



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

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXV, Number 3, Whole No. 73

March-June 2012



One Shilling Cape Postal Note Issued in 1894

## Highlights

Digital Forerunners?

Early Mail from American Missionaries in Natal

Troe Troe and Clan Williams

New Postal Stationery

First Flight Service

Luderitzbucht Cancel on Transvaal Card

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BONC 227

Middle Earth Postal History

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One of the die-cut  
stamps released  
in April 2012  
by south Africa  
showing national  
symbols.

Front Illustration:

Cape of Good Hope postal note issued in 1894 in Newlands. The value was one shilling and a commission fee of 1d was paid. It was never cashed and has therefore survived.

\*\*\***FORERUNNERS**

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Official Journal of the *Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa*

Large Silver at 12th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition; Vermeil at JOBURG, 2010; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2010, Richmond; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2009; Silver at STAMPSHOW 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006; Vermeils in 2005 at STAMPSHOW and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at SESCOAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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## Editorial Notes

This is whole number 73 of Forerunners. This means that your hard working Editor now has served for nine years and has produced twenty-seven issues of Forerunners. As you may remember, the first issue (No. 47) showed on the front Peter Lodoen's rejected stamp design for Botswana featuring a front rabbit with a large snake creeping up from behind. (Later accepted with the poor rabbit erased.) This cover must in hindsight have been an allegory for the plight of editors. We are promised - oh so much - if we just will take over the editorial responsibility a couple of years until a better suited person can be found. But as we mostly discover, the snake keeps creeping onto us and soon we reach the 10th Anniversary without knowing how. Well - that's really not true - it happens with the help of a lot of people - but still!

So despite that it has been a fun ride, time has finally come to look around for that better suited person out there. That about being better qualified should not be taken too literally. All that really is needed is a reasonable knowledge about our hobby, some experience with computers (word processors or page makers), and the excitement. If you have particular the latter, please come forward.

In this issue, we return to philatelic fiction with an article by Franco Frescura titled 'The Postal History of Middle Earth. If you are of mine and Franco's generation, you will know what it all is about, but if you are a tad younger, you will be undoubtedly be up for a treat. Franco's article is not only for entertainment, it also includes an invitation! Read for yourself.

## Correction

It has been brought to my attention that some irregularity in the numbering system has occurred in a recently recent issue of Forerunners. The problem was whole number 71 that was dated 'November-February 2011/12'. The correct date should have been 'July-October 2012'. Otherwise correct.

## Preservation of Scale in Forerunners

Despite that we strive to preserve the original scales of philatelic material in Forerunners, often we fail for either practical reasons or because of technical or printing problems. It can be difficult to fit many large sized envelopes onto a couple of pages and reduction in size is necessary. In most cases the reduction will be given. More than often the scans submitted do not conform with the Editors computer and software (or his skills). The results too often is that the original scale of an item is lost in the transfer. This is not necessarily the fault of the author. However, if preservation of scale is important to you, include the original dimensions of the items shown in the subcaptions.

The deadline for the next issue will be October 15, 2012. Please let the Editor have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.



By popular request, the Editor has agreed to show this portrait of himself contemplating the low ebb in the inbox of articles for the next issue of Forerunners.

## 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 mailing addresses and US\$30 for all other addresses. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1st. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$6. Presentation issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from [psgsa.thestampweb.com](http://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) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com). All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

### *Instructions for Manuscript Submissions*

Manuscripts should be sent 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 in color and 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 hand written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are most welcome.



## President's Corner

Greetings once again from Ontario. I have recently returned from a trip with my wife to Lancaster, PA, where the American Topical Association was holding their annual show from June 21st to 23rd. Having been an ATA member for 42 years, I have seen a lot of changes in both the running of that organization and the exhibits that have appeared at the show over the years. Early exhibits that I observed bore titles such as "Flowers on Stamps", with rows of pretty pictures that were obviously "topical" in nature. In San Antonio in 1983, I was "pressed" into joining the judging panel when one of the panel reported in sick! Among the exhibits was a wonderful display of U.S. Columbians and an exhibit of precancels, which I was told had both been placed in a special category, since they were not "topical". Among the other exhibits was one on "Hollywood", a Display Class exhibit years ahead of its time and some "thematic" exhibits among the "topicals". At the critique (now called 'feedback forum'), I managed not to disgrace myself and the whole thing was a valuable learning experience.

In the years since then, when I served on the Board of Directors, the term "thematic" took on a whole new meaning under the tutelage of exhibitors such as Mary Ann Owens and George Guzzio and the exhibits at shows rapidly improved. Then the Display class was discussed (and barred for at least one year), followed by Postcards (which could not possibly be shown thematically???). The recent show of course displayed examples of almost all exhibit classes, each demonstrating the fact that any philatelic (and some non-philatelic) exhibits could be shown "thematically". In the March/April "Topical Time" journal of the ATA, on page 73, Darrell Ertzberger wrote a piece titled "Topical Exhibiting is Dead", in which he expands the differences between "topical" and "thematic" and it is well worth reading. I have several "topical" collections: butterflies & moths; beetles; ants, bees and wasps and almost every insect that has appeared on a stamp. In some ways, this satisfies the "scientist" in me that enjoys making corrections in the depiction of the subject of the stamps. However, when I start to put together an exhibit, it includes much material other than stamps that might have anything to do with illustrating "entomology and man", which is, in effect, my theme.

The May/June issue of the ATA journal, on page 6, has the ATA President, Jack André Denys, asking the question "why not the American Thematic Association?". I immediately thought of a comment frequently used by John McEnroe, of tennis fame, namely "you can not be serious"! However, he then expands on the question and comes up with many cogent reasons for NOT changing the title of the association. Again, this article is well worth reading. I will now jump off my soapbox and promise to get closer to PSGSA subjects in my next offering!

Until next time.....

## Surplus Copies of Forerunners

The offer still stands. The Editor has a large box of surplus copies of Forerunners between whole no. 47 and 66 which are still available to members basically for the mailing expenses.

## New Members

Welcome to

Steve Zirinsky of New York  
Collector and part time dealer specializing in Southern Africa

Patrick Koppel of Tennessee  
General interest in Southern Africa

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

Contact David McNamee if you wish to reach another member.

## TBVC Studiegroep/Study Group

The study group has started a comprehensive study of the stamp issues of the South Africa Homelands. TBVC stands for Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei. So far three summaries of the stamp issues of Transkei have been distributed:

No. 1: Summary, 1963 Transkei Legislative Assembly;  
1976 Independence Series (8 pages).

No. 2: 1976-84 first definitive series (12 pages).

No. 3: 1977 Transkei Airways; 1977 medical plants; 1977  
Radio Transkei (8 pages).

Each stamp description gives a detailed summary of the philatelic knowledge as well as the special cancellations and covers. If your interest is the homelands, this is definitely something that you will want to see and a project you must get involved in. The group invites comments and input to the project. Contact Connie Liebenberg at [jacoli@mweb.co.za](mailto:jacoli@mweb.co.za) to get on the mailing list for the TBVC annexures and to offer your help.



----- 0 -----

This 1857 Natal embossed stamp was offered in the March 2012 Collectors Series sale of SPINK New York as lot 1871. It was described as the only recorded example of SG #3, 1857 9p blue embossed estimated at \$40,000-50,000. The embossing - difficult to see - reads "NATAL/VR/NINE PENCE" in addition to a crown and an ornamental wreath.



## PSGSA Financial Statement 15 June 2012

Income from Members	\$2218
Income from Books/CD Sales	160
Interest Income	1
Total Income	\$2379

Expense for Forerunners	\$1097
Expense Bank Charges	13
Expense Dues/Subscriptions	95
Expense Office Supplies	4
Total Expenses	\$1209

Net Income \$1170

NOTE: Does not include costs of 3rd issue of Forerunners  
Approximately \$550 + \$50 dues solicitation postage.

Net Assets \$9566

David McNamee, PSGSA Secretary\Treasurer

## Medal at the Royal Canadian Exhibition

Tim Bartshe's exhibit 'Shafts and Disselboom: South African Republic Postal Cards 1894-1900' received GOLD and the One Frame Grand in a field of over twenty one-frame exhibits.

The Royal was held in the West Edmonton Mall 1-3 June in Edmonton, Alberta. The ROYAL is the Canadian National show co-sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, the equivalent to the APS. The show travels around the country similar to Stamp Show, last year being held in Montreal and next year in Winnipeg.

## Meetings With Southern African Themes

The following meetings has been announced by the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

10 May 2012 at 1 pm. **Patrick Flanagan:** The Rhodesians: The Early explorers to Independence. A philatelic journey from the days of the early explorers, the Pioneer Column to the issue of the first British South Africa Company stamps in 1892, through Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and the Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland and then Rhodesia, illustrated by essays, colour trials, proofs, the issued stamps and relevant covers.

24 May 2012 at 5 pm. **Brian Trotter:** The Other King's Head The evolution of the KGV 'King's Head' postage stamps and postal stationery of South Africa, showing essays, die proofs and other material from the De La Rue printers' records, followed by the issued stamps and stationery. These include stamp booklets and coil stamps. Examples of stamp errors and varieties, along with some examples of the usage of the stamps and the postal stationery are also shown.

Well, perhaps too late for these meetings. Check <http://www.rpsl.org/> for future meetings.

## Digital Version of the De La Rue Collection

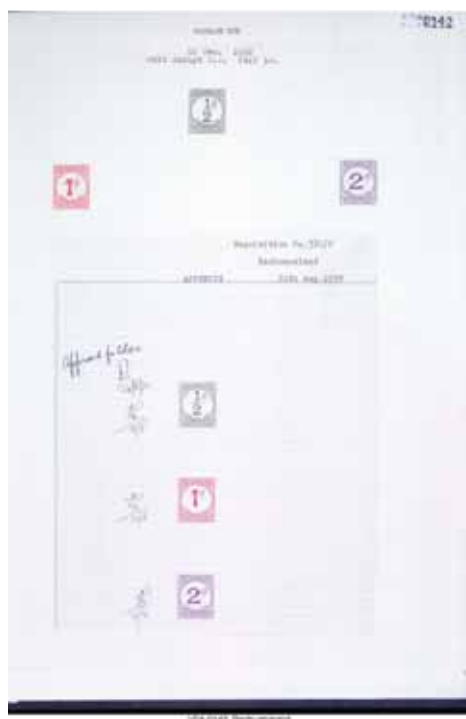
In June 1955, De La Rue celebrated their Stamp Centenary. To mark this event an exhibition was held at the RPSL premises showing 400 pages of material taken from the DLR archives. These pages (containing drawings, essays, proofs and stamps etc) were a selection from the De La Rue Collection, which had been created (and continued to be enlarged, into the 1960s) by their archivist, Leslie Newman.

Leslie Newman dedicated a great part of fifteen years searching, page by page, through the 129 volumes in which the company's correspondence and works records had been filed since 1866, sifting the information, selecting the most interesting material, mounting and writing up until eighty-two volumes had been filled.

In 1966, this collection was transferred to the British Museum. In 1973, the collection was transferred on long term loan to the National Postal Museum (recorded as 83 volumes).

In the late 1970s/80s, De La Rue sold this archive collection through Robson Lowe, but before dispersal 35 mm films were taken as a record. These films have been generously lent by Spink to the RPSL who have arranged for digitisation and the results (over 3000 pages) can be viewed in the RPSL Catalogue. Unfortunately, volumes 30 (GB George V, George VI and Elizabeth II) and 42 (TransJordan and Kedah) are missing (but hopefully will turn up).

Colour reproduction is not accurate, as the films are over 30 years old and conversion to digital format may have introduced further variation. At full quality, these pdf files are rather large and so quality has been slightly reduced for posting on the www. Go to <http://www.rpsl.org/> for details. Below is a Bechuanaland page greatly reduced,



# Letters to the Editor: the Future of Forerunners

**David McNamee** writes: "There is a storm brewing that will inevitably engulf us all. Postal authorities around the globe are raising both domestic and foreign mailing rates at a rapid pace, making it difficult to keep a small specialist society journal affordable to members. A cost squeeze has been going on for some time, but the pace seems to have quickened quite a bit.

The Cape & Natal Philatelic Society has announced that they will no longer print and mail paper copies of their fine journal to members. Instead, they intend to produce the journal on CD and distribute that to members to print if they wish. Subscription prices remain the same, and the Society intends to save on most of their printing costs and reduce their postage costs by this measure.

Other societies are exploring (or currently operate) web sites that have "Member Only" sections where downloads of the current journal is made available. Those that offer this option usually offer a discounted membership to those electing a download instead of a paper copy.

Other options are more difficult to implement without decreasing the services to members: sell more advertising space (reducing article space), raise subscription prices, reduce the page count, or reduce other expenses.

Thanks to the diligence and care of our previous Treasurer, Bob Hisey, we are financially healthy. As the current Treasurer, I have managed with everyone's help to keep our bank account roughly the same or perhaps a modest gain since taking over. We have an extremely favorable printing contract that enables us to produce a full-color Forerunners for slightly more than 10 cents per page. We use some discounted postage (and we will accept your donations of uncanceled US stamps with or without gum) and purchase the envelopes in bulk at a small discount. We have a few pages devoted to advertising, but selling more (if we could) means fewer articles. A lot of work is done by volunteers who absorb the expenses associated with their tasks as a contribution to PSGSA, so our expenses are primarily printing and postage (\$1100 out of \$1200 total expenses as of this date).

So that is what is facing us in the future, and that is our current financial situation. PSGSA members need to express a preference for some of these strategies or offer other ideas, because we could very well be faced with making this type of decision sooner rather than later. Please comment."

**Bob Hisey** writes: "Digital Publish or Hard Copy Mail? With the rising cost of postage expected to continue, as the post office is losing \$3 million per day, it seems time to consider digital publication of our journal instead of mailing hard copy. Many similar societies have already converted.

I will try here to lay out some information which might help our discussion and show some alternatives.

Web publication is fairly simple and inexpensive, and has superior color. As an example, I subscribe to a service called 'Mailbigfile Pro'. \$20/year. To use it, you upload the journal

to the service in pdf format, send it to yourself, and then forward the email code to the chosen members. They can then download the file. This has some limitations, such as only 100 downloads per issue, and 28 days for the member to download (but we could store 2 years of the Journal on the site and resend if needed). However, it seems adequate for a trial for our overseas members. A business membership cost \$240/year with few or no restrictions. This would be suitable if we go ahead full steam at some point. There are also numerous other companies offering similar services. More information is available at [www.mailbigfiles.com](http://www.mailbigfiles.com).

It is also possible to publish via CDs. In lots of 100-150, these cost about \$1-\$2, and are very light. In fact with a special envelope, they can be mailed as single rate 1st class mail. This still leaves addressing, stuffing, etc.

The question has been raised as to whether putting the overseas members on the web would seriously increase the copy cost for printing the US copies. I got estimates for various quantities from a printer for 40 pp all color as: 50 copies @ \$5.20, 100 copies @ \$3.84, and 150 copies @ \$3.00. So our mainland costs would go up about \$1/copy, or \$100/year. Not a big deal, as the overseas subs would more than cover that.

The real question is how the members would react? It has been suggested that we try it out by giving our overseas members a free web copy for a year, and then canvas their reaction to a web copy at a reduced rate, or a hard copy at an increased rate. I would second that motion, our only risk is \$9. What do you all think?"

**Tim Bartshe** writes: "I believe that what we offer should not be free. The society can only run on good will and best wishes for so long without eliminating any other outside events, like our 2015 planned African Philatelic Exhibition or the costs of putting Forerunners into philatelic literature competitions.

While we are way ahead of the curve right now, if the printing price for journal goes up regardless of the numbers, someone will have to pay for it. If we are talking substantial expenses, we will lose all print copy members. I am not an egalitarian by any means, but the body politic should agree to shoulder some of the overall costs of the Society even though some do not use the services, think property taxes for schools. Don't have and never have had kids, but pay them anyway. Maybe a little obtuse reasoning, but gasoline taxes would be similar or vehicle licenses. Have made my point I hope. "

(Editor) It is important that we consider these issues. The raising mailing and possibly printing expenses will eventually force us to take drastic steps like eliminating the print version of our Journal. How would the membership react? Can we all handle the download via an internet site to our own computer of large sized files? Have we all got the capabilities of reading pdf-formatted files? Have we all sufficient space to store several issues on our harddisk and eventually to back them up on an external device like a CD for long term storage?



# Pre-1890 Letters from the First American Missionaries in Natal

by Keith P. Klugman

In their recent article describing the ½oz letter rate from Southern Africa to the USA and Canada, Allison and Johnson<sup>1</sup> state in their first sentence that early covers from Southern Africa are hard to find and they know of just three to the USA or Canada prior to 1870. While covers from Natal to North America are also surprisingly scarce there are some pre – 1850 letters in private hands from the remarkable American men and women who first ventured into the interior of Natal and I share the data on these in this paper.

Adams to introduce himself to his future wife Miss Sarah C van Tine in Painesville, Ohio<sup>2</sup>. Thanks to the local postmaster the letter was forwarded to her in Cleveland, Ohio. Adams had met her just once (according to the enclosed letter) a year before in July 1833 in Painesville, and in the letter he now proposes to her “to share with me the cares and trials and pleasures of a missionary life,” as he goes to “establish a mission among the Zoolahs (Zulus) of South Africa”. He further writes that his proposal “may not be at all agreeable to you”, but she agreed to



Fig. 1. Letter in 1834 from Newton Adams in which he proposes marriage to his future wife, Sarah

The earliest letter from Southern Africa in private hands is from Natal to the USA and it predates the 1859 earliest letter from the Cape<sup>1</sup>, by 23 years! The first missionaries to settle among the Zulu in Natal in 1836 were five Americans, Dr Newton Adams and his wife Sarah, Rev George Champion and his wife Susan, and Aldin Grout whose first wife Hannah tragically died in Bethelsdorp, Cape Colony, en route to Natal. He subsequently, in 1838, married his second wife, Charlotte. While the letters of these missionaries exist in the papers of the American Board of Foreign Missions, in the Houghton Library at Harvard University, there are in private hands, three letters, two of which originated in Natal, that relate to the attempt of each of these three missionaries and their wives, to live in Natal in the 1830's and 1840's.

The first, relating to Adams, was written and delivered entirely within the US and is a letter from East Bloomfield in upstate New York (Fig.1) on 2nd October 1834 from Newton

marry him and accompanied him to Natal! The letter was paid 24c but required an additional 6c for forwarding. It has a transit strikes of Canandaigua, NY on 3rd October, and Painesville, Ohio on 7th.

The 2nd letter, relating to the Champions, is the earliest recorded in private hands to any destination from Natal. It was written in Natal to the U.S.A., from George Champion's wife Susan who wrote (Fig.2) from their original mission on the Umlazi river near Port Natal on 17th August 1836. George ventured two times into Zululand to persuade the Zulu King, Dingaan, to let the three missionaries settle there, and after his second visit to Dingaan in 1836 he returned to Bethelsdorp and Port Elizabeth to pick up his wife. He took her to Port Natal having agreed with Dingaan to set up two missions - one at "Port Natal" and the second at Dingaan's capital (Ginani). The location at Port Natal is the one where the letter was written on the Umlazi river. Champion (with Susan) left to set up Ginani



on Aug 30th 1836, just 13 days after the letter written on August 17th. Their mission was short lived as they had to flee Natal in March 1838. The letter, addressed to Mrs Elizabeth Wheeler in Lincoln, Massachusetts was privately carried and entered the mails in Boston where it received the Blake and Davis 211 Boston circle postmark used from 1833 – 43. It was charged 6c for delivery to Lincoln, less than 30 miles from Boston. This letter is the only recorded from Natal prior to the establishment of Natalia, a short lived Boer State that became the British colony of Natal in 1844.

The last of the three letters was written by Charlotte Grout, the 2nd wife of Aldin Grout. He left Natal before the other two missionaries in October 1837 to take his daughter who



Fig. 2. Earliest letter recorded from Natal in 1836 from Susan Champion to the USA



Fig. 3. Letter from Charlotte Grout in 1849 to the USA

had remained in Bethelsdorp back to America, but was persuaded to return to Natal in June 1840 where he remained until 1870, when he finally returned to the U.S.<sup>4</sup> The letter (Fig.3) from Charlotte was written on 8th December 1849 and is addressed to the 6th St. Presbyterian Club in New York. It was carried as a Ship Letter to Warren, Rhode Island where it received the circular date stamp of 23rd April, 1850 and the 17 x 4 mm SHIP marking known in both blue and black from 1846 – 55. Seven cents was due as a ship fee and postage to New York.

Thus, it was an American letter that is the first recorded from the land that became the British colony of Natal.

#### References

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This article first appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 2010 (volume 89, no. 1, p. 35-37). Here published with permissions.

# Manuscript Cancellations - Troe Troe and Clan William

by Robert Johnson



Figure 1. Troe Troe cover

## Troe Troe

Figure 1 shows a cover to Cape Town sent from Troe Troe via Clan William to Cape Town in August 1870. Figure 2 is an enlarged detail which shows the manuscript cancellation of Troe Troe more clearly. It is 'Troe Troe 17/8/70'.

A postmistress was not appointed to a regular post office at Troe Troe until the 1st September 1873. In the meantime before that date letters would have been taken in by a receiving letter agent on his and later her own farm [husband and then wife] for transmission to Clan William. The dated oval postmark of Clan William appears on this item for 18 August 1870 and the letter was in Cape Town on 19 August 1870. The stamps were obliterated with the BONC 10 of Clan William.

Troe Troe was under the VanRhynsdorp post office in the Vanrhynsdorp Division south of Namaqualand and north of Clan William in a sparsely inhabited region. The post office or receiving agency was probably otherwise known as Lower Oliphants River and the postmistress appointed in 1873 was the woman who dealt with postal matters on the farm there. Her husband was named Van Rhyn. Frescura records the manuscript cancellation manner in use between June 1869 and February 1875.

The stamps used are the first surcharge 'Four Pence on Sixpence' to meet the need for 4d stamps when the regular issue was exhausted in October 1869. The reason for the use of the 6d stamps for overprinting was the excess stock held in Cape Town



Figure 2. Troe Troe manuscript cancellation

when the postage by packet to the UK was increased from 6d to 1s 0d on 1 April 1863 and the reduction of the ship letter rate from 6d to 4d on the same date [rate for the first ½ oz in either instance].

There were two printings of the surcharge and in all about 1,120,000 stamps were overprinted; survival on cover does not mirror the number overprinted.

## Clan William

The features to note on Figure 3 are the manuscript cancellation 'Clanwm 14 9 01' on the stamp and the manuscript annotation CW 14-9-10 plus initials.

The post office at Clan William and all its equipment was destroyed by fire due to arson on 10 August 1901. Until the post office was restored [in a temporary building at first [which also burnt down in 1902] and new equipment provided, including a datestamp cancellation and postmarking was done by hand [i.e. replicating BONC use separately from date stamp use as in this case].







Figure 3. Clan William cover

Further reading in most cases can be had in Frescura, F., *The Post Offices of the Cape of Good Hope 1792-1910* and on the internet for the Clan William area aside from more general printed guides to the area. There are pictures of Clan William and its post office in Putzel, R.F., *The Encyclopaedia of South*

*African Post Offices and Postal Agencies*, Vol 1 at pages 338 and 339.

This article was originally published in the *Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal*. It is her with permissions printed in a slightly modified version.



We have all used flower to express a sentiment, like red roses for love around birthdays and other good occasions. But do we also realize that we may often have conveyed a sentiment dependent on how the stamp was positioned and orientated on the envelope, whether we realized it or not? Letters posted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century often had stamps affixed to envelopes and postcards in all sorts of odd positions and angles. Each position may have had its own distinct meaning, like 'I love you.' Look at the French example above and think about this next time you mail a check to pay for utilities.

## New Postal Stationery from South Africa

by Jan Stolk

I have received information from postmasters of several South African post offices that postcard will be discontinued due to lack of use. The postcard issue that came with the 8th definitive issue was shown in previous issue of Forerunners. The reason for the low interest in these postcards are perhaps easy to understand since they are only available from the Philatelic Services and local Philatelic Counters. They are not sold at normal post offices. As this card has an illustration on the back it can further not serve as a postcard like the previous issue of the 7th definitive issue. So it can not be a big surprise that the cards are little used.

The postcard of the 7th definitive issue (Fig. 1) have had many reprints. With a few new dates found, the final listing of reprints is:

1. Barcode right side of postal code issued 2004
2. Barcode left side of postal code issued 2004
3. Reprint of previous 2005.07.09
4. 2005.11.25
5. 2005.02.28
6. 2006.05.19
7. 2007.08.20
8. 2008.02.15
9. 2008.07.02
10. 2009.07.15
11. 2009.09.??

South African Philatelic Services issued recently a catalogue with stamps and other products from recent years that are still available and can be ordered. To my surprise I found two unknown postcard shown in this catalogue.

A set of ten airmail postcards, designed by Denis Murphy in 2007, similar to the ten self-adhesive stamps from the Flowers of Namaqualand issued on 22 August 2008 (Fig. 2).

A further discovery was two postcards from stamp booklet 54, depicting an elephant and a leopard (Fig. 3). The postcards are for the airmail postcard rate and were available separately from the booklet.

With help of Joh Groenewald I have found at Worldstamps (Glen Carpendale) in Pretoria a recently issued booklet on South African airletters: "The Easy Guide to Aerogrammes of the Republic of South Africa" by Danie van Zyl. The booklet gives some additional information on printings and errors to the existing 'The Postal Stationery of South Africa' part 2, issued by the FVZA. The price of the booklet is 40 rand plus postage.



Figure 1



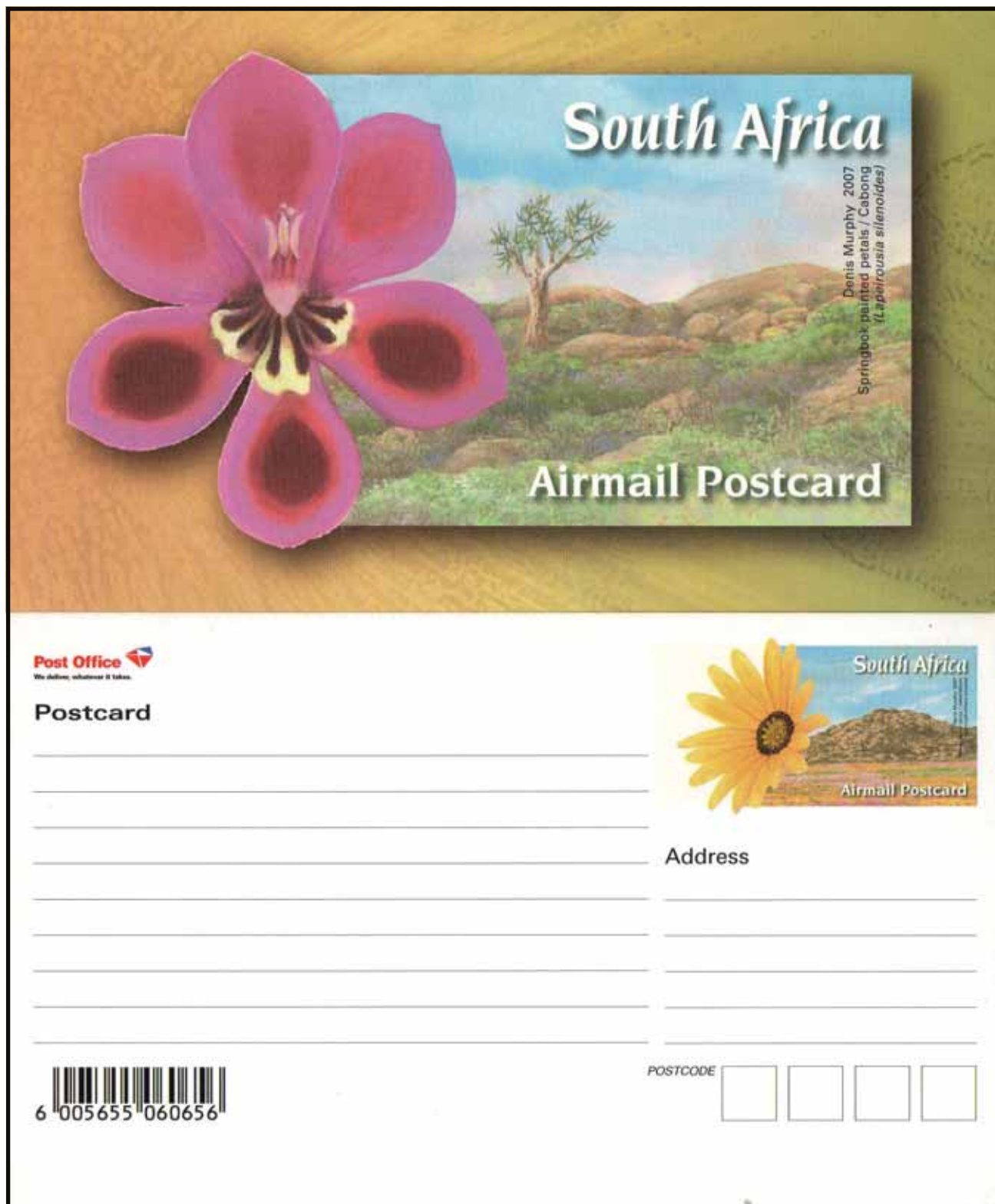


Figure 2



Figure 2 continued

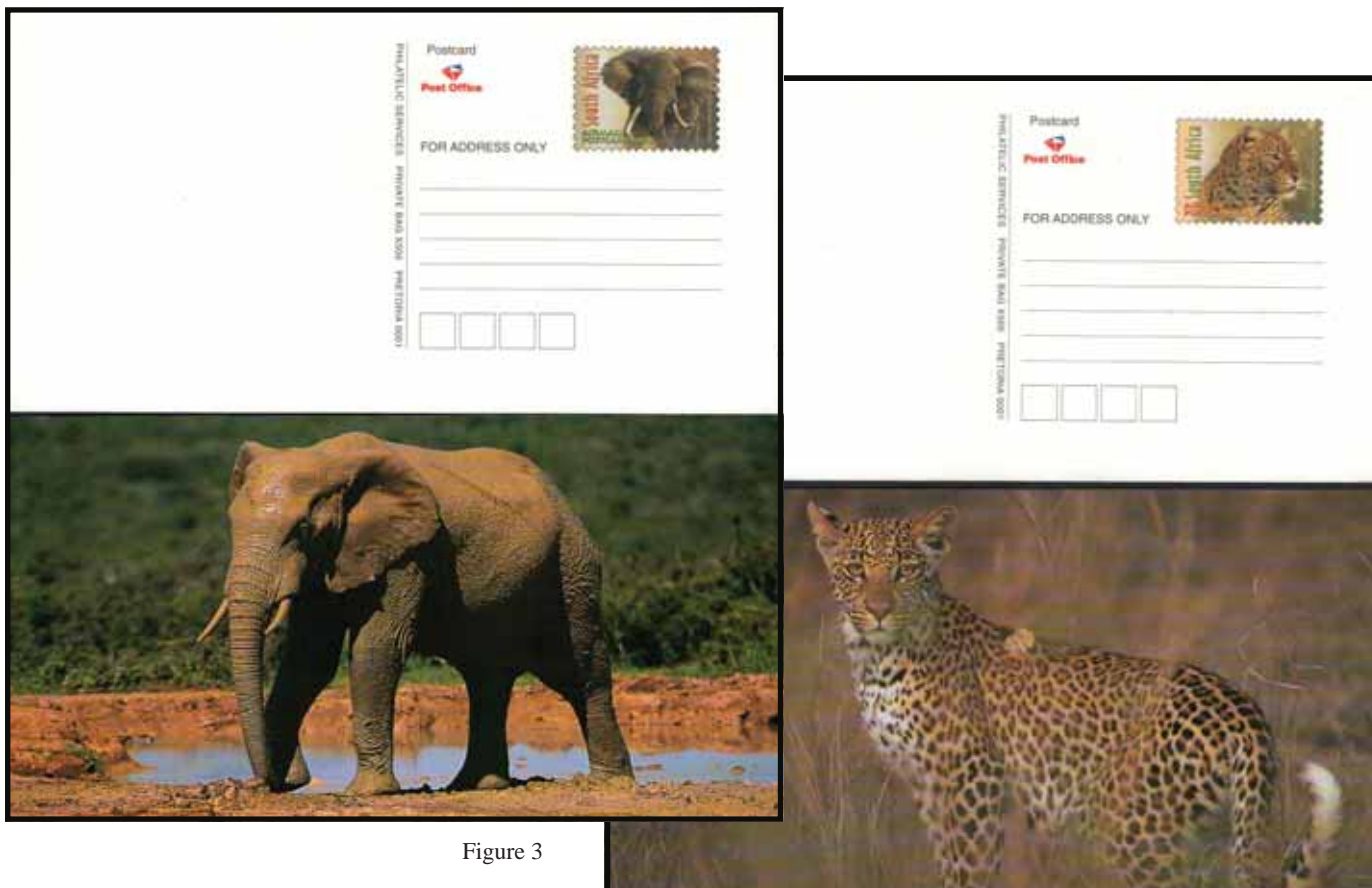


Figure 3

# Is This Really Postal Stationery?

by Peter Thy

**Uli Bantz** mailed this discussion of Jan Stolk's article about new South African postal stationery in the last issue of *Forerunners* (No. 72, p. 36-39). "Herewith three examples of modern Post Office Stationery. The insured parcel was posted at a postal agency counter in a store 'Hyper at the Sea' at Durban on 22 March 2012 and arrived at the Westgate post office on 28/3 (manuscript endorsement). We have from the left

- a) An address label for an insured parcel filled in by the sender.
- b) A tracking and tracing label affixed at Durban.
- c) The payment receipt for an ordinary domestic parcel."

Uli comes short of questioning Stolk's definition of postal stationery, although he could have continued his letter with 'is this really postal stationery?'

The same happened to me after having written a discussion in the *Runner Post* of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society about postal stationery a couple of years ago. At that time I received a complain from **Peter van der Molen** stating "Always a pleasure to read your column in the *Runner Post*. In your recent installment you go into definitions about postal stationery and imply that reply coupons, telegraph forms and the like are technically also items of postal stationery. I beg to differ if I may: my understanding of postal stationery covers all items which actually go through the post, whereas stationery used by the Postal Authorities to run their business, such as reply coupons, telegraph forms, registration receipts and the like should really be classed as 'Post Office stationery.' Once this distinction is made, then the various items fall into place. Post Office stationery can be most interesting, but to my mind is a separate field altogether."

Needless to say, both Uli Bantz and Peter van der Molen are absolutely right. We need to distinguish between real postal stationery as defined by philatelists and stationery used by the post office doing their job. What follows is my original text in the *Runner Post* (slightly modified).

All postal stationery collectors will no doubt have accumulated material as part of their collections that may or may not strictly qualify as postal stationery according to prevailing philosophy and exhibiting regulations of the FIP or other national philatelic organizations such as the APS. The FIP special regulations define postal stationery as "... postal matter which bears an officially authorized pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid." The APS very similarly states that postal stationery "... must have an expressed or implied monetary value when sold, and retain their value until cancelled in use or otherwise demonetized by the issuing authority." These definitions are fairly specific and require that a stamp is imprinted or a value or usage otherwise is 'implied.' 'Formula' stationery with a stamp affixed by the post office is thus included, while stationery without stamp despite either being sold by the post office or having a design similar to previous stamped stationery are not per definition postal stationery. It is unclear, for example, how official and active service mail should be treated under this definition, despite that they have 'implied' values. Much depends on the meaning of the word 'implied.' My dictionary states that implied means 'strongly suggest the truth or existence of (something not expressly stated).' Does that include 'common knowledge' despite not being stated in print on the items in question? The FIP regulations, perhaps for such reasons, clearly state that

the definition of stationery is developing. Collectors are thus typically permitted to include questionable formula stationery without being unnecessarily penalized when exhibiting, at least as long as the questionable items do not dominate the exhibit.

The prevailing definition clearly precludes stationery used for other than strictly postal purposes and thus often without imprinted postal stamps. This is despite the fact that the functions of postal offices and agencies included a large variety of equally important public services. Most importantly, the tele-





graph was part of the post office and often utilized postal cancellers and postal stamps in addition to sharing the same buildings and counters. In fact, the post and telegraph functions were unified in the Post and Telegraph Services that also handled the emerging telephone networks and other radio communications requiring licenses. The transmission of money through the mail or telegraph was done using postal and money orders and was a most important function of any postal office or agency. The post office further often functioned as postal saving bank that may in fact have been the only banking opportunity available to many residents, in particularly women. Postal and later also revenue stamps were utilized for revenue and licensing purposes and were distributed by the post office that also collected some revenue fees. Customs functions were also normal occurrences at many post offices. Further, the coach lines that connected the main post offices were organized to transport the mail and were only able to accept paying passengers and other goods as space permitted. Later the rail line connected the main post offices relocated to the rail line and sharing personal and facilities. The rail line thus became the artery along which mail, passengers, and goods were and still are being channeled.

Many of these post office functions required or allowed various forms of stationery without imprinted stamps. Often these stationery forms were produced by the government and was available at the post office either free or sometimes for a small fee. Other types of forms may have been privately produced or might have originated from neighboring or overseas postal services. The forms used by the Bechuanaland Post and Telegraph Services often originated in South Africa and Rhodesia.

This wide view of stationery conforms to the definition of stationery in standard dictionaries ('writing and other office materials'). Some typical items in my personal collection of stationery belong to this very wide definition only loosely constrained by the history of communication and transportation in the Bechuanalands. They include receipts for mailing and payments, reports of lost mail, official mails, coach line tickets, telegraph forms, telegraph delivery envelopes, radio communication cards, saving bank books, postal orders, reply coupons, parcel and custom forms, and rail waybills. The limits are really without boundaries and are only constrained by the individual collector.

## First Flight Service From Tambo International Airport

by Jan Stolk



I received the pictured cover with First Flight - Eerste Vlucht cachet from Mr. Joh Groenewald. He explained that it is possible to mail your letter at Johannesburg International Airport for the next outgoing flight for the country of the address.

This for an additional fee, the normal airmail fee for a standard letter would be R6.30, the First Flight fee is R20.60. For this service an additional R16.30 has to be paid.

The letter was mailed at the airport on 22 of April 2012 and arrived in Belgium on 4th of May 2012 which is not very

quick. Of course Belgium has no direct flight connection from Johannesburg to Brussels anymore after Sabena stopped direct services.

The mail is accepted at the post office until 2 hours before departure of a flight and is handed to the Captain or his representative which have to take care that the mail is handed over to the post office at the flights destination. A total of 50 different international companies have flights to and from O.R.Tambo in Johannesburg.



# Luderitzbucht Cancellation on Transvaal Card

by H.U. Bantz



This Transvaal postcard (Quik & Jonkers, p. 19) was mailed to Vienna and cancelled in Luderitzbucht on 2- JAN 20. The 'B 100' censor cachet (in violet) was however used at Windhoek and not at Luderitz from 10 October 1916 till 30 January 1920. The card went thus by train from Luderitz to Windhoek for censoring and then on to Vienna.

The text on the reverse of the card deals with the exchange of stamps. This Transvaal postal stationery card was actually not for sale at South West Africa post offices, but nevertheless valid in occupied South West Africa. Shrewd collectors had a way to get hold of them. A pity that Mr. Brudnick spoiled the front of the card by making a note that he sent 700 stamps to Mr. Kramm on 13/2 20.

## 1911 BSAC Government Gazette



This complete example of the British South Africa Company's Government Gazette is indeed rarely found with clear sign of having gone through the mails. Only the newspaper wrapper is missing, but the stamp paying for the mailing was fortunately affixed to the newspaper and not the wrapper and thus received the Post Office cancellation. The auction house that recently sold this gem described it as "1911 COMPLETE NEWSPAPER, 1d RATE. British South Africa Company/Government Gazette No 897/8th December 1911. Franked at top right with 1d Double Head cancelled Insiza (Station)/S Rhodesia datestamp. Address wrapper lacking, complete folded 24 page gazette. VF, attractive & interesting. A very rare piece. Gazette with numerous Government Notices reflecting H Marshall Hole as Secretary; contains separate insert for a census preliminary return giving a fascinating insight into the population in the various districts, there being 23606 European inhabitants of Southern Rhodesia on the night of 7th May 1911 etc."

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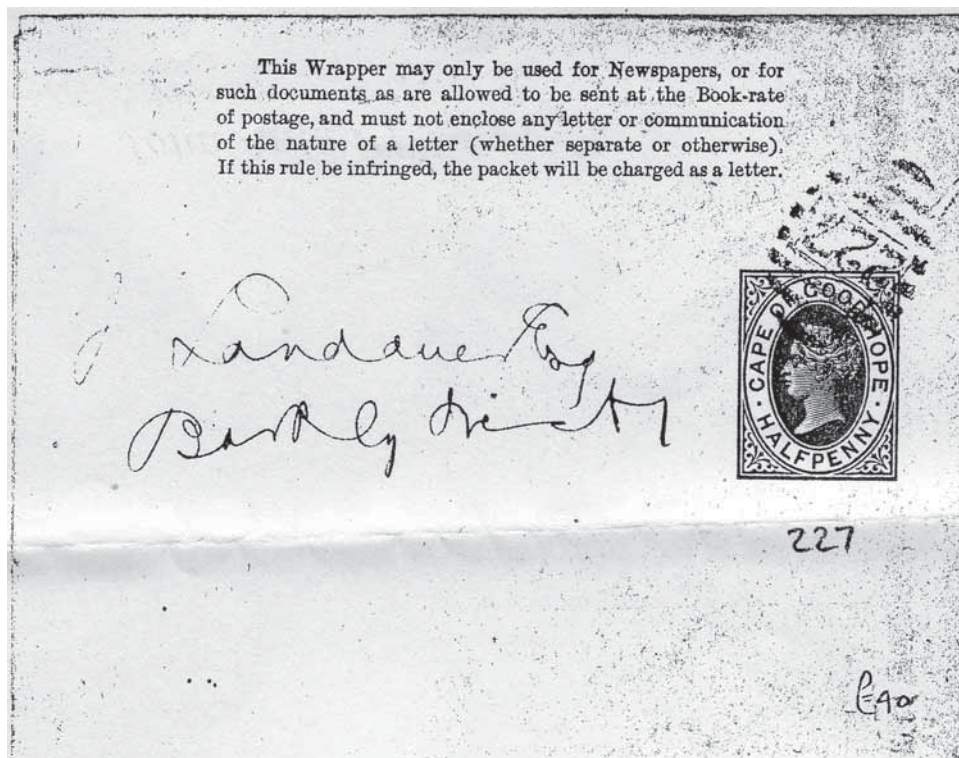
## Index to Forerunners

There is several pressing issues for our society that require volunteers to step forward. The preparation of an index for Forerunners is perhaps the singlemost outstanding task. The Editor runs into this problem often. Most recently, a member asks if an article he wrote some year ago was ever published in Forerunners. The answer is that we really don't know. Another example is that a question is being asked. It is likely that the subject has already been covered somewhere and sometime in Forerunners. An index will help with such requests, but it will also greatly improve the usefulness of Forerunners to our members and philatelists in general. The fact is that if we don't know what has been written in the past, it may just as well not exist. So thus consider stepping forward.



# BONC 227

by Werner Seeba



Werner Seeba has written to show these examples of BONC 227 used in Kimberley, Cape of Good Hope.

The first example is on an undated newspaper wrapper used to Bailey Brith.

The second example is on an envelope addressed to Podimore Siding (via Trangs), British Bechuanaland.

As is common for mail canceled with BONCs, none of the examples are dated. However, both locations were part of the Vryburg postal division of British Bechuanaland until transferred to the Cape of Good Hope. Bailey Brith (east of Vryburg) is known to have been opened in 1891. Podimore was a siding near Dry Hartz just north of Trangs that apparently never had a postal agency. See Runner Post # 49, pages 92-100.



Two different BONC types appear to have been used at Kimberley. These are distinguished by their overall sizes and the type used. This is consistent with observations by Frescura and Nethersole (1991) stating that "... two types of BONC 227 of a 3.3.3 bar (6a3) appear to have been found service in Kimberley."

Frescura, F. and Nethersole, M., 1991: The Postal Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope, Volume 1, The Barred Oval Numeral Cancellers of 1894. Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Johannesburg.

# The Postal History of Middle Earth

by Franco Frescura

*This article was inspired by a beautifully illustrated book, written by Gerald M. King, and published in 1978 entitled 'Alice Through the Pillar-box.' It featured some delightful inventions, such as the 'Knight Mail', and the 'Royal Household Official Mails' (hand-delivered by a fish-footman, of course!), a range of commemorative stamps (Centenary of the Discovery of Wonderland), and some very funny cancellers and hand-stamps, such as 'Recovered from Pool of Tears' and 'Crash Cover Rescued from Cucumber Frame'. This was supplemented by a wide range of prepaid adhesives and FDCs whose imaginative artwork outstripped the reality of the GB Post Office by the proverbial league. The currency used was the Wink, forty of them making up One Golden Slumber.*

*In about 1982, I purchased from a local auction house the un-adopted essays for some of these stamps, none of which were ever featured in the book, probably because they were mostly derived from a range of colonial Chalon heads of Queen Victoria. These are now a prized section of my Cinderella collection.*

*I have long thought that the one single reference to a postal infrastructure to be found in the whole of 'Lord of the Rings' was not really sufficient to give the story the kind of grounding which it deserved. It's all very well to slaughter Orcs and the evil employees of Sarumon by the thousands, but news of such epic victories still need to be conveyed to the gentle and less adventurous folk back home by means of a reliable and well-run postal service.*

*Then, in 1994, I got to run Philatelic Services at our Post Office, and I got to do what every philatelist would give his prostate gland to do: I got to design real stamps. Which means that I got paid serious money for having fun! So, thought I, why not have more fun, not by just designing pseudo-postage stamps, but by inventing a new postal system? Hey! John Tolkien wrote a whole book so he could develop, among other things, a language based upon a runic alphabet, and surely, what is sauce for the goose can also be sauce for the Gandolf?*

*Hence this short introductory paper. Readers will notice that I have kept most of the information open ended, allowing for the invention of all sorts of postally-related developments. Your editor has been kind enough to air this short piece of fiction in order to test the waters or, as they used to say in advertising, to fly a flag and see who salutes. Unfortunately this is not a project I care to tackle on my own. For one thing, there are too many kingdoms and territories to allow for the work of one stamp designer, but I also think that a collaborative project between two, or more people could be a lot more fun.*

*So my dear colleagues, are there any takers out there? If you have a bent for history, or graphic design, or think that postal history ought to be more fun, or are just a Lords-of-the-Rings groupie, please email me at [galefra@mweb.co.za](mailto:galefra@mweb.co.za) and let's talk about it.*

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## PROLOGUE

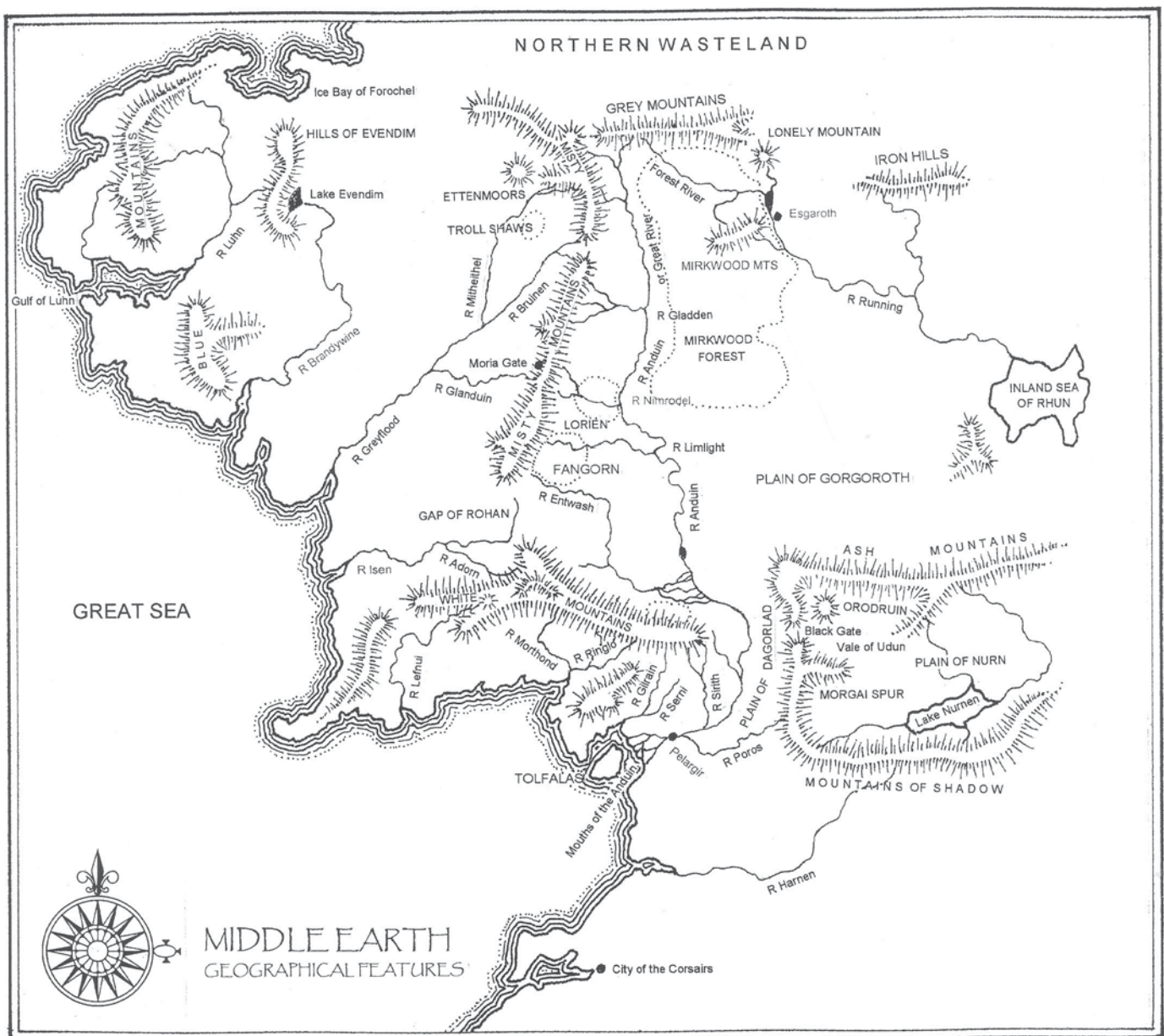
This article, as well as those that will undoubtedly follow in the good course of time, is based upon material which I purchased at auction in Port Elizabeth in September 1989. It came from the deceased estate of Advocate J.R.R. Krige, former Judge President of the Supreme Court in the Eastern Cape, a province of South Africa, and was grouped together with a bulk lot of Cape Colonial Blue Books and Reports to Parliament, mostly dealing with the affairs of the Post Office and the Public Works Department. At the time I was teaching at the University of Port Elizabeth, and was researching a book on the Cape's postal infrastructure, largely as a vehicle to escape the dreary tedium of living in a second-rate provincial city. Consequently it took some time before I was able to turn an idle eye upon this extraneous data which, quite clearly, did not fit in with the mainstream of my, then current, interests.

The material consisted of a fairly detailed diary, a set of hand-drawn maps of such quality as to make direct reproduction impossible, a bundle of letters with stamps and postal markings very similar in nature to those of the Cape, a sheaf of handwritten notes in no apparent order of sequence and a folder of official documents with a variety of unrecognizable revenue stamps. They are all written in a common hand, and appear to have belonged to one Frodo Gardner, postmaster of Hobbiton. Initially I had believed this to have been located in or

near Hogsback, a small village in the Amatole mountains near King William's Town, but when it became clear that this Hobbiton was not located in South Africa, I lost interest and, for the next 16 years, the material went into abeyance.

During Christmas 2005, I was trawling through my research notes, looking for unpublished material which could be turned into an article, when I came across the Gardner diary, and almost at once realized that I had been presented with information that was, quite literally, out of this world. After initial attempts to match the mosaic of maps to parts of terran geography, all without success, I began to decipher the names given to the various rivers and land masses. Being a Child of the 1960s, when 'The Hobbit' and 'Lord of the Rings' by Professor John Tolkien had been mandatory reading for any accredited member of the 'long-hair-and-beards' fraternity, the name of Middle Earth immediately sprang out, as did the forest of Mirkwood, the dark lands of Mordor, and the plains of Rohan. Here, incredibly, I had been presented with a detailed analysis of the postal infrastructure of Middle Earth, obviously set out by someone who had been at the center of its workings. Because much of this was written in a runic alphabet, its translation is not yet complete, and the article that follows must be seen to be a 'work-in-progress', which will probably change as more of the details emerge from the various papers.





Students of postal history are therefore requested to forgive the inaccuracies and inconsistencies which are bound to arise out of this imperfect process. Suggestions as to how this data can also be interpreted will be welcome from those familiar with the monumental accounts of the history of Middle Earth already published by John Tolkien and his son, Christopher.

The text that follows has used Tolkien's chronology, dividing the history of Middle Earth into three distinct eras, the First Age (FA), the Second Age (SA) and the Third and final Age (TA), when events described in the 'Lord of the Rings' take place. This was said to have come to an end in 3021, when Gandalf, Frodo and Bilbo, together with the last remaining Elves, set sail to the Westlands, and out of the reckoning of Middle Earth historians. Unless otherwise stated, all dates given below are set in the Third Age of Middle Earth.

#### SOME POSTAL NOTES

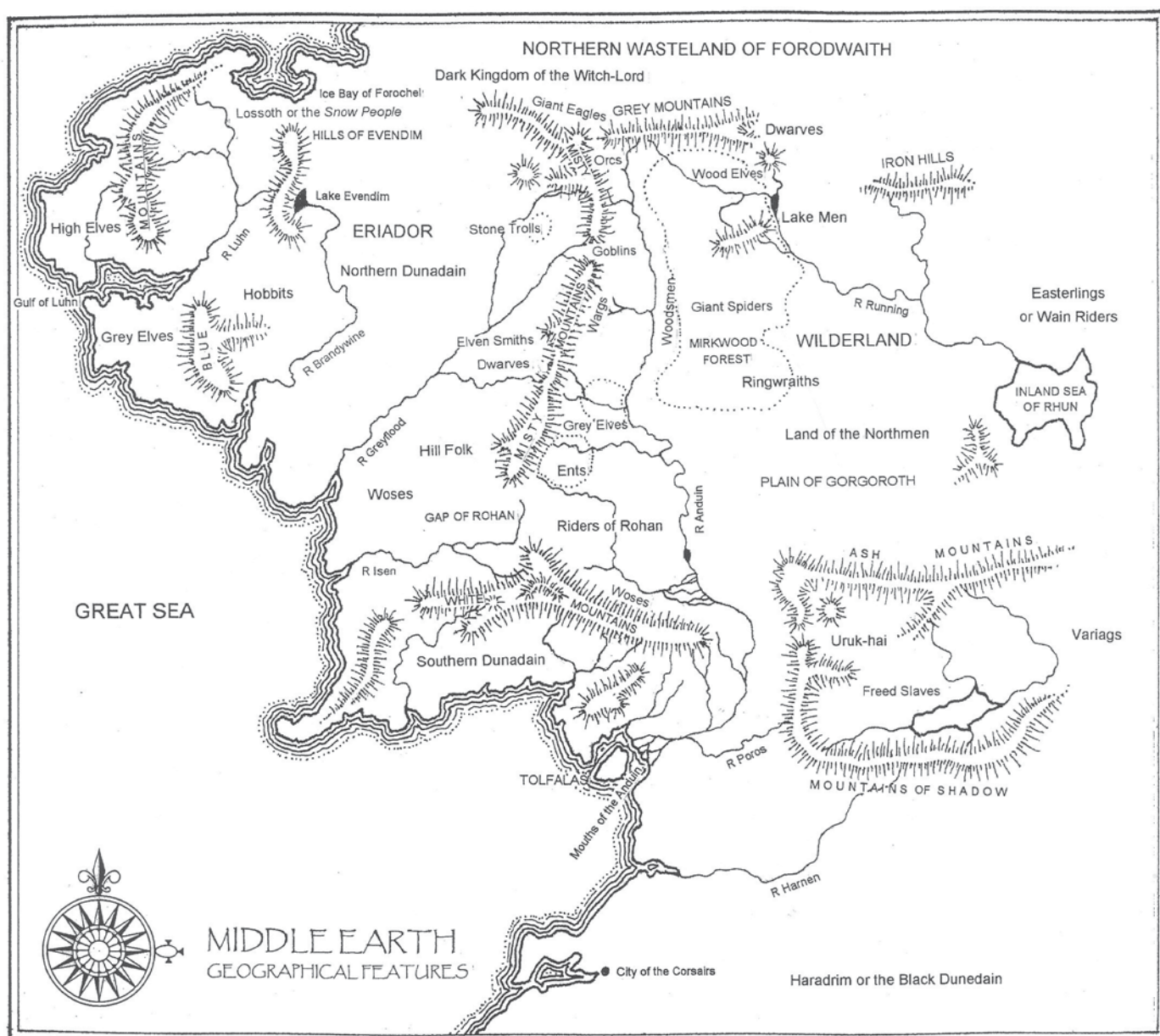
The existence of a postal system is inextricably bound with the concept of literacy, and the need that people may have to transmit their thoughts and wishes, for whatever intrinsic reason, to each other. In Middle Earth the ability to read and write was probably first developed by ancient or High Elves, at a time when the greater part of the region was still known as Eriador, and many of the Elvin-folk had forsaken the Mortal Lands to establish the kingdom of Eldamar, west of the Great Sea. However, not all of the High Elves were content to inhabit that far-off land, and some returned to Middle Earth before the end of the First Age, bringing with them an alphabet of cursive letters, known as the tengwar. This, and the runic alphabet developed by the Grey-Elves, formed the basis for Elven literacy which, through a process of cultural transmission, was then transferred

first to Dwarves, and then to the Dunedain, or the true humans of Middle Earth. Literacy among the Hobbits probably dates back to the time when some clans began to migrate into the Bree-lands, thus coming into contact with the Dunedain. Within a short time, writing became a common feature of Hobbit life, and although not all Hobbits were uniformly literate, we are told that those who could 'wrote constantly to their friends (and a selection of their relations) who lived further off than an afternoon's walk' (Tolkien 1954).

It is not surprising, therefore, that of all the lands of Middle Earth, The Shire had rapidly developed the most advanced of the postal services, and although this stretched hardly beyond its admittedly small boundaries, by the time the War of the Ring had broken out in 3019, most of the neighbouring kingdoms had adapted the Hobbit postal system to meet their own needs.

The Shire appears to have had a liberal, almost anarchic form of government where, for the most part, families managed their own affairs. At one time, so ancient tradition stated, Hobbits had recognized the authority of the King of Artherdain, whose seat was located at Fornost, or Norbury as they called it, but that kingdom had ceased to exist in 1974, nearly one thousand years before the War of the Ring, and since then The Shire had been allowed to prosper relatively unhindered by events elsewhere in Middle Earth. At one time the inherited office of Thain had been instituted to maintain 'the Rules, Most Ancient and Just', but over the years this had lost its practical import, and had gradually become an honorific title.

On the other hand, the position of Mayor, which was elected every seventh year, had gained in prominence, and although the main task of this official was to preside at banquets given



on the frequent Shire-holidays, his duties also included those of First Sherriff (or Chief Constable) and of Postmaster. Samwise Gamgee, the famous companion of Frodo Baggins and himself a Ring Bearer for a brief time, was elected to this position soon after the victorious return of the band of companions from the War of the Ring, and the final ousting of Sharkey, better known as Saruman, from The Shire.

Gamgee soon established himself as a wise and capable leader who was elected Mayor for seven consecutive terms, and although little is known of his work as Postmaster General of The Shire, it seems probable that during his third or fourth term he handed over most of these duties to his first son, Frodo Gardner. Frodo, named in honour of Frodo Baggins, was officially designated Postmaster of Hobbiton, but was also in charge of The Shire's postal system as a whole. Although his diary is silent on some issues, it is evident that he was responsible for implementing many innovations, including prepaid postal adhesives, a fast courier mail to neighbouring kingdoms, an emergency Giant Eagle Mail link to Gondor (known to have been used but once), and an insured mail service against the delay or illegal seizure of mails by Goblins Orcs, Trolls or the giant spiders of Mirkwood.

Because of its relative sophistication and centrality in the postal infrastructure of Middle Earth, it seems evident that, initially at least, a study should be made of the postal system of The Shire.

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF MIDDLE EARTH

Although many of the details are still unclear, the Gardner records give a good picture of the topography of Middle Earth. These, together with the information provided by Prof Tolkien, reveal a land located in the northern hemisphere of the planet. It spans from the frozen wastes of Forodwaith, in the far north, to the warmer, more arid and thinly populated lands of Harad, to the south. Much of Middle Earth is therefore located in a band of temperate lands, broken by a series of mountain ranges, but generally consisting of well-watered, gently undulating plains, sometimes covered by ancient forests.

The land is broadly divided into two by the Misty Mountains, known to the Grey-Elvin as Hith Aiglin, which separate the lands of Eriador to the West, from the Wilderland in the East. It runs for 300 leagues, or about 1450 km, and presents an almost impenetrable barrier to movement between east and west. The few passes that exist are generally regarded as too steep and dangerous to travel and, up to the Battle of the Five Armies in 2940, they were also frequented by Orcs, Trolls and Goblins. Certainly they made the upkeep of a regular mail service between east and west almost impossible to maintain, and apart from an occasional courier delivery, contact between the two regions of Middle Earth had to rely upon the longer, but more reliable southern route through the Gap of Rohan. At one time a certain amount of mail was permitted to pass through Moria Gate and the underground city of Khazaddum, subject to an additional Dwarf mail portage tax, but even then the number of letters that could go through at any one time was limited by a vast chasm which existed beneath the Misty Mountains them-

selves. This was only bridged at one point by a single curving span bridge so narrow that it could only be crossed by Dwarves, moving in single file, in one direction at any given time. This service came to an end in about 1980 when the Balrog of Than-gorodrim was awakened and drove out the Dwarves.

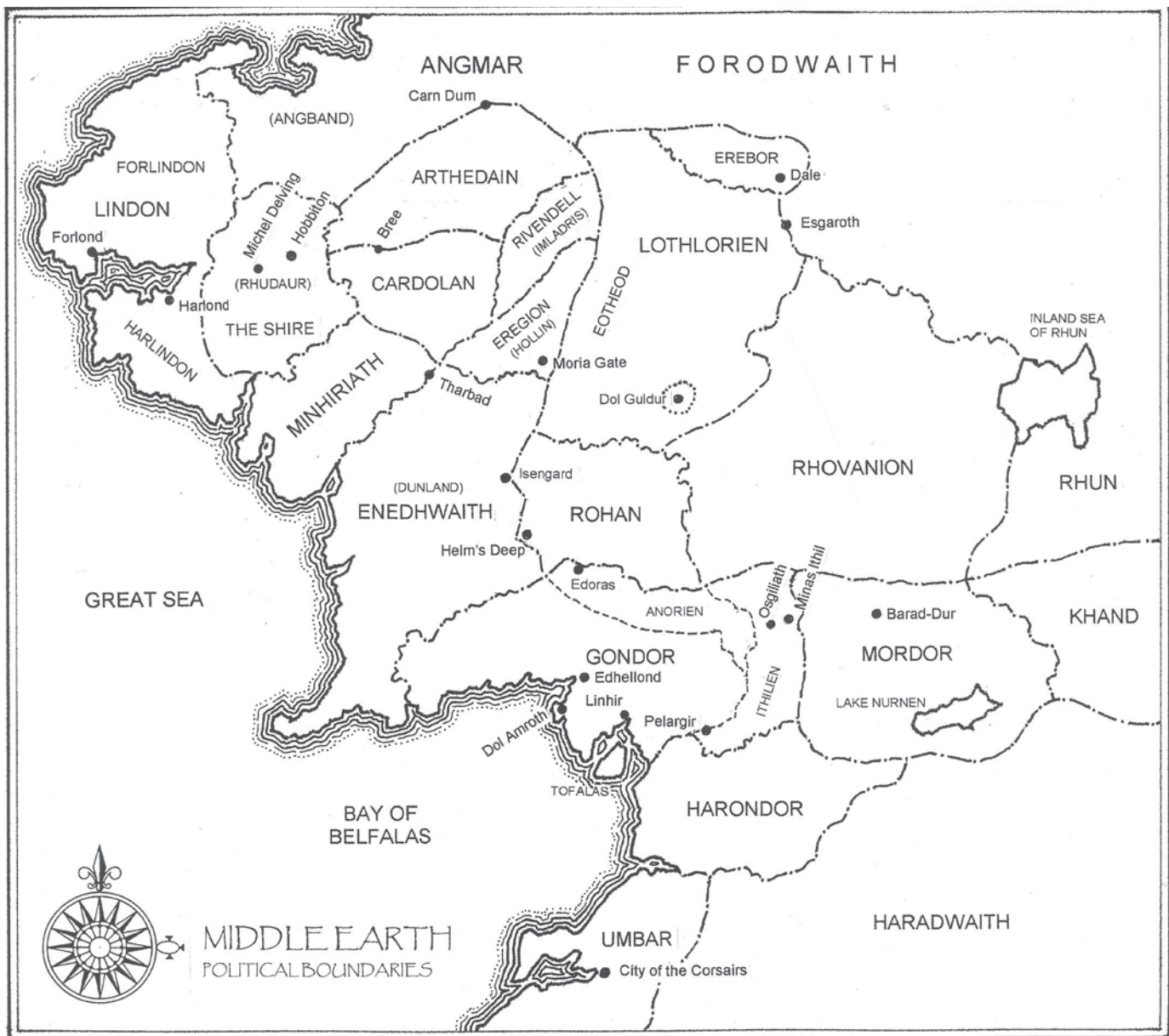
Running almost parallel to the Misty Mountains was the River Anduin, the Great River, which rose in the northern reaches of the Misty Mountains and the Grey Mountains to its north-east, and flowed southward over the plains of Rohan and Dagorlad, through Ithilien before turning sharply westward and pouring into the Gulf of Belfalas.

The Mirkwood, also known to the Grey-Elves as the Forest of Great Fear, took up the eastern bank of the River Anduin and spanned almost without interruption from the Grey Mountains in the north to the Plains of Rohan to the south while extending a good 500 km at its widest point. Mirkwood was the mightiest surviving forest of Western Middle Earth, and although it nominally fell under the Sindar, or the Grey-Elves, and their kin, the Wood-Elves, the woods were also populated by a mixture of other folk, not all of them benevolent. The vale of the Anduin supported a number of clans of woodcutters and charcoal burners, while the interior of the Mirkwood was populated by tribes of giant spiders. Individual Ents or tree-people wandered freely within the forest, but because they resembled the trees they were looking after, their exact population numbers are difficult to estimate. Although traversed by a number of footpaths, passage through the Mirkwood was only made possible by the Old Forest Road, which remained safe for as long as travellers remained faithful to its beaten path. Even so, drinking water from the Enchanted River would result in almost instantaneous sleep, and many unwary travellers, together with a few silly postmen, succumbed to this trap, no doubt to the culinary delight of the giant spiders of the forest.

These three natural features, the Misty Mountains, the River Anduin, and the Mirkwood thus posed a formidable barrier to direct communications between the eastern and western lands of Middle Earth. Although the Great East Road, running from The Shire in the west through to the Plains of Dagorlad, did take a certain amount of traffic, generally the social, political and economic affairs of the two tended to develop independently of each other. For this reason it will be seen that because of its position the Kingdom of Rohan developed a pivotal role in the postal affairs of the region.

Middle Earth also had a number of other smaller mountain ranges, and a variety of rivers and lakes, but these are all fully shown on the enclosed map and are largely self-explanatory. Some attention should be given, however, to the region to the south-east of Middle Earth, called Nurn, but better known as The Black Lands, or Mordor. By nature this presented an almost impregnable fortress, being bound to the north and north-west by a volcanic range of mountains called the Ered Lithui, or Ash Mountains, to the south and south-west by the Mountains of Shadow, while its easternmost flank was guarded by an almost waterless wilderness. The Lake of Nurnen, and its nameless tributaries, also presented an additional barrier as its waters were undrinkable, probably because of their volcanic origins.





The only access to Nurn was through a westerly gap where the Ash and Shadow Mountains came together at a defile known as Cirith Gorgor, beyond which lay the plain of Gorgoroth and its most prominent feature, Mount Orodruin, the greatest active volcano of Middle Earth.

#### THE PEOPLES OF MIDDLE EARTH

Although the maps of Middle Earth handed down to us by Frodo Gardener were essentially postal, and would have made sense to persons living at that time, in order for us to understand them today it is vital to give them a measure of historical context.

Originally Middle Earth was inhabited by three main races: Dwarves, Elves and Humankind. The dwarves, whose reputation for industry and whose skills at mining and forging of metals was already well established by the First Age, settled in the mountainous areas where they accrued untold treasures of

gold and mithril. Elves, reportedly the most ancient of the races, preferred those areas of Middle Earth where trees and woods predominated, although in time, they separated into two main branches: the East or Wood-Elves, who were content to remain in the forests, and the West or High-Elves who lived closer to the sea, and, in time, sought out their destiny in the western lands beyond the sea and out of Middle Earth. However not all Elves were taken with wanderlust and those who remained behind to live on the western shores of Middle Earth became known as the Grey-Elves. Also not all High-Elves were content to remain on the far continent, and some did return in exile to Middle Earth where they re-integrated with their western kinfolk. Unlike Dwarves, who were extremely long-lived, Elves were reputedly immortal, although they could be slain in battle.

The third group, the Human beings, came to Middle Earth in comparatively recent times and probably originated in the eastern heartlands, slowly migrating across the Misty Moun-



tains and eventually reaching the lands of the Grey-Elves by the end of the First Age. These early settlers were known to the Elves as the Edain or Adan, and rapidly became their friends and allies in their wars against the forces of evil. Those who came into contact with the Elves came to term themselves as the 'High' people, or the Dunedain, while other humans they regarded as either 'Middle' or as 'Wild' people. The 'Middle People' shared the same history and roots as the Dunedain except for the fact that their social and economic development went largely unaffected by contact with the Elves. By comparison with these two groups, the 'Wild' people remained largely rustic and bound to a simple, agrarian way of life. Because they lived in different parts of Middle Earth, they became known by a variety of names, including the Easterlings who lived beyond Dagorlad and Rhun; the Haradrim who originally inhabited the White Mountains but eventually settled in Dunland; the Variags of Khand, to the east of Mordor; and the Woses, who lived as migrant hunter-gatherers on the western slopes of the White Mountains but, eventually, made their homes in the forest of Druadhan, in the province of Anorien.

In addition to the above, Middle Earth was also the home of a variety of other beings. Stone Trolls inhabited a small forest in Rivendell, commonly known as Trollshaws; Orcs, who were first bred by Morgoth, the Evil King of the north, survived in the northern reaches of the Misty Mountains, and could frequently be found in the company of the more numerous Goblins who were a smaller and faster moving race of Orcs; the Uruk-hai were a form of Orcs bred by Sauron as his main soldier force, and hence could be found predominantly in the land of Mordor; Ents or Tree people were the most ancient of the sentient races of Middle Earth and for many ages walked its forests, but af-

ter they lost contact with their Entwines, their numbers began to dwindle and the last remnants inhabited the forest of Fangorn; Wargs, or more properly 'evil werewolves', were not real wolves but insubstantial shadows who only assumed real and very deadly shapes after dark, and largely roamed the wilderness areas of Middle Earth; the Eagles of the North inhabited the lofty peaks of the Misty Mountains, and were the deadly enemies of Orcs and Goblins who attempted to encroach upon their territory. Giant Spiders historically inhabited the western reaches of Beleriand, but became largely extinct after that land sank beneath the sea during the First Age of Middle Earth. The last survivor was Shelob the Great, who made her home in the Mountains of Shadow, and whom Frodo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee fought off and probably slew during their epic journey to the Mountain of Doom. Spiders of smaller size, but no doubt just as deadly, also inhabited the gloomy glens of Mirkwood, where they hunted in packs.

Since the earliest of times the fortunes of the region had been watched over and guided by the Valar, the original creators of Middle Earth. However their usually well-meant schemes had not always played out in the best interests of its peoples, and by the Third Age they had resigned themselves to fulfilling the more limited role of guardians. Morgoth, the Dark King of the North, had, at one time, been a Valar, but the prospect of unlimited power had encouraged him to adopt evil ways. Gandalf 'The Grey' and Saruman 'the White' were emissaries of the Valar, but their powers were somewhat more limited, although still great by human standards. By the end of the Third Age it had become obvious that their presence was no longer necessary, and both the Valar and their emissaries withdrew altogether from the affairs of Middle Earth.



Unadopted trial proof for the first definitive issue of the 6 Winks value in a block of 4, based upon the Granada design of 1861. This was prepared following a change of currency decreed by the Queen of Hearts.

The cover is from G.M. King's 'Alice Through the Pillar-box and what She Found There' published in 1978 by Whizzard Press, London. The block is from the author's own collection.

Cover addressed to Alice's cat, Dinah, apparently lost in transit, and subsequently sent to the Dead Letter Office. It bears a 3 Winks stamp from the first definitive issue which was perf. 10, with a daisy chain watermark, printed by Dodo, Lory & Co.



# Forerunners Forum

## Questions, Comments, and Answers

### Questionable Date on South African Aerogramme

**Franco Frescura** emails to say: The “2009-09-??” variety mentioned by Jan Stolk in the last issue of Forerunners is probably a cock-up initiated by the layout artist at Philatelic Services during initial artwork stages, when the actual date of printing would not have been known, and compounded by poor proof-reading later on. This is not the first time that this has happened, as I remember some years ago an air letter having the words “Name to come” or some-such alongside the imprinted stamp. A little forbearance towards the people concerned is required in such matters, as the learning curve of staff at the Department flattened out quite a long time ago.

**Philatelic Research Made Easier. Press Release from the Royal Philatelic Society of London.** The launch of the Global Philatelic Library website ([www.globalphilateliclibrary.org](http://www.globalphilateliclibrary.org)), a centralised information gateway to the world’s greatest philatelic research, has been announced by the founding partners, including The Royal Philatelic Society London, The National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC, and The American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa.

It was 125 years ago that an idea for a Joint Index of Philatelic Literature was put forward, but on February 15, 1888 the President of the American Philatelic Association, John K. Tiffany, wrote to Edward Denny Bacon, Secretary of the (now ‘Royal’) Philatelic Society London, stating, ‘... I consider the project as utterly impossible of any practical execution ...’: the project has become a reality.

This ambitious project has happened thanks to the inspiration and dedication of the founding partners. The website establishes a single destination – a responsive centralised gateway – by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries instantly, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, are now instantly available, providing invaluable resources for those undertaking philatelic research. It provides:

- \* A world-class collection of printed, electronic and other media;

- \* Access and support for beginners, hobbyists, specialists, writers and postal historians;

- \* International collaboration and co-operation with philatelic libraries and museums around the world;

- \* An Anthology of fascinating, informative and sometimes even scandalous articles written throughout the past century about philately and some of the people involved in its history.

‘A large part of the philatelic information I have acquired was discovered incidentally while searching for something else,’ said Thomas Lera, Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum. ‘I hope other philatelists, scholars and researchers will push open the doors of the new global philatelic library to find the answers to their questions and uncover

new ones in the process as well.’

Other contributing philatelic research libraries include the National Philatelic Society (UK), The Collectors Club in New York (USA), Greene Foundation (Canada), Oslo Filatelistklubb Bibliotek (Norway), Philatelistische Bibliothek Hamburg (Germany), Postal History Foundation (USA), Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (US) and Western Philatelic Library (USA).

The Chairman of the FIP Literature Commission, Tony Virvilis, added, ‘The Global Philatelic Library is an excellent idea which I fully support.’

The Royal Philatelic Society London is proud to be playing such an active and vital role in this initiative, its own library being the most significant and comprehensive in the world. The full range of services available from the Society can be seen by visiting [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk) (1 June 2012).

### Query on Downey Head Types on Postcards

**John Gledhill** has written to request help with the overprinted British Downey Head postcards. He is compiling a book on the overprinted British stationery for the various dependencies (like Bechuanaland). Your view about these cards would be most welcome. The original British postcards exist with four different stamp imprints identified as below. Please report any type used on overprinted cards you know about. Emails to the Editor.

**Type 1A:** Rims on handstops of caducei are small and strait.

**Type 1B:** As Type 1A, but with shading line in shaft of caduceus at top right incomplete.

**Type 2A:** Rims of handstops of caducei are long and curved. Shading lines in background of portrait are not joined to oval frame.

**Type 2B:** As Type 2B, but with shading lines joined to oval. For the Bechuanaland cards, only Type 2A and 2B are known.



Type 1A



Type 1B



Type 2A



Type 2B

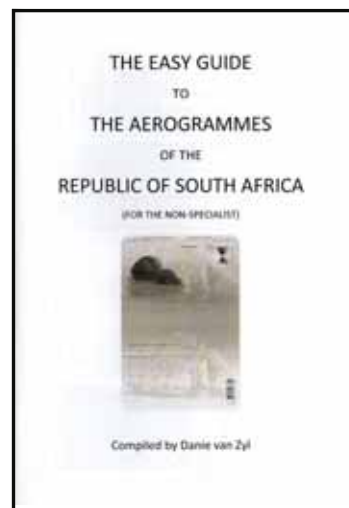


# Highlights From Journals and Newsletters

- Arrow, N., 2021. The 1952 Tercentenary mail coach routes with their philatelic connection. Springbok 60 (Whole No. 318), 56-59.
- Brodovsky, K., 2012. Southern Rhodesia King George V "Admiral" – 1 1/2d letter card. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 62 (Whole No. 243), 78-79.
- Dickson, J., 2012. The Donald Currie service to the Cape – 1873 to 1876. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 16 (Whole No. 62), 59-65.
- Drysdall, A., 2012. Early Bechuanaland Protectorate mail. Runner Post Whole No. 83, 2069-2084.
- Drysdall, A., 2012. Northern Rhodesia's cigarette tax labels. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 62 (Whole No. 243), 83-87.
- Fennemore, B., Cook, H., and Midwood, N., 2012. Bechuanaland Postcards. Runner Post Whole No. 83, 2085-2088.
- Johnson, R., 2012. CGH: Unpaid and underpaid covers – problems of accountancy marks. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 16 (Whole No. 62), 50-55.
- Kamffer, G., 2012. Post offices on South West African soil under South African administration and a post office on South African soil under South West African administration. South African Philatelist 88 (Whole No. 911), 45-47 (April 2012).
- Klugman, K., 2012. Natal: postal use of the 1857 Natal Embossed shilling stamp. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 16 (Whole No. 62), 43-49.
- Mayr, S., 2012. Some philatelic insights into the 1938 Memorial Trek. Springbok 60 (Whole No. 318), 54-55.
- Osthoff, G., 2012. The Erica photo-postcard series of R.S.A. South African Philatelist 88 (Whole No. 911), 52-54 (April 2012).
- Peetoom, O., 2012. 1926 1/2d Springbok (London printing) with double print of frame. Springbok 60 (Whole No. 318), 48-50.
- Peetoom, O., 2012. 1927-29 Pretoria Typo 1d imperforate on three or four sides. South African Philatelist 88 (Whole No. 911), 66-67 (April 2012).
- Peetoom, O., 2012. Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1960-63 Harrison essays. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 62 (Whole No. 243), 80.
- Peetoom, O., 2012. The major varieties of the Union of South Africa. An introduction. Springbok 60 (Whole No. 318), 48.
- Reah-Johnson, S., 2012. Rhodesia Admirals 1913-24. Colours and printings of the 4d. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 62 (Whole No. 243), 68-77.
- Wilkie, A., 2012. E.B.S. Mercer – photographer and postcard publisher – Bulawayo. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 62 (Whole No. 243), 87-89.

## New Books

- Drysdall, A., 2012. The Postal History of Bulawayo to 1923. Memoir 19, Rhodesian Study Circle.
- Drysdall, A., Harrop, K., and Johnstone, I., 2012. Letters to and from Bulawayo in 1890. Memoir 23. Rhodesian Study Circle.
- Molnar, L., 2012. Victoria: A Collection of Philatelic Short Stories. Trillium Philatelic Press, St. Catharines ON, Canada. Available from Prestige Philately, info@prestigephilately.com for AU\$70 plus mailing.
- van Zyl, D., year unknown. The Easy Guide to the Aerogrammes of the Republic of South Africa [For the Non-Specialist]. Published by the author. See Jan Stolk's article on South Africa postal stationery for order details.



## Exchange Journals Received

- Transvaal Philatelist: Volume 47, No. 1 (March 2012)
- The Springbok: Volume 60, Nos 1 (Jan./March 2012), 2 (May 2012). Now received in electronic format.
- FVZA Bartolomeu Dias: Volume 25, No. 94.
- South West Africa Newsletter: Nos 377 (Jan. 2012) 378 (Oct./Nov. 2012), 379 (Dec. 2011), and 380 (Jan. 2012). Now received in electronic format.
- South African Philatelist: Volume 88, Nos 1 (Feb. 2012), 2 (April 2012).
- Magnify: No. 301 (Jan 2012) (electronic) - correction from last issue.



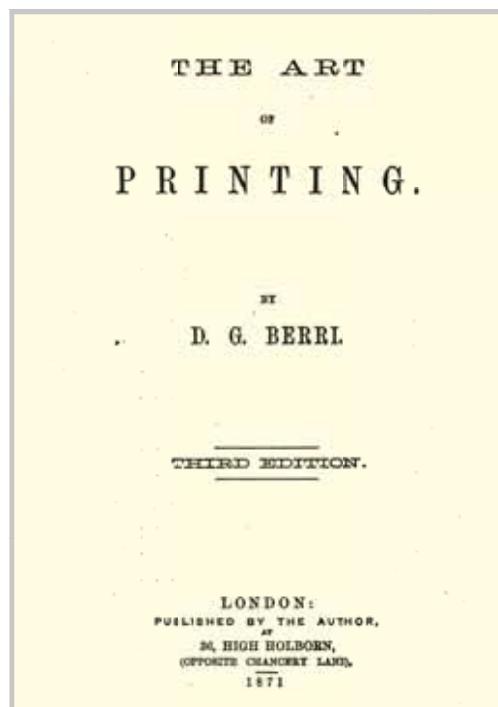


# For the Record

178. Two new memoirs have been released by the **Rhodesian Study Circle**. They are both with **Alan Drysdall** as the principal author and both deal with the postal history of Bulawayo. The can be obtained from Brian Coop, 13 Forest Crescent, Harrogate HG2 7EU, UK (credit card accepted at £42 for both).
179. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** has released their June 2012 **Auction Catalogue** including collection from the estate of the late Don Mitchell. It includes nearly 800 lots and is with some color illustrations.
180. **Botswana Post** has raised the **postal rates** effectively April 1, 2012. The details can be found on their website. It appears that the intent is to adjust the tariff once a year in the future.
181. **Argyll Etkin** has sold a large (90 lots) Rhodesia and Nyasaland collection at auction in May 2012. Of special note was three superb **Stellaland covers** each estimated at 2,000 to 6,000. A 1885 cover to Venterstad bearing a Stellaland 4d with Twee handstamped surcharge and a Cape 1d pair tied by Barkly c.d.s. brought £8,300. (Alan Drysdall recorded only two covers existing with this stamp.) See next page.
182. The **“Franschhoek”** collection of the **Cape of Good Hope triangular and rectangular** issues was sold by **Spink** in London on 20 June 2012.
183. **Ken Sanford** let us know that he and his wife Gloria has been on the TV show “Final Offer” on the **Discovery Channel** Thursday 5 July at 10 p.m. EDT. The reason is that he sold a small collection of **Paris Balloon letters**. Hopefully somebody has taped it for the enjoyment of all.
184. The **Cape and Natal Philatelic Society** has decide that future editions (from Jan. 2013) of the Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal will only be available in an **electronic format**. They quote the raising mailing expenses as the reason. The distributing format will be as a quarterly CD. This will not eliminate mailing expenses that for 2013 will remain at the same level as for 2012 (\$35 for air-mail delivery). The C&NPS decision and its impact on the society membership will surely be followed by many smaller specialist societies like the PSGSA.
185. The **Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA)** has distributed the prospectus for their 2012 annual National Philatelic Exhibition to be held in October (**CENTAPEX 2012**) in Port Elizabeth. The deadline for entrance has been exceeded.
186. **Spink** London has offered their Collector’s Series auction on July 12-13. Included are a large collection of British stamp booklets and two large 1888 blocks or sheets of one of the first Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.



187. **Spink** New York has offered their Collector’s Series auction on July 18-19. Included as lot 469 is a one penny **British Central Africa check stamp** with inverted center offered at an estimate of \$30,000.
188. If your interests are among war covers, you may want to contact Roger Barton of **Warcovers** who maintains a well-organized webpage and also with regular intervals emails information of updates. Contact him on sales@warcovers.co.uk to get on his mailing list.



189. Prompted by a member’s complain that **Berri’s book** from 1871 on the **Art of Printing** were not available for his research, I did a web search and to both our surprises found a copy on **Goggle Books**. Try yourself or contact the Editor for a pdf copy. Looks like somebody from Harvard University Library also had seen the need for this book among philatelists.
190. **Clinton Goslin of Atlas Auctioneers**, South Africa is distributing sales/auctions lists as email attachments. Content mostly South African often with unusual items included. Contact him at atlasauctioneers@lantic.net to get on the mailing list.
191. **Stephan Welz** of Johannesburg has started emailing their catalogue as attachments to overseas customers as a precaution for the notorious late delivery (certainly in California). The



latest catalogue seen was their June 20, 2012, auction. Go to <http://www.stephanwelzandco.co.za/AMERICA/> to see the full catalogue.

192. The **Springbok of the South African Collectors' Society** has now a **new editor** and a new format. **Otto Peetoom** has taken over after Eddie Bridges who edited the journal between 2004 and 2012.

193. The preparations for **World Stamp Show NY 2016** has started. Go to [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org) for details or use this (if you know what this is, you will also know what to do!).



This 1885 Stellaland cover to Venterstad bearing the 4d stamp with Twee handstamped surcharge and a Cape 1d pair tied by Barkly c.d.s. sold for £8,300 in Argyll Etkin's recent auction.

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**Trapped by Stamps:** Our hobby appears slowly to creep in on us. Someday we will discover that we will no longer be able to escape from our favorite stamp den - or will wake up wondering how we got there in the first hand. Here is Uli Bantz trapped in his stamp study.



## 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.

## 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. Only two remaining.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2009. *Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 3*. Hardbound, 205 pages in full color, \$35 plus \$5 s/h in the US, plus \$10 elsewhere by air. Sold out.
- 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.

**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 Schuykill 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 needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

**GSWA, OFS postal stationery & the Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp period** are my interests. Philatelists wishing to correspond and exchange information / material can write to me at: Hennie Taljaard, P O Box 816, Ceres, 6835, RSA or stadsbeplanner@ananzi.co.za.

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

**Perfins Wanted.** I buy/trade for perfins of Cape, Natal, Transvaal, ORC, and South Africa. Especially interested in on cover examples, but will give generous return for any loose stamps. Write or email with trade/sale proposal. Robert Weeden, 1446 Grenac Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709 or email weeden@mosquitonet.com.

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

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

**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.

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

**Swaziland Picture Postcards Wanted.** Please send scan to Peter van der Molen at molens@pixie.co.za

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

## Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

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Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

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*APS No:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Collecting interests and Comments:* \_\_\_\_\_

# THE RARE AND UNUSUAL

## Anglo-Zulu War: Defending Natal



Following the crushing defeat of British troops at Isandlwana on the 22nd of January 1879, three companies of the 2nd Battalion/4th Regiment (King's Own) were detailed to Greytown to build fortifications to defend central Natal against Zulu attack. The illustration is a cover front dated 12th of April 1879 from a member of that detachment, Private Lewis. The detachment made use of the Greytown post office during their deployment. This is the only cover recorded from that detachment.