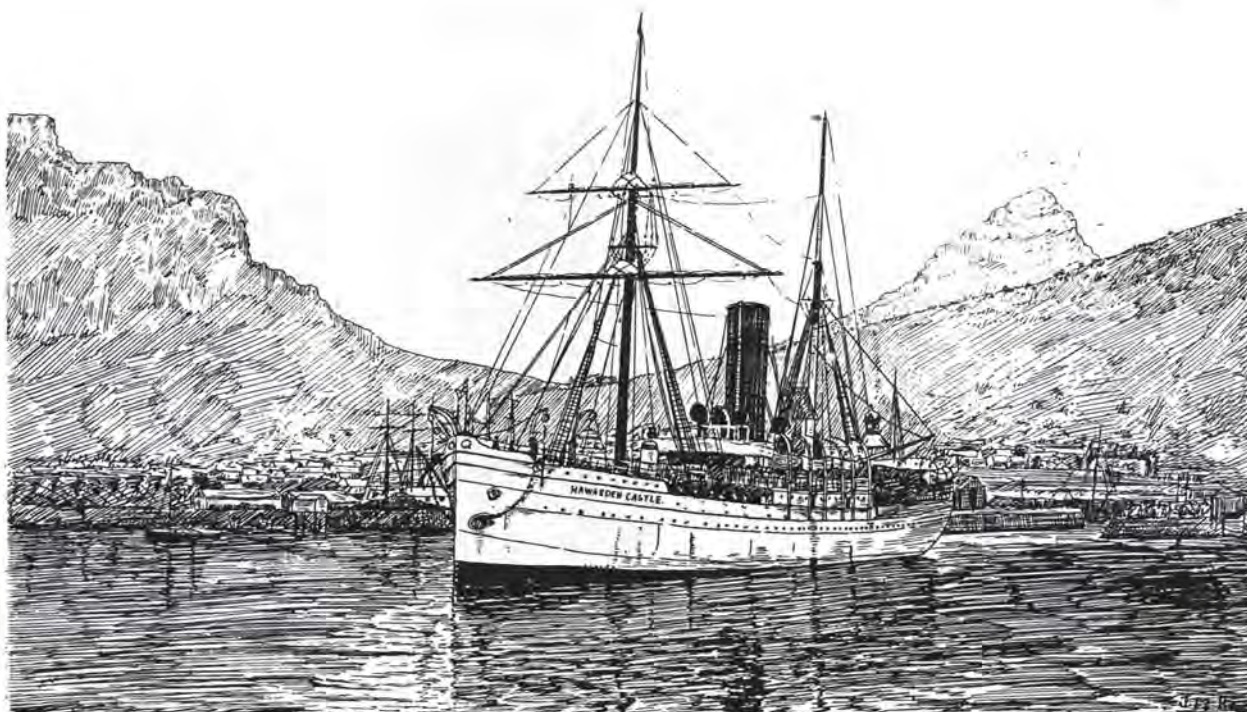
* The 1900 mail contract was awarded to the same two companies that immediately merged and formed the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co. For more information see Philip Cattell: The Union Castle Ocean Post Offices. Proud Bailey, Heatfield (undated).

CASTLE LINE.



ROYAL MAIL SERVICE
BETWEEN
*LONDON (via Dartmouth), LISBON,
MADEIRA, THE CANARY ISLANDS,*
AND THE
CAPE COLONY & NATAL
*EAST AFRICA,
MADAGASCAR and MAURITIUS,*
Calling at stated intervals at **ST. HELENA
and ASCENSION.**

APPLY TO
DONALD CURRIE & Co., Managers,
St. Enoch Square, Glasgow,
25, Castle St., Liverpool,
15, Cross St., Manchester,
AND 3 & 4, FENCHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.



(From a photograph by E. W. H. Short.)

THE "HAWARDEN CASTLE" LEAVING CAPE TOWN FOR ENGLAND.

www.capepostalhistory.com

by Yannis Lazarides

The Cape of Good Hope has had an alluring past. For collectors its postal history and stamps are entrenched in mystery and romance. The mixture of explorers, travellers, wars, the birth of a nation and the birth of a new country make for a fascinating past.

Since I was a child I was fascinated by the Cape of Good Hope, its stamps - out of reach then and some of them out of reach now - and its postal history. I have put this collection of pages on the internet to promote the study of the Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope. Here you will find a mixture of information on virtually every aspect of the Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope and to a large extent its people and its history.

The history of the Cape of Good Hope starts with the discovery of the Cape by Portuguese sailors, the settlements by the Dutch beginning with Jan van Riebeeck and the VOC Company. A string of commanders and VOC Governors ruled the Cape of Good Hope for almost 150 years. Early correspondence is covered with some rare briefstock and VOC letters. The subsequent colonization by the British is covered by the First British Occupation and the Second British Occupation. This period saw the development of postal services and the introduction of postmarks. Of particular interest are the crown-in-circle, the rare Port Elizabeth 'To-Pay' and 'Paid' handstamps.

The Travelling Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope are well represented. Interspersed within the webpages you can follow the story of the Cape of Good Hope Railways. From the first lines, such as the Cape-Wellington line, the Western T.P.O., to items such as the Albany T.P.O and the Zwartkops Sorting Tender.

Some unusual Postal History material is included, such as the Kimberley Exhibition postmarks, with the only known cover of one of the cachets dated July 1892 and a postcard posted by a member of an Austrian band from the exhibition! You might also be interested in the Clanwilliam private stamp which was used by the Clanwilliam postmaster during the Anglo-Boer war. The postal history of the Cape Ocean Post Office is described in detail with a unique example of the Armadale Ocean Post Office Postmark.

Although stamps are not normally considered as part of Postal

[Home](#) [Contact](#) [Links](#)

Cape of Good Hope - Postal History

THE PRE-STAMP PERIOD

DUTCH POSTS

[The VOC handstamps](#)

[Briefstock Letters](#)

[First British Occupation](#)

[The Batavian Republic](#)

[The Burgher Senate Seal](#)

[Second British Occupation](#)

[Crown-in-Circle](#)

[Palimpsest Letters](#)

[Packet Letterstamp](#)

[The Undated Letterstamps](#)

[Coolie](#)

[The Unlined Circular Datestamps of 1853](#)

[The Octagonal Numeral Stamp](#)

[The Paid and ToPay handstamps of Port Elizabeth](#)

[Forwarding Agents](#)

[Private handstamp](#)

[The Packet Stamps](#)

The Romance of the Cape of Good Hope



The Cape of Good Hope has had an alluring past. For collectors it's postal history and stamps are entrenched in mystery and romance. The mixture of explorers, travellers, wars, the birth of a nation and the birth of a new country make for a fascinating past.

My name is Dr Yannis Lazarides and South Africa has been my home for the last twenty six years. Since I was a child I was fascinated by the Cape of Good Hope, it's stamps - out of reach then and some of them out of reach now - and it's postal history.

I have put this collection of pages on the internet to promote the study of the Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope. The postal history images presented

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History collections, the nature of the Cape of Good Hope stamps is such that I wouldn't have considered the webpages completed, if at least some mention was not made of them. The triangular stamps are well represented with both the Perkins Bacon as well as the De La Rue Printings and the woodblocks. The rectangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope present another aspect of the postal history of the Cape of Good Hope and have not been studied well.

Some of the material illustrated has not been published or exhibited before. The study of the 'Table Mountain' issue is one of them. Here Postal History material belonging to the designer of the stamps is shown. This stamp created a bit of controversy at its time, in that it was the first stamp that did not have the 'Hope' shown. A few cuttings from newspapers regarding this controversy are shown as well as a letter from the Treasury awarding a bonus to the designer. The earlier issues including the '3' on Three overprint with a study of errors and varieties. No complete sheets for this issue have been recorded and a possible re-construction is shown here. Other Cape of Good Hope stamps are listed separately as well as the rare stamp booklet issued during the reign of King Edward VII.

There are a lot of topics covered in the webpages, but I am sure there are as much still not covered fully or discovered. Your contribution in this respect would be most welcome. If you have any items in your collection that you think will benefit this project, please contact me and I will do so, giving you full credit. Enjoy my webpages and let me have your comments.

Delayed by War Circumstances

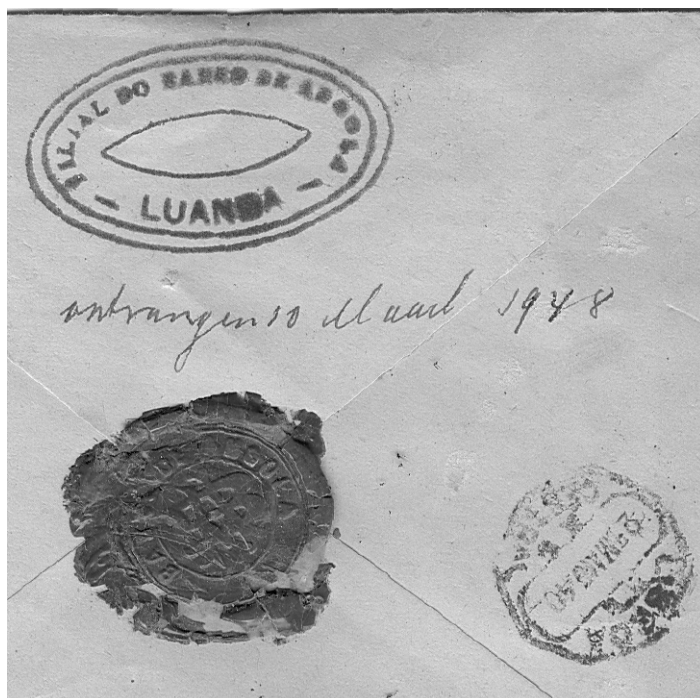
by Jan Stolk

Shown is an interesting cover mailed in 1940 from Angola to Holland and delayed over eight years by the German occupation of Holland.

The cover was mailed as registered letter (Registo) from Luanda in April 1940 to Rotterdam/Netherlands and is franked with three stamps with perfin with letters BA (Banco de Angola). It arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, on 23 May 1940.

On May 10, 1940, the Netherlands were invaded by German troops and mail services from Portugal probably suspended. The Netherlands was liberated on the May 5, 1945. Despite this, the letter was detained in Lisbon for another three years and first delivered in 1948, eight years after being mailed. A typewritten label is affixed to the front that states: "Amsterdam March 1948 Due to war circumstances received with delay." A cancel 'Lisboa Central' occurs on the reverse together with a written note "Received 10 March 1948."

Hope that you enjoyed the cover despite it being outside the normal scope of our journal.



Franco Frescura: The Post office of the Cape of Good Hope, 1792-1910. Archetype Press, 2002

Franco Frescura's long awaited two-volume, 885 page opus on the Cape Colony was finally published in November 2002, after 25 years of research. Its progress has been marked by a number of notable landmark discoveries, including the documentation of the programme of experimental dating and obliterating cancellers run by the Cape Post Office from 1882 to 1891, the introduction of large single circle relief cancellers, and the recording of over 100 hitherto unknown BONCs. Most of these findings were published for the first time in the "Post Office Stone", which Frescura and fellow-researcher, Michael Nethersole, edited for about three years. Indeed the term "BONC", which has now become ubiquitous in world philately, is an onomatopoeic acronym invented by Frescura and Nethersole to describe the Cape's barred oval numeral cancellers. It also brought to light a number of hitherto unrecorded post offices, including Advance Post, in Basutoland, which Aubrey Scott mentioned in passing, but which he subsequently ignored for lack of additional evidence. In the process the work has garnered a number of local society awards, a gold medal at ALGOAPEX 2002, a Large Vermeil (with felicitations) at PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005, as well as a R25,000 research award from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where Frescura is currently Professor of Architecture.

At first glance the book is a gazetteer of post offices opened in the Cape Colony prior to 1910, and brings together information from a wide range of colonial sources, including the Post Office, the Telegraph Department, the Public Works Department, the Cape Railways, the Office of the Census, and a wide assortment of social, historical and philatelic sources. In doing so it provides, wherever available, a history of each village or town including the dates of the opening and closing of its post office, the names of its postmasters, its divisional location, the dates of its linkage into the railway and telegraphic network, a brief history of its establishment as a community, and any other details of a historical nature which may have impacted upon its postal affairs, such as floods, local literacy rates, military occupations, riots and relocations.

Postal historians who wish to focus on a particular region of the Cape will find each division documented with a short history, a generalised map of postal routes, census and literacy figures, a list of postal routes and, most relevantly, a list of all the post offices falling within its geographical boundaries. Although the minutiae of colonial boundary changes are beyond the scope of the work, the changing face of the colonial administrative landscape is well documented, and the inclusion of additional entries for British Bechuanaland, British Kaffraria, the Transkeian Territories, Pondoland, the Orange River Sovereignty, and the northern Cape republics makes for an easier understanding of colonial geography.

In addition, the book brings together, in separate sections, data on the Ocean Post Office, the Military Post Office, the Railways' Travelling Post Offices, and the lesser-known network

of Convict Stations.

Interestingly, there are two reasons why Frescura's book is likely to have a much wider import outside the confines of postal history: his documentation of human settlement in the Cape through the use of postal data is leading to the reassessment and a revision of the hitherto widely accepted assumption that much of this was the result of Church activity; and the discovery that many of the postal services known as 'Field-Corner's Posts' were an integral part of the Cape's convict labour system. Although the jury is still out on this one, historical archaeologists are beginning to use this book as the starting point of further archival and field research.

This then, is where the book ceases to be a mere gazetteer, and becomes a reference source in its own right, using its data to create internal debates and arrive at sustainable conclusions. Frescura's method of documenting the postal cancellers known to have been used at each post office, with their earliest and latest dates of usage, has given rise to some notable questions, such as, what went on in Walfish Bay after a fire burnt down the armoury and the adjoining post office on 23 June 1909? Covers bearing a Walfish Bay manuscript cancellation from that time bring in good prices at auction, but some have been recorded from as early as 20 June, three days before the fire. Clearly some rewriting of collections will now seem to be in order! Frescura also uses the appointment of postal officials to trace out the tortuous history of such places as Plumstead and Wynberg, Assegai Bosch, Assegai Bush and Two Streams, and Calitzdorp, to name but a few. Historians should derive great enjoyment from the local debates which these conclusions will no doubt give rise to.

The author has also used an open-ended approach to his work, in the belief that no information, especially postal information, is definitive, and has thus opened the way for each student of the Cape's postal history to personalise the work and make it his or her own. Because it is unlikely that a work of this nature can ever be republished or updated, each copy has then the potential of becoming a definitive work in its own right. Researchers will also find that the volumes include a sound typology, (without doubt the work of fellow-researcher Michael Nethersole), a good selection of reproducible maps, and a number of the author's fine line drawings of Cape post offices. The first chapter is also worth a good read, if, for no other reason, than that it answers many of the potential debates before they are even begun.

The price of this book may be an obstacle to its wider circulation but when you realise that a mass-produced art-book will cost an equivalent amount, then this falls into a better perspective. Besides, the specialised knowledge it carries will make it possible for the serious collector of Cape postal history to recover its cost at auction many times over. This opus will stand as the definitive reference in its field for many years to come.

The book is available from The Archetype Press, P.O. Box 1952, Westville, 3630 South Africa or from the author at galefra@mweb.co.za. The price is R1400 plus mailing. To the US this will be \$232 plus about \$20 surface mailing.

Cigarette Surtax Labels Used as Postage Dues

by Brian Trotter

There are two post offices in South Africa where the use of cigarette surtax labels as postage due labels were recorded. These were Fordsburg, a suburb of Johannesburg, and Durban. Both are from 1922. There is some confusion as to whether their use was ever authorized. The covers illustrated may both be contrived (Figures 1 and 2), however, the need for such a measure at the time does have some plausibility.

Background

The postage due stamps of the Union of South Africa were initially printed by De La Rue. The *South African Philatelist* of 1 February 1, 1923 (page 5), reports that the 1/2d De La Rue printing postage due stamps were exhausted in June 1922. In May 1922 the printing of postage due stamps was undertaken by the Government Printer in Pretoria. The 1/2d, 1d and 1 1/2d denominations were printed in sheets of 60 stamps and rouletted rather than perforated for separation. The same article in the *South African Philatelist* reports that by November 1922 all of the 1,119 sheets of 60 were also all used up. So, it would seem that a local shortage of 1/2d postage due stamps (and perhaps other denominations) could have occurred in mid 1922 and again in late 1922.

The Use of Cigarette Surtax Labels

The *South African Philatelist* of February 1, 1923 also records (page 6) information from two readers, who stated that: "Some

months ago, during a shortage of the 1/2d postage due, the Postmaster, Durban, authorised the use of 1/2d cigarette-tax labels as postage dues. Not more than 3s worth of these labels were used." Then it was reported that the in December of 1922 the Postmaster of Fordsburg was acting in a similar manner. The *South African Philatelist* then wrote to the Postmaster General in Pretoria to ask for clarification. The response was quite clear:

"With reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I have to inform you that cigarette-duty labels are NOT intended to be used for the purpose of bringing to account the value of insufficiently prepaid or unpaid postal articles. The use of these labels for this purpose at the Fordsburg Post Office was due to a misapprehension on the part of the Postmaster."

It would seem that the Durban use was not mentioned in the enquiry to the Postmaster General. There is also recognition that the use of the cigarette surtax labels at Fordsburg was official, but not authorized.

However, that was not the end of the story. A month later, The *South African Philatelist* of March 1, 1923, carried a follow-up report (page 22). In the interim they had received a copy of a letter from the Postmaster at Durban to the President of the Philatelic Society of Natal on the subject which read:

"I beg to acknowledge your letter of 14th instant upon the above subject, and to inform you that this office was duly authorised to use 1/2d Cigarette Tax Labels for postage due stamps on August 22nd and 23rd last."

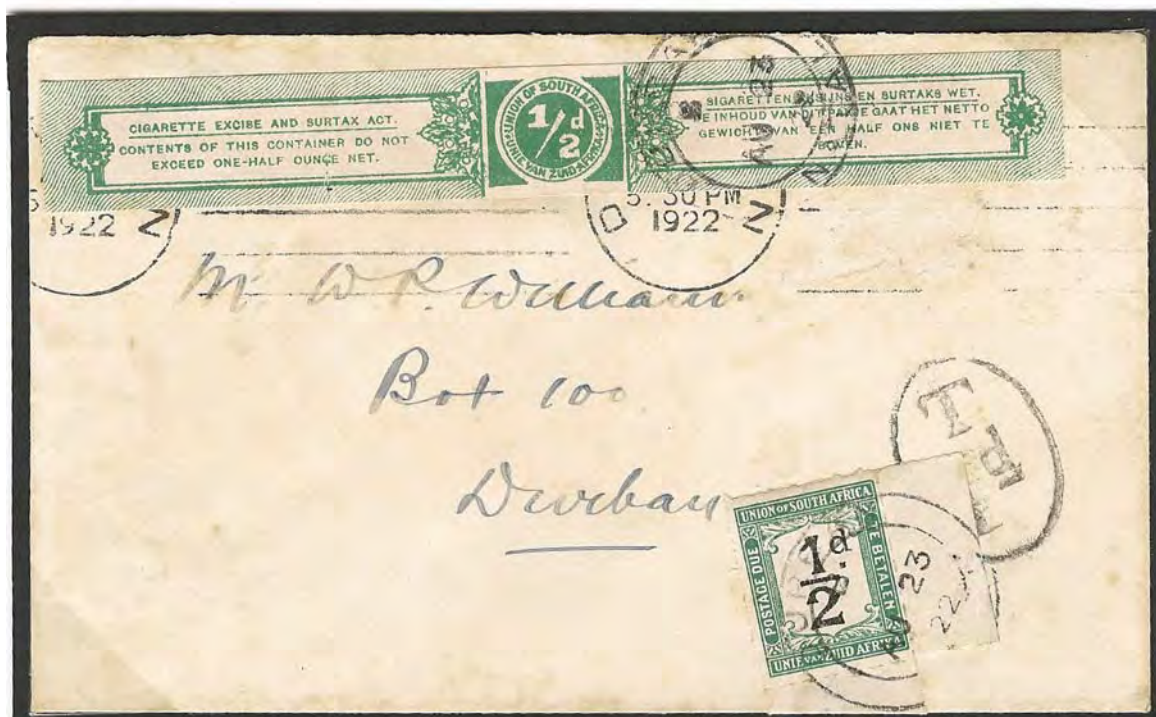


Figure 1. Cover with a 1/2d cigarette surtax label used along with a 1/2d rouletted postage due stamp, both cancelled August 23, 1922.



Figure 2. Cover with two 1/2d coil postage stamps, and two 1/2d sections of cigarette surtax labels cancelled December 9, 1922.

The letter was dated September 15, 1922, and was signed by the Postmaster, E. Price. Another letter had immediately been written to the Postmaster General in Pretoria with this new information. The reply was dated February 7, 1923, and was signed by M. Buxton Forman, "for Postmaster-General."

It read: "With reference to your letter of the 5th instant, in connection with cigarette duty labels having been used on insufficiently prepaid correspondence at Durban, I have to confirm my reply to your previous letter regarding a similar occurrence at Fordsburg. These labels are only intended for cigarette duty purposes, and their use has NOT been extended in any other direction."

Clearly the Postmaster General's Office in Pretoria had no doubt as to their position, yet the Durban Postmaster was stated in writing that he had been given authorization for use of the 1/2d cigarette surtax labels on two specific days. South Africa had Provincial Administrations, with Durban being the major city of the Natal province. It is possible that the Provincial Postmaster had authorised the temporary use at the Durban post office.

The Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth catalogues continue to show the incorrect date of issue of the 1/2d postage due stamp that was printed by the Government Printer in Pretoria to replace the rouletted version. The replacement stamp was perforated. The Gibbons catalogues gives an issue date of August 1, 1922. However, the unpublished records in the South African Post Office Archives in Pretoria¹ state:

"In May, 1922, the printing of postage due stamps was undertaken by the Government Printer at Pretoria. The 1/2d, 1d and 1 1/2d denominations were the first to be printed by him. These were rouletted, not perforated, and the paper bore no watermark. These were made up in sheets of 60 stamps. Between March and

August 1923 the Government Printer printed further supplies of of 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d, 2d and 6d. These were perforated and made up into sheets of 120 stamps (two panes of 60). The paper bore no watermark."

So the perforated replacement stamps were only printed in the period March to August of 1923, so cannot have been issued August 1, 1922 as recorded by Gibbons. The same South African Post Office Archive record shows a hand written note stating that they were issued on November 1, 1923. However, since this was a later addition, this date may not be definitive. This implies that local shortages could well have occurred in 1922.

The Illustrated Covers

The Durban cover (Figure 1) has a cancellation of August 22, 1922, which is partly obscured by the 1/2d cigarette surtax label. Both the cigarette surtax label and the rouletted 1/2d postage due stamp are cancelled on August 23, 1922. So the date of the cigarette surtax cancellation fits exactly those referred to by the Durban Postmaster's letter. The rouletted 1/2d postage due stamp is also in the correct period. A stamp, which must have been a 1 1/2d stamp, has been removed from the cover. As the postage rate at the time was 2d per ounce, the 1d tax would be double the deficiency of the 1/2d unpaid postage.

The Fordsburg cover (Figure 2) has a pair of 1/2d coil stamps cancelled December 8, 1922, and has insufficiently prepaid and 2d tax handstamps. This is correct, as the postage rate was 2d per ounce, and only 1d was paid, so double the deficiency would have been 2d. However, the 2d tax is not paid in full, as only a pair of 3/4d sections of cigarette surtax stamps have been added and cancelled on December 9, 1922. A further 1/2d tax should have been paid.

In both cases the time period of use fits that described in the South African Philatelist reports mentioned above.

Conclusion

Covers emanating from these two post offices at the reported dates using cigarette surtax labels as postage due stamps can be considered at best as having semi-official status. They were probably, to some extent at least, contrived by or for collectors, as postage stamps would have made a more logical substitute for postage due stamps during a local shortage. Also 1d postage

or postage due stamps could have been used, although the logic for a possible shortage of 1/2d postage due stamps applies equally for 1d postage due stamps. These covers can be considered no more than a curiosity, but remain a fascinating footnote to the philately of South Africa in 1922.

¹ Union of South Africa, History of Postage and Revenue Stamps and Postal Stationery, No author. undated (written progressively), Folio 21.

Originally published in the London Philatelist (no. 114, 358-360, 2005). Reproduced with permission.

Censorship

South Africa World War II: Mail to Occupied Europe

by Chris Miller

From the last censor article in Forerunners, readers may now be aware that direct mail to occupied countries from South Africa was not permitted. The Red Cross were the only intermediary that could be used. This differs from virtually all other countries in the British Commonwealth where mail could also be sent via Thomas Cook by a procedure usually referred to as undercover mail.

Where the Red Cross were the intermediary, the usual procedure was that messages had to be no longer than 25 words long and written in block capitals on a preprinted form.

The use of the Portuguese Red Cross as an undercover address was a recognized route for this type of mail. I have been told, but never able to substantiate, that this procedure could be used

only by those of Dutch extraction when writing to relatives in Holland. I have one such cover shown in Figure 1, which was addressed to Holland so the information I had been given may not be correct.

All such items of which I am aware were censored by the South Africa Censorship in Johannesburg, but posted under a carrier (ambulance) envelope to Lisbon. The carrier envelope had not only to include the correctly addressed envelope, but also to include means of paying for the onward postage, which was likely to be by international reply coupons. The Portuguese Red Cross then stuck Portuguese stamps to the envelope and posted it in the usual way. The German censors have also censored all such items seen.



Figure 1. Front of cover sent via the Portuguese Red Cross in Lisbon. The 1.75 stamp has been removed from the top left of the envelope.

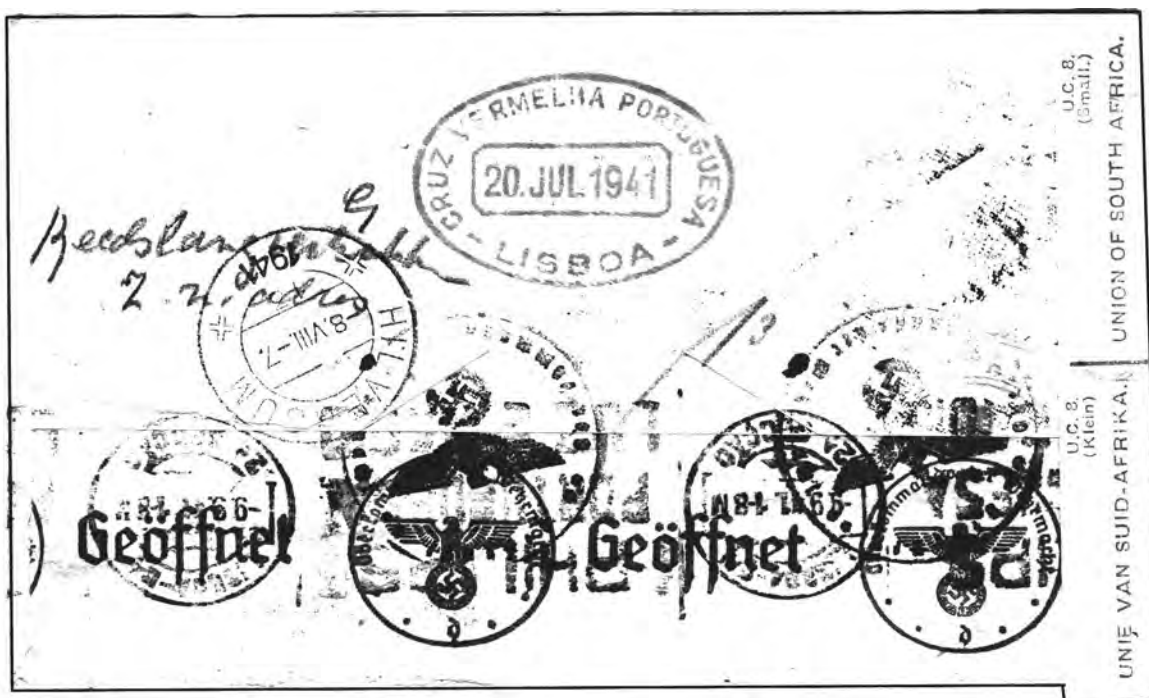


Figure 2. Back side of cover shown in Figure 1.

I have just acquired the envelope illustrated in Figure 3. I cannot read the date although from the return address I can see that the sender was in a town beginning with an 'O' near Hermanus. The envelope was censored no earlier than March 1942, when the arms handstamps were introduced. No direct mail with Holland was allowed during the duration of the war and Holland was not liberated until the German surrender on May 8, 1945. I have not been able to ascertain the date on which

South Africa censorship of civil mail to Europe ceased, although May 1945 appears likely. Mail to Austria and Germany was examined not in South Africa but on arrival.

This cover should not have been cleared by the censor as it was sent before censorship ceased, unless censorship continued after the armistice in Europe. Information would be appreciated. If you can fill the gaps in this article please contact the editor or Chris Miller at the address given on page 1.

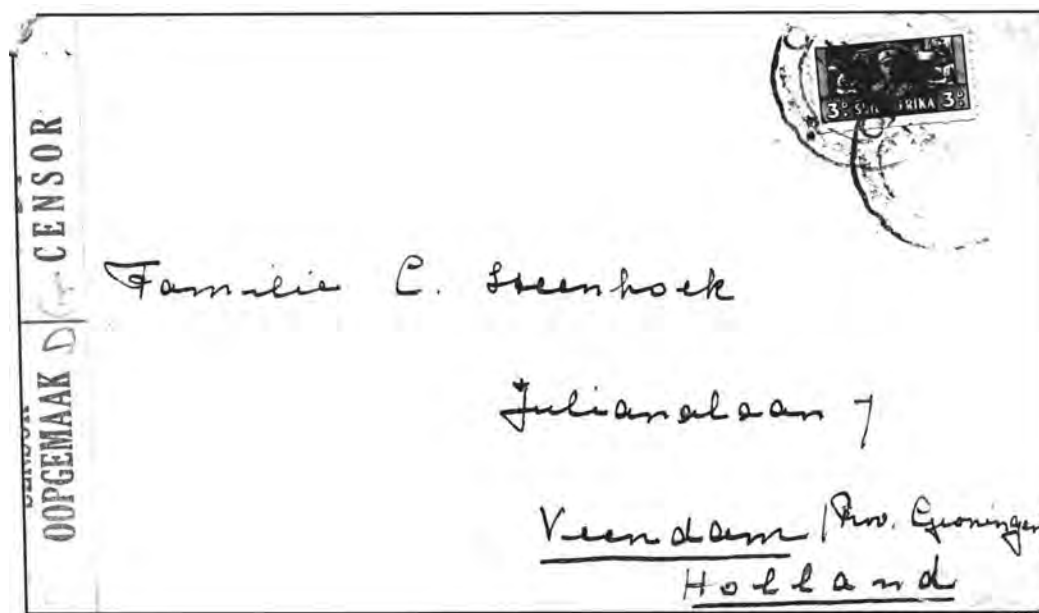


Figure 3. Cover from South Africa to Holland (reduced to 90 % of original)



Early Airmail Rates of South Africa

by Bernard Doherty and Peter Thy

A South African experimental airmail service was inaugurated on March 2, 1925, at an inland 3d per ounce, in addition to surface fees. The initial experiment failed in 1927, but was resumed in 1929 at an increased inland air rate of 4d. The airmail stamps issued in 1925 and 1929 could only be used to prepay the air and in general not the surface fees.

The first overseas air service was introduced in 1932 with an inland rate of 4d per 1/2 ounce, now including both air and surface fees (Illustration 1). The rates were again reduced in 1933 to 3d for internal airmail (Illustration 2). The years to 1937 saw a systematic expansion of air services to central Africa, Mocambique, and Madagascar. Australia and New Zealand were added in 1934 at a basic 1s 8d rate.

The internal South African air rate was further reduced in 1935 to 1 1/2d and again in 1937 to 1d. The first 'All-Up' mails of the Empire Air Scheme was inaugurated in 1937 (July) between southern Africa and United Kingdom at a 1 1/2d minimum rate. The following year, the 'All-Up' scheme was expanded to Egypt, India, and the Malayan States also at the 1 1/2d basic rate. More distant corners of the British Empire were reached in 1938 (Canada, Australia, New Zealand). By early 1939, large parts of the British Empire were thus covered by the 1 1/2d 'All-Up' rate.

The countries that were part of the 'All-up' scheme were Aden, Australasia, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Eire, Egypt, Great Britain, India, Kayna. Malay States, Mauritius, Newfoundland, North Borneo, Northern Ireland, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Palestine, Seychelles, Southern Rhodesia, Straits Settlements, Sudan, Tanganyika, Transjordan, Uganda and

Zanzibar. Also included were Angola, Belgium Congo and Mocambique. The postcard rate was similar to the letter rate. Those countries not covered were West Africa (mostly 6d), North and South America (1-4s), Europe (1s), and Asia (1s-1s 6d).

The 'All-Up' scheme was suspended in 1939 as a result of the breakout of war in Europe. The result was that the airmail rates again jumped to a typical 1s 3d. The rate to USA jumps to 2s and to 2s 6d to countries served via New York. The rates to Central Africa also becomes 1s 3d. However, the southern African rates remains at 1d or 1 1/2d (South Africa, South West Africa, the Rhodesias, Nyasaland, Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland).

The following table summarizes the airmail rates until the breakdown of the 'All-Up' schemes. The article by Bob Hisey in Forerunners #53 explores the World War. Some of the postwar rates were included in the surface tabulation also in Forerunners #53. Please report corrections and additions to the Editor or to Bernard Doherty (P.O. Box 18, Waratah 2298, Australia).

Column 1. Tariff for 1 ounce. Refers to the government experimental air service between Capetown and Durban.

Column 2. Tariff for 1 ounce. Refers to internal air service between Johannesburg and Capetown via Durban and Port Elizabeth.

Columns 3-11. Tariff for 1/2 ounce. Rates to other countries according to distance. Highest South America at 5s for 1/2 ounce.

Column 12-15. All letters for destinations conveyed by air mail as the ordinary means of transmission under the Empire Mail Scheme.

Column 16. Empire Mail Scheme suspended.



Air letter from Port Elizabeth in 1940 to Brazil paying 8s.

Destination	1 2/3/1925 s. d.	2 26/8/1929 s. d.	3 1/1/1932 s. d.	4 31/10/1932 s. d.	5 1/1/1933 s. d.	6 8/3/1934 s. d.	7 29/7/1934 s. d.	8 27/11/1934 s. d.	9 4/12/1934 s. d.	10 1/1/1935 s. d.	11 19/8/1935 s. d.	12 1/7/1937 s. d.	13 18/2/1938 s. d.	14 5/8/1938 s. d.	15 13/1/1939 s. d.	16 18/9/1939 s. d.
Union & SWA	0 5	0 5	0 4		0 3					0 1 1/2		0 1	0 1			
S & N Rhodesia			0 5		0 4							0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika			0 6		0 5							0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Sudan			0 8		0 7							0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Egypt			0 10		0 9							0 9	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Belgian Congo				0 10		0 6						0 1 1/2			0 1 1/2	1 3
Nyasaland							0 10					0 1 1/2			0 1 1/2	1 3
Mocambique (via Broken Hill)											0 6	0 1 1/2			0 1 1/2	1 3
Mocambique (via Salisbury)												0 1 1/2			0 1 1/2	1 3
Madagascar											0 6	0 1 1/2			0 1 1/2	1 3
USA											1 3		1 3		1 0	
New York													1 0			
Cuba, Bahamas													1 3		1 6	
Canada													0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Jamaica													1 6		1 6	
Central America													1 9		1 6	
Panama, Costa Rica, Leeward Is., Windward Is., Barbados, Trinidad													2 3		1 6	
Venezuela, Ecuador, Guiana													2 9		1 6	
Columbia													3 0		1 6	
Peru													3 3		4 0	
Brazil													4 6		4 0	
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay													5 0		4 0	
Great Britain, N. Ireland	0 8	0 6	1 0		0 10			0 6				0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Europe	0 9	0 7	1 0										1 0		1 0	
Russia in Europe			1 3										1 3		1 0	
Russia in Asia			2 0										2 0		1 0	
India as far as Karachi			1 0									1 0	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
India beyond Karachi			1 3									1 3	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Palestine													0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Malaya States, Siam			1 6									1 6	0 1 1/2		0 1 1/2	1 3
Dutch East Indies													1 9		1 6	
Japan & China via Cairo/Hong Kong													1 8		1 6	
Australia, New Zealand									1 8				1 8	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	

Can be downloaded from the Society's website in Excell format.

SUPPLEMENT TO

POST OFFICE CIRCULAR.

18th January, 1932.

No. 708.

AIR MAIL SERVICE

between

ENGLAND AND SOUTH AFRICA VIA EGYPT, SUDAN, KENYA AND RHODESIA.

1. A regular weekly air service between London and Capetown will commence from London on Wednesday, 20th January, 1932, and from Capetown on Wednesday, 27th January, 1932, and continue to be despatched on each Wednesday thereafter until further notice. The scheduled time for each journey is eleven days, and mails will therefore arrive at the terminal points on Sundays.

2. The inward and outward time-tables will be as follows; the first mails reaching the Union on Saturday, the 30th January, 1932.

Inward:

Arrive Pietersburg 1.25 p.m., Saturdays.
Leave Pietersburg 2.10 p.m., Saturdays.
Arrive Germiston 4.35 p.m., Saturdays.
Leave Germiston 5.30 a.m., Sundays.
Arrive Kimberley 8.50 a.m., Sundays.
Leave Kimberley 9.20 a.m., Sundays.
Arrive Victoria West noon, Sundays.
Leave Victoria West 12.30 p.m., Sundays.
Arrive Capetown 4.40 p.m., Sundays.

Outward:

Leave Capetown 6.00 a.m., Wednesdays.
Arrive Victoria West 10.10 a.m., Wednesdays.
Leave Victoria West 10.40 a.m., Wednesdays.
Arrive Kimberley 1.20 p.m., Wednesdays.
Leave Kimberley 1.50 p.m., Wednesdays.
Arrive Germiston 5.10 p.m., Wednesdays.
Leave Germiston 5.30 a.m., Thursdays.
Arrive Pietersburg 7.55 a.m., Thursdays.
Leave Pietersburg 8.40 a.m., Thursdays.

3. A connecting air service between Windhoek (South West Africa) and Kimberley will commence from Windhoek on Tuesday the 26th Jan., 1932, and will operate weekly thereafter with the following frequency.

Inward:

Leave Windhoek 2.30 p.m., Tuesdays.
Arrive Kimberley noon, Wednesdays.
(Overnight at Kootmanshoop.)

Outward:

Leave Kimberley 10.00 a.m. (approx.) Sundays.
Arrive Windhoek Sundays evening.

If necessary an overnight stop will be made at Mariental on the outward service. On the South West Africa route stops will be made at Upington, Keetmanshoop, and Mariental.

4. **Rates.** - From the 27th January, 1932, the combined air fee and postage rate advised in respect of air mail correspondence within the Union will apply also to the existing air mail service between Capetown, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Bloemfontein, and Germistown.

It should be noted that the unit of weight for all articles excepting parcels is 1/2 ounce and that the rates for postage and air conveyance are combined in one rate:-

	s.	d.
Within the Union, per 1/2 ounce	0	4
To and from South West Africa, per 1/2 ounce	0	4
From the Union and South West Africa:		
To Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia, per 1/2 ounce	0	5
To Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, per 1/2 ounce	0	6
To Sudan, per 1/2 ounce	0	8
To Egypt, per 1/2 ounce	0	10
To Europe (excluding Russia), per 1/2 ounce	1	0
To Russia, per 1/2 ounce	1	3

India and Countries en route.

To Palestine, Iraq, Persia, per 1/2 ounce	1	0
To India (by air to Karachi), per 1/2 ounce	1	0
To India (by air to Delhi), per 1/2 ounce	1	3

East India.

To Malay States and Siam, per 1/2 ounce	1	6
To Dutch East Indies, per 1/2 ounce	1	9

Africa.

To Algeria, Morocco, Tunis, per 1/2 ounce	1	3
To French Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone, per 1/2 ounce	1	9

North America and Countries Served Thereby.

To United States, Canada, Cuba, Bahamas, per 1/2 ounce	1	3
To Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Porto Rico, per 1/2 ounce	1	6
To Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, per 1/2 ounce	1	9
To Panama, Costa Rica, Leeward Isles, Wind- ward Isles, Barbados, Trinidad, per 1/2 ounce	2	3
To Venezuela, Ecuador, Guiana, per 1/2 ounce	2	9
To Colombia, per 1/2 ounce	3	0
To Peru, per 1/2 ounce	3	3

South America via Dakar

To Brazil, per 1/2 ounce	4	6
To Argentina, Bolivia, Chili, Paraguay, Uru- guay, per 1/2 ounce	5	0
To Australia and New Zealand (by steamer from the Union), per 1/2 ounce	0	6

The foregoing includes air transmission by all international and internal services which are available.

5. The fee may be prepaid by means of ordinary postage stamps or by air mail stamps or both. Express delivery and registration on air mail articles will be subject to the usual charges for these additional services. Correspondence for countries external to the Union and South West Africa, not fully prepaid at the rate prescribed must not be included in the air mails but must be sent by ordinary post. Exception is however made in the case of correspondence for countries beyond Cairo and London, as instanced in paragraph 6.

Insufficiently prepaid correspondence within and to and from the Union and South West Africa must be surcharged with double the deficiency and included in the air mail. Correspondence, marked for transmission by air mail, within the Union or to or from South West Africa, which is entirely unpaid must be surcharged with double the deficiency in regard to postage and sent forward by ordinary post. In such cases the indication "By Air Mail" must be cancelled in manuscript by the taxing officer.

6. Articles intended for transmission either wholly or partly by air mail must bear an air mail label (P. 810) in the top left hand corner or be boldly endorsed "By Air Mail." If transmission by air to some particular point only is required, the words "by air to" should be added below the label or written instruction.

A letter for Peru for instance may be labelled and specially endorsed "By Air to London.". In such instance the amount prepaid may be at the rate prescribed to the country whence further transmission will be accorded by ordinary postal facilities.

7. Air mail correspondence posted at offices other than air mail stations should be circulated to the most convenient point for inclusion in in the air mail.

The air mail despatching offices within the Union are Pietersburg, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Upington, Victoria West and Capetown.

8. **Parcels.** - Parcels for transmission by air mail to England will be accepted at offices in the Union and South West Africa at the rate of 7s. per lb.

The rates for the transmission of parcels by air mail within the Union and South West Africa and to countries intermediate on the direct air mail route to England will be announced later.

9. The Union offices at and from which air mails will be received and despatched will receive special instructions as to the procedures to be followed in dealing with such mails.

10. **Air Mail Stamps.** - It should be specially noted that from the date of this circular air mail stamps may be utilised in the same way as ordinary postage stamps for any postal purpose. When the existing stock of air mail stamps is exhausted no further issue will be made.

Illustration 1. Supplement to Union Post Office Circular, 18 Jan. 1932. The Afrikaans text has been edited away for reasons of space. Transcribed from the original in the National Archived of Botswana.

7/42,335/33

Union of South Africa.
Post Office.
Pretoria.
20th October, 1933.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that arrangements are being made for the following alterations in air mail as from 1st November, 1933:-

	OLD RATES		NEW RATES	
	Letters Per 1/2 oz.	Postcards each	Letters Per 1/2 oz.	Postcards each
Within the Union	4d.	2d.	3d.	1 1/2d.
To South-West Africa	4d.	2d.	3d.	1 1/2d.
To Rhodesia (Southern and Northern)	5d.	2 1/2d.	4d.	2d.
To Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika	6d.	3d.	5d.	2 1/2d.
To Sudan	8d.	4d.	7d.	3 1/2d.
To Egypt	10d.	5d.	9d.	4 1/2d.
To Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Irish Free State	1s.0d.	5d.	10d.	5d.

In as far as Great Britain is concerned identical charges for correspondence to the Union are being introduced simultaneously.

If similar rates are adopted in Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, amendment of High Commissioner's Notice No. 156 of 1932, will apparently be necessary as follows:-

"For the conveyance by air mail to destinations within the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa of

Postal articles exclusive
of parcels and post cards) 3d. per half ounce
Parcels 9d. per half pound
Post cards 1 1/2d. each."

I have etc.,
Sgd. T. Alomi
for Postmaster-General.

The Imperial Secretary,
High Commissioner's Office,
PRETORIA.

Illustration 2. Letter from the Postmaster-General to Imperial Secretary, Pretoria, dated Oct. 20, 1933. Transcribed from the original in the National Archives of Botswana.



First service from London to Australia in 1935 via South Africa.
From Lobatsi in Bechuanaland Protectorate.

BASUTOLAND, THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 5 of 1939.

It is hereby notified for general information with reference to High Commissioner's Notices No. 122 of 1937 and No. 122 of 1938, that, under the provisions of Act No. 10 of 1911 of the Union of South Africa, as of force in Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve in respect of those Territories of the undermentioned rates of postage with effect from the 13th January, 1939.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

H. LESTER SMITH,
for Administrative Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Pretoria, 10th January, 1939.

LETTER MAILS BY AIR AND AIR MAILS.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

Country of Destination.	Letters per 1/2 oz.	Post Cards.	Parcels per 1/2 lb. or portion thereof.
LETTER MAILS BY AIR. Basutoland, Bechuanaland Pro- tectorate, Swaziland, the Union of South Africa and South West Africa.....	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Countries participating in the Empire Air Mail Scheme:—	0 1	0 1	0 9
Aden, Australasia, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Eire, Egypt, Great Britain, India, Kenya, Malay States, Mauritius, New- foundland, North Borneo, Northern Ireland, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Palestine, Seychelles, Southern Rhodesia, Straits Settlements, Sudan, Tanganyika, Transjordan, Uganda, Zanzibar.....	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	—
Angola, Belgian Congo, Mocam- bique.....	0 1 1/2	0 1 1/2	—

Country of Destination.	Letters per 1/2 oz.	Post Cards.	Parcels per 1/2 lb. or portion thereof.
AIR MAILS.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
AFRICA—			
Gold Coast, Nigeria, Gambia, Sierra Leone via Lagos...	0 6	0 3	—
Other Countries—			
East Coast.....	0 9	0 4 1/2	—
North and West Coast..	1 3	0 7 1/2	—
AMERICA—			
United States.....	1 0	0 8	—
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Paraguay, Uruguay..	4 0	2 0	—
All other Countries.....	1 6	0 9	—
EUROPE—			
Russia.....	1 0	0 6	—
All other Countries.....	1 6	0 9	—

(Printed by the Government Printer, Pretoria.)

The Empire Air Mail Scheme as announced in the
High Commissioner's Territories on 13 Jan. 1939.

Additional Postage Due Markings

by Jan Stolk





Recently I received information on several postage due markings from Werner Seeba and Johan Diesveld. Not only information on dates and usage, but several unlisted markings were found.







D1a and D5c are typical Natal markings of which we suspected they exist, other values could be found in the future, the same goes for C10.

KL5 and NE10 are typical Johannesburg markings and other not listed values may exist.

MA5 and LA5 are Cape Town markings used to tax redirected mail items for which the tax was a half penny.

In the next instalment, I will commence with the circular T markings.

Type	Size	Used At	Earliest date	Latest date
 D1a	D=25mm	Pietermaritzburg	Nov-09	10.11.1909
 D5c	D=25mm	Ladysmith Natal	2.1.1910	2.1.1910
 F10a	D=26mm	Jammersdrift Rail	24-Jul-38	24-Jul-38
 C10	H=25 B=21mm	Queenstown	06-Jul-38	06-Jul-38

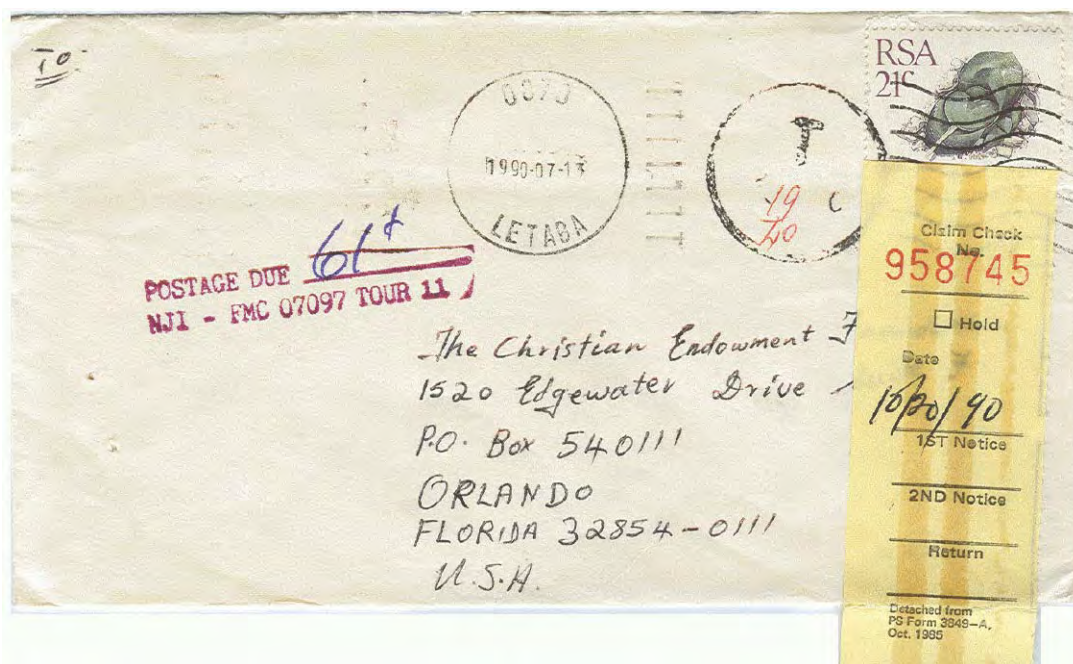
				
LA6	H=22 B=18mm	Cape Town	19-Sep-05	19-Sep-05
				
KL4	D=25mm	Johannesburg	13-Jun-01	13-Jun-01
				
KB15	D=28mm	Port Elizabeth	28-Sep-50	28-Sep-50
				
Ma5	H=39 B=20mm	Capetown	14-Jan-29	14-Jan-29
				
NE10	D=35mm	Johannesburg	29-Jan-81	29-Jan-81
				
PA6	D=28mm	Letaba	13-Jul-97	13-Jul-97

				
TA15	D=25mm	Naboomspruit	14-Jun-89	14-Jun-89

Further I received the very nice cover shown below from Bob Hisey. It was mailed from Letaba (Kruger Park) to USA and was franked with 21c which is the inland rate.

It received a circular T marking with an 'c' (unknown PA 6) and '19/40' was added in manuscript in this marking.

This manuscript marking is covered with a label. It received a USA postage due marking on arrival with '61 dollar cent' in manuscript. Further it received a label 'Detached from PS form 3849-A Oct.1985' with the text: 'Claim check no. 958745/Hold/Date/1st Notice/2nd Notice/Return.'



Kran(t)zpoort, Transvaal, 1911-1913

by Robin Pelteret

Presented is a double circle oval date stamp with KRANTZPOORT between the circles and the date - 6 MAR.A.12 - in the centre.

This appears on a pre-paid envelope of buff paper embossed with a 1d. carmine Orange River Colony stamp which is addressed to Mrs. A E W Ramsbottom¹ of Bloemfontein, backstamped Ermelo and Bloemfontein.

Krantzpoort Postal Agency, was opened 1 September 1911 on the farm "Kranspoort" (No. 264) in the district of Ermelo (29° 44' E, 26° 22' S)². For administrative purposes, it was linked to the post-office in Ermelo. The original spelling KRANZPOORT changed to KRANTZPOORT on 1 March 1913 when a telegraph office was opened there. On 1 November 1913, the agency was closed and its functions transferred to the agency at Krantzpoort Station³.



An indication of the rarity of this canceller is the comment in Putzel⁴ which is "no postmark has been seen".



Reduced to 65 % of original.

Notes:

¹ Ramsbottom, Alfred Ernest William, spouse Mary Isabel Ramsbottom (born Smith).

² Imperial Map of South Africa: Ermelo (No. 107) 1st Edition. Compiled by Field Intelligence Department, Cape Town, April 1900.

³ Putzel, R F. The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies. Vol 2 (F-M);246. Publ. Putzel, Tokai 1987.

⁴ Putzel, R F. The Postmarks of South Africa and the Former States & Colonies. Vol 5 (Ke-L) Publ. Putzel, Tokai 1996.

King George VI Coronation Issue

by Hans Ulrich Bantz

The reign of King George VI, King of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Emperor of India, ran from 1937 till 1952, e.g. parallel to the early life of most of us. Memories of the happenings during this period like the World War II, the separation of India into the independent states of India and Pakistan, the changes from the British Empire to the Commonwealth of Nations trigger perhaps for most of us some personal reminiscences. A stamp commemorating the coronation of King George VI can therefore form part of a personalized collection illustrating one's own life and times with the help of stamps and postmarks.

coronation issues. And, lo and behold, it set a record with eight values ranging from 1/2d to 1sh, being the largest coronation issue of all colonies, protectorates and mandated areas administered by Great Britain. Further, given that the stamps were bilingual with English and Afrikaans inscriptions they have to be collected in pairs, making it a total of 16 stamps forming a complete set. All other members of the British Empire had to do with three to four stamps.



Fig.1: 1939 Commercial registered cover Swakopmund to Germany. 2x11/2d for surface postage to a UPU country and 2x2d registration fee.

Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George, Duke of York was born on Dec. 14, 1895, and died Feb. 6, 1952. On April 26, 1923, he was married to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. The couple had two children: Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II) and the late Margaret. George, Duke of York, was officially proclaimed King on Dec. 12, 1936, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. He was crowned on May 12, 1937. The King and his family became important symbolic leaders of the British people during World War II. He earned respect for the scrupulous observance of his responsibilities as a constitutional monarch despite his handicap of a severe stammer and an innate shyness.

The coronation of King George VI on May 12, 1937, provided all British colonies and dominions with an opportunity to issue memorial stamps. South West Africa was no exception. Twentytwo years after the end of the German rule it was now regarded as a proper part of the British Empire and joined the profusion of

General Technical Information

Eight stamps issued on May 12, 1937, being the third issue for South West Africa after the 1931 Definitive Issue (see Forerunners Vol. XVII, No. 2 and No. 3) and the King George V Silver Jubilee issue (see Forerunners Vol. XVIII, No. 3).

Catalogue numbers: Scott 125/132; SG 97-104; Michel 182-196 (Michel assigns separate numbers to the English and to the Afrikaans stamps); South African Colour Catalogue (SACC) 124-131; Quik 198-205.

Design: Head of King George VI in black, for the different frames colors consult the catalogues.

Printer inscription: BRADBURY, WILKINSON & C^o L^D. MALDEN, SURREY, ENGLAND.

Printing method: Recess printing in two colors.

Watermark: Multiple Springbok Head, sideways, horns facing left.

Perforation: 13.5 x 14.

Sheet format: Printed in sheets of 120 (12 rows of 10 stamps each, horizontal inter-pane gutter between row 6 and 7).

Wording: Alternating: SUIDWES-AFRIKA/SOUTH WEST AFRICA. The stamp value is indicated by: POSSEEL/POSTAGE.

First day of issue: All catalogues consulted agree that the Coronation Day, May 12, 1937, a Wednesday, was the First Day of Issue.

Last day of sale: July 31, 1937.

Last day of postal validity: December 31, 1972.

Printing numbers and stamps sold: Quick (2005, page 97) lists printing numbers. Hoffmann – Giesecke (no year, page 57) and Gewande (1954, page 166) table the numbers of stamps sold.

	Sheets printed	Stamps printed	Stamps sold
1/2d	16701	2 004 120	1 928 580
1d	12853	1 542 360	1 542 420
1 1/2d	9347	1 121 640	1 121 700
2d	8534	1 024 080	1 024 140
3d	8187	982 440	982 420
4d	7828	939 360	939 390
6d	7500	900 000	900 000
1sh	7500	900 000	900 000

whereby airmail was conveyed by air to all corners of the British Empire at the flat rate of 1 1/2d came in operation on June 29, 1937, about six weeks after the crowning of King George VI. This explains the need for the higher value stamps. The individual single stamp was good for:

1/2d: inland postcard

1d: inland 1/2oz letter; airmail postcard

1 1/2d: inland 1/2oz airmail letter; 1/2oz surface letter or airmail postcard to British possessions, surface postcard to UPU countries.

2d: inland 1oz letter

3d: 1oz surface letter to UPU countries

4d: registration fee

6d: charge for special delivery

1sh: airmail rates, e.g. airmail to New York: 1sh for a letter and 6d for a postcard, to the rest of the USA, Cuba and the Bahamas: letter 1sh/3d, postcard 7 1/2d. For more information see Stokoe (2005).

Figure 1 shows an example of the Coronation stamps at the prevailing 1938 rates (3d for a 1oz letter to UPU countries and 4d registration fee) used on a cover mailed from Swakopmund on 11 JUL 39 to Hinterzarten/Germany (arrival backstamp 5. 8. 39). The cover missed the addressee and was sent on to Minden (arrival 9. 8. 39), three weeks before World War II started.



Fig. 2: Re-entry of a faint line between the left hand frame lines on stamp 3 in row 6, upper pane.

The numbers of stamps printed and stamps sold as reported by the three authors agree remarkably well, except for the 1/2d value of which about 75,000 stamps remained unsold. As the stamps are supposed to be collected in bi-lingual pairs a total of 450,000 complete sets are possible. Considering the number of potential South West African stamp collectors in 1937, it is obvious that most of the sold stamps went out of the country, forming part of the “King George VI Coronation Omnibus” collections.

Face values and postage rates at the time of issue

The 12th of May 1937 fell between April 1, 1935 and August 1, 1937 when the April 1, 1935 postage rates were readjusted. Of further significance is that the “Empire Air Mail Scheme”

What to look for?

This issue was extremely well printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Quik (page 97) reports a flaw on a 4d Afrikaans stamp: purple flaw on the two left hand frame lines above the value tablet. No other source reports on this flaw. However there is a constant variety on the 4d Afrikaans stamp row six, third stamp, namely a re-entry: impression of a faint line between the two left hand frame lines (Fig. 2).

What else could one collect to raise this issue to One-Frame exhibition standard?

- Stamps with a shift of the Head plate
- Pairs with top or bottom margin affixed

- c) Corner blocks
- d) Gutter pairs or blocks: eight vertical gutter pairs or four gutter blocks of four, two of them with the side margins attached (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4).
- e) Imprint pairs or blocks: one with the gutter strip (Fig. 5) and one with the bottom margins (Fig. 6).

This makes the King George VI Coronation issue a fairly straightforward collection which can be spiced up with privately made First Day Covers and commercial mail exemplifying the prevailing postal rates.



Fig. 3: Gutter block with left hand margin attached. Note: margin is perforated through, while gutter is not perforated.



Fig. 4: Gutter block with right hand margin attached. Note imperforated margin.



Fig. 5: Block with imprint gutter attached.



Fig. 6: Block with imprint bottom margin attached.

Selected Sources:

- Catalogues:* Scott, S. G., Michel and South African Colour Catalogue (SACC).
- Gewande, H. W. (1954): *Südwestafrika – Handbuch zur Geschichte eines Sonnenlandes.*
- Hoffmann-Giesecke, G. (no year): *Südwestafrika – Die Postwertzeichen und ihre Entstehung.*
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Why Do You Collect Rhodesia?

by Alan Hanks

Above is a question I have often been asked and a recent column in "Philately from Australia" has prompted this column. First, let me apologize to the writer, Sean Burke, for using his idea – but they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so I do not feel so bad. Mr. Burke is one of a growing number of Australians who have taken up the collection of the stamps and postal history of my favorite country.

First I should say that my introduction to Rhodesia was purely accidental. At a younger age, I had formed collections of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Switzerland, all of which went under the hammer in order to pursue HO Gauge model railroading, something I had never had the wherewithal to do as a boy in England. However, philately was never far from my mind and as an amateur entomologist with an interest in butterflies and other insects, I started accumulating insect stamps and the trains went the way of the first stamp collections. A trip to Philadelphia in 1976 with a bird stamp enthusiast led to my joining the American Topical Association and their Biology Unit, both holding meetings in conjunction with the International Show. A camping trip with the children in 1978 had a stop in Atlantic City where the annual ATA Convention was being held (coincidence!). At the Biology Unit meeting, I was inveigled into volunteering for the job of Treasurer, which was a lot of fun once the US members realized that their money was not going to lose anything up in that strange land to the north!

In 1979, the ATA Convention was in Spokane, Washington and I suggested to my wife that we should go. She said "Fly across the country to a stamp show! You must be mad!!" But she relented in time to book airline tickets and a hotel and we were on our way. It was a great show with very friendly people, both

from the city and from the ATA and we had a good time. On the Sunday afternoon, Barbara and I were walking around the dealers, with whom I had exhausted any "insect" wants when we came upon a table with the usual plastic cover, under which was a nice block of four of the 1965 Churchill stamp from Rhodesia, together with several of the embargoed issues of the Smith Government which I had never seen before. Barbara liked Churchill and I needed no excuse to get back into what some might term "serious" philately, so that was the start of another major collection.

It did not take long for me to find out that Double Heads and Admirals were not only very colorful, but also comprised of many dies and plates, many printings and lots of varieties! In the early visits to shows, there was a fair amount of material available but that state of affairs did not last long. At one of the shows in Toronto, I was looking at a 1/- Double Head that I knew was perf. 15 (but the dealer did not) when a voice over my shoulder said "do you have any Rhodesia Double Heads". I held up my find and said "you mean like this". It was the start of a long-lasting friendship with Stephen Reah-Johnson, a recognized expert on Double heads and Admirals. We have spent many pleasant hours over bottles of red wine looking at these fascinating stamps and doing plating. Obtaining stamps for the collection was becoming more difficult, so I started looking for covers. The addition of postal history items to the collection really interested me and I became aware that this was a huge subject, although Double Heads on cover were really scarce! However, over the years, a few interesting items have been added and some are shown below.

Figure 1 shows a rather nice "Mashonaland" stationery card of 1893, sent from Bulawayo to London in 1900 with two strikes of the Bulawayo Rhodesia double circle. It came in a lot from an

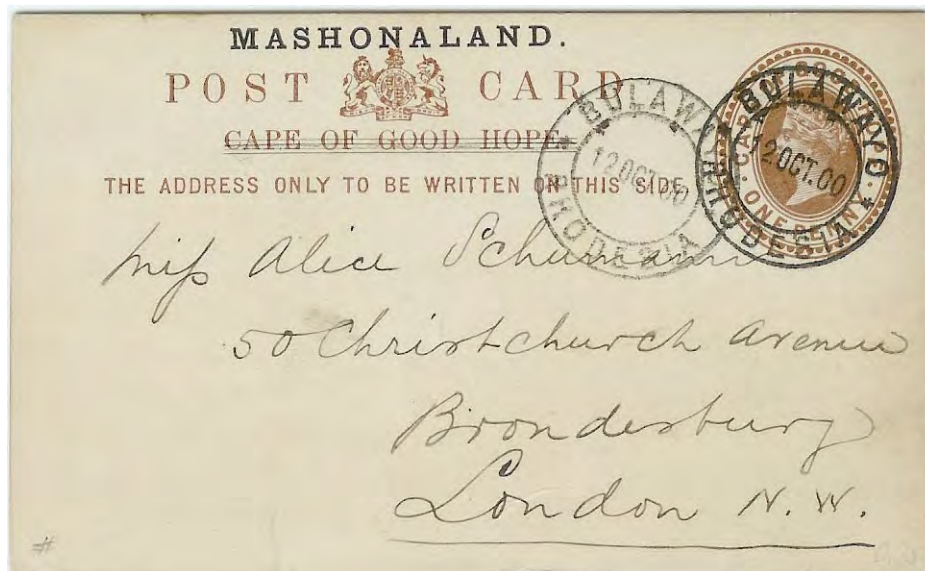


Figure 1



Figure 2.

auction in the U.K. and was quite reasonable in price.

Figure 2 shows another stationery item, an 1893 “Mashonaland” reply card sent from Victoria to Johannesburg in 1894 uprated with a 1/2d stamp and with Victoria single circle and barred diamond ‘E’ cancels – a nice proving item.

Figure 3 shows a registered cover from Salisbury to Mafeking in 1894 with an 8d stamp paying the 4d postage plus the 4d registration fee. Presumably no registration labels were as yet available, as the “Registered” notation and number are written

in blue crayon. The use of this particular stamp is interesting as the majority of the printings ended up as remainders and it is uncommon genuinely used

Figure 4 shows another registered cover with no label, sent from Salisbury to the U.K. in 1901 with 2d and 6d values of the “small arms” issue and three examples of the “Salisbury” single circle telegraph office cancel. This is the only example known of this cancel on cover and was found at a show in Toronto and obtained for a very reasonable price.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Amy Mollison, 1903-1941

by Hans Ulrich Bantz

Jan. 4, 2006 was the 65th anniversary of the death of one of the most remarkable women in British aviation, Amy Johnson, born on July 1, 1903, in Kingston-upon-Hull. Her father was a fish merchant. At the age of 14 Amy was hit in the mouth with a cricket ball, which resulted in the loss of several front teeth. Though she was fitted with dentures, indistinguishable from her real teeth, she considered herself permanently disfigured, which explains perhaps her depression, moodiness and over-sensitivity in later life.

Unusually for a young woman of the time, Amy Johnson attended the University of Sheffield and graduated with a BA in Economics. However, she found that that employment for a woman in a responsible post was almost impossible to attain. Lacking fulfillment at work, Amy pursued own interests. She spent most of her spare time at the London Aeroplane Club where she worked as a mechanical engineer and took flying lessons. She was the first woman in Britain to be granted the Air Ministry's ground engineers licenses and the commercial and private pilot licenses during 1928. This boosted her self-confidence. She also qualified as a navigator, no mean feat for a woman in those days.

With the success in her aviation studies came ambition: She realized aviation was a field where she could compete with men on an equal footing. 1930 began her record breaking years:

1930 - May 5: Solo flight to Australia, crash landing at Brisbane airport.

1931 - July: Siberia to Tokyo in 10 days, breaking the record for both the outward and return flight.

1932- July 19: she married Jim Mollison, who had flown her back from Sydney. Jim was also a long distance pilot who shared in Amy's drive and ambition. Jim had lowered the London – Cape Town record held by Peggy Salomon and Gordon Store to 4 days 17 hours and 30 minutes in early March 1932.

1932 - Nov. 14: flying via the West Coast route Amy lowered her husband's London-Cape Town record to 4 days 6 hours 54 minutes. The return flight to Croydon was also a new record: 7 days 7 hours 5 minutes.

1933 - June: a joint attempt with Jim to fly non-stop from England to New York.



Fig 1: Amy Mollison (1903-1941). From www.raf.mod.uk/history/amyjohnson.html.

1934 - Oct.: record flight with Jim to Karachi.

1936 - May 3: Amy set a new record for the London-Cape Town route and back, flying solo in a Percival Gull Mono Plane along the African West Coast in 3 days 6 hours 26 minutes and returned in 4 days 16 hours 17 minutes. About ten covers were carried on the round trip as personal souvenirs. Three covers were conveyed from Windhoek to Cape Town, one of them is in my collection and is shown here.

Where are the other two? Do they still exist?

Amelia Earhart's disappearance in 1937 during her attempt to fly around the world, the breakdown of Amy's marriage to Jim in 1939, depressions and financial difficulties caused her to doubt her own abilities.

The outbreak of WWII presented many new opportunities for women in aviation, up to then still a male dominated preserve. One of these openings was the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), an organization for ferrying aircraft from the factories to airfields for testing and maintenance. Amy joined ATA on May 20, 1940. Her experience on a variety of aircraft and her long distance navigation skills were an advantage and she was hired on a salary

of six pounds a week. Moodiness and depression still prevailed at this time.

On Jan 4, 1941 she had to fly an Airspeed Oxford MK II from Blackpool to Kidlington. She attempted the flight despite appalling weather conditions. She must have lost her way in the clouds and parachuted sometime between 15.00 and 15.37. Seamen of the HMS Haslemere saw her descending from the low clouds and falling into the water of the Thames. The Captain Walter Fletcher dived in the freezing Thames, trying to rescue her. But her body disappeared underneath the stern of the ship and was never recovered. Fletcher died shortly afterwards of hypothermia.

Sources:

Burrell, J. T. (1986): Par Avion in Southern Africa. – Page 111.

Internet: Search under Amy Mollison.

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Fig 2: One of the three covers carried by Amy Mollison on the Windhoek to Cape Town leg of her 1936 record breaking flight from England to Cape Town. This specific cover is a 1d postal stationery envelope (Quik & Stolk number E8B, overprint on top) upgraded with a 1931 1/2d definitive stamp (SCOTT No. 108b) to 11/2d, the airmail rate applicable to a 1/2 ounce letter in 1936 Imprinted and additional stamp were both cancelled with the small steel airmail canceller (Putzel No. B46). The airmail label is Wyndham Type 3b in purple blue.

The Editor's Most Urgent Wantlist

It is a constant struggle to fill the pages of Forerunners. The problem is not so much feature articles and the regular columns. The problem is more the smaller items related to news from the collecting community, stamps issues, significant auctions, books and books reviews, major articles in other journals, and development in the postal services covering southern Africa. Also needed are reports of changes of addresses and

email, requests for help with research projects, requests for the free membership adds, and simple or complex questions for our expert panel. In fact it is a long time since the editor has received a letter or email that was not solicited. Even correspondences with complaints and corrections to an article are rare occurrences. It cannot be that everything written and shown in Forerunners is perfect and that nobody has better and unknown covers and new information. Please let the letter and emails come. Forerunners is for you - the reader.

The Synopsis Page and Why You Should Do One

by Tim Bartshe

One cannot be an exhibitor today and not stumble over the request from show committees for a title page AND a synopsis. What is this synopsis, why is it important and what good does it do for you? These are the questions asked of me by our esteemed editor. In the spirit of the request and as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, I would like to discuss the synopsis page not from the standpoint of “how to” but more from the stand point of “why”.

The title page is the first impression by any viewer of the exhibit; it sets up interest and informs and is the single most important window of opportunity to capture the viewer’s attention. Conversely, the synopsis is expressly for the eyes of the jury only giving you the singular opportunity to educate the jury to particular aspects of your material and the chance to “shine”. In effect, you can grab the jury members by their collective “lapels”, look them in the eye and tell them why they will WANT to view your material.

While the title page should address the where, what, why, when and how of your exhibit and must do it quickly, the synopsis is meant to inform the jury of specific issues, cover ALL important bases, answer unasked questions and be brief so as not to lose the reader. It’s your chance to talk to them on a one-to-one basis that is not possible in any other way. As I like to tell seminar attendees, “never allow a judge to have an unanswered question as you will not like the answer he comes up with.”

The synopsis page is similar to but NOT a repeat of the title page. Many exhibitors make the mistake of duplicating word for word which is a waste of everyone’s time not to mention the trees cut down for the pulp! This is the place where you can explain in detail the significance of what is presented. You can defend the boundaries you have defined for your exhibit. You can detail what is NOT presented and why and what is missing and why. When defending the scope of the exhibit you can exclude aspects related to your subject if there are logical philatelic reasons behind it, but they must be defensible. If there are things missing because they are in the Queen’s collection or have not come on the market in 20 years, say so. This is your opportunity and there is not space available on the title page to do so. You can be honest in the synopsis, but don’t paint a target on your exhibit

The synopsis page is the place for explanations of treatment, the “how” and “why”; the two most important questions that will get you more points than the “what, when and where” which are the easy questions answered from catalogs. Why was your treatment chosen and how is the story developed? How are the rarities shown and how is your personal study displayed? Even though this should be on the title page, you should reiterate and expand on it here. Explain why the material displayed was chosen (philatelic knowledge) and your personal study. How important is the original research to the philately of the subject?

The synopsis is truly the place to discuss challenge factors

associated with your subject such as condition and organizational, creativity and research difficulties. This is the prime place to BRAG! What is the difficulty of acquisition for your material? This is not to say how much did you pay for it, but how easily is it to duplicate. Is this a lifetime achievement, say 25 years in the making? These are the things that will be factored into the equation for the jury to evaluate the rarity of your subject. Just because something costs \$165,000 like a C3a doesn’t mean it is rare or difficult to acquire. The most inexpensive item in your exhibit may have taken you 10 or 20 years to find in a dealer box. Many of us have similar tales of looking for something that is cataloged at \$10 and not being able to find it. Talk about what the jury will EXPECT to see so they know you have it and at the same time talk about the stuff they may not know about but may be more important to the story development than the former.

This is also the place to help the judges help you. This is an almost universal yet unstated truth about judges: they are doing this loss-leader exercise to help the exhibitor improve his medal level as well as enable the viewer to gain a better understanding of your subject. If you don’t help the judges research your subject, you are only hurting your chances of them helping you. Give a brief but most important listing of sources to study up on your area. Give a true bibliographic list with publication, volume, number and pages and if a book list the publisher, author, year of publication and the relevant pages. The jury need not become experts in the field, but they need to have a basic feel for the particular aspects in the story you are trying to unfold. If you are the source of significant research on the subject, for heavens sake, tell them about it.

In summary, exhibiting is not a game or a battle between good (exhibitors) and evil (judges). I can say this having hats that fit both “sides” of the equation. The judges are there not to punish but to help and the synopsis page(s) are a major part of your arsenal that will allow you to improve your exhibit. This is a hobby and it is supposed to be fun, so go that little extra distance and prepare a synopsis. For anyone interested, I have a power point presentation on the subject and numerous examples that I would be more than happy to send off to any interested parties. Shoot me an e-mail and it will be in the ether as soon as possible.

The following three pages contains a matching set of title and synopsis pages for my exhibit of ‘Orange Free State. Republic Postage Issues, 1868-1900.’ They may serve as an example of how one exhibitor has chosen to do it. The past record of my exhibit suggest that I must have done something right. My last award was at Washington 2006 where the a 5 frame version of the exhibit received a gold with felicitations of the jury. It got 94 points out of 100. If there is an interest, I will next time discuss how to construct title and synopsis pages.

ORANGE FREE STATE

REPUBLICAN POSTAGE ISSUES, 1868-1900

PURPOSE

Purpose of this exhibit is to detail the production history of the definitive issues, their numerous printings and usages as well as chronicle the numerous provisional issues made necessary due to shortages and rate changes. Postal rates are dealt with in great detail because these were the driving forces to the new values and their accompanying provisional issues.

BACKGROUND

British relinquished control of the Orange River Sovereignty through the Bloemfontein Convention of 23 February 1854. The Oranje Vrij Staat was reborn with an intact banking and governmental system that was to endure for the next 46 years. By 1868, the need for postal issues were met by a de la Rue-produced design. This design was unchanged for the ensuing 32 years leading up to the Boer War. Being very frugal in their stamp production habits and their insistence that the postal department not make money, led to the reduction of postal rates and frequent need for provisional postal issues creating a wealth of philately to explore.

EXHIBIT PLAN

This exhibit deals with the definitive issues, the provisional issues and their usages beginning in 1868 through 1900. Archival material, much of it unique, is shown along with examples of all the printings of postage stamps. *Most significant items are double-matted brown on red.* Personal research and discoveries are denoted by (❖). The order of the treatment is as follows:

- ❖ Original values of 1868
- ❖ Provisional 4 on 6d 1877
- ❖ New values of 1877
- ❖ Provisional issues of 1d on 5/ and 1/2d on 5/, 1881-2
 - ❖ Provisional issue 3d on 4d 1882
 - ❖ New values of 1882-3
- ❖ Provisional issues caused by various value shortages, 1888-96
 - ❖ New colors of 1894-6
 - ❖ Boer War uses and Epilog

PRE-STAMP PROTOCOL



1/5d 1/2 oz letter rate Cape Colony to Europe, 6d internal rate. Bloemfontein late Sep 66 where red manuscript 6 applied paying internal rate, Cape stamps probably applied there. Cape Town 8 Oct via London 24 Nov arriving Berlin 50 days later. 1/4 manuscript rate from Cape to Europe with 1d possibly ship captain's fee. Bernhard Otto Kellner, sender, writing to his mother F(rederika) H(enriette), was a registered doctor in Bloemfontein.

SYNOPSIS

ORANGE FREE STATE REPUBLICAN POSTAGE ISSUES, 1868-1900

PURPOSE OF EXHIBIT:

- To show the postage stamps first issued by the Orange Free State in 1868 through the fall of the Republic to British forces in March 1900 and a few months beyond. Due to shortages, postal rate changes and general frugality, provisionals were locally printed beginning in 1877 continuing until 1896. This exhibit will delve in great detail into these issues from essay through production along with an analysis of the eight separate provisional values.

- Because the issued values and subsequent provisional issues were a direct response to the rate decreases of the ever-efficient postal system, postal rates are thoroughly discussed and displayed. Where germane to the discussion routing and other information is included for the general interest of the viewer.

CHALLENGE FACTOR:

- Much of the material from the early Orange Free State was issued in small (and unknown) numbers with structure of many of the early provisional settings still a mystery. Errors of printing for these early provisionals are world-class rarities, many known by only a few examples. Much material only comes on the market every few decades.

- Most correspondence during this time period was commercial within South Africa as well as the main European countries of England, Germany and Netherlands. Much of what might be construed as philatelically inspired material is in fact simply utilizing what was available from smaller post offices. Covers of the provisional issues are of extreme scarcity with only a few recorded of the earlier issues.

- This exhibit represents one of the finest groupings of this material in existence today. Much of what is seen herein has not been exhibited for decades, if ever. This also represents the culmination of over 20 years of personal research and corroborative work with fellow collectors.

WHAT IS PRESENTED:

- Traditional exhibit of stamps with usage and detailed rate information where appropriate. The unique hand-drawn and -painted essays of original design, die proofs of all values (approx. 25% of all recorded examples), color trials, specimens and printer's reference sheets are shown to enhance the production portion of treatment.

- Panes, blocks and individual items were selected to best display the settings of the provisional issues as well as show variety location and size of printing forme. Some material in this exhibit represents discovery items. Original research is so noted by a (❖).

ORGANIZATION:

- Chronological sequence of the de la Rue printed and provisional issues:
 - (1) Original values of 1868 and subsequent printings in original colors
 - (2) 4 on 6d provisional of 1877
 - (3) New values of 1877 and subsequent printings
 - (4) 1d on 5/- provisional of 1881
 - (5) ½d on 5/- provisional of 1882
 - (6) 3d on 4d provisional of 1882
 - (7) New values of 1883 and subsequent printings
 - (8) 2d on 3d provisional of 1888
 - (9) 1d on 4d/3d provisional of 1890-92
 - (10)(10) 2½d on 3d provisional of 1892
 - (11) New color 1d of 1894 and subsequent printings
 - (12) ½d and Halve/Penny on 3d provisional of 1896
 - (13) 2½ on 3d provisional of 1897
 - (14) New colors of ½d, 6d and 1/- and subsequent printings

MATERIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique hand-drawn and hand-colored essays of 1865
- Die proofs of all values printed including previously unrecorded restrike of 3d value
- Only recorded double printing of 1d brown, 8th printing
- Earliest recorded usage of 6d on 1868 cover
- Registered covers utilizing 1/- rate from 1872 (2 examples)
- Only recorded mint double printing of 1/- and a used example (one of 7 or 8 recorded)
- 4 on 6d (Type A) cover to Natal (1 of 3 recorded)
- 4 on 6d (Type A) cover to Germany (1 of 4 recorded overseas usages)

- Earliest known usage of 4 on 6d provisional
- 4 on 6d double surcharge, one inverted, Type A on C and C on A (2 of 6 in private hands)
- Discovery cover showing 11½d ½ oz letter rate to Europe
- Discovery copy 1d on 5/- surcharge double, 1st setting
- 1d on 5/- surcharge inverted (3 examples), surcharge double (3 examples)
- Discovery copy ½d on 5/- surcharge triple
- Only recorded usage of ½d on 5/ on cover
- 3d on 4d surcharge double (3 examples)
- One of 2 examples of 3d on 4d usage paying 6d rate to England plus domestic usage
- One of 3 examples of 3d blue used during 3d domesticating rate period
- 1d on 4d surcharge triple (2 examples)
- Only recorded example of ½d on 3d trial essay used
- ½d on 3d surcharge quadruple (1 of 2 recorded)
- HALVE/PEUNY on 3d error, surcharge inverted (1 of 2 recorded)

INFORMATION SOURCES

Outside of the publications of the Orange Free State Study Circle, very little has been published on this subject. The most important reference now available is that by Hisey and Bartshe which is the most up-to-date and definitive work on the subject:

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Southern Rhodesian Postal Orders

by Peter Thy

When I first started showing an interest in postal orders, a friend and expert collector advised me that postal orders were extremely rare and that their condition was often well below the standard often assumed for postal history material. In fact, I was advised that quality was not a great consideration for a postal order collector. Often one have to ignore obvious faults. This is illustrated by the two British postal orders overprinted and surcharged for Southern Rhodesia shown below. They were offered on eBay and sold for a total of \$325. The 2/6d order is in fair condition despite some surface soiling and creasing. The 3/6d order is in very poor condition with a large corner and the issuing postmark missing. The 6d order below looks like it has been crumpled and has spent part of its life in a waste basket. Despite shortcomings they are all extremely rare and pearls in any postal history collection.



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	55/111		54/52	Sanford, K.	53/8		54/83
	55/135		54/85		55/132		55/92
	53/5		55/133	Scott Catalogue	54/83		55/93
Chicagopex 2005	54/51	Machadodorp	55/134	short story	55/94	web links	53/2
cigarette tax	55/109	Mafeking	55/99	show reports	53/3	website	55/106
civil censorship	53/11	marketing	53/4		54/51	wermeil	53/3
Computers	54/83	Mashonaland	55/123		55/91	WW2	53/12
Coronation Issue	55/120		55/98	silver	54/51		53/18
Cotter-Cairns, A.	53/4	meeting	54/51	smiling copra	55/133		54/60
	53/6	Miller, C.	53/11	society affairs	55/90		55/107
	54/58		53/12	society flyer	53/3	Zimbabwe	54/83
	55/94		54/60	society meeting	54/51		

Forerunners Forum

Undercover Mail

The following email discussion/clarification between Ken Sanford and Chris Miller resulted from an article in Forerunners #54.

Ken Sanford:

The cover shown on page 60 is from Durban to New York, so my question is why would it have gone via an enemy country? The logical routing for this cover would have been by ship to London and then on to New York. As far as I know, England was not at war with South Africa.

Chris Miller:

If so it was likely to have been a carrier envelope with the envelope addressed to occupied territory enclosed. As long as USA remained neutral they allowed this practice. It was encouraged for most parts of the British Commonwealth to use the Thomas Cook organisation or the Red Cross, but never private individuals except those who were recognised 'official' undercover addresses.

The undercover route in this case involved the use of two envelopes, one of which was correctly stamped and addressed to the intermediary which enclosed the other addressed directly to an address to which mail could not be sent from the originating country. In some cases the intermediary required means of payment of the ongoing postage to be enclosed but in many cases I imagine that it was done within families. The intermediary fixed the correct postage from his country and reposted only the enclosed envelope to the 'forbidden' country. Forbidden in this case from South Africa but not from the USA, when it was still neutral.

Thomas Cook mail is quite highly prized in this country although it was the legitimate route in most cases.

Ken Sanford:

The other cover wasn't shown—only the one to New York, so that is why I questioned this. Why did you not show the other cover. It should be shown with a follow-up explanation.

Chris Miller:

I do not have the other cover. I have never seen and don't know of any existing clearly matched set of covers.

Putzel-Visser Postmark Addendum

Alex Visser has just distributed about 200 pages of additions to the Putzel-Visser postmark books for the latter A to F. These are only available in electronic form in pdf format. The files can be printed on paper for personal usage (A4 size). The amount of material just distributed is equivalent to an additional volume to the already 10 volume large work. The electronic distribution offer is available to all owners of the original books. Contact Alex Visser to get on the distribution list for the next electronic update. Alex can be reached by writing to alex.visser@up.ac.za.

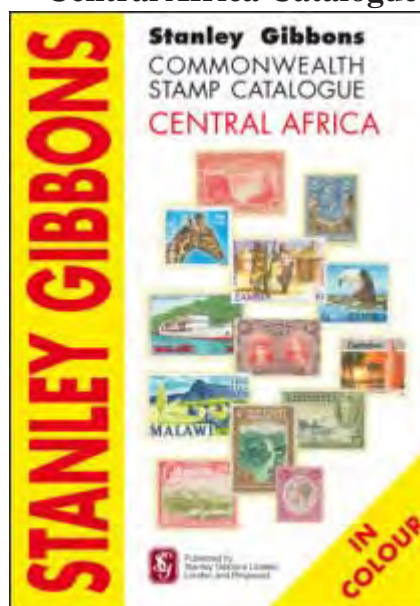
You are Invited to Join The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society



His Majesty's 'Runner Post' passing through the Chobe

Membership fees are £10 (UK, Europe), £12 or R150 (RSA, Southern Africa), £12 or P125 (Botswana), £12 or US\$23 (USA and rest of the world). Contact Membership Secretary Neville Midwood, 69 Porlock Lane, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK, runnerpost@nevsoft.com, for payment options. Or contact one of the international representatives. Botswana: John Schaefer, Private Bag BR 354, Broadhurst, Gaborone, Botswana, jsi@info.bw. South Africa: Alan MacGregor, P.O. Box 515, Simon's Town, 7995, RSA, alan@rhodesia.co.za. USA: Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, Ca 95617-3112, USA, thy@kronestamps.dk.

Central Africa Catalogue



Stanley Gibbons has released in 2005 an additional volume of their country/area catalogues. The Central Africa catalogue covers the stamps of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. New varieties have been added and the listings fully updated from the discontinued Part 1 of the British Commonwealth catalogue. The prices are fully updated and carefully revised in line with the current market. The list price is £14.95 with what appears to be excessive mailing charges of £12. Gibbons also sells the catalogue on eBay at the same prices.

Overhaul of the South African Post Office

A story in the April 11 *Business Day* (Johannesburg, South Africa) bylined by Khulu Phasiwe reports that the South African Post Office will undergo a major overhaul during the next five years.

South African Post Office CEO Khutso Mampeule is quoted as saying that his agency was a “hopelessly loss-making organization” and that it would have to struggle to remain relevant in the age of electronic communication.

As it is, South Africa has a very low level of mail volume per capita compared with other developing countries.

The South African Post Office has lost revenue at an alarming rate, not only because of the growth of electronic communications but also through the loss of business to private competitor PostNet and to a number of private courier companies.

The private delivery services have made inroads into the post office’s business because of the post office’s record of poor security and inefficient delivery.

In an effort to restore customer confidence, since 2005 the Post Office has sought criminal prosecution of 863 cases against postal employees and has fired 281 employees for tampering with the mail.

Mampeule’s plan is to embrace the new technology rather than to resist it.

According to Mampeule, a business center will be established at all local post offices. The business center will provide Internet access, telephones, printers, photocopiers, binders and fax machines.

Larger post office business centers also will have automatic-teller machines for withdrawing cash and paying bills.

Postal employees are being retrained to provide more efficient and reliable customer service.

The post office also plans to partner with the government to provide vehicle registration, driver’s license renewals, payment of traffic fines, receipt of social security payments, and distribution of passports, work permits, birth and death certificates and prescription medicines.

The post office also hopes to begin distributing textbooks, exam papers and teachers’ pay slips in rural areas.

The post office already handles renewal of television licenses and payment of utility bills. (From Linn’s Stampo News., May 1, 2006 LINN’S STAMP NEWS MAY 1, 2006 (p. 16).)

Cape and Natal Study Circle

The Natal & Zululand Study Circle was established on 21st October 1996 at a meeting on the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society, London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. The society was formed to encourage the study of the postal history, postage stamps, revenue stamps and postal stationery of Natal and Zululand during the colonial period and the inter-provincial period which followed.

In January 2006 a referendum of members decided that in future the society should be known as the Cape & Natal Study Circle and this is now the case. The objects of the society have

been extended to cover the Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand West, British Kaffraria and the Transkeian territories in addition to Natal and Zululand. From 2007 the journal will be published under the title of Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal.

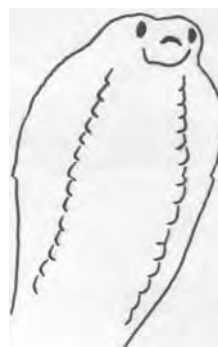
The strength of the study circle has always been in the publication of detailed research papers: the Natal and Zululand Post has included several in depth articles on the 19th century sea posts of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal and naturally these articles will continue. Articles on other aspects of Cape Philately will likely be stimulated by this restructuring.

The printing history of Natal and Zululand stamps, both postage and revenue, Perkins Bacon and De La Rue, has been the subject of several original papers in the Natal & Zululand Post and it is anticipated that similar studies will now address the classic stamps of the Cape Colony.

The focus of the Zulu wars will also continue and this will now be balanced by an interest in the wars and skirmishes on the Cape frontier.

Persons interested in any of these subjects are encouraged to contact the Hon. Secretary for information on membership. John Dickson at: Lismore House, Shepton Beauchamp, ILMINSTER, Somerset TA19 0LJ, United Kingdom; johndickson@nzsc.demon.co.uk. Alternatively, contact the local representatives, Roger Porter South Africa, 12 Foreest Lane, 3245 Hilton, South Africa or Guy Dillaway, P.O. Box 181, Weston, MA 02493, USA.

Membership of the Society is on a calendar year basis. The current membership subscription for UK members paying in Sterling is £10. For persons residing outside the UK but paying in Sterling the rate is £12.50 by sea or £17.50 by air. Persons paying in Sterling should remit to the Hon. Secretary, but South African and U.S. members have the option of making payment in local currency to their local representative. South African subscribers paying R135, will receive the journal by sea; R180 if by air. North American subscribers may pay US\$21 by sea; US\$28 if by air. European members may pay in Sterling or Euro notes at the rate of £12.50 or E17.50 p.a. Members may pay two years subscription at one time.



This smiling cobra was rejected by Botswana Post as the first day canceller for the 2002 snake issue. Peter Lodoen made the drawing.

Society Auction Manager

Since our previous auction manager retired after having managed our society auctions for many years, we have been unable to locate a replacement. A society auction is clearly one of the most important benefits of being a member of a specialist society like PSGSA. The lack of an auction may therefore hurt us in the long run. Traditionally society auctions are done using printed lists that are distributed to members as part of a newsletter or separately. Several specialist societies similar to ours are able to maintain auctions at regular or intermittent intervals. Most of these are done purely using printed auction lists. However, times have changed and emails and web pages have become common and should be considered. If anybody is in for the fun - there is a challenging society board position available. Contact any board member or the editor if you feel the urge and excitement.

Machadodorp Card at Kaapmuiden

by Joh Groenewald

The only example of the Machadodorp 1d Briefkaart known to be used at Kaapmuiden was sold in the first Kenneth Griffith sale, as part of a lot of 10 cards described as cancelled to order (lot 221, Argyll Etkin Ltd sale on 6 March 2003).

Kaapmuiden, the Delagoa Bay railway line's junction for the branch line to Barberton, has not been previously recorded as a place of postmarking for Machadodorp cards.

I appeal for information about the date of the Kaapmuiden postmark on the card. The address is johgroen@mweb.co.za or PO Box 4430, Pretoria 0001; alternatively the information may be forwarded to me via the Editor, anonymously if so required.

The new Machadodorp study has recorded 10 places of postmarking, some with up to 11 different dates (Barberton). Kaapmuiden becomes the 11th postal office, obviously then with one rare card having one date only.

South Africa 1d Ship

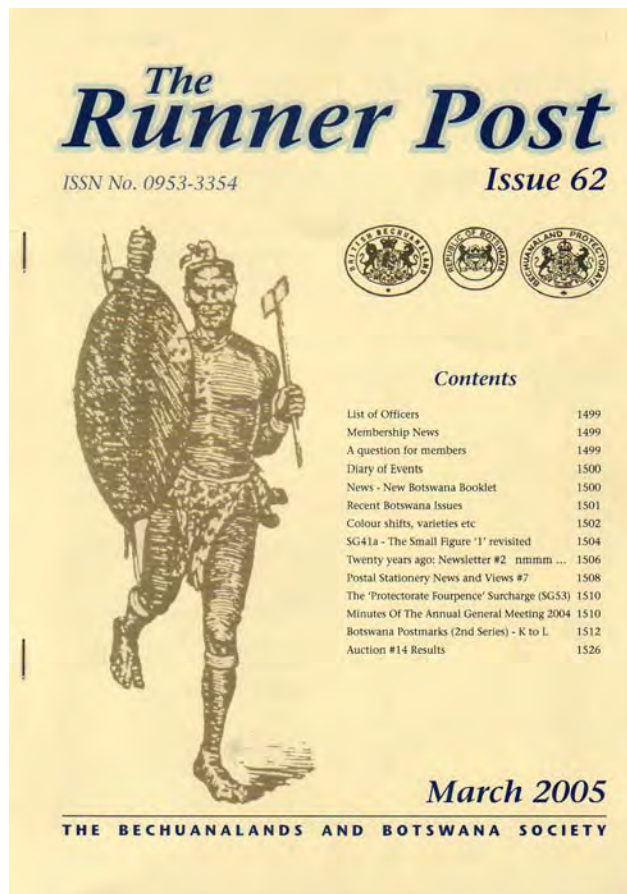
I would like to make contact with members who collect the London and Pretoria 1d Ship Lithos as well as the 1d Ship unhypos. I am looking for both mint and used on cover. I also have some nice pieces of this group to exchange or sell. Dennis Wolmarans, futronics@pixie.co.za

Publish Your Research in Forerunners

Our Journal is in constant need for articles. If you specialize in southern Africa, please consider writing down your observations and findings for these pages. The editor and his Speciality Editors will be happy to assist if required. We particularly need modern philately and postal history, thematic, aerophilately, cinderella, TB stamps, telegraph and rail philately and history, rate and route studies, and military postal history. Your interests are the limits. If you are a regular reader of Forerunners you will know that certain areas are well covered. Other areas are poorly covered. These include the Rhodesias, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Union and Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Basutoland, Malawi, among others.

A typical article for the Forerunners contains text, illustrations, tables, reference or literature list, acknowledgement if relevant, and captions for illustrations and tables. The editor prefers the main text as a word document. Illustrations should be scanned at 150 dpi (covers) or 300 dpi (stamps) and saved as jpg or tif files. References, illustrations, and tables should be called for in the text. All illustrations should be clearly identified both in the text and by file names. This will greatly help the editor.

Bechuanalands and Botswana Society



The Runner Post is the official journal of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society. The society just celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a total of 65 issues of the Runner Post and nearly 1600 pages loaded with specialist information on the postal history and philately of this fascinating area of southern Africa. The society has also just published a comprehensive index to the Runner Post and is working on a CD with the complete run of the Runner Post. The latest issue of the Runner Post includes articles on newspaper wrapper essays, overprint errors on 1890 stamps, listings of postal stationery in public archives, proofs for unappropriated die issues, and a continuation of the listings of postmarks. This is a society and a journal that cannot be ignored by the collector of the Bechuanalands. Contact the membership secretary Neville Midwood, 69 Porlock Lane, Futzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 1JY, UK, runnerpost@nevsoft.com. Or contact the South African representative Alan MacGregor, alan@rhodesia.co.za or US representative Peter Thy, thy@kronestamps.dk.

WW2 Civil Censorship

PSGSA member Chris Miller and the Civil Censorship Study Group have just published a new volume in their series on World War II Civil Censorship Devices of the British Empire. The volume is Section 6 which covers 'the Americas.' This is British Colonies in North and South America and Canada and Newfoundland. It is a profusely illustrated A4 book of some 320 pages, spiral bound and costs £33 plus £5 towards postage. It is obtainable from Chris Miller at 161 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7JR, UK. We are told that the Southern Africa volume is in preparation.

New Books

- Peetoom, Otto, 2005. Northern Rhodesia. The Mkushi Postage Dues and the Renamed Old Mkushi Post Office. Ormskirk Stamps. Contact Otto Peetoom for details at Ormskirk Stamps, Rectory Road, Roos, Nr. Hul, E. Yorks, HU12 LD, UK.
- Stokoe, Bryan, 2005. Air Mail Rates of South Africa 1925-1939. Compiled from South African Post Office Leaflets etc. South African Collector's Society.
- Drysdall, Alan, Lane, Ian, and Cheston, Jean, 2006. The King George VI Postage and Revenue Stamps of Northern Rhodesia. Memoir 7, Rhodesian Study Circle. Available from Jean Cheston, 24 Gomshall Road Cheam, Surrey SM2 7JZ, UK. (UK L12, surface world wide L14).
- Drysdall, Alan, 2006. The Early Postal History of Central Africa. Two Important Correspondences. Memoir 6, Rhodesian Study Circle. Available from Jean Cheston, 24 Gomshall Road Cheam, Surrey SM2 7JZ, UK. (UK L14, surface world wide L15).
- Johnson, Stephen Reah and Temple, Charles. Plate Flaws of the Two Half Penny of the British South Africa Company 1910 King and Queen Issue. Published by the authors. Available from Stephen Reah Johnson, P.O. Box 426, Lithopolis, Ohio 43236, USA.
- Stanley Gibbons, 2005. Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, Central Africa. Details at www.stanleygibbons.com.

Society Publications

- Hisey and Bartshe, 2003. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1, The Postage Stamps. Hardbound, 280 pages in full color, \$35 plus \$5 s/h in the US, plus \$10 elsewhere by air.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2004. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 2, The Telegraphs. Hardbound, 250 pages in full color, \$35 plus \$5 s/h in the US, plus \$10 elsewhere by air.
- Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 50 (CD-ROM). \$25 plus \$5 s/h.
- Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope PSGSA Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.
- Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. \$25 full color print, \$10 on CD-ROM. Postage paid.
- Hisey, B. (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.
- To order contact Bob Hisey at the addresses given on page 1.

The Market Place

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

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

Mafeking covers. Want to purchase or trade for covers to/from, or through Mafeking, 1885 to present. Send photocopies, prices or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net.

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

Bechuanaland and Botswana postal stationery. Used, stamped and unstamped, stationery from any territory and any period are needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

Postmarks. Specialist collector seeks trading partners and unsorted low value duplicates in quantity. I collect pre-Union to 1935. Anything later is available to swap with you. Please contact before sending material. Ashley Cotter-Cairns, P.O. Box 603, Hudson, QC, JOP 1HO, Canada, or acottercairns@hotmail.com.

Join the American Philatelic Society. Membership applications and benefits information: APS, 100 Match Factory Place, College, PA 16803, USA.

Madagascar postal stationery. Used and unused, stamped and unstamped, stationery from the greater Madagascar area. Any period and type are needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

Send request for your free non-dealer membership ad to the Editor. Only one ad per issue per member. Ads will run for 3 issues unless specified otherwise. Limits of 40 words plus name and postal and email addresses.

Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

Premium positions (full covers only):

- 1/1 page inside front cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.
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- 1/1 page outside back cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.
- Front cover sponsorship banner \$70 single issue, annual \$180.

Non-premium position:

- 1/3 page: single issue \$20, annual \$60, two years \$100.
- 1/1 page: single issue \$40, annual \$95, two years \$170.

All advertizers who reserve space for one year or longer will receive full membership to the PSGSA. Contact the Society Marketing and Advertizing Director for any special requirements and for booking your premium spaces. All payment should be addressed to the Treasurer. The Editor will assist with ad designs.

Publications of the PSGSA

REJECTED-ACCEPTED: LIFE OF A BOTSWANA STAMP DESIGNER

by P. Lodoen

Price \$25 in color print, \$10 CD-ROM, postage paid.
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Philately of the Orange Free State Vol. 2 THE TELEGRAPHS

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or Paypal (to bobhisey@comcast.net).

Mail to R.W. Hisey, 7227 Sparta Rd, Sebring, FL 33875, USA



Full unperforated proof sheet of the Southern Rhodesian 5s King George VI definitive postage and revenue stamp (SG 52). The stamp was recess printed in sheets of 60 stamps by Waterlow and Sons. This proof sheet was printed on the gummed paper side. Color approved by CB and dated 8/10/37 about 2 month before issued (Nov. 25). From the printer's archives.

Membership Application

Membership fees are \$25 US and Canada and \$30 Europe and southern Africa (contact the Treasurer for other destinations). Initial membership includes all back issues for the year joined (July to June). Payment options are as follows: (1) US dollar check drawn on a US bank, (2) dollar money order, (3) PayPal to bobhisey@comcast.net, (4) pound sterling bank check drawn on a UK bank and payable to E.M. Hisey, and (5) US \$, pound sterling, or Euro currency sent registered mail. Complete the following form and mail to Robert W. Hisey, PSGSA Treasurer, 7227 Sparta Rd, Sebring, FL 33875. Or email bobhisey@comcast.net.

Name:

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Comments:

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