



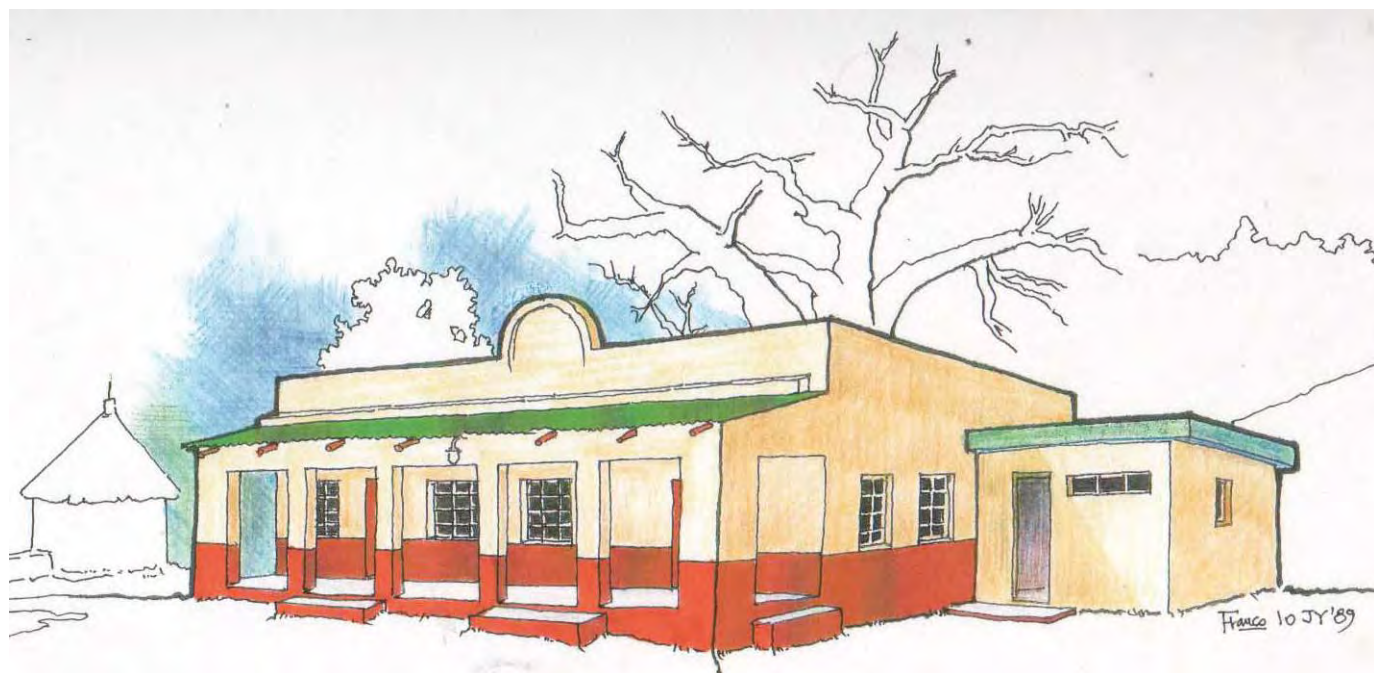
******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXII, Number 1, Whole No. 62

July-October 2008



The Post Office at Sagole, Venda, South Africa.

Highlights

Embargoed in Cape Town 1806
First Direct Air Mail to Australia
Unpaid/Onbetaal Due Markings
1879 Relief of Eshowe
Sagole Post Office, Venda
Rare Watermark
Wartime Airgraps
The Perfect Killer
Historical Maps on the Internet
Preparation of Electronic Exhibits
Absentee Exhibiting
Our By-Laws
eBay Finds



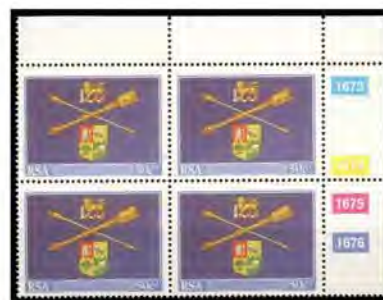
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Front Illustration:

The Post Office at Sagole at it appeared in 1989, Venda, South Africa.
See Franco Frescura's article in this issue.

Thanks to Ashley Cotter-Cairns for proof reading

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Silver at APS Stampshow 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006;
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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

I hope that the reader will share the Editor's excitement of seeing colors in *Forerunners*. This has been a long dream that finally has come true. There may at least be three benefits from this change. First, it may produce a more pleasing look that hopefully both readers and advertisers will appreciate. Second, we hope that the use of color will attract many more manuscripts. Third, we may ultimately expand our membership base. However as always, we need your manuscripts, small or large. The maximum number of pages in color for a single article will be two. Think about this if you are planning articles with color and contact the Editor at an early stage. It should finally be realized that your full article as always will be in full color in its electronic version (pdf format) that is available to all authors by request.

This issue is thinner than previous issues. The reason is two fold. Firstly, as explained elsewhere on this page, the intention is to reduce the numbers of pages to around 30. Secondly, the flow of submitted articles and interesting covers have literally been at an all time low. It is simple to detect this. The Editor has clearly had to write a fair amount of the articles in this issue with the results that Bechuanaland subjects again are distinctly overrepresented. A member not long ago resigned citing as reason that there were little coverage of his interest in the journal. There is little that the Editor can do. Without submitted articles and smaller pieces such as covers and other interesting items nothing will change.

Despite the pessimistic views above, we can this time offer some interesting articles. Peter Lodoen and Morgan Farrell reports on the perfect killer and a dream find, respectively. Johnny Barth shows us a fascinating letter in his collection with which he need help. Uli Bantz shows us an unexpected 1950 airmail letter from South Africa to Australia that also requires explanation. We continue the discussion on absentee exhibiting from last issue with contributions by Rob Hisey and Steven Zwillinger. Peter Thy also continues this discussion with an explanation of how he prepares electronic exhibits. Jan Stolk continues his survey of South African dues markings. Franco Frescura tells the story of a Venda post office. Finally, a Natal cover described by David McNamee is tied to the British defeat at Isandlwana and the 1879 relief of Eshowe during the Zulu war. Enjoy the reading and let the new articles accumulate in the Editor's inbox.

The deadline for the next issue will be February 15, 2009. Please let me have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

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 least at 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.

New Printer and Colors

In the last issue, we announced that the printing style for *Forerunners* would change with this issue. The resultant changes are not as dramatic as I originally envisioned. The reason is that our treasurer David McNamee graciously has offered to take over the handling of printing and mailing of *Forerunners*. David will use a printer he is familiar with that does laser printing and can include color, either partially or in full. The first few issues will probably have colors restricted to the cover. As the need surfaces in form of submitted articles that can benefit from the use of color, we will add more color pages, provided that the Society Board can approve the expenses. There will be some additional changes. (1) The card cover will disappear in order to allow us fully to benefit from the use of color on the cover. The new front pages will be regular white pages as used throughout the journal. (2) We will attempt to reduce the number of pages from the about 40 pages we have been accustomed to recently to around 28-32 pages. This is necessary to allow the pile of pages without the card cover to fold smoothly and to avoid trimming. The issue that you are reading was printed this way. Let us have your honest opinions.

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). Membership fees are US\$25 for USA and Canada mailing addresses and US\$30 for all other addresses. Those that join before July 1 will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1. 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 checks made payable to E. Hisey, (3) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (4) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at dmcnamee@aol.com. All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

Back Issues Available

Back issues of the *Forerunners* are in stock and available for purchase. These are listed by whole number: #1-4, 6-9, 11-17, 22-27, 28/29,* and 30-62. 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; #34-62, \$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.



President's Corner

Greetings once again from Ontario, where we have just experienced the backlash from Hurricane Ike. There was a lot of rain over the weekend and a very high wind came through and blew my old rooftop antenna half over. Luckily, the cable held it from crashing on the roof and damaging the shingles. A quick repair job in the early morning fixed it. The whole summer up here has been very wet, with occasional hot periods. We are used to seeing dry brown lawns by mid-July through August, but the mower has been active all summer long.

We had a great trip out to Portland in June for the ATA show and traveled on some roads we had not seen before in southern Oregon. It was a bit of a shock coming to Portland from the East, as there was plenty of snow in the high forest and driving was somewhat tricky. The show was most enjoyable and since I was the exhibits chair, there was plenty to do. Also, I was lucky enough to win a gold and the Biology Unit award for my "Microcosmos" exhibit, and Liz Hisey took a gold and best Display exhibit for her "Christmas Dinner at the Portland Hotel, 1914". Tim Bartshe had a vermeil for his single-frame exhibit on the "Rainbow Trout". It was nice to see PSGSA folks doing well. One great aspect of the show for me was the fact that there were numerous dealers there that I had never seen before and since they had a good deal of material from my area, I was able to find quite a few 'goodies'. The next ATA show is in Dayton, Ohio, June 12-14, 2009 and I hope to have David McNamee's exhibit on "The Canoe in Pacific Island Culture". This reminds me that David is working on a set of By-laws for the Society, something that seemed to have slipped through the cracks over the years. Thanks to David for all his hard work as well as the Treasurer's duties.

The AmeriStampExpo show is in Arlington, Texas next February and my wife and I are planning to drive down there to get away from our Winter for a week or so and hopefully meet those PSGSA members who are also planning on attending. Maybe we can get together for a lunch during the show. I shall be missing the annual Royal show in June in St. Catharines, Ontario, as it is being held on the same weekend as the ATA show. Definitely bad planning from my point of view as I shall miss the Fellows meeting.

I have been disposing of a collection for a friend who found my name in the Scott catalog and I have been using a dealer in Toronto who agreed to take most of it over a period of time. This has led me to think about disposing of some of my collection, possibly through the APS Sales Division. I have purchased some nice items from them over the years but never sold anything there. It will be interesting to see what happens. My reason is that the years are advancing and I do not want to lumber my children with the chore of getting rid of material when they know absolutely nothing about stamps.

I am looking forward to seeing this issue of the journal, which should have a somewhat different look, as we have been discussing ways of economizing in the production. Also, the introduction of some color has been discussed and hopefully we may see this some time in the future.

Well, that seems to be all that I can think of at the moment except to wish all of you a very pleasant Fall season.

Until next time...

2008-08 Dues Reminder

Annual subscription/dues renewal notices were sent to members in August. Prompt payment ensures that members will receive Forerunners without interruption. In addition to the dues reminder, there are several requests for information: your current email (if you have one) and your APS Number (if you are a member of the American Philatelic Society). There are also questions asked about participation in our annual convention and providing articles for Forerunners. Please send your questions to David McNamee, PSGSA Treasurer, at dmcnamee@aol.com or 15 Woodland Drive, Alamo, CA 94507, USA.

Corrections

Alan MacGregor writes from Cape Town to correct a mistake: "Just received the Forerunners #61 and noted on page 114 that the Rhodesian Study Circle 20th Annual Conference will be held in Cape Town during August 2008. Please note, the correct dates are: Friday 31st October - Monday 3rd November 2008. There is also a Social and Sightseeing Programme from Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th November. We are describing the event as the 'Diamond Jubilee' or 60th Anniversary of the Society rather than the 20th Annual Conference." (Editor: sorry my mistake.)

New Members and Address Changes

All address and email changes should be reported to David McNamee to be properly corrected on the membership list. This will assure arrival of the Forerunners in the mail without delay. If you want your new address and email also to be included in the Forerunners, please advise the editor.

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.

Forerunners on CD

The price of the CD with a complete run of Forerunners in pdf format has increased to \$30 + postage. Still a good deal considering that all issues from the first to the latest are included.

Exchange Journals

Our Society has always kept a list of sister societies with which we had an agreement to exchange journal. Recently we cleaned the list looking at what we in the past had received and directly inquired if there still was a mutual interest in exchanging journals. The result was that we could greatly reduce the exchange list to:

Newsletter of the 'South West Africa Stamp Study Group' (editor Uli Bantz).

The 'Springbok' of the 'South African Collectors' Society' (editor Eddie Bridges).

The 'Transvaal Philatelist' of the 'Transvaal Study Circle' (editor Andrew Higson).

'Bartolomeu Dias' journal of the 'Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika' (editor Wim Quick).

Newsletter of the 'Mashonaland Philatelic Society' (editor Sandra Weaver). Electronically exchanged.

If something is missing on this list or if a society you belongs to would want to be included, please let the Editor know.

Use and Sales Tax in California

The following may be common knowledge, but to me it came as a surprise, perhaps despite my better judgement. I recently purchased a small collection at a London philatelic auction. The material was shipped via an international shipping company that declared the value based on information given by the auction company. The package was shipped to my home address in California. Sometime later, I received a letter from US Customs Group of the Board of Equalization of California that informed me that I owned 'use tax' of the value of the shipment described as 'antiques, art, etc.' The use tax was similar to the sales tax, in my area 7.75 %. I naturally looked at the guidelines, descriptions on website, and other sources. My conclusion was that most, if not all, purchases brought into California (and probably most other states) are subject to use tax identical to the local sales tax. I resigned, filled out the forms, and wrote an exorbitant check to the (California) State Board of Equalization. It turns out that the use tax law appears to have been in effect since 1938. Now I know that all purchases on the internet (like on eBay) are actually subject to my local sales/use tax.

Southern African Conference

The annual Southern African Societies Conference will again take place at Leamington Spa. This time during the weekend 7-9th November, 2008. The meeting is a collaborative effort of British specialist societies but overseas non-member collectors will be most welcome. The program promises a good weekend with invited displays on the Saturday, dinner and time together discussion stamps with fellow collectors, auction, and bring and show/tell on Sunday. If you happens to be in the area and would like to attend without being a member of one of the associate societies, contact Brian Trotter at briantrotter@binternet.com.



Rare Find

by Morgan Farrell

I have collected stamps since I was 7 years old - some 52 years. I have made a few interesting discoveries during that time, but I recently made the kind of find that we, as stamp collectors, all dream about.



I purchased a large lot of Botswana in bundles. From the good yield of postmarks, it was obvious that it was unpicked from. Part of the lot included about 1000 or so of the 1 cent 1967 bird definitive stamp. I knew that there was a known watermark variety on this stamp. The variety is an error of paper with a watermark of Maltese crosses that was normally used for stamps of Malta - Stanley Gibbons # 220a. As I checked for postmarks, I held each stamp up to a light. Sure enough I found one! It has a light Gaberone roller cancel. I can't make out the year.

Stanley Gibbons pegs this at GBP 700. I will likely never find out what price it would fetch in auction. Like a true philatelist and Botswana collector, I couldn't let it go. It'll get its own special page in my album and I'll just appreciate its rarity and how lucky I was to find it.

If anyone knows how many of these have been found, please contact me at mtf3@usfamily.net or Morgan Farrell, PO Box 1064, Hamilton, MT 59840, USA.

The Perfect Killer

by Peter Lodoen

No area of the philatelic world is better known for its numeral cancellers than southern Africa. Down here they come in all shapes: rectangles in ovals and circles in ovals; squares in circles and circles in squares; triangles and circles in triangles; and diamond shapes from the diamond fields.

Though some were stuck neatly and colorfully, the function of the cancellers was to obliterate.

My price for the perfect obliterator goes to this Cape of Good Hope strike out of Riversdale, so well centered and heavily applied that the stamp is nearly unidentifiable.



High Resolution Historical Maps on the Internet

by Peter Thy

Historical maps are occasionally posted on internet sites in sufficiently high resolution to make them useful also for postal historians. I have come across a few while surfing the net:

Bechuanaland 1887 "Sketch Map of British Bechuanaland, May 1887" from the Scottish Geographical Magazine. Published by the Scottish Geographical Society and edited by Arthur Silva White. Volume III, 1887 (181K).

South Africa 1885 "Sketch Map of South Africa showing British Possessions July 1885" from the Scottish Geographical Magazine. Published by the Scottish Geographical Society and edited by Hugh A. Webster and Arthur Silva White. Volume I, 1885 (531K). See illustration below.

These two maps are posted on a University of Texas site by the Perry-Castañeda Library & Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin (http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/south_africa.html).

Two other interesting maps are listed on a site maintained by the Canadian War Museum (<http://www.warmuseum.ca>).

Map of the Boer Republic of Transvaal Showing Blockhouse Lines and South African Constabulary Posts with Dates of Completion.

Map of the Boer Republic of Orange Free State Showing Blockhouse Lines and South African Constabulary Posts with Dates of Completion.

Please report other finds.



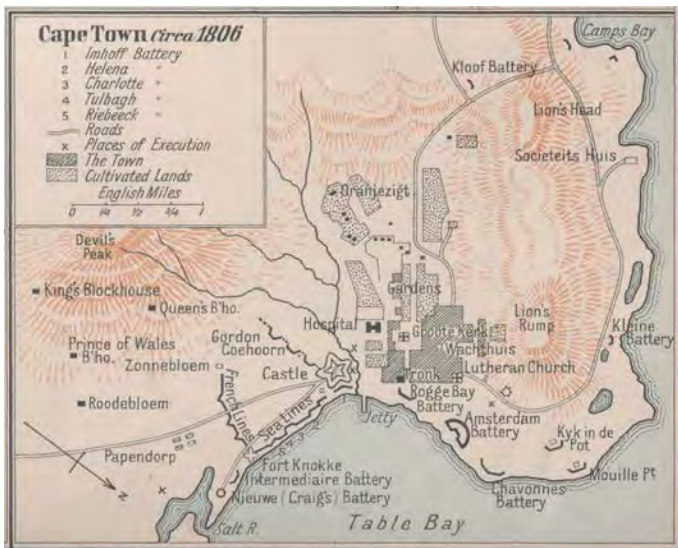
Embargoed in Cape Town, 1806: Request for Help

by Johnny Barth

I am trying to find someone in USA who can help me with a new cover in my collection - see scan. The letter is dated 11 March 1806, and was sent from Cape Town to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There are no postmarks or anything from Cape (or England), so I expect it to be carried by the captain in the ship which is mentioned at the lower left corner, but I can't read the name. There is a faint red postmark from Salem, dated 20 (or 26) May - no year, and a strait line SHIP postmark, also in

red. It is endorsed "12", which can be the rate from Salem to Portsmouth.

I am looking for somebody with knowledge of the local US postal history and/or history to find out more about the ship, its name (Henry ?), and the route it sailed. I also need to confirm the postal rate. Do you know anyone who could help? Contact Johnny Barth at barth@post3.tele.dk.



Cape Town around 1808 from E.A. Walker, Historical Atlas of South Africa. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1922.

Cape of Good Hope
March 11th 1806

My Dear loving wife

No doubt when you receive this you will want to know what has become of your Dear Husband. I know only to inform you my Dear that I arrived here on 17th January and have been embargoed ever since till this day when we got permission to sail. The reason of my coming in here was owing to bad tank the confounded rats eat the water tank so that I had only four tank of water left when I arrived. No doubt you and all my friends has been very anxious of my safety - but hope my Dear by the time you receive this, I shall be writing you one from New York - my time is so taken of we getting out at 4 O'clock in the morning that I must write you short - am your loving and dutiful husband,

Ruben J Randall

Ms. D.J. Randall



My Dear & Loving wife

Cape of Good Hope

March 11th 1806

No doubt when you receive
this you will wish to know what has
become of your Dear Husband. I have only
to inform you my Dear that I Arrived
here on the 17th Inst and have been Embayed
ever since, till this Day when we got
permission to sail, the reason of my coming
in here was owing to bad Luck and the
confounded Rats eat the water Cask so that
I had only four Cask of water left when
I arrived, no doubt you and all my friends
has been very anxious, for my safety -
but hope my Dear by the time you receive
this, I shall be writing you one from New
York - my time is so taken up in getting out
that I must write you short. - am your
loving and Dutiful Husband
Ruben Randall

W. D. Randall -

at 4 o'clock in the morning -

Editor's Note: Johnny Barth submitted this short note asking for help. After reading and transcribing the letter, I realized the fascination of the early postal history of the Cape and the American East Indies trade routes and decided to give the inquiry a prominent place in the journal. Johnny needs to get in contact with knowledgeable postal historians (and historians) specializing in the American trade routes to the East Indies (?), the local New Hampshire historians, and perhaps also the Cape Town historians. I hope that somebody can help. And please don't forget that the Editor would like to hear the full study about the letter.

South West Africa: First Direct Air Mail South Africa to Australia?

by Hans Ulrich Bantz

It is the routing instruction “BY FIRST DIRECT Air Mail / South Africa to Australia / 1st June, 1950 / via Johannesburg” on the front of the cover shown in Fig. 1 that puzzles. None of the publications consulted like *Burrel*, *Stern* or the *South African Philatelist* (see references) list this service. The cover was mailed from Windhoek on 23 V 1950 and arrived at Canberra on June 2 JUN 1950, just ten days in transit from Windhoek, the capital of South West Africa (now Namibia) to Canberra, the federal capital of the Commonwealth of Australia. *Stern* (p. 52) and *Burrel* (1986, p. 197) report on a QANTAS direct flight with an AVRO 691 Lancastrian airplane, an aircraft derived from the Lancaster bombers used during World War II. It left Sydney on Nov. 14, 1948 and carried 300 souvenir envelopes each way. The direct crossing was made in 39 hours and 59 minutes, arriving in Johannesburg after stopovers at Perth, the West Island of the Cocos / Keeling Islands and Mauritius on 20 XI 48. The return flight was made on Nov. 27, 1948, arriving at Sydney on Dec. 1, 1948. Nothing further could be found on direct flights between Southern Africa and Australia made between December 1948 and July 1952, when the following direct South Africa flight by QANTAS took off from Sydney on 25 July, 1952, arriving at Johannesburg on the 29th of July 1952. Stopovers were made at the same places as during the 1948 flight. In those days no flights took place during the night. This survey flight carried no mail (*Burrel*, p. 216). The regular direct Australia-South Africa service by QANTAS commenced with a Lockheed Constellation

VH-EAD aircraft on Sept. 1, 1952. The 8493 mile long route, explored in July, was called “*The Wallaby Route*”. It was covered in 3½ days. The return flight left Johannesburg on Sept. 6, 1952. QANTAS supplied numbered multicolored commemorative covers for either direction including intermediate stops (Figs. 2 and 3). Cachets were applied to some of the the mail carried (*Stern*, p. 61; *Burrel*, p. 216). Turning now to our ‘in-between’ cover. Only ten days between Windhoek and Canberra! The following proves it:

- a) the Windhoek postmark on the front of the cover;
- b) the cachet of the ‘POSTMASTER / 2 JUN 1950 / CANBERRA, A. C. T.’ on the reverse (Fig. 4). A. C. T. stands for “Australian Capital Territory”;
- c) further, if the flight would indeed have left Johannesburg on June 1, it would never have reached Canberra on the next day.

There is thus no question that this cover was flown. But when? It could not have been the 1st of June. But who carried it? QANTAS did not serve South Africa in 1950. What of the other international airline listed by *Stern* (p. 54) could it then have been that connected South Africa with the rest of the world? Does anybody know? Another question concerns the sender – see Fig. 4. Who rented “Box 515” (or does it read “575?”) Windhoek S.W.A.” during 1950? Please, check your material and you might be able to come up with an answer that could lead is to further enquiries.

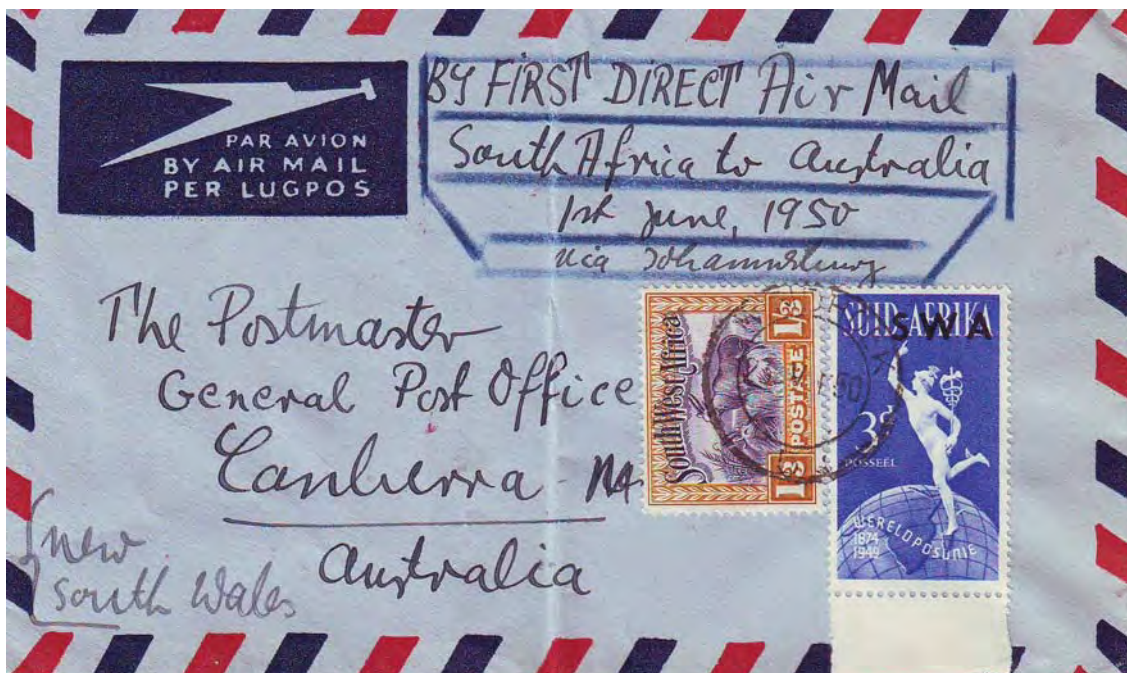


Figure 1: Front of a cover sent from Windhoek to Canberra on 23 V 1950.

References:

- Burrell, J. T. (1986): Par Avion in Southern Africa. – ISBN 0620100109
- Southern African Air Mails. – Extracts from the South African Philatelist 1931 – 1973. Compiled by D. G. MORTON – June, 2005.
- Stern, M. F. (no year): South African Airmails – A Chronological Listing indicating the History and the Development of South Africa and South West Africa. Publisher: Phil. Fed. of Southern Africa.



Figure 4: Portion of the reverse of the 1950 Windhoek-Canberra cover.



Figure 2: Commemorative cover carried to the Mauritius stopover on the first direct Australia – South Africa flight with the outward cachet showing a Kangaroo on the left and a Springbok on the right.



Figure 3: Commemorative QANTAS cover cancelled on the day of the posted on the day of the return flight and showing the postage of 1sh 6p.

On Preparation of Electronic Exhibits

by Peter Thy

There are likely many ways of preparing electronic versions of exhibits for internet usage, including exhibiting. Perhaps as many as exhibitors. I have just realized that the way I do it differs from the approach taken by the majority of collectors and thus justify an explanation.

Most exhibitors utilizes one of the many word or PageMaker programs available on most computers to design and to place text boxes on exhibit pages. These are then printed out and the items mounted on the page. The simplest way and most commonly used is then to scan the final mounted page, within or outside its protective sleeve. An example of this is shown in Figure 1. The result is an exact duplication of the exhibit page showing mounting corners and any imperfections such as misalignments, miscoloring from scanning, fingerprints, and dust on the page and/or plastic sleeve. The main disadvantage of scanning pages is the resolution and size of the product. A scan speed of 300 dpi will results in a jpg-formatted image of about 1.4 MB for a standard letter-sized page. A more reasonable scan speed of 150 dpi results in a jpg-formatted image of about 400 KB. On the other hand, low resolution, web-page image scanned at 72 dpi results in a 140 KB jpg file. Thus, a five frame exhibits of 80 pages and scanned at 150 dpi will fill 32 MB and will be composed of 80 individual files. It is possible to transfer the jpg files to a pdf format and combine these into one file, however, this will result in an excessive large file (~220 MB) and require rather large amounts of tedious manual work; in comparison CD typically can contain 700 MB. Another restriction using the scan approach is that page size is limited by the scanner and that oversized pages will require multiple scans and extensive editing to produce reasonable results.

My approach has been to utilize the word or PageMaker program to its fullest potential and directly to produce the electronic exhibit as a continuous electronic file with all pages saved in pdf format as one file. This electronic exhibit file can then be used to print pages on which the exhibit can be mounted. Thus my approach produces first the electronic exhibit version and then the paper exhibit version. The pdf exhibit version can easily be transformed to jpg files if required by internet exhibit sites.

I am using InDesign that is part of Adobe Creative Suite. InDesign is a typical PageMaker program integrated with a suite of Adobe programs (Illustrator, Photoshop, Acrobat, and others). But any other word or PageMaker program would produce similar satisfactory results. Each item to be included in the exhibit is scanned to scale at 300 dpi in full color and saved as a jpg formatted file using Photoshop. The scanning is done with a grey background to simulate matting after the image has been chopped to shape. All images are inserted onto the page and text is added as blocks and arranges as required by the general page design and requirements of the exhibit items (Figure 2). Although a complete exhibit could probably be produced as one file, the exhibit is typically split into individual frames (16 pages) for backup safety reasons. The procedures are not substantially different from those used to produce this journal.

The pages that are produced with InDesign can achieve exactly the same as using traditional mounting methods. The items can be over/underlaid and windows showing selected parts of large items can easily be constructed. Reverses or fronts that cannot be shown of the actual items, can be separately scanned and directly inserted either enlarged or reduced (Figure 2). Only some gentle restrains in the planning stage of a page are needed,



Figure 1. Exhibit page scanned at 150 dpi, saved as jpg format, and reduced to 25 % of original.

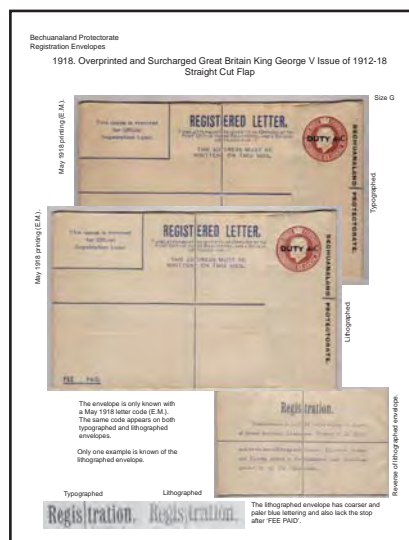


Figure 2. Exhibit page saved as pdf file from pagemaker program.

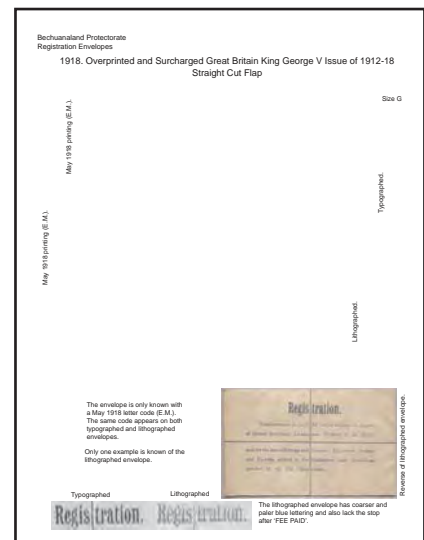


Figure 3. Exhibit page printed from page-maker program for mounting of exhibit, as shown in Figure 1.

taking into consideration the original shape of the item. One obviously advantage to some exhibitors is that oversized pages easily can be made as InDesign as well as pdf files. However, the printing and mounting problem remains for oversized pages. A typical five frame pdf exhibits occupy just below 40 MB.

It is important to note that the exhibit pages that I produce is not an exact duplication of the hard version of the exhibit. There are small differences that are the result of often small adjustments in the mounting that is required when the actual mounting as the final step is completed. It is also possible that

late discovered problems get corrected on the mounted version and not on the electronic version. On the other hand, it is perhaps more likely that late discovered problems is corrected on the electronic version and not on the mounted version simply because of the ease with which the former pages are corrected. Another differences are that if one is using tinted pages (as I do), these will not show on the electronic version.

These differences raise no doubt some issues that must carefully be consider before integrated physical and electronic exhibits can become a reality. This is beyond this short note.

Discussion of Absentee Exhibiting

by Steven Zwillinger and Bob Hisey

Steven Zwillinger (Steven.Zwillinger@ed.gov) writes in response to the article by the Editor on absentee exhibiting: "In the March-June issue, speaking about EXPONET, you raise the question "Should I give up traditional philatelic exhibits and concentrate on electronic exhibits?" It is, you say, about the same amount of work.

I do not think it is an either/or proposition. If you prepare a traditional philatelic exhibit, the marginal work involved in scanning the pages - which you may well do anyway - is a tiny fraction of the time, effort, thought, and resources that go into preparing an exhibit. Look at this way: How much time did preparing any of your exhibits take? For most of us, we spend hours with layout, agonizing over word choices, printing pages, finding errors and reprinting pages and mounting. Just the exhibit preparation part can exceed one hour per page. How long does it take to scan? About three minutes or less per page.

I recommend you keep up with the traditional exhibiting and then, when you have completed an exhibit, scan it for yourself, for EXPONET, and any other venues that may want it. I find exhibits - yours included - more engaging in person than I do on EXPONET. The electronic copy is good for when I can't see the original, but the original is better."

(I responded to Steven and explained how I prepared exhibits. He added:) "Had I known how you prepare your exhibit pages I might have changed the emphasis or details in what I said above, but I think I would arrive at a similar conclusion. Perhaps instead of saying that scanning is a minor marginal effort, I might have said that the actual mounting of material is less effort than actually creating the exhibit. Mounting is certainly more work than scanning.

Once one moves away from actually mounting of material and begins to rely upon the electronic page, it is a tiny step to electronic philatelic studies in which one does not need to own the material to 'show' it. I think the ultimate issue for all of us is identifying the challenge we are addressing. What is it we want to create? For most of us there is relatively clear distinction between an exhibit and a publication. Sometimes the distinction between creating an exhibit and creating a publication is not as clear.

If you will permit me to ramble a bit, let's consider your exhibits. Your Bechuanaland exhibits are marvelous and seem to be complete and tell their story wonderfully. I think every one I

have seen in a show has received a gold and represents the state of the knowledge of the subject. Let's contrast that with your Southern African Pioneers in WWII, which I saw at the ASDA show in 2007. Each page represents a decision about what to show and how to show it. It is possible that as you encounter more material you will change pages, change emphasis, refine or narrow the story line or expand it to more than a single frame. In these two cases, the first exhibits might be tempting to prepare for on-line exhibiting: you've got the material, you have the knowledge, there is little to change. In a sense, they may not be dynamic exhibits. The latter exhibit is more dynamic in nature: it could vary with each showing. Making - and showing - that exhibit might be a different experience for you than the other ones. That different experience might involve the actual exhibiting experience. EXPONET is not limited to exhibits of multiples of 16 pages; exhibits in frames are. That is a significant difference in the approach to creating an exhibit - of either type."

Bob Hisey (bobhisey@comcast.net) writes: "May I make a few comments about exhibiting? First, you should consider joining AAPE, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. This is an organization that presents the exhibitor's concerns to APS and the Judges Committee. This is the best way to address your concerns. Second, as a result of AAPE efforts, there will be written comments prepared on every exhibit beginning this year, a major change, especially for traditional exhibits.

For feedback, when I cannot be present at the show, I always arrange that someone will represent me and discuss the exhibit and the Judge's evaluation and then pass it on to me. He also can identify the main responder and ask if I can discuss it by email. However, the real feedback comes from being at the show and discussing your exhibit with the appropriate judge in front of the exhibit. There is no substitute, in my opinion.

While I commend the Czech efforts at putting exhibits on line as it is a way to build a library of exhibits, there is absolutely no feedback. The shows are supported by dealer fees and exhibit fees. Lacking this, no shows. We would become a pure email society. Personally, I love the shows and the people I meet and enjoy. Even though it is rare that I find anything of much interest in my peculiar specialties."

PHILATELIC SOCIETY For GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

By-Laws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization is the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). It is an unincorporated not-for-profit association domiciled in the USA.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

PSGSA seeks to promote and encourage the collection, study, exhibition, and publication of research on all aspects and all periods of the philately of the region of Greater Southern Africa, including former colonies and countries.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. **Qualifications:** Membership in PSGSA is open worldwide to all interested persons and organizations upon payment of the annual dues.
2. **Annual Dues:** Annual dues are established by the PSGSA Board of Directors and are subject to change at any time. Dues cover the 12-month period from 1 July through 30 June.
3. **Maintenance of Membership:** Members who are 6 months in arrears of their dues will be dropped from membership in PSGSA. Membership in PSGSA can be reinstated by payment of dues in arrears.
4. **Life Members:** Life Membership may be purchased by the advance payment of twenty times the current annual dues. Life Members will be exempt from any further annual dues and will enjoy all the benefits and privileges of Membership in PSGSA for their lifetime.
5. **Benefits of Membership:** Members will receive an annual subscription to the PSGSA periodical *Forerunners*, access to the PSGSA Library and other benefits and privileges that may be added by the Board of Directors from time to time.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION

1. **Governance:** PSGSA is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the Officers elected for terms of four years and Directors appointed by the Board. A majority of the members of the Board constitutes a quorum to conduct business, either in person or by electronic communications. Decisions will be taken by majority of those voting.
2. **Nominations and Elections:** The President, the Secretary and one other Director named by the President will serve as a Nominating Committee. Members may also nominate themselves for any office. The Secretary will publish the call for nominations and the notice of an election in the PSGSA journal, *Forerunners* at least 60 days prior to the election. Election of Officers and Directors will be by ballot provided to each Member of PSGSA in good standing.

3. **Vacancies:** If any Officer or Director position becomes vacant between election periods, the Board may appoint a Member to fill that role until the next scheduled election.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES

1. **President:** The PSGSA President is the principal executive officer and presides as chairman of the Board of Directors.
2. **Vice-President:** The PSGSA Vice-President serves in the place of the President if the President becomes unable to perform the duties of President.
3. **Secretary:** The PSGSA Secretary keeps records of the Board of Directors meetings and decisions, sends out notices of Nominations and Elections and serves with the President on the Nominating Committee.
4. **Treasurer:** The PSGSA Treasurer keeps the financial records of the Society, including Membership records, banking records and records of expenditures on behalf of PSGSA. Bank accounts must be established or closed by a vote of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer will publish periodic financial statements and membership data to the Board and the Membership at least once each year.
5. **Directors:** PSGSA will have sufficient Directors to carry out the purpose of the Society. Directors will be proposed by the President and approved by the Board. They will serve until the next President is elected. Directors will have full voting privileges as Members of the Board of Directors.
6. **Appointed Offices:** The PSGSA President may appoint Members to chair committees or in other ways manage tasks or represent the Society. These appointments need not be approved by the Board, and those appointed positions have no vote on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the voting Members in good standing following election procedures in Article IV Section 2 and the publication of the proposed amendments in the PSGSA journal, *Forerunners*. Amendments take place immediately after the ballots are counted.

ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION

By a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors and a majority vote of the Members, the association known as PSGSA can be dissolved. All assets remaining after outstanding obligations are satisfied will be donated to a not-for-profit corporation for the promotion of philately at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on 18 September 2008.

President

Secretary

When the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa was formed, the founders set up the Society with a brief set of rules (by-laws) that reflected their intent to work together to a common goal. Over time, this original document has been misplaced. The current Officers and Directors felt a need to have something "on the record" that explained how the Society works, the rules of Membership, and the duties of Officers. This document is presented for the information and benefit of all Members.

Postage Due Markings of South Africa: Unpaid/Onbetaal


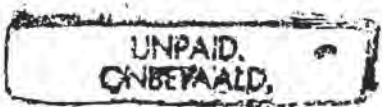


by Jan Stolk

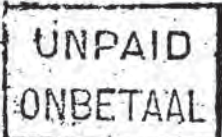
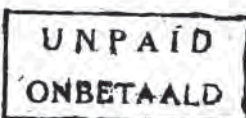

The UNPAID/ONBETAAL type of markings seems to have been very little used by the South African post offices. Most times the cover would simply receive an ordinary tax marking, the reason was rather clear since there was no stamp affixed.

Markings can as before be divided in pre-1926 and post-1926 markings.

Markings from before 1926 will still have the use of the Dutch language and use the word 'ONBETAALD'. After 1926 the language is Afrikaans and the 'D' is removed and 'ONBETAAL' is used.

Of course in some post offices, the markings from before 1926 are still in use much later, like WC 5 in 1982 in Port Elizabeth. Illustration 1 shows a postcard with this marking still in use in the 1980's. Illustration 2 shows the WC 3 from Pretoria, using other wordings: UNSTAMPED-ONGEFRANKEER. (This is in use in 1923 but ONGEFRANKEER is Afrikaans as it would have been ONGEFRANKEERD in Dutch). WC 7 seems to have been made from WC 1.

| P.D.MARKING | SIZE | USED AT | EARLIEST DATE | LATEST DATE |
|--|-----------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
|  WC1 | 40 x 14mm | ex-Allen | | |
|  WC2 | 54 x 12mm | Port Elizabeth | 07-apr-82 | |
|  WC3 | 42 x 15mm | Pretoria | 04-dec-23 | |
|  WC4 | 22 x 9mm | Port Elizabeth | 03-sep-80 | |

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|------------|-----------|
| WC5 |  | 30 x 20mm | Cape Town | 04-jan-29 |
| WC6 |  | 35 x 15mm | ex-Allen | |
| WC7 |  | 32 x 10mm | Philipolis | |

Again I have to thank Werner K. Seeba for his support by sending me photocopies of taxed covers, Figure 3 is such a photocopy with a unknown marking from Cape Town.

Some markings are from R.D. Allen's book and have never been seen on cover by me.

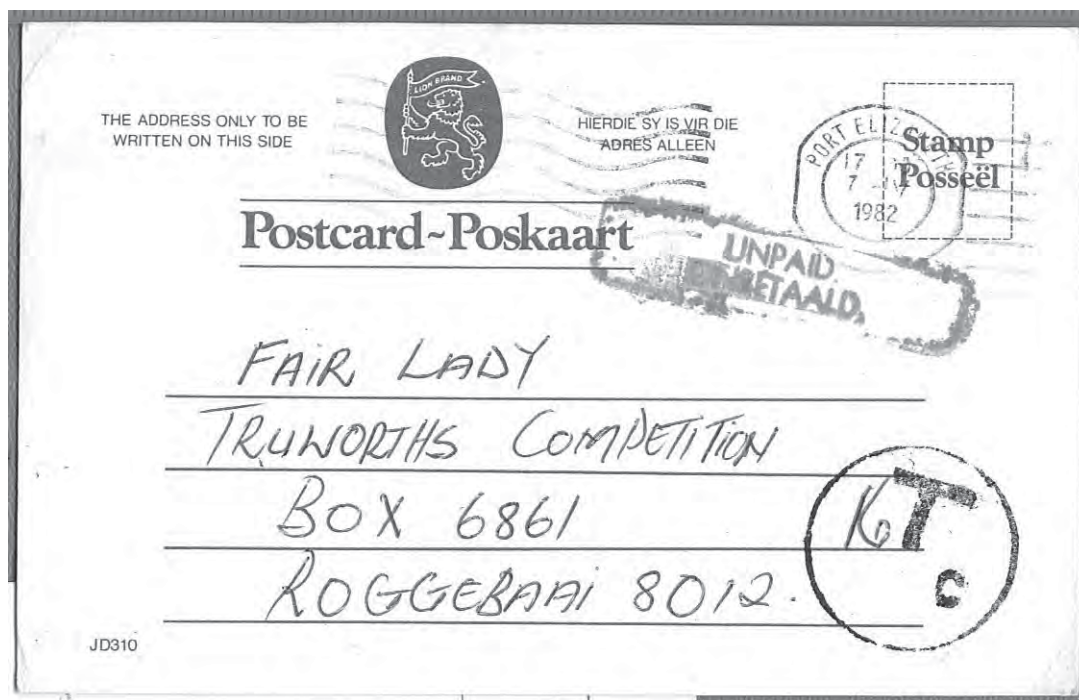


Illustration 1.



Illustration 2.

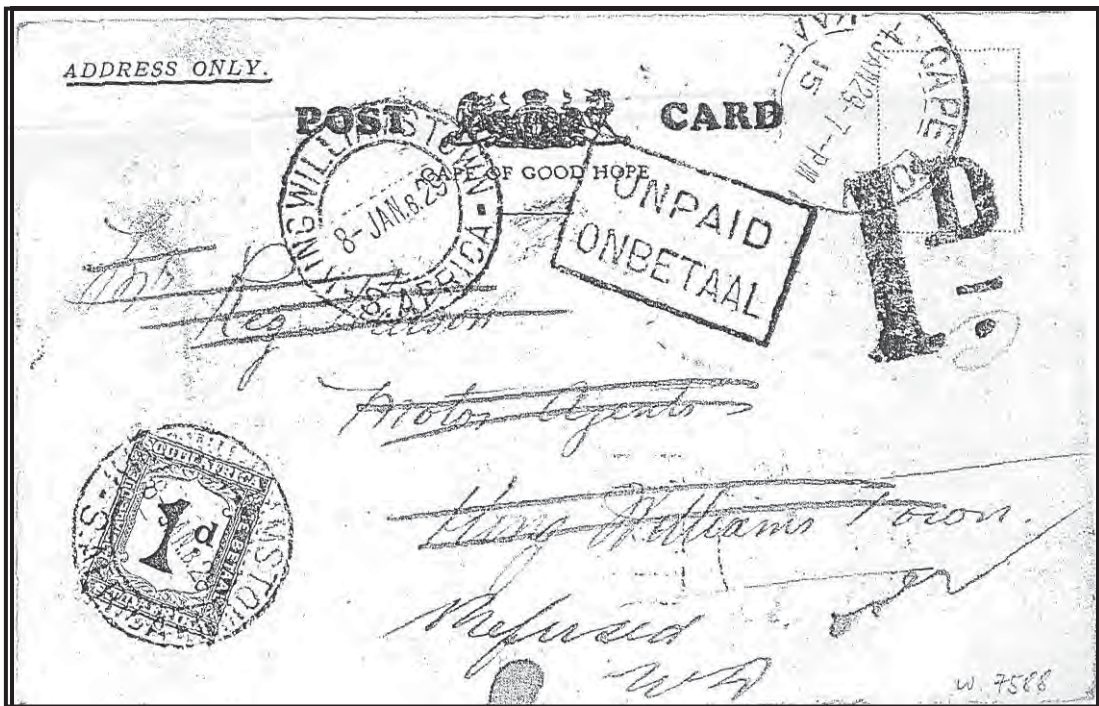


Illustration 3.

All illustrations of parkings are reduced to 95 % of the originals.

The Relief of Eshowe March - April 1879

by David McNamee

Following the British defeat at Isandlwana, Pearson's Right Flank Column dug in at the KwaMondi mission station at Eshowe and remained besieged from the end of January 1879.

In a heavy rain on 27 March 1879, Lord Chelmsford began to ferry 5600 troops across the Lower Drift of the Tugela River to begin the relief of Col. Pearson column at Eshowe only 37 miles away. Chelmsford inflicted a stinging defeat of the Zulus at Gingindlovu on 2 April, and his column reached Eshowe on 3 April. By 6 April, the fort at Eshowe was abandoned, and Chelmsford led his column back across the Tugela.

Captain Hugh Rudolph GOUGH, shown here, of the Coldstream Guards (attached to the 5th Natal Native Contingent), son of Viscount Gough of Galway.

The 21 April 1879 letter shown below to Bookers town, Ireland bearing Natal 6d stamp overprinted **POSTAGE** and tied by oval of bars with Durban, Natal shield circular dated canceller. This is likely a letter of condolence on the death of the Viscount's third



son, Capt. H. Rudolph Gough, a British officer serving in the Natal Native Contingent.

In spite of illness, Capt. Gough fought bravely at Gingindlovu on 2 April. He died of disease at the Base Hospital in Natal on 19 April 1879, aged 22, two days before this letter was mailed.



Chelmsford's force advancing to relieve Eshowe. From <http://www.britishbattles.com/zulu-war/gingindlovu.htm>



The Post Office at Sagole, Venda

by Franco Frescura

INTRODUCTION

The Venda are a small group of about 500,000 persons who inhabit the north-eastern region of South Africa, an area adjoining the Limpopo River and the Mocambican border, some of which was appropriated by the Union Government in 1926 to create the Kruger National Park. They were never subjected to colonial rule, and despite several attempts by migrant Dutch farmers to settle on their lands from 1836 onwards, they successfully withstood all such inroads. In 1867 they forced the Dutch to abandon their early settlement at Schoemansdal, near present day Makhado (Louis Trichardt), and to beat a hasty retreat back to Polokwane (Pietersburg). In 1898 the Mphephu, a small clan under the leadership of Chief Magato, refused to pay the taxes that had been arbitrarily imposed upon them by the ZAR Government, and ejected its official representatives. In September 1898, a Dutch Commando under Comdt-General Piet Joubert invaded Venda and invested its capital, now under the leadership of Mpefu, his father Magato having since died. Despite this, the bulk of the Venda nation was never subjugated to colonial rule, and when Union was proclaimed in 1910 they found themselves, with no prior consultation, incorporated into a state in which they had no voice and no control over their own affairs.

Historically, the Venda can trace their origins to the Kingdom of Mapungubwe, which flourished in their region in about 1050 AD, before moving its capital north to Great Zimbabwe in about 1350. Mapungubwe was a sophisticated trading and manufacturing economy whose products reached as far away as Arabia and the Far East, and can be regarded, in many ways, as one of the precursors of the modern South African state. Ethnographically, the Venda share in the language and cultural

patterns of the Shona, and related Venda clans currently also inhabit adjoining areas in southern Zimbabwe.

On 13 September 1979, the South African government established the so-called *Republic of Venda*, with a supposedly independent administrative infrastructure. In reality the South Africans continued to control key elements of Venda affairs, including foreign, economic and military policy. One of the few areas of government that was allowed to fall under Venda control was the Post Office, although even that was subject to a degree of *pragmatic* interpretation. As philatelists well know, the stamp issuing policies of the Venda Post Office were run from Pretoria where the euphemistically-named International South African Philatelic Agency (InterSAPA) chose, designed and printed their stamps.

This farce was terminated in 1995, well after the establishment of South Africa's first democratically elected government, when the five local 'homeland' postal administrations were finally consolidated into the present structure. However, to this day, the stamps of the four *independent homeland states* remain valid for postage as the necessary legislation to demonatise them has never been submitted to Parliament. Attempts by the South African Post Office in 1995 to unilaterally (and illegally) *derecognise* them proved fruitless.

THE POST OFFICE AT SAGOLE

Sagole was a small village of some two thousand souls located in the northern reaches of Venda, about thirty kilometres from the Limpopo. Its population depended largely upon scattered agricultural activity for its survival, although the presence of a hot water spa and youth camp facilities had introduced a



The Post Office of Sagole in 1989.

small influx of seasonal tourist money. At the time of my last visit, in July 1989, the northern Limpopo Province was still in the grip of a bitter drought which had eased further south, but showed every sign of becoming a permanent fixture of local life. Consequently many people relied upon work in the nearby hot water spa resort of Tshipise, which lay some 80 km away in South Africa, and was then given over to exclusive white use, or in Musina (Messina) some 70 km further on. Both were reached via a well-maintained stabilized earth road built by the military. A more tenuous link was maintained to the south with the Venda capital of Thohoyandou, next to historical Sibasa, but the journey could only be made over appallingly bad, denture-rattling, and poorly maintained gravel roads. Please bear in mind that this foreshadowed the present era of popular 4x4 vehicles.

In spite of this, because of its springs Sagole was, and presumably still is a green oasis in a dusty yellow-brown *mopane veld* littered with picturesque upside-down trees, as the baobab is sometimes referred to.

Sagole post office was located on the main road that runs through the village, linking it to Tshipise in the west and Mutele to the east, and consisted of a small 4x4 m lean-to structure attached to the local trading store and *restaurant*. In about 1986, the people of Sagole petitioned the Post Office at Thohoyandou to have a small postal agency opened in their village. This was eventually granted, and the office was opened on 9 October 1987. Originally it was run from the trading store, but in July 1988 it was moved to its present premises, specifically erected for this purpose. It is expected that bigger and more commodious premises will eventually be built by the Post Office, but the site and actual date of opening for this new building is not yet known.

A sketch I did of the building at the time shows a solidly built parapet-roof structure with a verandah supported by brick piers running the full length of the front façade. A small semi-circular pediment set over the parapet marks the central axis of the building. The store was originally rendered in a colour scheme that used to be common in the south African rural countryside, with a deep reddish-brown splash band at the base and a lighter cream-yellow super-structure above. The front verandah walls have subsequently been repainted in a bright shade of pink.

The store was owned by Mr Paulus Lumadi who purchased it from his father in 1974. His wife, 38 year old Violet Fakalani Lumadi, acted as postmaster. The husband had applied for this position on her behalf, and it seems likely that, in common with other rural trading stores elsewhere in South Africa, the postal agency was attached to the trading license in the husband's name. Nonetheless Mrs Lumadi was paid R200 per month for her services by the Venda Post Office. This probably equates to about R4000 per month, or US\$500 in current terms.

The Agency was open for business on a daily basis from Monday to Friday from 08.30 to 16.30, and on a Saturday from 08.30 to 12 noon, although stamp-bearing letters could be handed in for collection at the trading store outside these hours.

The postal establishment was equipped with an office date stamp, an inking pad, a rubberised stamping pad for the hand cancellation of letters, GPO scales and brass weights, a Stamp Book still bearing the old RSA PT logo, a stock of Venda stamps

and envelopes, and assorted other materials, such as string, glue and sealing wax. The date stamp (strike pictured here) was inscribed with the name of its manufacturer, MPAGLIARI (PTY) LTD – CAPE TOWN on the one side, with B.329 and the old RSA PT logo on the other.



POSTAL DELIVERY

There were no postal deliveries within the village and its post office essentially acted as a *poste restante* facility. The post was delivered twice daily in a mail bag by the Lukoto Bus Company, which makes the north-south trip from HaGumbu to Sibasa in the morning, and the return journey late in the afternoon. It was met at the bus stop by the postmaster who took the bag to the post office and sorted its mails into eight post boxes. Rudimentary and made out of boxwood, these were located at the back of a store room, inaccessible to the general public. Mail was sorted out as follows:

1. The village of HaMukununde, usually collected by the local School Principal.
2. The village of Matatani, also usually collected by the local School Principal.
3. The village of Domboni, collected by scholars from the local high school.
4. Hanyani Secondary School, also collected by its scholars.
5. Tshipise Primary School, also collected by its scholars.
6. Mbodi Primary School, collected by its School Principal.
7. Mphephu Youth Centre, at Sagoli, collected by an employee.
8. Joseph Mulaudzi, collected by a member of the family.

HaMukununde, Matatani, Domboni and Mbodi are all neighbouring villages, whereas the remaining four are all located in or near Sagole. Other individuals, however, are expected to collect their mail in person from the post office.

Prior to her appointment in October 1997, Mrs Lumadi had received a six-month training course in her expected duties at the Shakadza post office. However, her duties did not appear to be particularly onerous and, over and above the sale of stamps, only included the occasional registration of letters and parcels. Her post office did not offer any additional services, and anything more demanding could only be obtained at one of the larger establishments, such as Sibasa.

Significantly however, Mrs Lumadi also kept a small stock of South African stamps, which were then made available

to customers who needed to bypass the ponderously slow and notoriously unreliable postal system through Sibasa and Thohoyandou. In such instances, the mail would be entrusted to one of the small combi taxis making a trip to either Musina or Makhado. Portage over this distance was by favour, although anything more complicated than a simple mail drop would require an additional R1 “tip” for the taxi driver. At this time the standard postage rate within South Africa was 18c. The Lumadis acknowledged that, for this purpose, they had established an informal arrangement with a couple of local taxi drivers, although they did this as a special favour to their customers and did not charge for the service.

CONCLUSIONS

The establishment of a postal agency at Sagole should be seen in the wider political and social context of its time. The dialectic of Apartheid had, over the years, been undergoing a steady, if unspectacular transition. Beginning with the overtly racist *baasskap* of the 1940s, which proudly proclaimed the superiority of the white race, in the 1960s under Hendrick Verwoerd it evolved into *separate development*, which propounded a philosophy of separate-but-equal division of the races. The natural outcome of this policy was the establishment of rural tribal homelands, commonly described as *Bantustans*, which sought to balkanise the country into a series of self-governing ethnic states. The intent of this was made quite clear by Verwoerd when he asked “What is the use of teaching a Bantu child mathematics when it cannot use it in practice?” while stating that “There is no place for (Black people) in the European community above the level of certain forms of labour”. He was, of course, merely reinforcing the opinions of his political mentor, Prime Minister

Dr DF Malan, who thought that “*The Native does not need a home. He can sleep under a tree*”. Strangely enough it was Prime Minister John Vorster, a hard-line WW2 Nazi sympathiser, who introduced into his government the concept of a more pragmatic pluralism which, in time, mutated into multi-racial co-operation. In the 1980s this emerged as a tri-cameral parliamentary system, which gave (separate) voice to whites, coloured and Indian voters, but continued to ignore the rightful aspirations of people of indigenous origin. They, it seemed, were still expected to return to some mythical rural tribal reserve and, presumably, practice law under a marula tree.

Throughout this time the Nationalist Government had steadfastly maintained for its followers the promise that black people would never be trained to take over what it referred to as *white jobs*. Minister of Transport, Ben Schoeman openly admitted that “*Natives can do skilled work if trained for it; that is why we must not give it to them*”. However, faced with the need to develop a modern infrastructure in essentially rural *independent homeland states*, this promise could not be sustained without a dramatic reversal in public policy. None of the faithful could realistically object though, when black people began to be trained at white post offices for the purpose of secondment to a *separate-but-equal facility in the homelands*. This was, after all, one of the keystones of latter-day Apartheid, and once this had been carefully explained to the white trade unions, they accepted this even though the Revised Nationalist Party (HNP) and other right-wing groups clearly saw the perils of such a policy. The Apartheid *homelands* therefore became, if covertly, one of the means of bringing infrastructural development to areas where none such would have been possible had the tenets of old racism and *baasskap* been allowed to prevail.

THE AEROPHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

ESTABLISHED IN 1960

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO AEROPHILATELISTS ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS.

A BI-ANNUAL AEROLETTER IS ISSUED FREE TO MEMBERS WHICH SPECIFICALLY FOCUSSES ON MATTERS OF INTEREST RELATING TO AIR MAILS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE ASSA IS A SOCIETY WITH A DIFFERENCE. INTERESTED COLLECTORS ARE INVITED TO CONTACT

THE HONORARY SECRETARY
2, ANEMONE AVENUE, WELGEDACHT 7530, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

OR E-MAIL DMORTON@MWEB.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, cinderalla, 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.

Remember the Wartime Airgraphs?

by Jim Findley

The airgraph service was introduced during the Second World War with the purpose of reducing the amount of valuable cargo space occupied on aircraft by air mail. Letters were written on special forms which were then photographed. Film rolls, which could carry some 1500 letters each, were dispatched to the recipient country where they were processed and printed on a continuous roll. After cropping to 105 mm by approximately 130 mm, they were posted in dedicated window envelopes. Cameras and processing equipment were supplied by Kodak.

The first airgraphs were dispatched from Cairo on 21 April 1941 to the United Kingdom and arrived on 13 May. The cost was 3d per letter. However, with the increase in popularity of the 6d air letter, the service was terminated on 31 July 1945.

The first civilian airgraph, no. 01 (Fig. 1) from South Africa to the UK was sent by the South African Prime Minister, General JC Smuts, to the Prime Minister of the UK, the Right Honourable Winston Churchill on 1 May 1942 when the service was inaugurated in Johannesburg. (Transcription, Fig. 2).

The reciprocal service was not available until 11 September 1942, but did include both military and civilian mail. This service was also inaugurated at top level by an airgraph, no. 338501 from Winston Churchill to General Smuts (Fig. 3).

The RT HON. Winston Churchill

Airgraph 1

1 May 1942

Prime Ministers Office,
Pretoria

My Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you today to inaugurate the Airgraph service between South Africa and the United Kingdom. This service I consider to be one of the boons brought about by war conditions. To overcome the restrictions in transport this technical achievement has been perfected, and my congratulations go to the technicians and administrators who have made possible this new and valuable service

I know it will bring happiness to many families at present divided by war, and I hope that, in the happier days to come, this Airgraph service will be another medium to bring about understanding and goodwill among the people.

Ever yours sincerely

(signed) J. C. Smuts P.M

Figure 2.

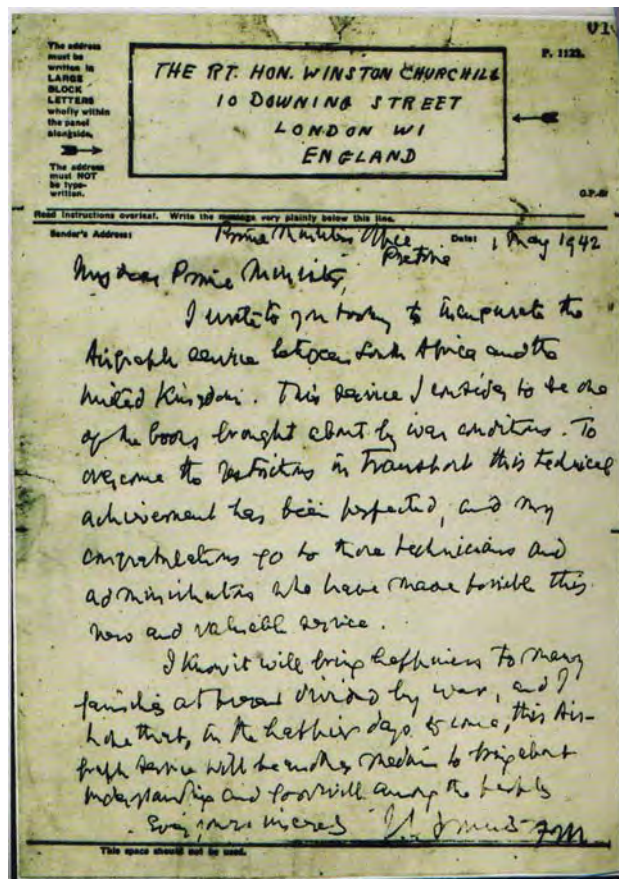


Figure 1.

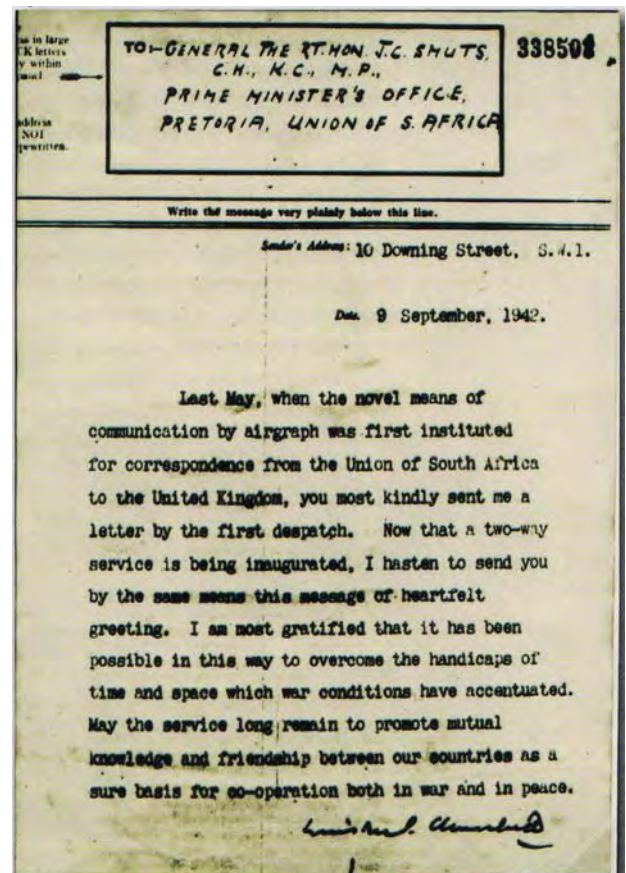


Figure 3.

From South African Philatelist, Vol. 86 (3), p. 92 (June 2006), with permission.

Recent eBay Finds

by Peter Thy

Rectangular mark on 1888 cover from Vryburg

I recently found an 1888 cover from Vryburg to England on eBay. The cover was franked by 8d (4x1d, 4d) in 1887 unappropriated die stamps that were canceled by several BONC 555 strikes. A strike of a Vryburg JY 3 88 circular dated canceller appears in addition below the stamps. The cover is transit marked by a part Cape Town (11 JY 88) and a clear Peterborough JY 31 88 circular dated cancellers. The receiving mark on the reverse is Macclesfields AU 1 88. However, what particularly has me wondering is a small rectangular framed mark with G.N./S.C. in the center that



barely ties one of the stamps to the cover. I showed the cover to the members of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society and was told that G.N./S.C. is a British T.P.O. marking that stands for 'Great Northern Sorting Carriage.' The Great Northern Line is the King's Cross to Edinburgh train line. One correspondent responded "This puzzled me as I would not have expected a cover addressed to Rainow near Macclesfield to have travelled on this T.P.O., or to have gone anywhere near Peterborough. The definitive book on English T.P.O.'s by C.W. Ward (published in 1948) states that the "Rules and Regulation for Officers of T.P.O.'s" in 1897 specified that 2000 unsorted letters could be sent on the Great Northern Line toward Edinburgh. This letter must have been one such, sorted before the T.P.O. reached Peterborough and was removed from the T.P.O. there to follow some more direct route to Macclesfield." Can any reader add to this interesting British T.P.O. history.

Stellaland Forgery

Stellaland SG 6 described by Stanley Gibbons as "Handstamped 'Twée' sideways in violet-lake" was recently sold on eBay as a forgery. The overprinting was allegedly made in 1885 in Vryburg to make a needed 2d stamp, however, the status of the stamp has often been questioned. The recent study published by Drysdall and Hurst in *Collectors Club Philatelist* clearly solved this old outstanding problem showing that the overprinting was authorized and that the 'Twée' overprint is not always forged. This short note is not about whether this actual stamp is a forgery or authentic. What I wanted to share is the virtual notepad on the reverse of the stamp that shows remains of one or more hinges and the bleeding through of the overprint. In the lower is written 'No. 6' presumably for the catalogue number. There also seem to given a price of '300/-.' The remaining notations are either handwritten in pencil or hand stamped. There latter are two expertizing or owner marks in violet ink. One is a capital old English 'T' intertwined with what may be an inverted 'e' (Emil Tamsen?) and the other is a plain 'K V.' I have searched the existing database of expertizing



and owner marks without positive results (<http://www.filatelia.fi/experts/index.html>). The remaining notations are made in pencil (upside-down on the illustration). There are two signatures that cannot clearly be deciphered (U. M... and Senf...?). The signatures are separated by a date (30/9 05). The final signature appears to be followed by the word 'falsch.' What seals the expertizing verdict is, however, a large blue 'Forgery' handstamped at the base in a style of past times. The 'Senf' signature is the Senf Brothers (Gebrüder Senf) who were stamp dealers in Leipzig, Germany, in the late 19th and early 20th century. They were well known for producing 'facsimiles' of difficult-to-obtain stamps. However, they never attempted to disguise the fact that the stamps were reproductions and never attempted to hide a forgery. Does anybody elaborate on the story told by this stamp?



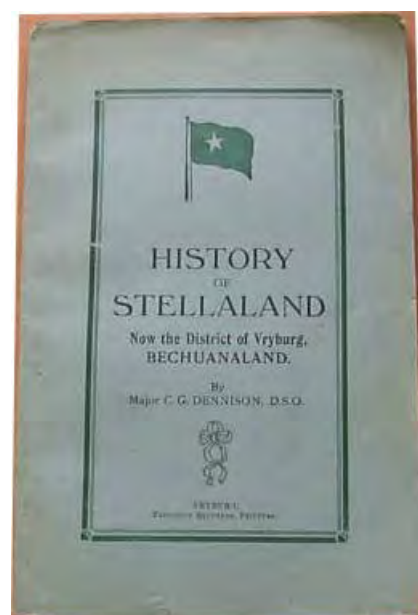
Blue Botswana Registration Barcode Label

This stationery registration envelope bears a blue registration barcode label in contrast to the white label previously seen. The barcode on the blue label is also larger and the label margins cut closer the code. The labels were introduced in the late 2004. The present usage was from Riverwalk Post Office on August 25, 2007. Does other label types exist?

Major Dennison's 'History of Stellaland'

Major C.G. Dennison was a long time resident of Vryburg that took part in the early establishing of Stellaland and experienced the Warren Expedition from the front row. In 1928, he published a personal account titled 'History of Stellaland.' The Pretorius Brothers of Vryburg printed the 50-page account of which at least two editions exist. Brian Hurst describes the book as "an interesting, but rather rambling account, written from memory by an elderly man, some years after the described events." This is a very rare book that is not often offered by booksellers. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to see a nice clean copy of the early edition recently offered on eBay.

Thanks to Philip Kaye, Alan McGregor, and Brian Hurst for various information.



Forerunners Forum

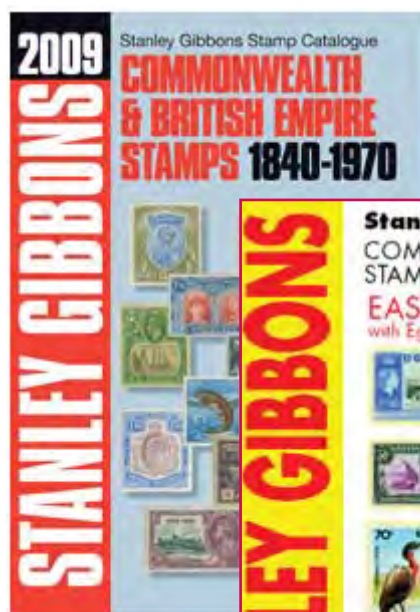
Questions, Comments, and Answers

Frederick Lawrance writes (ieconsulting@cox.net) to direct our attention to Status International Auctions of Sidney, Australia (<http://www.statusint.com/>). They have a very strong selection of southern Africa stamps listed on their website including some interesting Mafeking items of which a small format stamp with Baden-Powell's head in double print is particularly noteworthy.

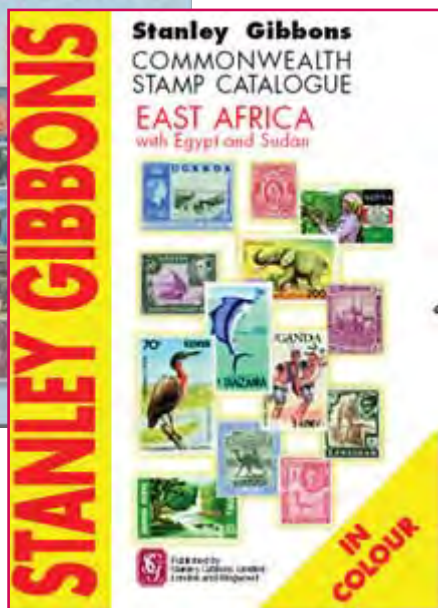


Frederick also writes concerning 'For the Record item #45.' The Mafeking siege 1d cylcist left half sheet (block of six) realized £16,000 + buyer's commission (20 % of the first £2,000 + 15 % of the amount over the first £2,000).

New Stanley Gibbons Catalogues



Stanley Gibbons's new Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps catalogue is now available. The 2009 edition is the sec-



ond edition to extend the scope of the catalogue to 1970. The catalogue sells at £69.95. It includes a wide range of price revisions and extra use of color. Strong interest in Africa has resulted in numerous increases in the South African provinces, especially for unused stamps. Every stamp of Griqualand West have increased in price and extensive revisions have been made to South Africa itself up to about 1950. Errors continue to be popular with some significant increases to missing colours in particular, while the less dramatic watermark varieties also continue to rise (from a

press release from Stanley Gibbons).

The 2006 1st edition of the single area Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogues covering East Africa with Egypt and Sudan is also available. This catalogue may also be of interest to many PSGSA members.

Modern British Commonwealth Errors



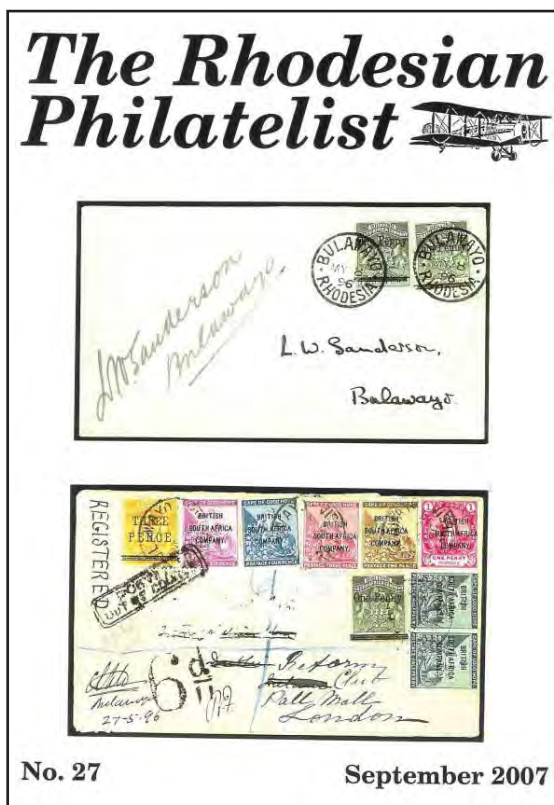
Pierron's Online or Printed Stamp Catalogue contains images, quantities and values of modern GB and Commonwealth errors and varieties from 1952 to date. Updates are made constantly of the online version to reflect dealer and auction prices, new finds, and the latest research. The most informed and up-to-date catalogue of its kind. The current catalogue contains about 1,250 errors and over 2,500 images. There is

a used fee of \$20 for using the online catalogue at <http://www.errors.info>. The printed version costs £50 plus mailing. Below is an example of a listing.

Botswana. Listed as blue-grey missing in SG's 2008 Commonwealth & British Empire catalogue, a copy of the 7½c African Grey Hornbill issued 30 September 1966 with yellow background rather than green has been discovered in a general Botswana collection sold at the John Inglefield-Watson sale at Spink on 3 October 2007. The stamp was only printed using the colours green, brown, red and black. Yellow wasn't used suggesting the alternate background colour was due to a faulty ink mix or a trial printing which got mixed up with the approved printing. The fact the variety appears on a first day cover lends weight to the possibility it comes from an early or trial printing – and is not a missing colour – as sheets are invariably supplied to cover producers first.

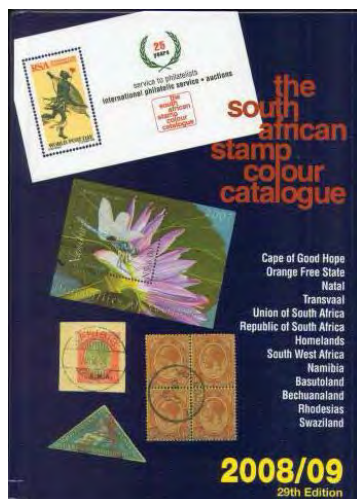


The Rhodesian Philatelist



During the past couple of years, we have surveyed the existing philatelic journals devoted to the southern Africa area. We have found 11 journals of which only two have a commercial publisher. This is the last of the latter. The Rhodesian Philatelist is published by Otto Peetoom of Ormskirk Stamps. Otto Peetoom is also the editor. A total of 27 numbers have been issued between 1993 and 2007 containing a variety of Rhodesian and related articles. Although we have never seen a copy, a brief survey of the table of content on <http://www.rhodesianstamps.net/> reveals several subjects that would be worthwhile a subscription.

South African Stamp Colour Catalogue



The latest edition (2008-9) of the South African Stamp Colour Catalogue is available from most South African dealers. It contains specialised listings and prices for most southern African countries and areas with the exception of some post-independent countries (like Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). All listings are in full colour and prices in Rands. A must for serious collectors. The price is

Highlights from Journals and Newsletters

- Board, C., 2008. The Transvaal during the first decade of the twentieth century. Transvaal Philatelist 43, 58-72 (with 1906 Post Office and Mail Route map inserted).
- Bridges, E., 2008. The 1/2d Springbok re-issue of 1948. Springbok 56, 50-52.
- Dickson, J., 2008. Letter rates between the Cape of Good Hope and Britain: 1795 to 1840 (part 3). Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 12, 62-68.
- Dickson, J., 2008. The Chancellor, the PMG and the Cape merchants – the crisis of 1872-73, part 1. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 12, 48-55.
- Drysdall, A. and Hurst, B., 2008. The “Twee” overprint and the remainders of Stellaland’s postage stamps. Collectors Club Philatelist 87, 141-148.
- Drysdall, A., 2008. BSA Co. N.R. embossed revenue stamps. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 58, 71-72.
- Drysdall, A., 2008. CSAR’s TPOs – an update. Transvaal Philatelist 43, 73-77.
- Drysdall, A., 2008. Examples of Natal official mail. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 12, 103-106.
- Finley, J.B.R. and Ryan, R., 2008. World War II: prisoner of war and internment camps of South Africa and their mail. Springbok 56, 61-64.
- Hurst, B., 2008. SG 32. ‘British Bechuanaland’ overprint on Cape of Good Hope 2d, reading up. Runner Post No. 72, 1776-1781.
- Maselis, P., 2008. Slavery on the Congo coast; postal history. London Philatelist 117, 241-258.
- Mellor, H., 2008. 1957 Christmas seals of Bloemfontain. Springbok 56, 55-57.
- Menuz, W., 2008. Br. Central Africa – Rhodesia mix-up. Postal Stationery 50, 139-141.
- Porter, R., 2008. More on the Zulul rebellion of 1906 and the arrest of King Dinuzulu. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 12, 78-83.
- Porter, R., 2008. Unclaimed and undelivered mail handled by the returned letter office, Natal (part 1). Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 12, 55-59.
- Thomas, M., 2008. Selected pound sign forms in Rhodesian philately. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 58, 73-79

Finally A Dirty Hut Tax Token!

All readers of Forerunners will know that the Editor has a deep fascination with hut tax tokens. This is an example that never was cleaned and still appears as it was in the early 1905 when a new token was acquired. It is inscribed B.S.A.Co./M/4.



For the Record

49. The **Rhodesian Study Circle's 'Diamond Jubilee'** or 60th Anniversary was held in Cape Town during Friday 31st October - Monday 3rd November 2008. There was an extensive philatelic program and also a Social and Sightseeing Program from Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th November. This is a correction to For the Record #46 in Forerunners # 61. My apologies for the mistake.



50. The **Collectors Club of New York** hosted two **Africa presentations** in the month of September: (3 Sept.) Brian Trotter (UK): "South Africa: De La Rue and the Early Twentieth Century Stamps" and (17 Sept.) Keith Klugman (USA): "Victorian Natal." Although it is too late to attend the meeting, it may still be worth to look out for possible printed versions in the Collectors Club Philatelist.

51. The **Collectors Club Philatelist** contained in the May-June 2008 issue an article by Drysdall and Hurst about the **Stellaland 'Twee' overprint**. They prove without doubt that the stamp was a genuine issue of Stellaland and thus solve a long standing controversy.

52. **Alex Visser** writes (alex.visser@up.ac.za): 'Dear Postmark Collectors. I have completed the Addendum for letters L, O, Q, Y, U (I skipped the letters M and P for the moment). All the files are dated August 2008. The web addresses to the new files are given below. Thanks for the continuous flow of feedback. I really appreciate it. Happy postmarking.' The addresses for downloading the new pages are
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterLA.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterLI.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterNA.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterNO.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterO.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterQ.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterT.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterU.pdf>
<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books/AddletterV.pdf>
 See Forerunners #59 (For the Record # 36) for previous released lists. Note that you need to enter the exact address to reach the file and to download.

53. The Editor's article on **absentee exhibition** from last issue has been posted on EXPONET's blog at <http://exponet.blogspot.com/> (search for Forerunners). You can download the article in pdf format together with PSGSA membership information.

54. **Peter Robin** has issued his 30th sales list of **Reply Coupons** with October 18 closing date. If your interests include this fascinating area of philately and postal history, contact Peter and ask to be placed on his mailing lists for future sales. His email address is peterrobin@verizon.net or slow mail to Box 353, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

55. **Otto Peetoom** of Ormskirk Stamps has released his latest **Basutoland-Bechuanaland-Swaziland** lists (Nos, 25

and 26, August-October 2008). Contact Otto Peetoom for additional southern Africa catalogues (Rectory Road, Ross, Near Hull, East Yorkshire, HU12 OLD, England, or visit www.rhodesianstamps.net.)

56. **Philatelic Friends** has moved their complete inventory to a website and has discontinued printed auction lists. The company traces their history back to the 1950's as Robemark Philatelists. The company was in 1984 joined by Terry Barnes and thus established an auction division trading as 'T.D. Barnes.' Later Filatelic Phriends was established. Terry Barnes died in 2000 and Philatelic Friends emerged. Check out their large southern African inventory listed on <http://www.philatelicfriends.co.za>. It is worth a visit.

57. **James Brendon** of Cyprus is working on an expansion of his study of 'UPU Specimen Stamps' from 1988. He is trying to include UPU specimen marked postal stationery and is seeking collaborators with knowledge of specific countries and areas.



The preliminary stationery lists are on the internet at <http://www.jamesbendon.com/>. Contact James Brendon at P O Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus, or email info@jamesbendon.com, if you can help. Your Editor has contributed the lists for the Bechuanalands.



58. The following introduces some worthwhile commercial websites devoted to the philately and postal history of southern Africa. Let the Editor know if we have overlooked some that should also be listed. **Rhodesia Stamps** at www.rhodesianstamps.net is the web window for **Ormskirk Stamps** (Otto Peetoom). It contains a large listing of the Rhodesians and British Central Africa. It also contains information on the Rhodesian Philatelist; an occasional journal published and edited by Otto Peetoom.



59. **Johnson Philatelic** of Port Elizabeth maintains a website at <http://www.johnson.co.za/>. The site contains a large stock list with lots of interesting southern Africa material. The site will also include the current auction. This is a site that can not be ignored.

60. **Michael Deverell and Alan MacGregor** of Cape Town runs one of the most impressive websites devoted to southern Africa at <http://www.rhodesia.co.za/>. Impressive in terms of material listed, including stamps, postal stationery, and postal history. The Editor's favorite site for the Bechuanalands.



DEVERELL / MACGREGOR
 SPECIALIST PHILATELIC DEALERS IN
 THE RHODESIANS AND BRITISH AFRICA

New Books

- Arrow, N., 2008. South African Airmail. Published by the author, Musbury, UK. Available from Ken Sanford.
- Bridges, E., 2008. Union of South Africa. Animal Definitive Issues 1954-1960. The Low Values. Exhibit Display, South African Collectors' Society (Study Collection #14).
- Sehler, N., 2007. Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog Africa 2007. Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins con 1901 e.V. Berlin. Available from Norbert Sehler, Kreuznacher Str. 20, 14197 Berlin, Germany, bgs1901@aon.com.
- Shepherd, G. (2008). Old Livingstone and Victoria Falls. Stenlake Publishing Limited, 54-58 Mill Square, Catrine, Ayrshire, KA5 6RD, UK. (48 pages, £7.99 plus mailing).
- Smith, B., 2008. Union of South Africa Airmail. South African Collectors' Society (Study Collection #15).
- South African Stamp Color Catalogue, 2008-09. 29th Edition. International Philatelic Services and Auctions, P.O. Box 567, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa. Available from most South African philatelic dealers.
- Stanley Gibbons, 2009. Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps Catalogue 1840 to 1970.
- Stanley Gibbons. 2006. Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue. East Africa with Egypt and Sudan.
- Stanley Gibbons, 2006. Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue. Indian Ocean.
- van Zeyl, P., 2008. An Analysis of South Africa's Homelands. Exhibit Display, South African Collectors' Society (Study Collection #13).
- Yendall, E., 2008. The King George VI Large Key Type Revenue and Postage High Value Stamps 1937-1953. Royal Philatelic Society London, London.

Book Reviews

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRMAILS by Nicholas Arrow, published by author, Musbury, United Kingdom, 2008. 203 pages, soft cover, A4 (8¼ x 11½) inch size. Color illustrations. UK£30.00 (approximately US\$58.00) plus UK£10.00 (US\$19.00) airmail postage worldwide (outside the UK).

There have been three definitive catalogs of South African Airmails published since 1936. The first was "The Airposts of South Africa", by L.A. Windham, the second was "South African Airmails", by Capt. Milton F. Stern, published in the late 1960s, and the third "Par Avion in Southern Africa", by John T. Burrell, published in 1986. Each of the second and third catalogs expanded on the earlier ones.

This latest handbook (it is not really a catalog, as it does not include pricing of covers) considerably expands on all three earlier catalogs. The first chapter covers pioneer and other special flights to 31st August 1939. It is written in narrative style and then includes a chronological listing of the flights, and it gives a rarity factor of covers from each flight.

The next chapter covers internal scheduled flights to August 1939, and is in the same format, starting with the narrative, followed by a chronological listing of the flights, but the rarity

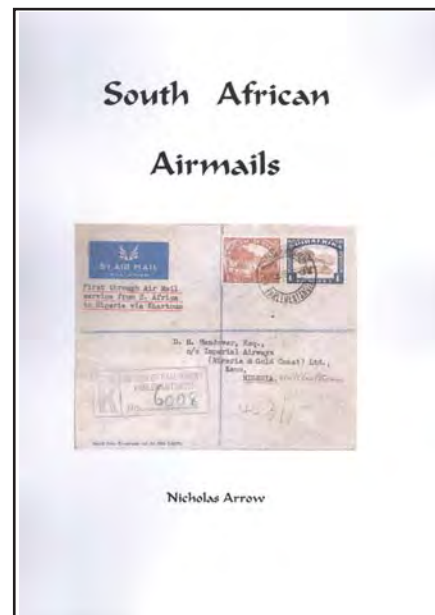
factor of covers is not shown in this and most of the subsequent chapters.

The third chapter covers external scheduled flights to August 1939 with the same format.

The fourth chapter covers the War Years, and includes the "Horseshoe Route", mail between South Africa and America, crash mail, air letters, aerograms & airgraphs, and a chronological listing of airmails flown during the period 1st September 1939 to 30th September 1945.

The next chapter covers the post-war era to 31st May 1961, and describes the first flights of various airlines that have served South Africa, such as BOAC, KLM, Pan Am, Air France, Swissair, Sabena, Qantas, etc. This is also followed by a chronological listing of the flights between 1st October 1945 to 31st May 1961, where again the rarity factor of covers is resumed.

The chapter that follows covers the period 1st June 1961 to 1974, then 1975 to 1981, where the rarity factor is again dropped, and finally the period 1982 to 7th February 1994 is covered in both the narrative and a chronological listing.



There are a number of appendices which cover:

- * Dates of intermediate flights of government experimental service
- * Note as to "Rand Airport", which served Johannesburg
- * A list of well known and prominent people to which many first & special flight covers are addressed
- * Balloon and Helicopter, etc. Flights
- * Antarctic Helicopter Flights

Throughout the chapters, some covers are shown in color, but the illustrations are not as numerous as in "Par Avion in Southern Africa", which this reviewer would have liked. Also, there is no bibliography, which would have been useful, and the rarity factor should have been used throughout the listings.

Overall, the handbook is very well done and it is a valuable addition to the literature on South Africa Airmails.

Ken Sanford

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). \$30 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 David McNamee at the addresses given on page 1.

The Market Place

Union machine and parcel postmarks. Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations. Please contact Bas Payne on bas@paynes.demon.co.uk, or Saltbox Barn, Edney's Lane, Denmead, Waterlooville, PO7 6JL, UK.

Union pictorials 1926-1940/ Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations including singles. Please contact Bas Payne on bas@paynes.demon.co.uk, or Saltbox Barn, Edney's Lane, Denmead, Waterlooville, PO7 6JL, UK.

Cape of Good Hope. I buy postal history material, specially the period 1652 - 1853. Please send scan or photocopy with price. Johnny Barth, Nivavaenge 25, DK 2990 Niva, Denmark. E-mail: barth@post3.tele.dk.

SA Homelands used. Seeking postally used stamps and covers (larger lots with duplication OK). Have used Homelands and GB, Commonwealth (Australia, NZ, others) to trade. Send description/scan/price to Chris Oberholster, 2013 Yancy Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022; pangolin100@aol.com.

Wanted: Postal Savings Books and related items from any southern African territories and countries. Send photocopies/scans and descriptions to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis CA 95617-3112, thy@kronestamps.dk.

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 95617-3112 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, 89 Cameron, 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 95617-3112 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

Numerical Cancellers (BONCs) used in Southern Africa sought by collector. Contact me for wantlist or let me know what you can offer. Werner Seeba, In Den Wannenaekern 14, D-70374 Stuttgart 50, Germany.

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

Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

Premium positions (full covers only):

1/1 page inside front cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.

1/1 page inside back cover single issue \$50, annual \$120, two years \$200.

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



This is a rare find of a South African postal orders issued in 1974 at Gaborone in Botswana. It is the then current South African order for 50c that has been overprinted 'REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA' and further has the commission fee surcharged from 3c to 5c. The order is even more remarkable by having been uprated to 59c by affixing two stamps for a total amount of 9c. This is the highest uprating possible on this order since 10c or higher would have required the use on the next order of 60c. The stamps are according to regulations not cancelled. The recipient is not indicated and the order was never cashed (otherwise it would have been destroyed). Postal orders were first issued in Bechuanaland in 1907 as British orders. The only known example of these 'early' British orders was issued in 1944 in Serowe. This order was only overprinted for use in South Africa and was not surcharged (see FR#61, p. 91). It is known that South African orders also were issued in Bechuanaland from 1933, when the Union at least temporary decided to discontinue issuing British orders (as seen, this decision had been resumed in 1944). Around 1960, Bechuanaland decided to discontinue issuing South African orders and to order their own overprinted British orders. This decision was soon reversed and South African orders were again sold at Bechuanaland/Botswana post offices this time overprinted. Only two of these latter are known to exist. This order is absolutely the most impressive of these two with a higher denomination and being uprated.

Membership Application

Membership fees are \$25 US and Canada and \$30 for all other addresses. Membership includes a subscription to the Society's quarterly journal *Forerunners*. Those that join before July 1 will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1. If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." A cheque in Sterling is also acceptable; however, make the cheque payable to "E. Hisey" instead of the Society. Mail all payments to David McNamee, PSGSA Treasurer, 15 Woodland Drive, Alamo, CA 94507 USA. Paypal to "dmcnamee@aol.com" is also acceptable, but please add US\$1 extra to cover part of the PayPal fees we must pay to use the service.

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THE RARE AND UNUSUAL

ESSAY FOR UNISSUED BECHUANALAND POSTAL CARD
PREPARED BY DE LA RUE IN 1907



The British inland cards changed in March 1908 to a simplified design without the line 'THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE' below 'POST CARD'. The printer was notified in October 1907 to adopt the new design 'on the next reprint' of British cards. When a new supply of cards was ordered by Bechuanaland in 1908, this was however still none on cards of the old design. It is plausible that the two cards shown here are the printers essay for a repositioned overprint that was never issued. The reason was probably a surplus stock of the old design. Two such essays are known to exist. An additional essay appears with specimen overprint that was retained by the Inland Revenue Department for reference purposes. Note the forensic interest in the latter card (the printer's or the collector's fingerprints?).