



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

*JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA*

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

Volume XXIX, Number 1, Whole No. 83

July-October 2015



Cape of Good Hope cleft stick letter dated 1771 and addressed to Groenekloof

## **Highlights**

South Africa Christmas Stamps  
Cape Brief Stock Letter  
OFS and Transvaal Consular Mail  
Society Auctions  
Philatelic Honesty  
*Philately Southern Africa*  
South Africa Postal Cards  
Modern South African Forgeries  
World Postage Stamp Show

*Unsold Auction Lots are Now Available at Reserve*

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### **Philately of the Orange Free State by R.W. Hisey & R.T. Bartshe**

#### **Vol. 3. THE REVENUES AND POSTAL STATIONERY**

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by P. Lodoen

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by R. Taylor

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All publications payable by US check, cash, or PayPal to [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com).

Mail to David McNamee, 15 Woodland Dr., Alamo CA 94507, USA.



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35t stamp showing a hippopotamus issued by Botswana Post in 2000. Part of a set of five stamps and a miniature sheet commemorating the Okavango Delta. Designed by G. Ryan and printed by Enschede.

Front Illustration:

Cape of Good Hope cleft stick letter sheet dated 1771 and addressed to Mrs. Ferra Olweg in Groenekloof. See article by Volker Janssen on page 4 for details.

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## Editorial Notes

The past few months has been an exciting time for southern Africa philately. For one thing, we saw the launching of a new journal devoted to *Philately Southern Africa*. It is the initiative of the group that on behalf of the southern African philatelic specialist societies now for over 10 years has organized the annual weekend conference in Lemington Spa, Warwickshire, UK. These conferences are very enjoyable with presentations, auction, conference dinner, and general philatelic camaraderie and fellowship. This is a good place to refresh old friendships and the initiate new ones. We wish the initiative all the best of luck and recommend that our members support the new journal. See the article on page 9 and note that the first issue has already been released.

So much about the past. PSGSA is planning seminars as well as a table shared with other southern Africa societies (see pages 11 and 23) at the World Stamp Show in New York for May-June 2016 where. Further ahead is our 30th Anniversary that we will

celebrate in 2017 at the *Philatelic Show*, Boxborough, MA (see page 7). Indeed plenty to plan for and to look forward to.

This issue again is filled with interesting articles. Hope that you will enjoy these, but remember that without articles, large or small, there will be no *Forerunners*. Therefore, let me have your writings and interesting covers as soon as possible.

Peter Thy

### 2015-2016 Society Dues

#### Only \$25 or \$30

It is that time again! Time to renew your membership in PSGSA. Welcome to another year of great fellowship and our outstanding journal in full color, *Forerunners*!

If you are willing to receive *Forerunners* only as a digital file, please send me an email: [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com).

Our Board will be looking carefully at subscription rates and expenses to propose adjustments based on the cost of postage and printing. Paper copy subscriptions are still favored by most; however, the Post Office strategy is to squeeze mailers like us unmercifully. We will however until otherwise decided continue to distribute *Forerunners* both on paper and electronically.

If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in US currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." Paypal payments must be sent to "[dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com)" plus US\$1 extra to cover fees.

For some, it might be more advantageous to send in dues for two or more years to avoid the annual conversion hassle.

Payment by mail to:  
David McNamee

The deadline for the next issue will be February 15, 2016. Please let the Editor have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

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



### New Members

Welcome to

Ravi Vora, Arvada, Colorado  
US Diplomatic Mail, Boer War POW Camps, 19th Century mail between India and South Africa colonies.

Peter J. Melz, Mesquite, Nevada  
Boer War, Transvaal, British Empire, Germany

Wallace Craig, Fullerton, California  
South Africa

Ian Patterson, Cape Town, South Africa  
OFS, Transvaal, Union, SWA, Bechuanaland

Emil Buhrmann, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
Cape of Good Hope

### Society Affairs

*Forerunners* is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods 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. A sample issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from [www.psgsa.org](http://www.psgsa.org). Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com). All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

#### Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

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



## President's Corner

Greetings once again from north of the border, where we currently have an election almost upon us, as you will shortly be having in the U.S., so the newspapers and most media sources are full of what every candidate thinks will be the best solutions to the numerous problems which we have! News from around the world certainly does not seem to indicate that any of those problems will have a solution any time soon!

My wife and I decided that we would take a short trip to the latest APS show in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as it is only a one day drive for us and it was great to spend a few days among philatelists and renew many friendships of long standing. I have had a long association with the American Topical Association, having joined the organization in 1973 and served as their President for a four year period (1984-1987), along with several other posts, and it was great to visit their table and chat with Vera Felts, the Executive Director, who has been running the organization for some years, and introducing a number of new innovations that modern electronics have made possible. There were quite a number of other societies represented, as well as many dealers, so I had no problem occupying my time at the show and I managed to pick up some items for the collection. One of the problems facing philately at the moment is the lack of young people coming in to the hobby and both the APS and ATA are doing their best to attract this group, with youth tables found at many shows. The other difficulty is the increasing age of many collectors and the necessity of disposing of their collections and that seems to be reflected in the fact that many dealers are not in a "buying" mood!

I have great pleasure in announcing the results for the Annual Article of Distinction Award for Volume XXVIII. First place is awarded to "The Rectangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope" by David Mordant, second place goes to "Sorting the Mails: The Cape Travelling Post Office, 1882-1910" by Franco Frescura and third place to "The Athlete Who Disappeared" by John Woollard. Our congratulations go to the three winners!

Next year of course will bring us yet another "International Show" in New York and various e-mails flying back and forth tell me that there will be a fairly big "African" presence at the show.

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks

### Annual Article of Distinction Award

The Article of Distinction Award was for the past volume given to David Mordant for "The Rectangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope" that appeared in No. 82.

The next award will be for the current volume ending with No. 85 and will be announced in No. 86.

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

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

## 2015 Auction Results

The 2015 Annual Society Auction is now history and the results are favorable. Because of the size of the catalog it was published online. Members, and 27 other worldwide philatelic societies, were told of and given access to the catalog. The catalog listed 308 separate lots against a total reserve of \$24,937.90 and a catalog value of well over \$65,000. Over 90% of the lots had accompanying scans. Forty-one lots, of 45 bids received, were sold in the amount of \$10,236.70. The Society recognized a surplus, but the exact amount cannot be determined pending further mailings. There was close competition for some of the lots and Southwest Africa was by far the busiest area. Otherwise the bids were split fairly evenly among the cover and stamp lots, including varieties and booklets. The successful adjusted high bids are shown below. The unsold lots are now available at the reserve (or make an offer). The auction catalogue is posted on [www.psgsa.org](http://www.psgsa.org).

Lot and Total Price			
1	\$60.00	73	\$32.00
4	\$375.00	84	\$25.00
10	\$20.00	88	\$3,600.00
14	\$40.00	97	\$650.00
15	\$50.00	112	\$42.00
16	\$18.20	113	\$22.00
17	\$30.00	114	\$28.00
18	\$90.00	128	\$125.00
33	\$25.00	248	\$27.50
36	\$40.00	260	\$265.00
46	\$30.00	275	\$23.50
53	\$25.00	278	\$75.00
56	\$850.00	280	\$30.50
57	\$375.00	283	\$30.00
58	\$175.00	284	\$20.00
59	\$225.00	288	\$33.00
60	\$425.00	295	\$90.00
61	\$150.00	304	\$50.00
62	\$2,000.00	308	\$30.00
71	\$40.00		

### 2016 Society Auction

Members wishing to consign material to the March 2016 Society auction should submit their items to the Auction Manager: Moody Tidwell, 912 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235, USA. Questions should be addressed to Moody at [rudolph912@gmail.com](mailto:rudolph912@gmail.com). The Auction Catalog will be available online and as email attachment.

Consignors must (1) provide lot descriptions, (2) separate each lot unless it is a set or logical combination, (3) identify the Scott catalog numbers and, if possible, corresponding Gibbon or other catalog numbers, (4) state your minimum bid at or above \$25, (5) provide your name, address and email, and (6) if you wish, an appropriate jpg-scan of item(s) to be shown in the catalog. If you are submitting lots to be auctioned in bulk please supply a definition of the lots and your estimated value. No lots with a minimum estimate below US\$25 will be accepted unless the material is unique or of specific interest to a collector.

# Announcement of Two New Programs to Encourage the Safe Sale of Member-Owned Philatelic Material at Fair & Reasonable Prices

Beginning with this issue, all remaining unsold lots from the Society's most recent Auction are available for purchase at the reserve price until December 31, 2015. If you think you have a better idea of what the price should be for any lot, feel free to make an offer and we will see if the owner of the lot wants to accept your price.

To offer to buy an unsold lot, or one of the lots listed below, contact the Society at [rudolph912@gmail.com](mailto:rudolph912@gmail.com). As always payment must be in U.S. dollar-denominated instruments, or by PayPal using [psgsa9@gmail.com](mailto:psgsa9@gmail.com). Lots that sold are identified in the Auction Catalog in red and can be seen along with the remaining lots by using the link below, or going to the Society website.

We also include another new program in this edition of Forerunners, on a trial basis, that we intend to repeat quarterly, whereby selected unsold lots from the most recent auction will

be offered for sale at a *Fixed Price*. Offered are this time eighteen selected unsold Lots of desirable material from Basutoland, Bechuanaland/Botswana, Lesotho, and Natal at the 2015 auction reserve price, or your best offer.

As we promised the Society is actively looking for new ways to offer member-owned material to members at fair and reasonable prices. You are urged to look at the offerings in both these new programs and pass on suggestions for selecting material, and pricing that would be most helpful to your collection. Send your comments to the Auction Manager at [rudolph912@gmail.com](mailto:rudolph912@gmail.com).

The 2015 catalogue is available for download from:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6hn52qz1aa3e5fk/2015%20Auction%20Fixed%20Price.pdf?dl=0>

Or alternatively from our webpage (go to the auction page):

<http://www.psgsa.org>

Good luck bidding!

PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA 2015 Forerunners Fall Fixed Price Sale		
Lot	Description	Reserve
<b>BASUTOLAND</b>		
1	1971 Gov't Service COVER-MASERU to PORT ELIZABETH. Lge red "PAID" MASERU date mark.	\$25.00
<b>BECHUANALAND/BOTSWANA</b>		
2	1888 1/- surcharge on 1/- with a clean 638 Oval Numeral Cancel for MAFEKING. VFU (Sc28)	\$40.00
3	1889 "British Bechuanaland" in green overprinted on CGH 1/2d. With neat VRYBURG cds. Difficult used	\$25.00
4	WRAPPER. 1/2d. British Bech overprint w/neat squared circle d/s VRYBURG AP 8 95, b/s ULM, Germany	\$22.50
5	"PARLIAMENTARY TOUR" COVER 29.SEP.1924 w/BECHUANALAND 1 1/2d. stamp mailed to CAPE TOWN. Parliamentary Association crest embossed on flap	\$30.00
6	1958 POSTAGE DUE Black 1c. surcharge over Carmine 1d full sheet of chalk surfaced paper. UM, SG D5a (60)	\$30.00
7	1958 POSTAGE DUE Black 2c. surcharge over Violet 2d full sheet of chalk surfaced paper. UM, SG D5a (60)	\$40.00
8	1980 complete MM/UM (19); '91 Complete UM (16); '92 complete Commemoratives UM (16) & Definitives VFU (18)	\$21.60
9	1997 complete Commemoratives (no S/S) FVU (22) & 2007 complete Butterflies Definitive UM (14)	\$29.70
10	TATI COMPANY CHECKS of 1954 & '60 w/2 Embossed "STAMP DUTY" & 4 d/s rubber endorsements in Francistown by several banks & endorsed on back w/1d Union stamp. 2nd w/2d QE Bech Protectorate bearing rubber h/s endorsement from Francistown bank & Standard Bank (Transvaal). Endorsed on rev with 1d Union stamp. One check is 212 x 145mm and the other 225 x 120mm	\$30.00
<b>LESOTHO</b>		
11	LOCAL COVER w/red MASERU BAS./POSTAGE PREPAID/15 FEB 1966 cds front and back	\$25.00
12	1968 FIRST FLIGHT COVER South Africa to Lesotho by COMAIR w/violet 26 II 68 COMMERCIAL AIRWAYS (PTY) LTD Jo'burg cachet. Arrived MASERU 26 IIA 68. <i>Only 35 First Flight covers were carried and as such is a modern rarity</i>	\$250.00
13	MAJOR ERROR: 1972 Christmas commemorative 25c SW corner plate pair with spectacular upward shift of the horizontal perf comb superb UM,	\$70.00
14	1980-81 Surcharges, M2 on R2 in a pair with SURCHARGE MISPLACED TO RIGHT (into right perfs) superb. UM, SG 471A, An unusual item	\$35.00
<b>NATAL</b>		
15	<b>1862 QV Chalon Head Rose Red 1d. VF LMM, SG 15. Cat £160. A scarce item in this condition</b>	\$75.00
16	1902 5/- KEVII Dull Blue & Rose. VLM, SG 140 (Sc 94)	\$25.00
17	1902 10/- KEVII Deep Rose & Chocolate. LMM, SG 141 (Sc 95)	\$35.00
18	1902 £1 KEVII Black & Bright Blue. Cat £250. MM, SG 142 (Sc 96)	\$45.00



# FALL 2015 FIXED PRICE SALE



# British Africa Specialist Societies at World Postage Stamp Show, NY 2016

The PSGSA is collaborating with a number of philatelic societies -- including the Rhodesia Study Circle, The Great Britain Overprint Society, The South Africa Collectors Society and the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society -- to provide a specific philatelic and postal history focus on Africa. The participating societies will share four contiguous booths at the show. In addition to publicity information and membership application forms, we will have a selection of our publications available for direct sale. With this visibility and presence on the international stage, we should broaden the appeal of British Africa philately and increase our membership. A limited number of display frames will be available to the societies and we will be looking to volunteers to present some items.

One requirement is that the booths be staffed full time for the duration of the show. That's where collaboration comes into

play, as other societies can cover for us -- and we for them. So, if you live in the New York area or elsewhere and are planning on attending the show, please volunteer a bit of your time to help staff our tables, even for just a few hours. Please contact Colin Fraser -- [Fraserstamps@cs.com](mailto:Fraserstamps@cs.com) if will be able to volunteer some time.

For details about the May 29 to June 4 show, please visit <http://ny2016.org>. Specific details about hotel reservations can be found at: <https://registration.experientevent.com/ShowWSS161/>



## Past, Present, and Future of Southern Africa Philatelist Societies

This is an invitation to discussion on the 'Past, Present, and Future of Southern Africa Philatelic Societies' During World Stamp Show, New York 2016

The Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA) and the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society (BBS) invites all interested to a joint seminar during World Postage Stamp Show 2016. The subject is familiar to all of us involved in organizing and running a small philatelic society devoted to the various collecting specialties of the greater southern Africa. The subject of the meeting and discussion is the future of our societies facing a changing world and the ageing demographics of our society officers and our membership basis.

The late Tony Chilton elegantly stated the problem in an essay that in 2002 was widely disseminated among the affected societies. The full text is reproduced elsewhere in this issue as it was circulated by the BBS, for which Tony then acted as Hon. Secretary. He stated that the root of the problem was an over-reliance for administration on a restricted number of volunteers that often served on executive committees for extended periods of time holding offices in several societies at the same time. He went on to point out that the problem is compounded by the ageing of officers, without any likelihood of younger members entering their ranks. Thus the loss of any one officer would be felt as a major problem across several of our societies at the same time.

On this background, Tony went on to propose an umbrella organization called Southern Africa Philately to providing administrative and other support to the various societies, such like meetings, publicity, recruitment, membership records, due payments, website, and a perhaps a mutual publication.

Following Tony's proposal, the southern African societies' Weekend Meetings at Leamington Spa, UK, were established and have been a great success in bringing together all the societies concerned with Southern African Philately. The individual societies decided that they each wanted to continue independently, which they have successfully done so far. Another recent development has been the launching of the Southern Africa Philately Journal of which the inaugural issue has just appeared (see article by Trotter and the Peetooms elsewhere in this issue).

The reason for calling this meeting during NY 2016 is to rekindle the proposal during an informal panel discussion and question and answer session in order to gauge the vitality and health of our societies. We invite all interested members of our own societies as well as anybody from our sister societies.

Please let us know if you will attend the show and will be able to serve on an 'expert' panel. Contact us using the email addresses below.

Peter Thy, PSGSA, [thy@kronestamps.dk](mailto:thy@kronestamps.dk)  
Tony Sanford, BBS, [tonystanford@btopenworld.com](mailto:tonystanford@btopenworld.com)



# Cape of Good Hope Brief Stock or Cleft Stick Letter

by Volker Janssen

Before the Post Office and other official government organized postal services in South Africa “Mail Runners,” also called “Letter Carriers” were employed privately to bring letters and written messages from the sender to the recipient. They were usually young male Africans who had to be extremely fit to run longer distances. They carried a cleft stick with a sealed letter which had to be squeezed in a cleft at the top of the stick.

One of the earliest of the few known cleft stick letters was dated 1771 and addressed to Mrs. Ferra Olweg in Groenekloof, as shown here. The cover was certified as genuine by David Crocker on the 8th of August 1986.



Local enactment of a letter delivery by runner and a cleft stick. See also detail to the left. Photos by the author.





RSA stamp for World Post Day 1995 with original artwork of unknown source



Wills cigarette card from 1913. Illustration based on photo shown below



From Robert Goldblatt's book from 1984, "The Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope" (insert following p. 32). The original caption is: "Unoposi" - The Postman. A letter carrier employed by Sir Harry Smith in 1835. Frederick Timson l'ons



*Old-time Natal mail-runners*  
Note the cleft stick to hold the letters.

From Rosenthal and Blum (1969, following p. 24) of unknown source



# Orange Free State to USA Consular Postal History: 1871-1884

by Ravi Vora

My more than 30 year-long passion for US State Department (equivalent to Ministry of Foreign Affairs in South Africa) and its diplomatic and consular postal history led me to explore the specific subject of diplomatic postal history between United States and the federation of nation states that now represent South Africa.

ulate a "rush" of several thousand fortune hunters. Other important Orange Free State exports that gained a wider world market during the 1860s were ostrich feathers and ivory, obtained by hunting the region's elephants. The expanding commercial trade prompted the United States to complete its first international agreement with the Orange Free State, the Convention

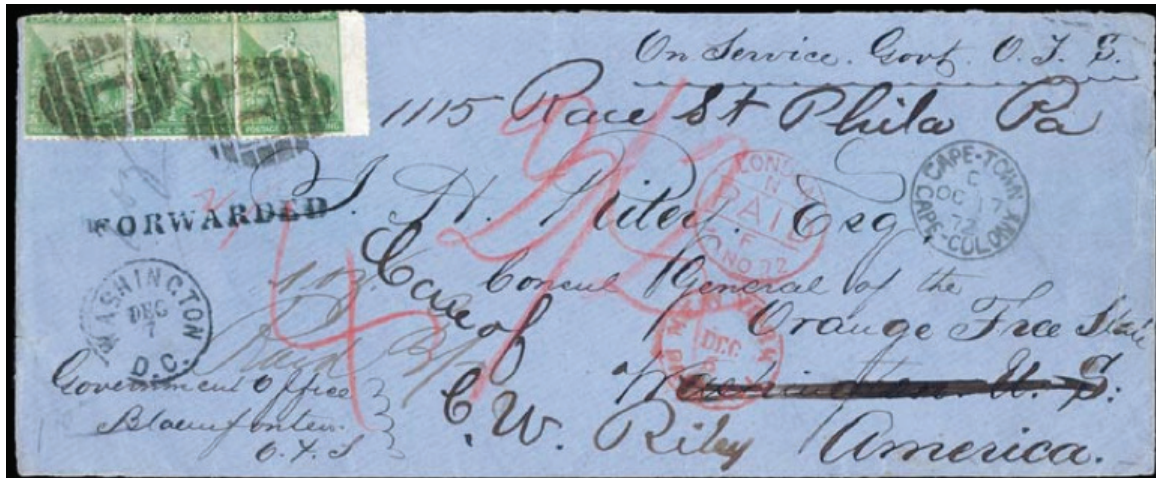


Figure 1



Figure 2

This article presents an overview of US consular postal history with Orange Free State between 1872 and the 1880s.

The Orange Free State was a republic modeled upon the U.S. constitution, but restricted franchise to white males.

In 1867 diamonds were discovered in the Orange Free State and by 1870 there were sufficient reserves of diamonds to stim-

ulate a "rush" of several thousand fortune hunters. Other important Orange Free State exports that gained a wider world market during the 1860s were ostrich feathers and ivory, obtained by hunting the region's elephants. The expanding commercial trade prompted the United States to complete its first international agreement with the Orange Free State, the Convention

Perhaps the earliest known cover from the Government Office in Bloemfontein was the cover shown in Figure 1, ad-



dressed to a Mr. J. H. Riter care of proposed C. W. Riley, OFS Consul General to United States.

The cover bears a strip of three of Cape of Good Hope 1sh. stamps (SG#19) paying 3sh postage with Cape of Good Hope cancel dated 17 October 1872 and transited through London (17 November 1872), New York (6 Dec 1872) and arrived in Washington DC on 7 Dec 1872. However, Consul General Riley was based in Philadelphia (unknown to sender) and hence the cover was forwarded to Philadelphia. This may be one of the earliest official covers of Orange Free State to USA. Can a reader answer who was Mr. Riter? Was he an OFS government official visiting USA then? (Note: the whereabouts of this cover is unknown to the author.)

The second cover was sent by OFS government on official business to Consul General Riley in Philadelphia in 1876 as shown in Figure 2.

This cover has only a London transit on front (NY transit cancel possible on back). However, it only bears a pair of 1sh and a 1d Cape of Good Hope stamps making it 2sh 1d postage rate. Was the postage rate reduced by 1876? (Note: the whereabouts of this cover is unknown to the author.)

The final cover is the official cover addressed to Consul General Riley from the US Department of State as shown in Figure 3.

It bears the 10c US State Department postage stamp and tied by Washington DC Feb 19 cancel. The US State Department stamps were in use from 1873 to 1884. State Department covers bearing similar style Washington DC cancels are known circa 1878 period. (Note: this cover is in the author's collection.)

Author would appreciate hearing from any readers who may have additional consular covers between United States and Or-



Figure 3

## PSGSA 30th Anniversary Event 2017

Following our successful events in Denver this past May, the PSGSA will celebrate its 30th Anniversary at Philatelic Show, Boxborough, MA. The Philatelic Show is an APS World Series Show and is organized by the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs. The Anniversary will mark a return to our roots. Guy Dillaway, who has been actively involved with the show for many years, was our first President. Currently, he is a booth holder at the show and takes care of exhibits, exhibitors and judges.

The show will be accepting Court of Honor and non-competitive exhibits as well as the usual range of competitive classes. Members of the Jury will have expertise in British Commonwealth and Africa subjects.

The show will be held May 5 to May 7, 2017 at the Boxborough Holiday Inn of Boxborough, Massachusetts (Interstate 495 & Route 111). Show hours will be 10AM to 6PM on Friday, May 5; 10AM to 5PM on Saturday, May 6; and 10AM to 3PM

on Sunday, May 7.

As in Denver, a full day seminar will be held on the day prior to the show (May 4) and announcements about the program will follow.

The show hotel which is located very close to route 495 is readily accessible from Boston Logan Airport by Knights Car Service. Other services are available. Fares are very competitive. The hotel has ample free parking for those who prefer to rent a car. The hotel is easily accessible by rental car from Providence Airport. Boston Logan is a major international gateway airport and direct flights are available from many international cities. It also has very good domestic connections within the United States.

The show details can be found through the Federation web site: [www.nefed.org](http://www.nefed.org). Keep in mind, our event is in 2017 and obviously the show site will feature the arrangements for 2016 first.

# Philatelic Honesty and a Court of Ethics Proposal

by Franco Frescura

One of my interests has always been the promotion of philately in areas where, traditionally, few have dared to blunder. Given the number of our colleagues who now also originate from academia, I wonder whether it is not the right time to raise some aspects of our hobby to the next level of performance.

Historically stamp collecting at its most basic has always been phenomenological and structuralist in intent. Material is generally described and then grouped into sets, without further engagement. Most collectors are happy to limit their research to the pages of catalogues, and offer little in the way of additional knowledge. This has been reinforced by the structuring of exhibition judging, which commonly focuses upon the completion of sets, and the inclusion of the expensive, the rare and the exotic at the cost of original research.

This has allowed a form of chequebook philately to flourish and, at one stage, the “rental” of award-winning material was not uncommon, where a dealer “sold” an item to a collector with the guarantee that they would buy it back at a reduced price after the exhibition. This constitutes a fraud, which has never been exposed although the practice is well known in the philatelic trade.

When competitive exhibitions were first conceived of in the 1930s, it was not uncommon for an exhibitor to include, for judging purposes, the remainder of his collection in album form, for the judges to carefully leaf through and read in a leisurely manner.

Today, as many judges will admit, the time assigned for the evaluation of an exhibit only allows for a cursory examination of each page and is hardly conducive to the reading of a tome, irrespective of how learned or interesting its hypothesis might be. As a result new exhibitors are routinely told to keep their write-ups to a minimum as a way of facilitating the judging process. Long explanations, they are told, take up valuable space which is better used by filling it with additional philatelic material.

Yet many collectors pride themselves on their research and are eager to tell their stories, making each exhibit a well-illustrated mini-treatise in its own right. They also value their status as researchers, which is why the recent attempt to change the name of the SA Philatelist to “Stamp Collecting” received such strong resistance from some individuals who saw it as a dumbing down of the hobby.

But let me return to my main point. Philatelic writing at present is rife with plagiarism, failure to attribute sources, wild borrowings, misinterpretations, and speculative invention. Facts and figures are accepted on trust, and although we now have an Expert Committee to turn to, a lot of trading and publishing is done according to an outdated code of honour. Given the informality of the hobby, a certain amount of relaxation can be forgiven, and even encouraged, but this is not without its dangers.

Jurgens’ book on the Cape of Good Hope, for example was published in 1943 and by 1952 most of its philately had been

thoroughly debunked. Yet it continues to carry weight as a reference work on the invalid assumption that he may have forged his illustrations but not his historical research, which was, after all, based on archival data. In reality he provides no sources and, as we have now realised, most of his archive did not exist. Virtually the whole of his research was either fictitious or self-serving speculation based on fable or hear-say.

The harm of such fraud lies in the fact that a number of subsequent researchers have been led into accepting his data, using it as a basis for their own deductions. In this way Jurgens has come to scar the collective psyche of our nation’s hobby for generations yet to come.

New collectors need to hear about this, as well as other frauds, openly and not as a dark warning muttered into a teacup at a society meeting. They need to hear about the shenanigans taking place at Philatelic Services during the 1980s, about Separati and other famous forgers, about the Postmaster at Mbabane in 1961, about Hollander and his role in the sale of material stolen from the Cape Archives, and about the more recent theft of modern-day proofs from the Post Office Museum in Pretoria.

In the field of publications I believe that the way forward has already been shown by our American and British colleagues, where at least two journals publish matters of philatelic interest, but whose content is subject to a measure of academic rigour. Academia has its own codes of conduct which involve, at a minimum, accreditation of sources, the proper use of quotations, rules against plagiarism, and the inclusion of a bibliography at the end of an article. Were we to follow their lead, we need not reinvent the wheel, merely fit it with a new set of hubcaps.

I do not advocate that, suddenly, we should turn the SA Philatelist into an academic, peer-reviewed journal. Far from it. This is only a hobby, after all, and we all value its informality, but I do propose that we finally adopt a code of collegial behaviour.

The act of appropriating your neighbour’s material property is liable to moral and judicial sanction. The theft of intellectual property is equally criminal and yet we have no measures in place to prevent it. Jurgens forged both, relying on the gullibility of the unwise and the good-will of the unwary, exploiting the fact that most people do not want to believe the worst of their drinking buddies, or are unwilling to go through the unpleasantness that an exposure might involve.

I believe that the introduction of basic ethical standards, both in the SA Philatelist and in stamp exhibits, can only improve the standing of the hobby and promote our fellowship, which is the reason why most of us collect anyway.

To this end I propose that a process of enquiry be implemented by the Federation, a Court of Ethics where complaints of such a nature can be aired. The system of trial-by-whisper and stolid silence presently in place continues to benefit the unscrupulous who know full well that, as matters stand, their behaviour is likely to escape the spotlight of public scrutiny.

As I understand matters, the name of Adriaan Jurgens continues to grace our philatelic Roll of Honour. I believe that the time has now come for this matter to be rectified, and for this blot upon our national honour to be expunged. This can only be the outcome of due process, the mechanisms for which do not currently exist.

Due process would be served by a Court of Ethics, whose members would be tasked to hear evidence and arrive at conclusions. These would then be ratified at a congress of Federation.

In the case of Jurgens, what Federation has given, it should also have the power to take away, and I call upon it to place his removal from our Roll of Honour on the agenda of our new Court of Ethics.

## The Leamington Spa Southern African Philately Conference

### The Concept

Since 2003 Conferences have been staged at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa and anyone with an interest in Southern Africa Philately is welcome and does not need to be a member of any particular society.

Saturdays are devoted to invited displays and invariably produce an excellent range of topics covering every aspect of Southern African Philately. At the conclusion of the day, the attendees cast their votes for the best display of the day.

The winner is announced after dinner and presented with the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy. On Sunday, whoever has brought something along may show whatever they wish and as a result such displays vary from a few pages to several frames. The afternoon auction concludes the Leamington weekend.

### The Expanded Concept

Recently Brian Trotter, Simon and Otto Peetoom agreed that it would be worth expanding the Leamington concept by adding a journal and website to this initiative, and Otto agreed to develop these. There is an array of different Southern African specialist societies, and the aim of this venture is to help coordinate these various interests under one umbrella.

There will be no constitution, no committees, no AGM's or minutes of meetings, simply pure Southern Africa Philately that is not intended to be in competition with anyone else.

### A New Journal

Information and the latest news will appear on the website. Issue No 1 of the journal is already in distribution, and can be found online in PDF format.

The first journal have 40 pages covering a wide variety of Southern African philatelic topics. Printed copies of the journal will also be available from a number of dealers during Stampex and will also be on the counters of some stamp shops.

### The Future

As from Issue No 2, the journal will only available by subscription and will be mailed out as a hard copy. During 2016 there will be three issues.

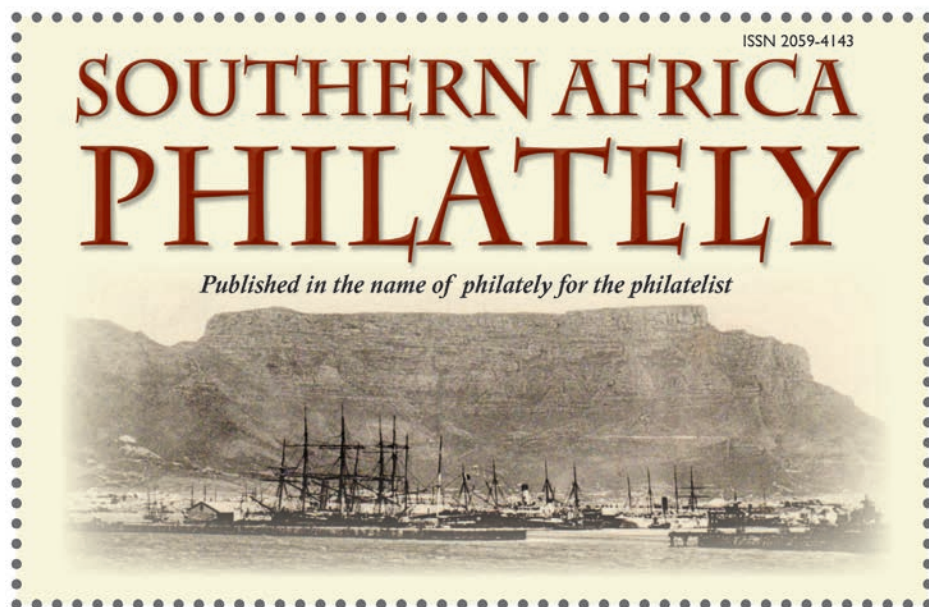
Journal subscriptions for 2016 (three issues) - UK £10 Europe and Overseas £15.

Submission of articles is open to anyone and may be emailed to [ottopeetoom@btinternet.com](mailto:ottopeetoom@btinternet.com)

We seek support from all of the philatelic societies to continue to publicise the November Leamington Southern African Conference. This year it will be held from 6 to 8 November (information from Simon Peetoom). We wish to use the funds generated from the Leamington Conferences so far to promote Southern Africa Philately and we hope to continue to raise the profile of the November Conference, especially around the world.

Brian Trotter, Otto Peetoom and Simon Peetoom  
[briantritter@btinternet.com](mailto:briantritter@btinternet.com), [ottopeetoom@btinternet.com](mailto:ottopeetoom@btinternet.com),  
and [simon@africastamps.co.uk](mailto:simon@africastamps.co.uk)

[www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern\\_Africa\\_Philately.htm](http://www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm)





# The Story Behind 1899 US Consular Cover From Pretoria to Lourenco Marques

by Ravi Vora

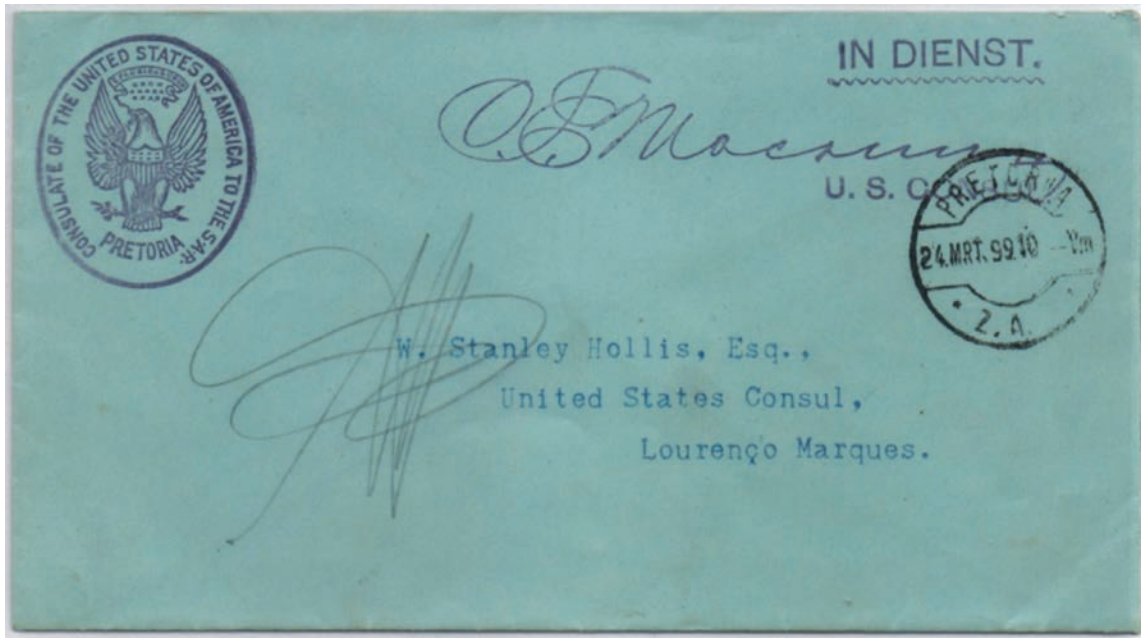


Figure 1. US Consul Pretoria: Free Frank Cover of 29 March 1899 to US Consul, Lourenco Marques, Mozambique

As a student collector of US Consular postal history for over 30 years and a one time visiting American in Pretoria, I was intrigued by the following cover I have had in my collection for some time.

I was intrigued by the fact that the cover bore a facsimile of US Consul C. E. Macrum's signature for free franking privilege on this cover mailed to Mozambique, a foreign country. Why would an American consul be granted such a privilege? As a postal historian I became curious about the history behind this cover and to determine the reasons or basis behind such free franking privilege to a foreign diplomat by the Transvaal Government.

This article is more a story about the two American diplomats, Mr. Charles E Macrum, the US Consul at Pretoria and Mr. Stanley Hollis, the US Consul at the port of Lourenco Marques. Apparently Mr. Macrum was the US Consul to the Transvaal Government in Pretoria, shortly before the onset of the second Boer war on 11 October 1899. Historical records show that Mr. Charles E Macrum was well trusted by the Transvaal Government and a close friend of Mr. Reitz, the Secretary of State and trusted adviser to the Boer Government, especially on their dealings with Great Britain which were at a delicate stage at that point in history. This may explain why Mr. Macrum had special concession to send his official mail free of charge as signified by the rubber stamp: "IN DIENST C. E. Macrum, US CONSUL" in purple on top right corner of the cover along with a beautiful consular seal of the United States. The relation-

ship and role of these two US consuls with Boer Government is equally interesting.

An article, "Boer Gold for America" published in Daily Telegraph (a well known English newspaper) in 1900 reveals intimate details. According to this article, Mr. Hollis, in his private capacity acted as the agent of Transvaal Government to procure large amount of contraband goods at Lourenco Marques port and shipped to Macrum in Pretoria under a mutually beneficial commercial arrangement with the Transvaal Government. Mr. Macrum allegedly was Mr. Hollis' partner and handled the disbursement of large shipments of contraband goods to buyers in Pretoria. It seems logical that there was regular correspondence between the two and Transvaal Government was most accommodating by giving free franking privilege to Macrum.

Mr. Macrum's successful enterprise most likely was unknown to his boss, the US Secretary of State, Mr. Hays in Washington, DC. Mr. Macrum's tenure as the US Consul was indeed short lived after the outbreak of the Boer War. The US State Department directed Mr. Macrum to become the guardian of the British interest in Transvaal (in dealings with the Boer Government) when British consul, Conynghan Greene was withdrawn.

Soon thereafter, Macrum was recalled to USA. Coincidentally, he was replaced by the son of the then Secretary of State Mr. A. S. Hays.

It is hoped that this little, but colorful story makes this cover far more historic and interesting.

# *Philately Southern Africa*

by Tony Chilton

Concern has been expressed in several quarters about the long-term future of the societies which cover the philately of southern Africa. Other study groups no doubt face many of the same problems, but those covering southern Africa are unusual in that they are all based in and organized from the United Kingdom. Efforts made by some to spread the administration to southern Africa itself have not met with success, beyond the appointment in some cases of representatives who have accepted duties such as the collection of local subscriptions and distribution of journals. The intention of this paper is to highlight the matters, which have been raised informally so far, to discuss ways in which they might be tackled and to offer a general view of solutions. How matters are subsequently taken forward can only be the agreement of all or some of the societies involved.

The basic concern is common to many, if not all, societies: that of over-reliance for administration on a restricted number of volunteers. It is common for many officials to have served on the executive committee, often in the same post, for a considerable number of years. While some people are perfectly happy to continue to serve in this way, it cannot be healthy that each society is reliant on so few people. Indeed, it is a “cross-border” problem in that several officials hold office in more than one society. In today’s social climate, many philatelic societies are in the same position, but specialist study groups are more susceptible to the problem associated with this structure as the membership is widespread and social contact, with the associated means of identifying the administrative abilities and interests of other members, is thereby limited.

The issue is compounded by the obvious fact that none of us is getting younger. The demise or infirmity of any one officer holder is therefore more probable than for the younger generation, whose members the societies largely lack, especially in administrative capacities. The loss of any office holder is thus potentially a major problem, as several societies have already experienced.

While membership of each society is individually healthy and at an economically viable level, there is an issue of multiple memberships, that is of members belonging to more than one society. In some cases, multiple membership accounts for some 25% of the members. The potential pool of administrative volunteers is thus reduced even further.

A further issue which most of the societies face is poor attendance at meetings, especially at those held in London. Regional meetings seem to fare better, but such success as there has been in enticing members to attend meetings has largely occurred when there have been joint society gatherings. Whether this has been because of the range of material on display, the location or the organisational ability of those concerned is not immediately apparent, but it is a positive development, which should be built on.

Consideration has been given at various times to amalgamation of two or more societies. No formal discussion have ever

taken place, but there has largely been resistance to the idea because of consideration such as the state of the development of each society – some are well advanced with producing publications while others are only just beginning – and the number of joint members, which in this area goes against amalgamation as it indicates that the majority of members of any one society are not particularly interested in the subject matter covered by the potential partner.

It is perfectly possible for existing societies to continue as they are, but each face the problem mentioned above. There is a strong possibility that each will decline and will face severe problems in finding personnel to run the administration, with the strong probability that closure or forced mergers will take place sooner rather than in the mid- to long-term.

## **Proposal for a way forward**

The alternative to finding enough people to fill a large number of administrative posts (at least 4 or 5 for each society) is to reduce the number of posts by creating a simple level of administration which would meet to basic requirement of all the societies. It is therefore proposed that an umbrella organization, to which I have given the working title “Philately Southern Africa,” be created. This would be responsible for providing the main secretarial and financial administration for all the societies involved. This would include arranging meetings for the membership as a whole – an extension of the successful joint meetings held at present – with the possibility of building on experience gained to launch weekend and further regional meetings; basic publicity and recruitment for the societies as a whole; maintaining membership records so that members are made aware of all the activities which fall within their area of interest. It is also suggested that there is scope for providing a journal, which would take contributions of general interest on all southern African subjects.

It is not suggested however that this should be seen as merging all societies into one. There is no reason why each would not still exist, but acting more as a specialist department of “Philately Southern Africa” to organize specialist meetings as required and to produce specialist publications. It is however probably beneficial to think in terms of there being only one journal, to incorporate contributions on all subjects and produce to a regular, probably quarterly, schedule. Each society would continue to produce its own magazine, though these would be more akin to newsletters and study papers, in order to provide an outlet for projects and study items: the number issued each year might diminish if an area-wide journal were to be produced. The present burden on each secretary, treasurer and editor would thus be reduced, especially for those with multiple jobs.

A number of financial problems would need to be addressed, not the least of which are differences in subscription levels and payment periods. But if these are standardised, it is suggested that members would all join ‘Philately Southern Africa’ and

then pay a small extra amount to belong to each of the societies which come under that umbrella. This would entitle the member to receive the various specialist journals of interest, but it would be cheaper than paying an individual subscription to each society as at present.

Transcribed from a flyer distributed by the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society in 2002 with Runner Post #55. Chilton consistently refer in the main text to the umbrella organization as "Philately South Africa." This has here been changed to "Philately Southern Africa."

*Tony Chilton died suddenly, 51 years old, on the 16th of July, 2002, shortly after writing the above essay. As he predicted, his 'demise' left most of the southern African societies in panic and scrambling to replace him in the various committees and functions where he had served. Brian Trotter described this in a special edition of the Runner News (No. 10, August 2002) in honor of Chilton.*

#### **Future of Southern African Specialist Societies**

The thoughts raised by Tony in his recent working paper on this subject become more relevant than ever with his pass-

ing. As we are reminded in memorials, the potential crisis situation foreseen by Tony in his working paper, namely that all the southern Africa study circles share key personnel and are vulnerable, has come to pass with an immediacy no-one could have anticipated. The Orange Free State Study Circle has recently desperately been trying to find an Editor and the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society was saved from extinction in September 2001, when Tony Chilton and Brian Trotter agreed to act temporarily as Chairman and Secretary, respectively. Now with the sudden death of Tony, we are now faced with the problem that every one of the UK-based southern Africa specialist societies, with the sole exception of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, will need to find an auctioneer or face the alternative of being unable to provide an auction facility for members. Discussion alone will not provide a solution, and the time has come when decisions will have to be made. The first step must be to put concrete proposals to the members of the individual study circles, particularly those most affected by the recent events. Unless some such proposals can be agreed to, a lingering extinction would seem to be inevitable.

Slightly shortened and edited from Runner News No. 10 (2002).

## Postal Stationery

# New and Old Postal Cards of South Africa

by Jan Stolk

On 9 May 2014, a set of five postcards were issued together with a stamp booklet and a sheet of 5 stamps. The postcards illustrate a big five animal on one side and on the writing side an imprinted stamp with the same animal. The stamp value is 'Airmail postcard' being R6.05 at that moment, but sold at R6.25.

The size of the cards is 169 x 116 mm. The stamp measures 38 x 28 mm. Printers: UVO Printers Pretoria. There is a phosphor band left to the stamp size 4 x 28 mm. 1000 sets were printed.

I discovered that these cards were not for sale at regular post offices. I tried Port Elizabeth and Cape Town main post offices, just to discover that the philatelic counters were closed and the normal counter had no knowledge of this issue, only the booklets were available. I was informed that no postcards were for sale anymore. Finally I managed to get a set through Glen Carpendale of World Stamps in Pretoria.

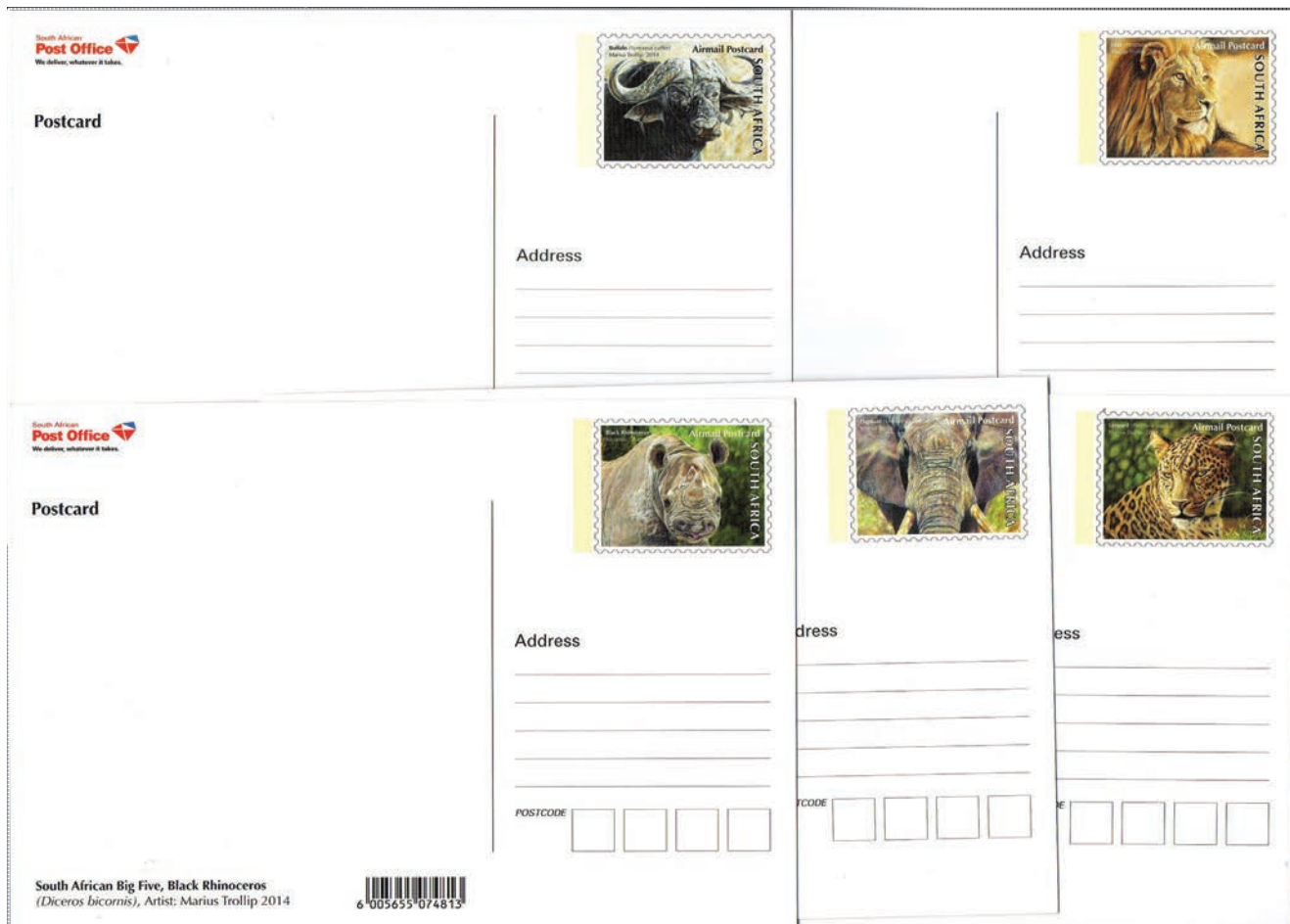
The 1 ½ c wrongly cut postcard I found in a set (p 91 in Quik). With this issue I often

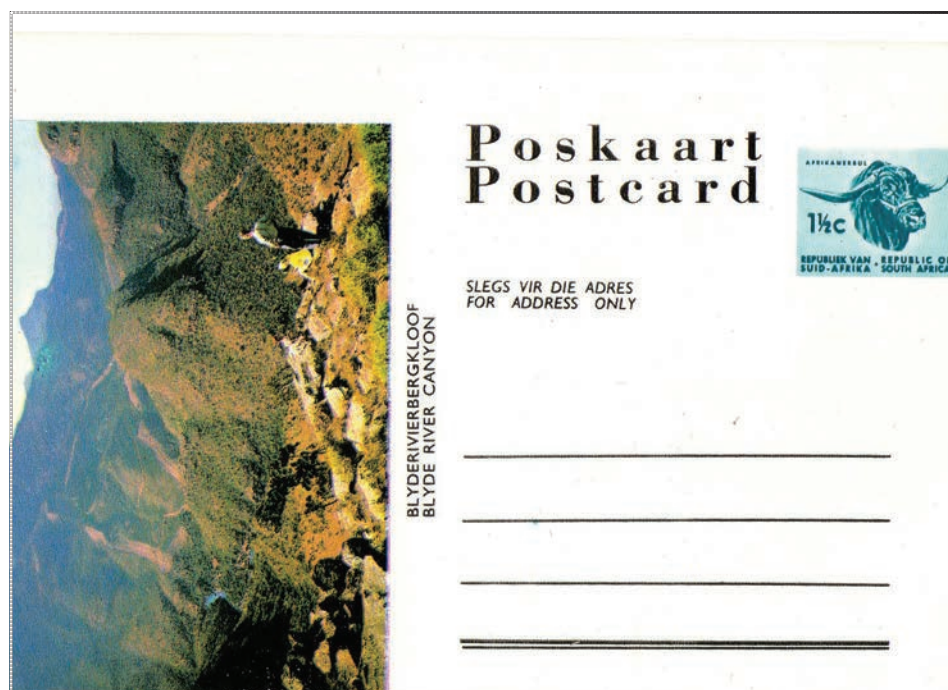




find cards that are a little shifted in the cutting process, but this is a larger shift than normally seen.

Further I would like to picture two wrongly cut postcards, these I bought at a post office in the Vaal Triangle in South Africa some years ago at the counter. They were part of a set and the fault was not noted by the clerk. The sheet of paper was probably wrongly placed in the cutting machine and the whole set should have this feature. The left cards are correctly cut, but the right ones are seriously miscut: The stamp is below the middle of the card and very much to the left, because of this the next card of this series is shown at the right side of the stamp. The address lines are not on the card while not printed cardboard is on the top, this is the top of the sheet and should have been cut off.







# The South Africa Christmas Stamp Project, 1929-1965

by Franco Frescura

Tuberculosis (TB) is a highly contagious disease, primarily of the lungs, but also affecting other parts of the body, including the bones, lymph glands and the brain. It is curable by modern therapy, but more recently strains immune to normal medical treatment have now become manifest. In addition miners' phthisis, or silicosis, caused by the inhalation of quartz dust, is often accompanied by secondary tubercular infection.

The disease itself is of ancient origin and evidence of its existence has been found in the remains of bison, dated to 15,000 BCE, and in prehistoric humans dated to c. 4,000 BCE.

The term "phthisis" is of Greek origin and its use can be traced back to c. 460 BCE. Its meaning is, quite literally "consumption" and is a direct reference to one of the outward symptoms of TB, involving a chronic weight loss. During the 19th century the overcrowded urban conditions experienced in post-industrial revolution England made TB endemic. Consumption became the popular euphemism for it in polite English society. Sufferers able to travel often found relief in hot, dry climates and, for a time, the Karoo and the South African highveld became areas of preferred residence for many immigrants from Europe.

Because of its association with phthisis during the early 20th century, the spread of TB on the Witwatersrand became a matter of common concern for mine management, the labour unions and the community at large. The high concentrations of dust found underground combined with the housing of black workers in overcrowded, poorly ventilated mine compounds made mine labour particularly susceptible to the disease and in 1902 the Milner Commission revealed that 15.4% of the 1201

miners examined were suffering from TB, while another 7.3% were suspect. By 1907 a second commission had concluded that the mortality rate among miners on the Witwatersrand was six times that of other adult males of comparable backgrounds. Soon thereafter a third commission consisting entirely of medical practitioners resulted in the Miner's Phthisis Act of 1912, making South Africa the first country in the world to make compensation compulsory to miners suffering from silicosis.

Although miners were a high-risk group in the development of work-related TB, the disease was soon found to be highly contagious, and liable to spread to other sectors of the population, regardless of social standing and economic background. As a result, the potential dissemination of TB became more of an issue for public concern than might have been otherwise. Its prevention and eradication thus became the focus of a number of awareness campaigns which also sought to raise funds for free medical treatment for all sectors of the population.

Despite this, for many years an unfortunate element of social stigma was attached to the disease, which only lessened after 1945 when penicillin became more freely available. This prejudice has been renewed in more recent times after TB became associated with the terminal symptoms of HIV-AIDS.

## The South Africa Christmas Stamp Fund

In 1929 Mrs. Maja Egil Christiansen, a Danish national then residing in Durban, put forward the idea of selling Christmas labels, to raise funds for the erection and maintenance of a children's TB sanatorium. The idea was, no doubt, inspired by events in her own country where, in 1903, twenty-six years



Illustration 1. WWI cover from Fiume with an Austrian propaganda label showing a soldier throwing a hand-grenade



earlier, a postmaster, Einar Holbøll, had had the idea of adding an extra stamp sold in aid of charity, onto letters and greetings cards mailed during the Christmas season. The money thus raised could then be used to assist children who had contracted the disease. The plan was approved by the Danish authorities, and in December 1904 the country issued the world's first Christmas stamp, featuring the portrait of Queen Louise of Denmark and the word *Julen*, or Christmas, inscribed at the top.

The practice of using a variety of colourful and well-designed labels on postal items arose during the latter years of the 19th century, when envelopes left open for postal inspection were charged half of the current rate for letters in sealed envelopes (Illustration 1). As, in most cases, inspection by the Post Office was nominal at best, many members of the public took advantage of this rebate and started closing the envelope flaps with stamp-like labels, or seals, to maintain their privacy. Inevitably Christmas charities began to design and sell their own seals to raise funds, and in subsequent years these became popularly known as "Christmas Stamps", although they were only charity labels with no postal standing. Many, who cared little for the rebate, merely applied these labels to the front of their letters to show publicly their support for a cause.

By the 1960s the halcyon years of poster stamps, as these were sometimes known, was over, as their designs began to reflect the cheaper and more accessible methods of litho printing. The days of fine engraving, art nouveau ladies and recess printing were gone (Illustration 2).

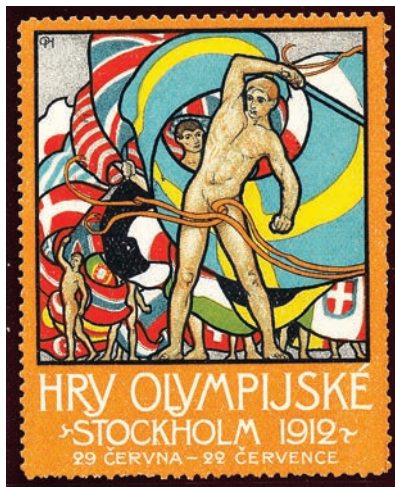


Illustration 2. Czechoslovakian publicity label advertising the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden

The symbol used by the international movement against TB was the Cross of Lorraine, a double-barred cross which was originally carried by Knights Templar during the Christian invasions of the Middle East in the 11th and 12th centuries. During the Renaissance the cross was used by alchemists as a symbol of earth and spirit, although at some stage it was also appropriated by the Catholic Church in a variant form as the heraldic symbol for a Cardinal.

It was adopted as the symbol of the world-wide movement against TB at the International Conference on Tuberculosis held in London in 1902, and appeared for the first time on a Christmas stamp, issued by the US Postal Service, in 1920. In South Africa it was featured on Christmas seals from 1933 onwards.

This choice has not been without local criticism. Writing in the 1950s Credo Mutwa has pointed out that, in black iconography, the two-barred cross is considered to be a symbol of death, which has deterred many possible patients from seeking medical assistance. In all fairness, by the time Mutwa had penned this opinion, the symbol had been in use in South Africa for over a generation, which means that its image probably preceded its reputation. Given the rudimentary conditions of health facilities available to the South African rural population of that time, it seems probable that the mortality rate from TB then experienced in the farming communities far exceeded the 1:3 ratios recorded on the Witwatersrand.

In 1929 Mrs. Christiansen's ideas were put before the Tuberculosis Hospital Fund of Natal. The outcome was the establishment of the South African Christmas Stamp Fund, and the publication of the first Christmas seals in November 1929. Unfortunately the organisation's archives were destroyed in about 1995, when its head office was transferred from Durban to Johannesburg, and many of these facts have been extrapolated or drawn from secondary sources.

In 1947 a number of anti-tuberculosis associations throughout the country amalgamated under the leadership of Charles E James, then Chair of the Natal Anti-TB Association to form the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA). At that stage South Africa was widely regarded as one of the worst TB areas in the world, and some concerted action was obviously needed. By 1973 the association had established about 200 branches and action groups, with 120 care groups dedicated specifically to black urban communities, and over 300 located in the rural areas.

Although the Christmas Stamp Fund (CSF) and the Natal Anti-TB Association, later SANTA, were nominally separate organisations, each having its own management structures, the two bodies had their offices in the same building, and it is difficult to believe that they did not cooperate in matters of common concern. Thus, although the CSF was primarily concerned with the raising of funds towards anti-TB activities, in the context of SANTA's overall structuring its financial contribution must have been relatively modest. Nonetheless the sale of these labels played a fundamental role in shaping the organisation's public image as well as the general perception and awareness of TB.

The first stamp which went on sale at all Union Money Order offices on 15 November 1929, sold a total of 168,362 units at a penny each, giving the organisation a total of £786.9.6. Of this amount £174 was raised in Durban, while Cape Town contributed over £52. The committee continued its activities until 1995 when it was finally wound up, by which stage its annual income from the sale of charity sheetlets had dropped to less than R6000. Presumably much of this can be attributed to changing public perceptions of the disease as well as the failure of the

organisation to adapt its volunteer work force to the changing national demographic of a post-1994 South Africa.

### Christmas Stamps and the Post Office

It seems probable that the Christmas stamp programme received the support of the Post Office virtually from its outset, although its exact nature has been difficult to determine, and was probably subject to changing circumstances.



Illustration 3. 1929 Christmas label



Illustration 4. 1930 Christmas label

The first stamps, issued in 1929 and 1930 respectively (Illustrations 3 and 4), were clearly the product of amateurs, bearing the hallmarks of a product cheaply designed and produced on a proverbial shoe-string. They were badly printed on a poor-quality gummed paper which was brittle and, as collectors will testify today, was particularly susceptible to the ravages of tropicalisation. Their design, which was almost identical in both years, did not understand the principles of miniaturized artwork, and used a self-invented font which was probably the outcome of training received in a woodworking class.

Stamps were distributed to Post Office Money Order offices throughout the country and sold to the public over the counter. Equally important, they were announced to post office employees by Post Office Circular No 596 of 25 November 1929 which told them that proceeds from their sale would “accrue to the Radium Fund or other approved charity”.

The issue of these labels needs to be read in the context of white politics of that time. Although the 1922 general labour strike had taken place primarily on the Witwatersrand, it affected the working class electorate in all of South Africa’s major urban areas. In its aftermath the Labour Party entered into an alliance with Hertzog’s National Party and, after the 1924 election, became part of a coalition government. Labour issues were in the forefront of its concerns, and riding high amongst them were those of the powerful and militant Mine Workers Union.

Any action on TB therefore, would have had the full support of the National Labour coalition.

This means that although these labels were not recognised for postal use, they were accorded “semi-official” status and were subject to the same Post Office accounting procedures as any postally valid stamp. Despite bearing no value, they were sold for 1d each, and there is reason to believe that they may have been considered as antecedents for future issues of a “semi-postal” nature. Certainly we know from post office records that the following returns were made for the first, 1929 issue.

Total numbers printed	:489,000
Total number sold in 1929	: 168,362
Total surplus	: 303,360
Probable wastage	: 17,278 or 3.5% of total

Income from sales	: £786.9.6
Less Post Office charges	: £84.19.4
	£701.10.2
Printing & production costs	: £149.0.3

Net profit	:£552.9.11
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These figures are revealing for a number of reasons. Firstly, there is a discrepancy of about 3.5% between the number printed, the number sold, and the surplus stock left over after sales. This can probably be accounted for by wastage at the sales counter which indicates that the sheets were poorly produced and that the roulette perforations did not separate easily. The post office being the post office, it seems likely that its fastidious staff would not have sold to the public labels which were anything but perfect, leading us to the conclusion that the method of sheet perforation could have been a source of irritation and unhappiness for postal employees working behind the counter.

Secondly there is a discrepancy in the accounts between the number of stamps sold, namely 168,362 units at 1d each, which should have shown an income of £701.10.2, and the actual return on income, namely £786.9.6.

In reality the figure of £701.10.2 is the figure reflected in the accounts after the Post Office had taken off its commission of £84.19.4, which is approximately 10.8% of the combined totals. The purpose behind this piece of flim-flam on the part of the Post Office’s accountants is difficult to understand, unless it was used to conceal the figures for wastage, which would have come to £71.19.0, which does not match the Post Office’s “commission” of £84.19.4. So this discrepancy must remain a mystery.

The final point centres on an undeclared amount of £149.0.3 which has been subtracted from the Post Office returns to give the project a profit of £552.9.11. At the time this total would have been enough to purchase a small house in one of Johannesburg’s middle income suburbs and is the equivalent today of about R600,000 which was not a bad return for a project still in its infancy. The undeclared amount can probably be attributed to the cost of printing 489,000 stamps and 1600 posters by the company of John Singleton-Williams Ltd of Durban.



## Production Issues

The relationship between the Christmas Stamp Fund Committee and the Union Post Office was renewed the following year, although details of their financial arrangements are not known. What is clear, though, is that from 1931 onwards, the Post Office must have begun to take a more direct interest in the design and production of the labels. The first two issues, in 1929 and 1930, bore similar designs whose printed area was 22.5x31mm, but from 1931 onwards, these measurements were reduced to 21.5x26.5mm, one of the standard sizes used by the Government Printer to produce the Union's definitive stamps.

In 1931 the printing was carried out by the Durban firm of Robinson & Co by screened rotogravure, and the sheets were not rouletted as before but perforated on a comb 14 machine, again one of the standard sizes used to perforate Union definitives. However, Robinson & Co would not have had the machinery necessary to carry out this work and, as far as is known, perforating technology at this level is a security feature that has always been the monopoly of the Government Printer. It must be concluded therefore, that the printing of the labels was carried out in Durban, but that the consignment was then sent to Pretoria for finishing. As the facilities at the Government Printer were not made available for outside commercial work as a matter of Government policy, it must also be concluded that the design and printing of the labels was done in Durban to Post Office specifications, and that the perforating was done subsequently in Pretoria under instruction of the Post Office.

Given the technical limitations of rouletting technology, it seems likely that, in 1929 and 1930, the size of the sheets did not exceed 60 labels, laid out in a 6x10 format. Anything larger than that might have resulted in unacceptable levels of wastage. Unfortunately, the largest positional piece recorded to date is a horizontal marginal strip of five, which yielded very little information.



Illustration 5. Tete-beche blocks of the 1953 and 1955 issue Christmas labels

After 1934 labels were printed in sheets of 120, in a 6x20 format. Details of the sheet design tended to vary from year to year. In some years positional arrows were placed at the cen-

tre of the sheet, on both the horizontal and the vertical axis, in others these were omitted. To facilitate booklet manufacture in most years the top three horizontal rows were printed upright, while the lower three were inverted, giving rows 3 and 4 a tete-beche format (Illustration 5), but in at least six issues this was not done. In some years the selvage was used to carry anti-TB messages (Illustration 6), in others not.

In 1964 and 1965 the SANTA labels were redesigned and produced in the Republic's new commemorative stamp format, which had been introduced in 1961 (Illustrations 7 and 8). Unfortunately there was no alteration to SANTA's marketing strategy, and the design of booklets must have been given over to a person who quite obviously had no knowledge of packaging.

From a booklet point of view this must have been catastrophic, producing a product which few people could have liked. In 1966, in a bid to recover sales, SANTA switched to a miniature sheet format of 2x5 labels, which appears to have been popular with the public, although very few labels from this later period have been seen on cover. Sheets were rouletted even though their design continued to reflect graphically the use of perforations. It seems likely therefore, that at this time the Christmas labels ceased to be produced by the Government Printer. SANTA however, continued to be the Post Office's designated charity.

## The Santa Archive

In 1996 the Board of the South African Post Office requested me in my capacity as Senior Manager, Philately, to liaise with the management of SANTA and the Christmas Stamp Fund to determine how we could best assist them in their charity drive. SANTA had been the Post Office's designated charity since at least 1929, and although it had played a valuable role in the past towards the eradication of tuberculosis, its fund-raising efforts in 1995, through the Christmas Stamp Fund, had realised

less than R6000. After just one meeting it became clear that the organization suffered from a decreasing base of voluntary workers, and a fundraising policy that may have stood it well fifty years ago, but had now become irrelevant. Eventually it was decided by the Board to suspend all future material assistance to SANTA, and substitute in its stead an annual monetary donation.

Two years later, after I had left the Post Office, I was requested by SANTA's Management to dispose of their archives on their behalf on the collector's market. This raised about R12,000. The data recorded below is based only upon the material that was delivered to me for disposal. Regrettably their records did not include any of their operational files, and details of designers, artwork, printing specifications and all relevant correspondence had apparently been destroyed some years previously. Similarly no original artwork has ever been located.

The archive included a range of stamps, in sheet and booklet format, as well as stocks of the post 1966 decorative sheets, which should be the subject of a separate study. Some years,



namely 1931. 1932, 1933, 1941 and 1944 were not represented, and it must be assumed that all stock of those issues was sold out. The material had previously been stored in Durban, presumably not under ideal conditions, and much of it was badly tropicalised. Labels from 1929 and 1930 were in particularly bad condition. Sheets were generally brittle and tended to separate at the perforations, and before any research could be done, they had to be pressed and kept flat for a length of time. Storage was a problem, even in the short-term, and all but the most careful of handling became hazardous.



Illustration 6. Use of selvage for advertising in the 1946 issue Christmas label



Illustration 7. 1964 Christmas label



Illustration 8. 1965 Christmas label



Illustration 9. 1942 Christmas label, showing a nebulous halo over the child's head

### Some Observations

The seemingly innocuous design and production of charity labels does not appear to have been without its share of controversy. In 1942 the label featured a kneeling woman and child in an obvious reference to the birth of Jesus. While the baby in the cot proclaimed his divinity by disporting a halo, hazy and nebulous, but a halo nonetheless, the lady had no such attachment (Illustration 9). Some Catholics saw this as a mark of disrespect towards Our Lady and wrote letters to the press. Others decided the design depicted a nun with a sick child and found that they had no objections to it after all. In the war years most people had other issues uppermost in their minds, after all.



Illustration 10. 1950 Christmas label

In 1950 the Christmas Stamp Committee issued a rather drab design showing a nursing sister standing on a landing welcoming two toddlers crawling up a set of stairs towards her (Illustration 10). Presumably the toddlers have TB, for why else would they be trying so hard to get into a hospital, but then why should this sadistic nurse be forcing them to crawl up the stairs in the first instance? To see, perhaps, if they were out of breath and therefore really had TB and qualified for admission? The Committee liked this design so much that in 1950 the label went to three printings, each technically worse than the last. Then, just for good measure, they reprinted the same design in 1962, just in case the lesson had not been learnt twelve years before.



Illustration 11. 1951 Christmas labels, without and with inscribed value

In 1951 two versions of the same stamp were issued, both featuring a small child in a night shift standing on a brown globe which, in retrospect, resembles a basketball. One, found only in sheets, had 1d inscribed on the globe; the other with no value, has only been found in booklets (Illustration 11). The reasons for this discrepancy are not known, but it might be the result of a change in marketing policy. The labels for 1929-1932 were not given a value, but those from 1933-1949 were inscribed 1d. In 1952 they reverted to being value-free. It seems probable that sometime in 1951 a decision was taken to do away with the inscribed value, but no-one bothered telling the artist. When the first sheets were delivered the mistake was realised, and instead of delaying their decision for another year, the Committee decided to order a reprint of the label minus its value. Those sheets were then used in the manufacture of booklets. It is possible that the labels in sheet format were never issued.

In 1958 the Moderator of the NGK in the Transvaal, the Rev AM Meiring, declared that the label issued by the Christmas Stamp Fund for that year should not be circulated, because “the depiction of the Virgin Mary on the stamp with a halo that was larger than that of the Child Jesus was completely in the Roman Catholic tradition. It was offensive to the Protestant point of view” (The Star, 1958). On the other hand Monsignor F Mason, Vicar-General of the Pretoria Arch-diocese of the Roman Catholic Church thought it was “a very nice stamp” (Illustration 12). The dispute was eventually taken before the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Dr Albert Hertzog. Ultimately the Committee reprinted the 1957 label and inscribed it 1958, giving the public a choice of what stamp they wanted to buy (Illustration 13).



Illustration 12. 1958 Christmas label, also known as the Madonna with the large halo



Illustration 13. Alternative 1958 Christmas label

The Engelse roots of the Christmas stamp programme were probably typified by the fact that the Natalians who ran it took sixteen years to translate Christmas correctly into Afrikaans. It started off correctly in 1929 as Kersfees, but then degenerated into Krismis, then Kersmis, and finally settled upon Kersfees in 1944 (Illustrations 3, 4 and 14).



Illustration 14. 1944 Christmas label with standardised spelling of KERSFEES

### Booklets

The earliest booklet I was able to find in the archive was for the 1935 issue, with a value of 1s (Illustration 15). Given the design of its cover, this was probably the first year that Christmas labels were sold in this format. I cannot tell for certain at what stage additional booklet values were created, but there were certainly 6d and 1s booklets in 1939. Thereafter a complete range of booklets was made available, including the 6d, 1s, 2s6d, 5s and 10s values. With decimalization in 1961, the cheapest booklet was priced at 10c and the most expensive at R1.



Illustration 15. Booklet cover for the 1935 issue, saddle-stitched on the left-hand side

The first booklets were saddle-stitched on the left-hand side, but within a few years they began to be stapled, and later on to be glue-bound. Booklets for 1938-40 carried advertising on the back cover, paid for by the Vacuum Oil Company of South Africa. In 1938 it featured “Pegasus 8 in 1 petrol”, in 1939 we were introduced to Pegasus and Mobiloil, and in 1940 we were told that Mobiloil Gargoyle was the “World’s largest selling motor oil” (Illustrations 16-18). Thereafter this advertising space, which might have been able to generate valuable revenues for SANTA, was taken over by SANTA to publicise its role in the fight against TB.



## Conclusions

The status of South Africa's Christmas labels has always been difficult to determine. It seems likely that, at some stage, it was planned to raise them to the status of official charity stamps, a concept which was first used in South Africa in 1938 and again in 1939. Certainly their link to the Union Post Office and the Government Printer in Pretoria makes this highly probable. The latter was prohibited from printing any material of a commercial nature, and would not have done so without a strict undertaking being given by the Post Office. Added to this is the fact that some early issues were printed on multiple Springbok-head watermarked paper, which was normally reserved for Union postage and revenue stamps. Some early Union catalogues and handbooks had no compunction about listing them, as an addendum at the back of the book perhaps, but they enjoyed a degree of philatelic recognition nonetheless. The reasons why they did not take the final step, from charity label to official stamp, has never been documented or fully understood. The wanton destruction of their original archive in Durban, sadly, has left many questions unanswered.

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A shorter and less comprehensive version of this article has appeared in the South African Philatelist, volume 91 (2), 60-63, 2015. Here reproduced with permission.

## Websites that Promote Southern Africa Philately

- Anglo Boer War  
[www.boerwarsociety.co.uk](http://www.boerwarsociety.co.uk)
- Basutoland, Bechuanaland & Swaziland  
[www.bechuanalandphilately.com](http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com)
- Cape and Natal Study Circle  
[www.capeandnatsc.com](http://www.capeandnatsc.com)
- Orange Free State Study Circle  
[www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk](http://www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk)
- Rhodesian Study Circle  
[www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk](http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk)
- South African Collectors' Society  
[www.southafricacollector.com](http://www.southafricacollector.com)
- The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa  
[www.psgsa.org](http://www.psgsa.org)
- The Rhodesian Philatelist  
[www.rhodesianstamps.net/The\\_Rhodesian\\_Philatelist.htm](http://www.rhodesianstamps.net/The_Rhodesian_Philatelist.htm)
- Transvaal Study Circle  
[www.transvaalstamps.org.uk](http://www.transvaalstamps.org.uk)
- Thanks to Otto Peetoom for making this compilation.



Illustration 16. Advertising on the back of the 1938 booklet



Illustration 17. Advertising on the back of the 1939 booklet

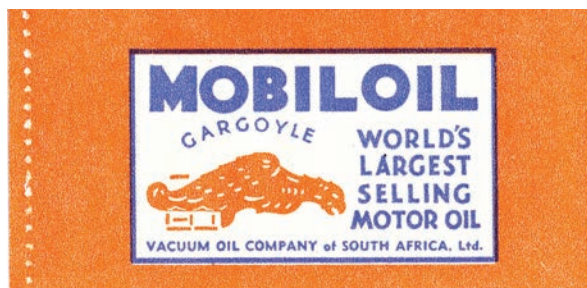


Illustration 18. Advertising on the back of the 1940 booklet

## Planned Meetings During World Stamp Show NY 2016

- May 30, 1-2pm. Southern Africa Philatelic Societies: Past, Present, and Future. Bechuanalands and Botswana Society & Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. Meeting Room 1E09.
- May 31, 1-2pm. Postal History of Southern African Pioneers Serving in World War II. Bechuanalands and Botswana Society & Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. Meeting Room 1E09.
- May 31, 2-4pm. General Meeting of the Great Britain Overprint Society. Meeting Room 1E09.
- June 2, 3-5pm. A Display of the Early British and Colonial Postal Orders. Postal Order Society. Meeting Room 1E07.
- June 3, 2-4pm. Rhodesian Study Circle General Meeting/Lecture. Rhodesian Study Circle. Meeting Room 1E09.



# Forerunners Forum

## The Cape Triangular Defacer of 1853

Dear Colleagues,

As a result of research I am currently doing on the postmarks of the Cape Post Office, a number of statements by previous researchers in the field have come under review. In writing about the introduction of the “Triangle defacing stamp of 1853” in 1943 Adriaan Jurgens stated that “the Triangular defacer used in 1853 ... appears to have been taken from the defacing Stamp used by the Stamp Office, Cape Town, in 1837” and that “the large triangle was used for defacing the embossed Revenue Stamps on documents” (p. 55).

In 36 years of archival research, most of it unrelated to postal matters, I cannot claim to have recorded a single example of such a canceller being used to obliterate revenue stamps on Cape documents. The only examples I have seen to date can be found on pp 128-130 of Jurgens’ book, but they purport to represent the postal use of revenues, and not the revenue cancellation of revenues. They are also generally held by other experts in the field to be forgeries.

I would like to ask the assistance of collectors and other historians in confirming, or refuting, the claims made by Jurgens which I have quoted above. It would also be valuable to confirm whether a similar barred canceller was ever used to obliterate revenues in Britain prior to 1837 or, indeed, at any time.

With kind

Franco Frescura



This was but the latest of a number of security breaches which finally culminated in the migration of the SAPO stamp printing contract to the House of Questa and to Australia Mail.

What was at issue in this project was not the fact that postage stamps could be forged, using a good-quality colour printer (they could!), but the ability of postal staff to identify these forgeries. The experiment used a variety of samples ranging from highly dangerous R20 stamps through to extremely crude hand-drawn examples of child art. No official phosphorised papers were used, which should have been a dead giveaway but was not.

The only designs to be spotted by “wide awake” postal staff were the child-like forgeries, but even then a couple did make it through unnoticed. Similarly envelopes got through bearing the selvage of normal stamp issues, which are phosphor-coated and thus fooled the sorting machines.

Your would-be forger might be happy to know that a perforating facility is no longer available in this country, and that I oversaw the scrapping of the last known hand-perforator outside captivity in about 2001.

Franco Frescura



## About Modern South African Forgeries

Dear Editor,

Soon after I left the South African Post Office in 1999, I was requested by the new MD to continue working for him as a consultant on security matters. About two years before that I had unmasked the printing of “forged” Standard Rate rhino stamps on stolen security paper by members of staff at the Government Printing Works, at which stage my staff had also realised that the Government Printer had been tampering with the computer generated artwork of a number of our commemorative stamp issues.

Initially what had set our alarm bells clanging was the fact that the sheets of forged rhino stamps being offered for sale to the public (at half price) had not been perforated but had been rouletted using someone’s ancient rotating wheel cutter commonly used in the tailoring trade. This meant that the ruffians involved had access to the computers, plate-making and printing facilities, but not to the perforating machines. This allowed us, by a process of elimination to identify the two people concerned, and the rest is now a matter of legal history.

## The South African Philatelist

The April issue of the South African Philatelist unexpectedly appeared with a new dramatic changed front page and a new title of “The SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIST for ALL interested in stamp collecting.” The old title was “The South African Philatelist. All about stamps.” This change resulted in a monumental uproar among South African collectors, with the result that the following issue of June reversed to the original front page outline and title.

It the previous issue of Forerunners, I volunteered the opinion that this change made good sense as an attempt to attract new collectors. I was criticized for this view on the grounds that I did not show an adequate understanding of South Africa’s stamp collecting. I plead guilty as charged and is happy to see that the journal has again reverted to its previous state.

# For the Record

258. A fully searchable e-Book version of **Peter van der Molén's Swaziland Philately to 1968** on CD is now available from [molens@pixie.co.za](mailto:molens@pixie.co.za). The price is R215 only payable to PayPal account [saphilatelists@iafrica.com](mailto:saphilatelists@iafrica.com).
259. The **completely revised** version of **James Bendon's 1988 UPU Specimen** book is now available from [www.oxfordbookprojects.co.uk/upubook](http://www.oxfordbookprojects.co.uk/upubook). A total of 534 pages hard-bound at £85, excluding pp. ISBN 978 1 870696 05 0.
260. An extensive compilation in Excel spreadsheets of the **postal rates of South Africa 1910-2016** is available on the website of the **Philatelic Federation of South Africa** at [www.philatelysa.co.za/?/module/downloads](http://www.philatelysa.co.za/?/module/downloads).
261. **Alex Visser's addenda to Putzel's postmark books** is available at <http://linus.up.ac.za/academic/civil/books>.



262. The **Royal Philatelic Society of London** is asking for nominations for the **Crawford Medal** given for the publication of major philatelic books.
263. The National Stamp Exhibition of South Africa (**CAPEX 2015**) was staged in Cape Town in October 2015. The catalogue was designed by PSGSA member **Volker Janssen**.
264. Member **Volker Janssen**, trading as **Janssen Stamps**, maintains a website listing an extensive offering of stamps. He also offers a long list of books (including some of his own). Go to <http://www.janssenstamps.com/site/index.shtml> for the details.
265. **Leonard H. Hartmann** trading as **Philatelic Bibliopole** includes books with an Southern Africa interest on <http://www.pbbooks.com>. Currently two books by **Mike Dovey** about the **shipping postmaster cancellations** of South Africa and the postal history of the **Union Castle Line**.
266. **Yorkshire Cover Auctions** distributes regularly electronic auction catalogues. Contact **John Rowstone** to be added to its ailing list by writing to [yca.leeds@ntlworld.com](mailto:yca.leeds@ntlworld.com).
267. **Atlas Auctioneers** regularly conducts auctions at local South African stamp events. Contact **Clinton Goslin** by

writing to [atlasauctioneers@lantic.net](mailto:atlasauctioneers@lantic.net) and ask to get on his mailing list.

268. **Ken Joseph** trading as **Philatelic Friends** conducts auctions at the Durbanville Stamp Fair. The catalogue can be obtained from <http://www.philatelicfriends.co.za/auctions.php> or by writing to [ken@philatelicfriends.com](mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com) to get on the mailing list.

## Mark Your Calendar

Several important stamp shows and exhibitions are fast approaching. It is now time for making a decision about to attend and to mark your calendar.

**APS AmeriStamp Expo** January 29-31, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia.

**World Stamp Show NY 2016** is an international show to be staged in New York from May 28 to June 4, 2016. Go to <http://www.ny2016.org/> for all the details. An open meeting is being organized by PSGSA and the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society. First part will be a round table discussion on the Past, Present, and Future of Southern Africa Philately. The second part will be a presentation by myself on the Southern African Pioneers serving in WW2.

**Postal History Symposium**, jointly by the American Philatelic Research Library and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, June 2-3, 2016 at the World Stamp Show NY 2016. The theme is "How Postal Treaties Influenced Post Office Reforms" and the deadline to submit paper proposals is December 1, 2015.

**APS STAMPSHOW** August 2016 in Portland, Oregon.

## New Books

Bendon, J. 2015. **UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961**. A Complete Revision of the 1988 Edition. 534 pages. ISBN 978 1 870696 05 0. £85 excluding p & p. Available from [www.oxfordbookprojects.co.uk/upubook](http://www.oxfordbookprojects.co.uk/upubook)



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## Highlights From Journals and Newsletters

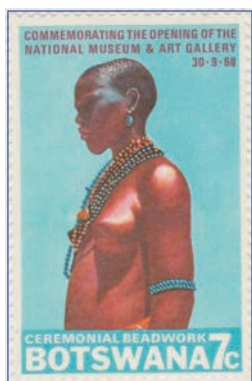
This regular column lists some of the more important articles on Southern Africa philately and postal history that recently have appeared in other journals. It is based on our exchange journals as well as on those that by other means end up on the Editors desk. If you find that some are missing, please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

- Anonymous (Gledhill, J.), 2015. 'Illustration of Cape of Good Hope postal orders.' Postal Order News Whole No. 118, 4-6.
- Anonymous, 2015. Northern Rhodesia's involvement in World War I. Southern Africa Philately Whole No. 1, 17-18.
- Barit, L., 2015. Bechuanaland Protectorate – the 1961 decimal surcharge 10c on 1/-. South African Philatelist. 94. 88-89.
- Beukering, Jan van, 2015. Union KGV roll stamps – a study to indicate the rarity of some position items. South African Philatelist. 94. 124-125.
- Board, C., 2015. Franking privileges in the Transvaal after the British occupation (1900-1904). Transvaal Philatelist 50, 25-36.
- Briscoe, A., 2015. Letter smuggling and the ship masters' gratuity. South African Philatelist. 94. 90-92.
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- Gibbs, R., Barry, J., Reah-Johnson, S., and Burke, S., 2015. The single circle 'skeleton' cancels on the Rhodesia Admiral Issue. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 65, 79-81.
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- Gledhill, J., 2015. The overprinting of British postal orders. Postal Order News Whole No., 117. 10-13.
- Hurst, B., 2015. The One Half-Penny provisional of December 1888 SG 29. Runner Post Whole No. 90, 2259-2260.
- Illyefalvi, K., 2015. South West Africa 1/2d post cards surcharged ONE PENNY. Postal Stationery 57, 211-222 (Whole No. 404).

- Kamffer, G., 2015. Die korrespondensie van Pieter Spaarwater van Wakkerstroom in die Transvaal (1899-1913). South African Philatelist. 94. 96-98.
- Kamffer, G., 2015. The use of postage stamps as revenue stamps in the Union of South Africa. South African Philatelist. 94. 134-137.
- Kantor, R., 2015. 21th Century Zimbabwe destination mail – inflation and after. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 65, 85-87.
- Landeghem, A. Van, 2015. Imperial Airways deel 6. FVZA Bartholomeu Dias 28 (Whole No. 107), 20-27.
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- Pählman, S., 2015. VOC handstamp at the Cape of Good Hope. London Philatelist 124, 212-213.
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## Exchange Journals Received

- South African Philatelist: April 2015 (Volume 91, No. 2, Whole N.929), June 2015 (Volume 91, No. 3, Whole No. 930).
- South West Africa Newsletter: Whole Nos 405 (May 2015), 406 (June 2015), 407 (July 2015), 408 (August 2015), 409 (September 2015).
- FVZA Bartholomeu Dias: Whole No. 107 (September 2015).
- Transvaal Philatelist Volume 50, No. 2 (Whole No. 191, June 2015).
- Cape & Natal Philatelic Journal: Volume 19, No. 2 (Whole No. 74, 2015).

The PGGSA exchange journals with the Transvaal Study Circle, Cape and Natal Study Circle, Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika, and the South West Africa Stamp Study Group. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

## Society Publications

- Hisey and Bartshe, 2003. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1, The Postage Stamps. Hardbound, 280 pages. Sold Out.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2004. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 2, The Telegraphs. Hardbound, 250 pages. Sold Out.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2009. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 3. Hardbound, 205 pages. Sold Out.
- CD version of the Orange Free State Volumes is now available at \$30 pp.

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 81 (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.payne@gmail.com, or The Mill House, Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QE, UK.

**Union pictorials 1926-1940.** Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations including singles. Please contact Bas Payne on bas.payne@gmail.com, or The Mill House, Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QE, 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 siege "blueprint" covers.** Want to purchase or trade for covers with Mafeking siege "blueprint" stamps. Send photocopies or scans, prices, or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net

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

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

**GWSA, 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

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