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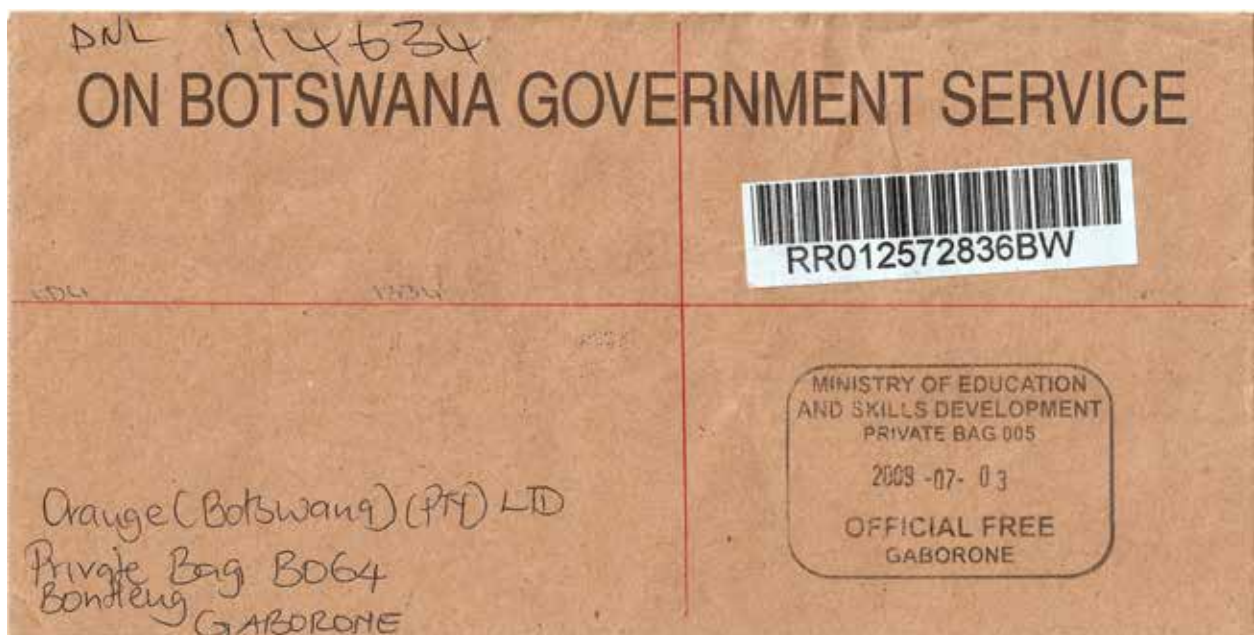
# \*\*\*\*\**FORERUNNERS*

*JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA*

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

Volume XXXI, Number 1, Whole Number 89

July-October 2017



Official Botswana Government envelope used internally in Gaborone in 2003

## Highlights

On Government Service Envelopes  
Color Variant of 1880 Cape Stamp  
Major John Walter and the Boer War  
South African Border War

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Botswana Post issued a series showing leopards on 28th of February 2017. The 10 pula stamp shown here occurred in a series of 4 stamps. At this point, not much more is known. The philatelic web pages are not functional and the stamps have not yet been uploaded to the UPU new stamp website.

Front Illustration:

'On Government Service' envelopes has been widely used in most southern African countries. In this issue Gordon Smith review the envelopes used in Botswana. Although inscribed 'on service' they in addition required an official cachet to be considered authorized.

### \*\*\*FORERUNNERS

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Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Vermeil at STAMPSHOW Richmond, VA 2017. Large Silver at WORLD STAMP SHOW NEW YORK 2016; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2015; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2014; Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JO'BURG, 2010; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2010, Richmond; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2009; Silver at STAMPSHOW 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006; Vermeils in 2005 at STAMPSHOW and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at SESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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## Editorial Notes

This issue is being finished in early September well before the official deadline. The reason is that I am preparing for a long trip to Denmark in October and November. It looks like it is going to be an eventful trip. First there is a 70th year birthday party (my own). And then there is three philatelic events. The first is the symposium on analytical methods in philately at the Royal Philatelic Society in London in early October. Then there is the Nordia 2017 exhibition in Denmark. And finally, the Southern African Philatelic Societies Joint Conference in early November in the Midlands, UK. It looks like it will be difficult to do any real work, but as a retiree that's my right I keep telling myself.

This issue contains the second article from the Spellman Symposium. Johan Joubert gives us an account of philatelic aspects of Namibia's liberation struggle. Then, Gordon Smith reviews the seemingly mundane subject of 'On Government Service' envelopes of Botswana and uncovers an exciting collecting area.

Those of you that read the Presidents Corner (and you all do that) will have noted the unusual subject in #88. This time he completes the story of his road trip through the US from his home in Canada. I am sure that Alan will not mind if I tell the story behind these two unusual columns. When Alan send me his corner for #88, he attached the wrong file to his email. I as the Editor thought that it sounded exciting and did not question anything, but printed the text as received. This time, there is no mistake, we get to read about the rest of his the road trip.

The annual ward for the best article in Forerunners goes to Ken Lawrence for his account of his life as an activist and its intersections with the liberation of Africa.

Peter Thy

### Annual Article of Distinction Award

The Article of Distinction Award was for the past volume given to Ken Lawrence for "The Intersection of African Liberation and Philately in the Life of an Activist" that appeared in No. 88.

The next award will be for the volume ending with No. 91 and will be announced in No. 92.

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)).

The deadline for the next issue will be February 15, 2018. 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).



## Annual Society Auction

Our auction manager Moody Tidwell announces he is preparing the next auction catalog. Each of us need to support the Society and one good way is to review your collections and identify how you can add to the auction. Our auction gives each of us a chance to sell surplus stamps, covers and philatelic ephemera and for the rest to add to their collections at a fair and reasonable price. Each lot is pictured in the catalog and guaranteed as to identity and condition.

Our Society auctions have gained acclaim over the years and we look forward to another catalog coming out this fall with a closing date shortly after the new year.

Please send your questions to Moody at [PSGSA2016@gmail.com](mailto:PSGSA2016@gmail.com) and your material to him at 912 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 USA. All material sent will be handled securely and with great care. Payment is guaranteed. No material is ever mail until paid for in full.

Auction lots must be received on September 30. Please include information about minimum prices if any.

## 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). The basic membership fee is US\$20 for the electronic version of the journal. The print version can in addition be obtained by adding \$5 for USA mailing addresses, \$10 for Canada addresses, and \$15 for the rest of the world. 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 each year. 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

(Continued from # 88) The geological formations in Zion are all oriented north/south, rising to great heights and making one feel pretty small! We took a swim in the pool to cool down and then walked along by the river up to "The Narrows", where the river disappears up a large fissure to the north. We saw some interesting birds and several white butterflies, which resembled the usual "Cabbage White", but with no black markings on the upper wing surfaces! Supper in the motel, which was very good, but followed in the morning by a "not-so-good" breakfast. We took Highway 9 through Zion to the east, climbing a zig-zag road up the side of a canyon and then in to a mile long tunnel that was completed in 1930 with wonderful views on the other side. We parked and walked around to take photos of the views that were to be seen. Hwy 9 finally joined up with Hwy 89 and took us into Arizona, where we began climbing again and ended up on the North rim of the Grand Canyon, where we booked in to Grand Canyon Lodge and made reservations for dinner. Then we drove to Cape Royal, found a picnic spot where we had some snacks from our "Koola-tron", accompanied by a Raven who was looking for handouts! The on to Point Imperial, which gave us terrific views and on a twisty road to Cape Royal, where we got a view of the Colorado River far below us and marveled at the vast panorama! After supper, we took a walk along the rim to Bright Angel Point and wondered at the colorful names assigned to all the beauty spots around the Canyon! We stopped for a while to look at a herd of 8-10 Mule Deer, along with some other folks until a Park Ranger came along and told everyone to move. The on our way again and the road started to descend and we came off the Kaibab Plateau to a vista of desert with the bright red Vermilion Cliffs to the West of us. We passed balancing rocks and arrived at Marble Canyon where the highway bridge crosses the Colorado and we stopped for pictures, including two rafts full of people. We turned South after this and came to a sign which read "fasten your seat belts – it is Navajo Nation Law"! We turned West when we left Navajo Territory – back through the Kaibab Forest and in to Grand Canyon National Park and found that our Hotel was out of the park. Dinner was very good and I ventured to try a Mexican dish – Pollo Verde, which was quite hot but cooled down with a carafe of Zinfandel! Monday was July 1st (Happy Birthday Canada" and loony Alan (as my wife put it) got up at 5.00 a.m. to watch the sun rise over the canyon and it was unbelievably beautiful (Barbara wished she had joined me when she saw the photos)! . Unfortunately, we had to leave but promised ourselves that we would return and spend more time getting to know about such a wonderful place. We had planned to head up through the Coconino Forest to the Mogollon Plateau and Flagstaff, which is a great town with lots of interesting stores where one can buy Indian pottery (which we did!) We stayed in a motel which was near the railroad tracks and spent a restless night with plenty of trains!!

We had to start heading East towards home and made a vow that we would return as soon as we could. Found our way to Albuquerque and had supper in a Japanese restaurant with a very funny chef who cooked all the meals over an open fire! Our first experience of this! We continued heading East and July 4th

arrived – "Happy Birthday America" as we crossed into Texas and turned North to start heading for home.

We have really enjoyed this and some of our other trips which have been made possible by the fact that the A.T.A. moves their show locations around the country, which enables us to meet our friends and discover America in the process. We have tried to convince some of our Canadian friends to do the same thing, but many seem to prefer travelling in the "farther North".

Until next time

Alan J. Hanks

## Apologies

The last issue had incomplete interactive links. Will try to do a better job this time. Please let me know if still not good enough.

## PSGSA Financial Statements: Year Ending 31 August 2017

<b>Income</b>		
Membership Dues	2185.00	
Donations, Unrestricted	<u>45.00</u>	
Total Income	<u>2230.00</u>	
<b>Expense</b>		
Bank Service Charges	25.91	
Office Supplies	51.48	
Postage and Delivery	751.47	
Printing Forerunners	<u>1165.54</u>	
Total Expense	<u>1994.40</u>	
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	235.60	
<b>Other Income</b>		
Books and CD Sales	60.00	
Journal Advertising Sales	<u>150.00</u>	
Total Other Income	<u>210.00</u>	
<b>Net Income FY 2017</b>	<u>445.60</u>	
<b>Assets</b>		
	<b>YE 31 Aug 16</b>	<b>YE 31 Aug 17</b>
Bank Checking and Savings	9450.55	9896.15
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	9650.74	9450.55
Net Income for the Year	<u>(200.24)</u>	<u>445.60</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>9450.55</u>	<u>9896.15</u>

### Notes:

15% of the membership accepted reduced membership fees in exchange for Forerunners delivered by email only.

Membership = 96: USA 60%, Canada 10%, South Africa 10%, others 10%.

## Southern Africa at WESTPEX 2018

The Rhodesian Study Circle will convene at WESTPEX in San Francisco in April next year. This is a great opportunity for showing your southern Africa exhibit or simply to attend the show. There will likely be many southern Africa collectors and dealers present at the show. The WESTPEX 2018 prospectus and exhibit entry form are now up on the WESTPEX web site, [www.westpex.org](http://www.westpex.org).

# Botswana Government Printed Envelopes

by Gordon Smith

Official mail in Botswana is usually sent in envelopes with an imprint indicating that the item is being sent “On Botswana Government Service” or “On Botswana Postal Service” (see Figures 1 and 2).

Pre-independence official government covers are further categorized, depending on the monarch reigning at the time, into “On Her Majesty’s Service” and on “On His Majesty’s Service” (see Figures 3 and 4). This text is, with a few exceptions, printed across the top of the envelope.

While it is assumed that transition covers, where for example “On His Majesty’s Service” has been overprinted or manually modified to “On Her Majesty’s Service” or “On Her Majesty’s Service” to “On Botswana Government Service” exist, the author has not seen any examples.

Due to the wide variations observed in the style of the imprints, it appears that the text for Botswana Government printed envelopes was and is printed by private non-bonded or non-security printers unlike registered envelopes and other postal stationery such as aerogrammes. It is likely that the use of non-security printers is possible because the printed indication that the item is official mail does not contain any indicia that denotes that postage has been paid (as would be the case with an aerogramme, for example).

Based on a review of many hundreds of covers, it appears that all official mail within Botswana could be sent for free without the use of postage stamps or other indication of payment of postage. However, an Official Free handstamp must be added for an appropriate organization to receive the free mailing privilege. A sample of such a handstamp can be seen in Figure 5.

While it appears that items marked “On Botswana Postal Service” could be mailed outside Botswana for free, it appears that other official mail, i.e. “On Botswana Government Service”, “On Her Majesty’s Service” and “On His Majesty’s Service” covers, sent to international destinations had to contain

Figure 1.

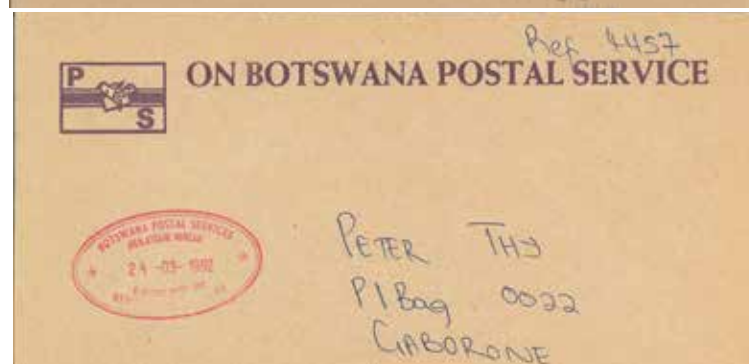
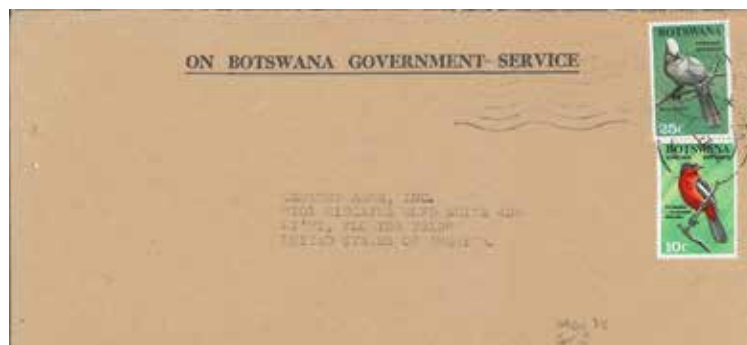


Figure 2.

postage stamps or other indications of postage paid.

As the envelopes are not security-printed, it appears that the government departments may use different printers resulting in a wide range of font styles and sizes. Covers are also found in a wide variety of sizes and types from C6 envelopes (162 mm x 114 mm) to bags used to mail the Government Gazette (approximately 425 mm x 238 mm) (Figure 6).

Most often the envelopes are buff in color with the imprint ranging from black through brown to a purplish hue. A small number of white airmail type envelopes have been seen within the “On Botswana Government Service” types with the text for the message being blue (see Figure 7).

In setting up a classification scheme for the different covers, the first major characteristic for separation establishing the Category is the text indicating whether the envelope is being sent “On Botswana Government Service” (OBGS), “On Botswana Postal Service” (OBPS), “On Her Majesty’s Service” (OHRMS) and on “On His Majesty’s Service” (OHSMS). The differentiation of these groups is indicated by using the first letters of the words in the text. i.e. OBGS, OBPS, OHRMS and OHSMS.

Interestingly, while the “On Botswana Postal Service” covers most often contain text and a logo of a bird carrying an envelope on the front of the cover (see Figure 2), the “On Botswana Government Service”, “On Her Majesty’s Service” and on “On His Majesty’s Service” envelopes only have a coat of



Figure 3

arms printed on the rear flap, if at all (see Figure 8).

This article describes the further differentiation of “On Botswana Government Service” covers. Future articles will examine “On Botswana Postal Service”, “On Her Majesty’s Service” and on “On His Majesty’s Service” covers.

Figure 9 describes the basis for establishing a typology of Botswana Government Printed Envelopes.

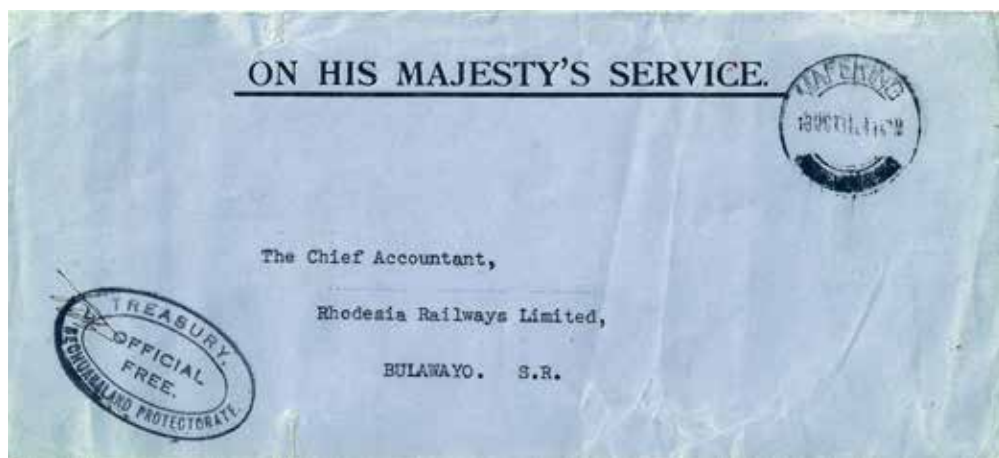


Figure 4

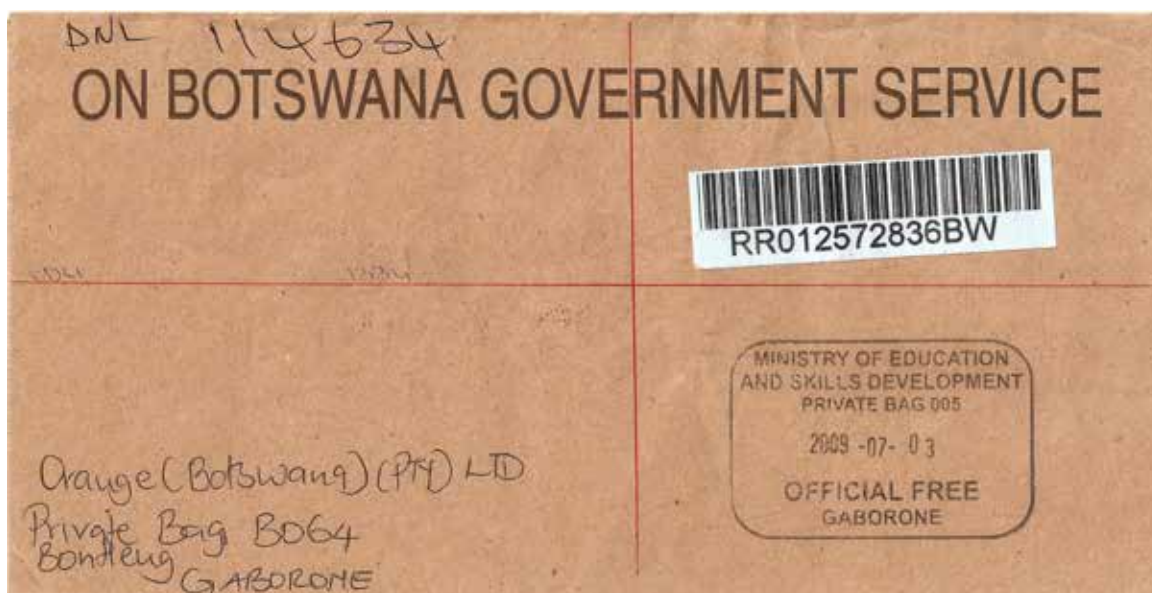


Figure 5

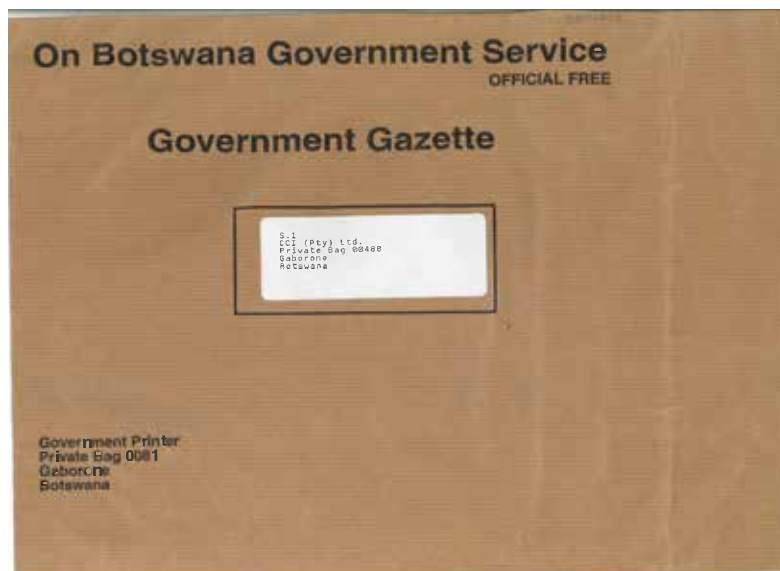


Figure 6. Large envelope use to mail the Government Gazette.



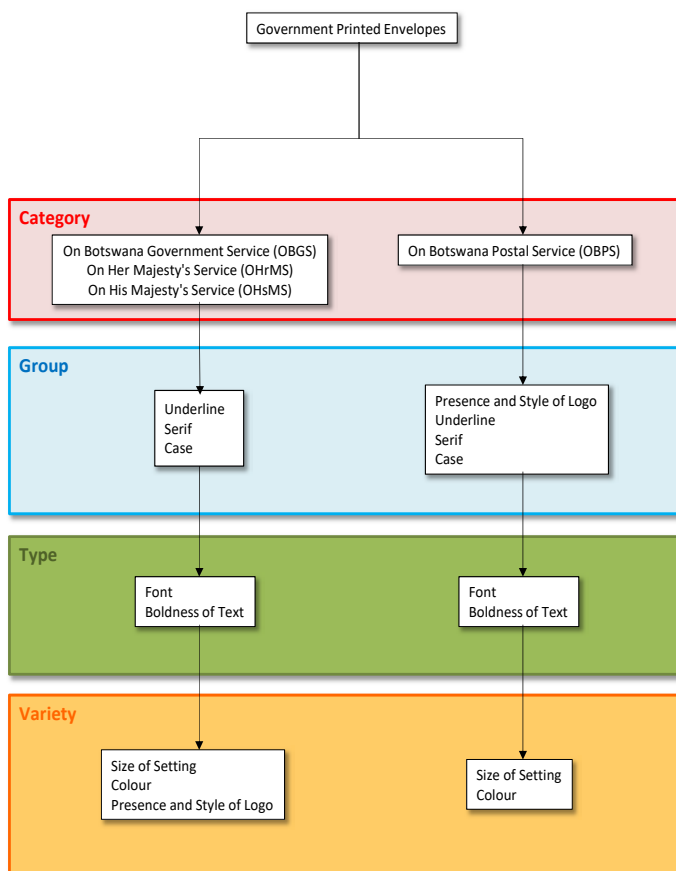


Figure 9: Basis for Establishing a Typology of Botswana Government Printed Envelopes

### Classification of “On Botswana Government Service” (OBGS) Envelopes

Grouping of the OBGS envelopes is based on three criteria: 1) whether the text is underlined or not, 2) whether the text is a serif or sans serif font, and 3) the case of the text. Figure 9 describes the criteria used.

1. Underline	U – underlined	N – not underlined	
2. Serif	s – serif	ss – sans serif	
3. Case (capitalization)	U – all upper case	L – lower and upper case	S – small caps

Figure 10: Basis of Grouping for OBGS Covers

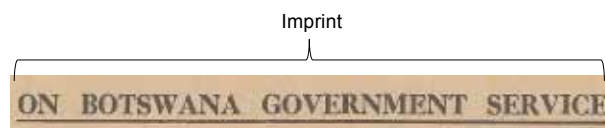


Figure 11: Sample of an OBGS Marking

The groups of OBGS covers are further divided into Types based on the font and boldness of the text. Following this definition, different fonts will be numbered as they are found.

A further challenge within the typology is the wide variety of sizes and colour of the imprints found within each of the Types. These criteria are used to denote the Variety of the imprint. The “On Botswana Government Services” covers can also be further differentiated into Varieties based on the presence and style of a logo on the back of the cover.

Figure 10 provides an example of an OBGS marking. The text is underlined, is a serif font and is all upper case. Therefore, using the criteria in Figure 9 it would be denoted as UsU and as the first type within the grouping (as determined by its font), it is denoted with a 1, making it UsU1.

The setting is sized at 114.5 mm by 3.8 mm and it is in black. Therefore, this particular mark would be denoted as UsU1 114.5x3.8 Black.

Please feel free to provide additional thoughts and information related to the development of this typology. The author, Gordon Smith, can be reached at [gs@postalhistory.ca](mailto:gs@postalhistory.ca) with copy to the Editor.



Figure 7



Figure 8



## Typology of “On Botswana Government Service” (OBGS) Envelopes

Using this system, the following typology to the type level is developed. Again, it should be noted that there can be a wide variation in the size and colour of the imprint within each Type.

OBGS Type NsS01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NsS02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NsS03	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NsS04	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

OBGS Type NssL01	On Botswana Government Service
OBGS Type NssL02	On Botswana Government Service
OBGS Type NssL03	On Botswana Government Service

OBGS Type NssU01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU03	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU04	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU05	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU06	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU07	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU08	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU09	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU10	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU11	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICES
OBGS Type NssU12	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NssU13	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE



OBGS Type NsU01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NsU02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type NsU03	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

OBGS Type UsS01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UsS02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UsS03	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

OBGS Type UssS01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssS02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

OBGS Type UssU01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU03	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU04	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU05	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU06	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU07	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UssU08	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

OBGS Type UsU01	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE
OBGS Type UsU02	ON BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

# COGH 1880 3 Pence on Three Pence in Claret?

by Peter Melz

In 1879 The Cape of Good Hood changed the half ounce postal rate from four pence to three pence. Since there were no three pence stamps available, the blue “Hope Seated” current four pence stamp was revalued by overprinting it “THREE PENCE” in red. This somehow did not prove satisfactory, and in 1880 a new printing of the four pence stamp was produced in a different color, with malice of forethought, and overprinted “THREE PENCE” in black. The new color was rose or lilac-rose, depending on which catalog is used. (For a cross reference of the numbers and colors used in various catalogs, see the table) It was evidently easier to change the color of the printing than to change the denomination on the plate. None of the 1880 four pence stamps are known without the “THREE PENCE” overprint.



1878 3 pence on 4 pence



1880 3 pence on 4 pence

In 1880 De La Rue & Co. got around to changing the denomination on the plate, and a three pence value of the “Hope Seated” design was issued in the same color as the previously issued four pence denomination, which was overprinted. Apparently the color of the three pence caused some problems, because in artificial light it could not readily be distinguished from the one penny denomination of the same design, issued in 1872



1872 1p



1880 3p

To resolve this ambiguity, the 1880 three pence stamp was overprinted in 1880 with the numeral “3” in two different fonts.



1880 overprints

Apparently overprinting the 1880 with the numeral “3” was too complicated a solution, so in 1881 the three pence value was reissued in a more distinctive color, claret, compared to the rose color of the 1880 issue.



1880 3 pence



1881 3 pence

Issue resolved, end of story? Not quite from my perspective. In going through a recently acquired collection, I came across what appears to be the 1881 claret three pence with a numeral “3” overprint like that applied to the 1880 three pence



1880 3 pence overprinted



???

So what’s the story here? The three pence claret was issued in 1881, after the overprinting of the 1880 three pence



with the numeral “3” in 1880. Perhaps the overprinting was not completed in 1880 and some sheets from the 1881 claret printing crept into a residual printing. That would mean a new, as-yet-unlisted variety.

It is also possible the stamp in question has a forged overprint. The font appears to be correct, at least in the major details, but the printing is lighter and appears more grainy than that of the comparison 1880 stamp. But such a variation might reasonably be expected to occur, particularly in a later printing of the overprint, if there was one. Then there is the question of the motivation for producing such a forgery. Both the 1881 three pence without the overprint and the overprinted 1880 three

pence are common stamps with similar catalog value.

It should also be considered that these stamps are all used and over a century old. Time and storage conditions can produce changes in apparent color. To be sure that the stamp in question did start out in life with the claret color would probably take a spectral analysis, which is beyond the capability of this author.

So what do you think?

The author can be reached by writing to peterjmelz@aol.com with copy to the Editor. Illustrations are not to scale.

## COGH Catalog Cross Reference

Stamp Description		Gibbons	SACC	Robson-Lowe	Scott
1872 1 penny	Cat Number	29	24	46	24
	Color	pale carmine-red	pale carmine-red	carmine (shades)	rose
	Cat Number	29a	24a		
	Color	deep carmine-red	deep carmine-red		
1878 3 pence on 4p	Cat Number	34	29	52	29
	Color	blue	blue	blue	blue
1880 3 pence on 4p	Cat Number	35	30	53	30
	Color	pale dull rose	pale dull ruse	dull rose	lilac rose
1880 3 pence	Cat Number	36	31	54	25
	Color	pale dull rose	pale dull rose	dull rose	lilac rose
1880 3 on 3 pence	Cat Number	37	32	55	31
	Color	pale rose	pale dull rose	pale dull rose	lilac rose
1880 3 on 3 pence	Cat Number	38	33	56	32
	Color	pale dull rose	pale dull rose	pale dull rose	lilac rose
1881 3 pence	Cat Number	40	34	57	26
	Color	pale claret	pale claret	claret (shades)	claret
	Cat Number	40a	34a		26a
	Color	deep claret	deep claret		pale claret

## 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

The Society was formed circa October 1947 by Eric Sherwood from Sale in Manchester. Eric was a specialist dealer of South Africa and a well-known figure in the stamp trade. He passed away at a ripe old age in January 1987.

At first the members circulated a ‘News folder,’ but that became impractical as the membership progressed to three figures. In January 1953, the first society journal was published called The Springbok and is still going strong after 60+ years. For almost 40 years it was a bi-monthly publication and from 1993 it became a quarterly journal. Issue No 339 was published in August 2017.

Eric Sherwood promoted and advertised the Society in The South African Philatelist starting in October 1949 and this ‘PR’ exercise continued to the end of December 1972. In January 2014, a Society website came ‘online’ and has been developed into a valuable source of information, especially a section entitled ‘Collect Southern Africa’.

The website includes an index to all the Springbok journals and there is an extensive list of the Society’s comprehensive Library. Regular meetings are held in the North and the South plus a Philatelic weekend in May/June in the Midlands. Each year in November it hosts an

Annual Southern Africa Philatelic Conference and is already in its 16th year. This important annual event is open to all the various Societies with an interest in Southern Africa Philately.

On the Saturday there are invited displays and on Sunday morning it is open to anyone wishing to present a short display. The Conference is concluded on Sunday afternoon with a ‘live’ auction.

The 70th Anniversary is being celebrated by a customised webpage that may be accessed from our home page, also a sixteen page Special (Souvenir) Edition of The Springbok has been published and may be downloaded free in PDF format from our website.

By 1954, the Society boasted 229 members and nowadays it is in the region of 130. There is no pomp and ceremony and the society is run in a casual and friendly manner...thus if anyone has an interest in this area of collecting they ought to consider joining. The current annual subscription is UK £18, Europe £22 and Overseas £25. There is a PDF option for a mere £10 per year. Enquiries may be directed to info@southafricacollector.com or write to our Secretary Chris Oliver, 46 Woodville Road, Ham, Richmond TW10 7QN olivers.of\_ham@virgin.net. General information: www.southafricacollector.com.



# Major John McNeil Walter (1861-1951)

by Campbell Buchannan



I enjoyed reading Richard Stroud's article "The Application of Martial Law and its effect on the Mail, Especially in the Cape Colony" in *Forerunners* #85, March-June 2016. Stroud listed Major J. McN. Walter, 2nd Devonshire Regiment, as Chief Press Censor in the Cape Colony.

By an amazing coincidence, I was simultaneously researching a cover that I had recently acquired which was addressed to the same Major Walter of the Devonshire Regiment, then a prisoner-of-war in Pretoria.

Major John McNeil Walter (born 1861) took part in the Battle of Colenso on 15th December 1899 when British troops, commanded by Sir Redvers Buller, attempted to cross the Tugela River to relieve the besieged town of Ladysmith. The Boers repelled all British attempts to cross the river, forcing the British to retreat in one of their biggest defeats of the war. Major Walter was captured by the Boers and interned in the Officer's Prisoner of War Camp in the State Model School at Pretoria, eventually being released when the British occupied Pretoria in June 1900.

My cover is postmarked at Aldershot, England February 23, 1900, and simply addressed to Major Walter, Prisoner-of-War, Pretoria. En route, the cover received backstamps in Cape Town (18 March 1900), where a red censor cachet [Prime Type CPT2] was also applied, and Durban (25 March 1900). The cover travelled to Pretoria via neutral Delagoa Bay eventually reaching

the United States Consul which handled British interests in the South African Republic including mail to British prisoners-of-war. The cover was censored in Pretoria with a violet "GEZIEN CENSOR" cachet dated 17 April 1900.

On his release from the Boer prison, Major Walter became the Commandant at Irene. He subsequently served on the Military Staff which included his services as the Chief Censor at Cape Town. For his services he was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order. Walter had a distinguished record in the Devonshire Regiment, which, apart from the Boer War, he served on the Punjab Frontier and took Command of the 1st Battalion from 1906 to 1910. During the Great War he served in a series of high ranking appointments in India, including as Adjutant-General, was promoted Major-General in 1918, and made a Companion of the Order of the Bath and of the Star of India. He retired at the end of the Great War and died in 1951.

John Walter, who was the son of an army general, had quite a career in the British Army. His two brothers also served in the Boer War: William Frederick Walter (Lancashire Fusiliers) was wounded at Spion Kop and Charles Walter, Cameronian Scottish Rifles, was killed at Spion Kop.

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# The South African Border War, 1966–1989: A Philatelic Approach

by Johan Jourbert

The liberation struggle of Africa from colonialism to independence has mainly been achieved by military interventions. The modern history of Southern Africa is no exception. During World War I, South Africa, as a member of the British Commonwealth, occupied German South West Africa. Following the Versailles peace treaty in 1919, South Africa was mandated the right to administrate South West Africa under the terms of Article 22 of the League of Nations. This mandate expected that South Africa would promote the economic and social progress and welfare of the people of South West Africa with the ultimate goal of independence. However, when the United Nations replaced the League after World War II, South Africa refused to surrender its control over South West Africa.

Although South West Africa was never formally incorporated into South Africa, it was administrated as one of the South African provinces with only the white minority having representation in the Parliament of South Africa. An attempt in 1959 of forced removal of the black population from Windhoek sparked strong local resistance and the development of a growing Namibian black opposition to South African rule demanding independence.

The 1960's saw widespread independence of former European colonies and territories and a mounting pressure on South Africa to grant independence to South West Africa, or Namibia as the territory eventually became known as, culminating with the UN General Assembly eventually revoked in 1966 South Africa's mandate over South West Africa.

Despite the international pressure, South Africa pressed forward with introducing the South African apartheid policy in South West Africa, under the banner of a progressive pathway to develop and support the people in Namibia. As a result, the years after 1966 saw increasing armed conflicts in South West Africa between South African rule and the resistance movements represented by the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO). The result was that the UN General Assembly in 1972 recognized SWAPO as the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The South African Border War, also known as the Namibian War of Independence and sometimes denoted in South Africa as the Angolan Bush War, was a largely asymmetric conflict that occurred in Namibia (then South West Africa), Zambia, and Angola from 26 August 1966 to 21 March 1990. The 1978 geopolitical map of southern Africa is shown in Figure 1.

In reality the Border War was not a war at all, but very long, very intensive insurgency and counter-insurgency campaigns, which in part of the theatre of operations turned into conventional warfare. It was fought between the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), an armed wing of the South West African People's Or-

ganisation (SWAPO). The South African Border War resulted in some of the largest battles on the African continent since World War II and was closely intertwined with the Angolan Civil War. The war was initiated by SWAPO soldiers that crossed the Angola border into South West Africa and launched violent attacks on civilians. This resulted in the SADF moving into Angola to secure the border. The conflict ended 23 years later by the independence of Namibia.

This conflict is an important part of South Africa's modern military history and is the subject of this philatelic survey. The discussion aims to outline the chronological and sequential conflict towards independence of South West Africa during the period 1966-1989. The SADF's role in the border war and the involvement of Cuba, were the two important opponents. The twenty three year long conflict will be illustrated using philatelic material and other documents as well as ephemera from the war.



Figure 1. Geopolitical situation in 1978. States friendly to Namibian independence are denoted in red. Namibia are in pink with blue stripes. From Wikipedia

## Propaganda War

Information and motivation during the war was an important factor especially in the civilian population in rural areas. It was not only the physical events that change people's mind, the propaganda tools of pen and paper played an important role. The propaganda photo in Figure 2 shows Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the UNITA movement, visiting US President Ronald Regan in the White House in 1986. The commemorative postcard of Figure 3 shows MPLA soldiers with AK47 weapons and a propaganda stamp with the star in the background and the AK47 in the front, the struggle and liberation weapon that symbolize



## ON SIDE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)

National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA)

Rhodesia under Ian Smith (1966-1980)

## ON SIDE OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE

South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) - 1960

People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN)

Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)

USSR and China

Cuba

African countries: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ghana

The military wing of the African National Congress: Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK)



Figure 2. Propaganda photo of Jonas Savimbi, the leader of UNITA, meeting with the US President Regan in 1986



Figure 3. MPLA propaganda postcard illustrates the militant views of the Angolans as well as symbolic value and power of the AK47

the move of colonialism out of Africa, and the power that the AK47 meant for the black liberators of Africa. This symbolism also indicates the role it played during the Border War till 1989.

## Photographic Overview

The following mosaic of photos from the conflict is selected to illustrate the operations and transport vehicles and aircrafts (Figure 4). Shown are upper left: Puma helicopter of

the SA Air Force; upper right French Mirage fighter frequently modified by the SA Air Force; center: ratels (combat vehicle of the SADF); lower left: sergeant keeps an eye on the border with Zambia at the Wenela base in the Caprivi-strip in northern SWA; lower right: South African Defense Force troops with their camouflaged ratel "Honey Badger." (Sources are Willem Steenkamp, South Africa's Border War 1966-1989.)

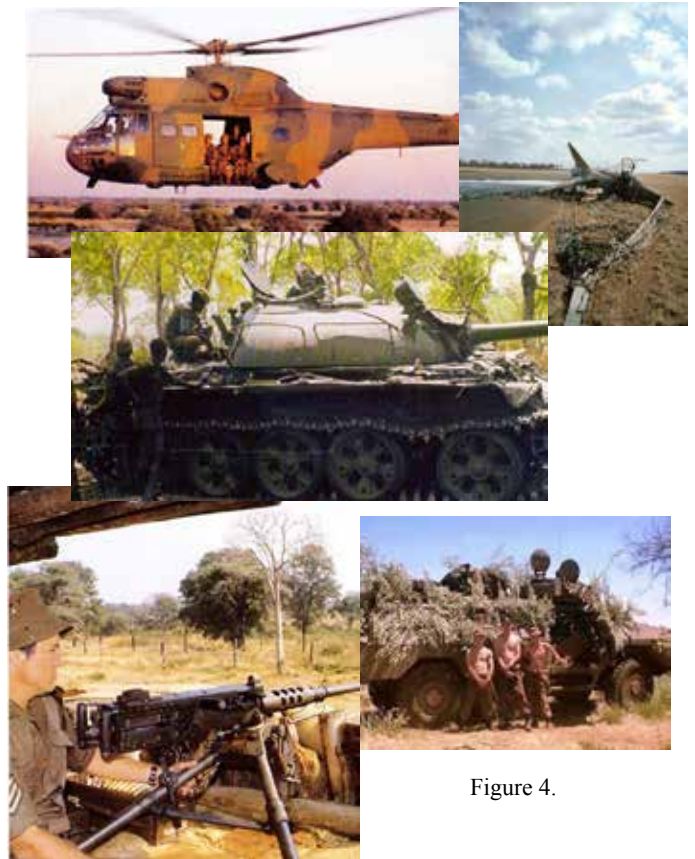


Figure 4.

## Parties Involved in the Conflict

Starting in the early 1960's, the three major liberation movements enjoyed support from a wide range of countries. By the time of independence FNLA and UNITA received aid from the US, Zaire, South Africa, China, and North Korea. Some east bloc countries including Yugoslavia first established ties with the MPLA in the early 1960's during its struggle against the Portuguese. Both MPLA and FNLA were a logical choice. After its expulsion from Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) in November 1963, the MPLA moved across the Congo River to formerly French Congo-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), where it was invited by its new leftist government.

The FNLA stayed in Congo-Leopoldville to which it remained closely tied and from where it received the bulk of its support. FNLA leader Holden Roberto was linked to Mobutu by marriage and obligated to him for many past favours.

Over the years, the FNLA had become little more than an extension of Mobutu's own armed forces. Much of Zaire's support came indirectly from the US, with whom Zaire's leader Mobutu had close ties. Zaire was the first country to send troops to Angola in March 1975 and to engage in fighting against the

MPLA by the summer of that year. In early 1965, Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara travelled to Congo to offer his knowledge and experience as a guerrilla to the insurgents. Guevara thought that Africa was imperialism's weak link and therefore had enormous revolutionary potential. This view was the reason for the start of Cuban support for Africa states, included Angola and Namibia. Katanga became the foot in the door to Africa, for Cuban involvement.

### Summary of the Conflict

- Following several decades of unsuccessful petitioning through the United Nations for Namibian independence, SWAPO formed the PLAN in 1962 with material assistance from the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and sympathetic African states such as Tanzania, Ghana, and Algeria.
- Fighting broke out between PLAN and the South African authorities in August 1966.
- Between 1975 and 1988 the SADF staged massive conventional raids into Angola and Zambia to eliminate PLAN's forward operating bases.
- South African tactics became increasingly aggressive as the conflict progressed. The SADF's incursions produced Angolan casualties and occasionally resulted in severe collateral damage to economic installations regarded as vital to the Angolan economy.
- Ostensibly to stop these raids, but also to disrupt the growing alliance between the SADF and the National Union for the Total Independence for Angola (UNITA), which the former was arming with captured PLAN equipment.
- The Soviet Union backed the People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) through a large contingent of military advisors and up to four billion dollar's worth of modern defence technology in the 1980's.
- Beginning in 1984, regular Angolan units under Soviet command were confident enough to confront the SADF. Their positions were also bolstered by thousands of Cuban troops.
- The state of war between South Africa and Angola briefly ended with the short-lived Lusaka Accords, but resumed in August 1985 as both PLAN and UNITA took advantage of the ceasefire to intensify their own guerrilla activity, leading to a renewed phase of FAPLA combat operations culminating in the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.
- The South African Border War virtually ended by the tripartite accord, mediated by the United States, which committed to a withdrawal of Cuban and South African military personnel from Angola and South West Africa, respectively.
- Despite being largely fought in neighbouring states, the South African Border War had a phenomenal cultural and political impact on South African society.
- The country's apartheid government devoted considerable effort towards presenting the war as part of a containment programme against regional Soviet expansionism and used it to stoke public anti-communist sentiment.
- It remains an integral theme in contemporary South African literature at large and Afrikaans-language works in particular, having given rise to a unique genre known as

“grensliteratuur”(border war literature).

- A number of philatelic and postal history items emanated from this Border War of conflict.

### The Establishment of Field Post Offices

The need for an efficient postal service for troops in the field resulted in the establishment on October 1964 of the *11 Field Postal Unit* as a fully-fledged Reserve Force Unit of the SADF initially made up of voluntary postal workers (Figure 6). The first commanding officer was Cmdt. Chris Gouws (1/10/64 – 31/12/66). This unit saw its first major combat operation during the Bush War.



Figure 6. Voluntary postal workers of the *11 Field Postal Unit*

During peace time many Army Post Offices (APO) and Field Post Offices (FPO) are used in permanent army camps or during exercises or maneuvers. The function of the Army Postal Services is primarily to maintain efficient postal communications between the serving members of the Defence Force and their relatives, friends and civil connections. Usually they are staffed by officials seconded from the Post Office. During peace time, APOs and FPOs are used in permanent army camps or during exercises or maneuvers. At the first Republic Festival (RSA 5) held in Pretoria in May 1966, a Field Post Office (Veldposkantoor) made its first appearance.

As the incidents of insurgents intensified on the border, the SADF had to place more troops on the ground. The mail handling also came under pressure. Owing to circumstances on the South West Africa and Angola border, an extensive investigation concerning mail distribution in the operational area was undertaken in December 1975. Following this, 11 members from the *11 Field Postal Unit* were sent to Grootfontein to help establish an organised mail distribution system in the operational area. Grootfontein was identified as the main receiving and distribution point. Fully-fledged financial counter facilities were also provided later. Several cachets came to light, to help with the sorting of mail, similar to the Pretoria cachets then in used. Figure 9 shows two registered field post letters from SWA to South Africa with postal cachets were introduced to help with the sorting of mail.



Owing to circumstances on the SWA and Angola border an extensive investigation concerning mail distribution in the operational area was undertaken in December 1975.

This investigation led to the establishment on 5 January 1976 of an organized mail distribution system in the operational area with Grootfontein as the base. Field post office sections followed at Ondangwa, Oshakati, Rundu and Katima Mulilo (Figure 7).

On 1 July 1982, the main Mail Distribution Office was transferred from Field Post Office 2 (FPO 2) at Grootfontein to FPO 1 at Pretoria.

A direct air-mail dispatch from Pretoria twice a week replaced the field postal service by which parcels from the Republic were sent by train to Grootfontein via De Aar, Upington, and Windhoek. Letters were conveyed by South African Airways to Windhoek (Figure 8) and from there by train.



Figure 7. Field post box

two Namibian freedom fighters wounded two others and ten were arrested. This date is generally regarded as the beginning of what became known in South Africa as the Border War. It is an interesting fact that this conflict never officially was declared a war by the South African Parliament. The SAP prepared to meet the new challenge with its traditional devotion to duty. It heralded the beginning of an entirely new terrain for the SAP. Two early covers are shown in Figure 10. The first indication of the presence of South African troops on the border was the purple strike "Taktiese Groep/ Tactical Group SALM/SAAF-1969 (top cover). The second indication of SA troops on the



Figure 8. Transport freight landed at Windhoek



### Early Development of the Conflict

Conflict between the South African Police (SAP) and the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) started the Border War on 16 August 1966.

Following the South African government's refusal, and the implementation of its apartheid policies in South West Africa, SWAPO became increasingly militant and, in 1962, formed its military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). During 1966, several SWAPO bases had been established in neighbouring Zambia. A group of trained SWAPO freedom fighters arrived in SWA in September 1965, armed with Soviet and Chinese automatic weapons. Immediately they commenced training the local population near Ongulumbashe in Ovamboland. It was not until 26 August 1966 that a unit of the South African Police (SAP), supported by the South African Air Force (SAAF) helicopters that the first major clash of the conflict took place. The SAP attacked the base camp, killing



Figure 9. Two field post registered envelopes from SWA. With FPO cancellations and various registration and censor markings.

border at this early stage of the border conflict was the purple strike “Taktiese Groep/Tactical Group” (bottom right) dated 22 October 1969. From a philatelic point of view these early covers are very rare.

### South African Police on the South African Borders

No one could have foreseen exactly how close the country was to a total terrorist onslaught on its internal order and stability. Hastily the SAP had to expand their counter-insurgency plan towards the inland posts and borders. Border patrols were established along the entire border where the situation was carefully monitored to prevent people from illegally infiltrating across the border.

The “TIN Eenhede” (Teen Insurgensie Eenhede) counter-insurgency units were one of the three pillars of the strategy of the SAP in 1979. The inland borders became vulnerable and members of the SAP were employed to border patrol duties to prevent illegal insurgents entering South Africa.

The franking free privileges applicable to soldiers were also extended to police on active duty. Special cachets were also introduced for the police units (Figure 11).

### South Africa Defence Force Military Areas

The First Military (1 Mil Area) and the Second Military (2 Mil Area) Areas were the first division of the operational area in Angola and SWA that the SADF was responsible to safeguard against insurgents.

The First Military Area had two distinctive types of cachets. BEV/OC 1 MG/1MA. Dated 4-12-1975 during a very sensitive Military period. Two examples are shown in Figure 12 as rectangular cachets inscribed Military Area/Militere Gebied, dated 4-5-1976 and 24-10-1977, respectively.

### South Africa Air Force Markings and Cachets

On 12-11-1975, 101 Task Force at Grootfontein came into being as the permanent headquarter where a proper control of operations could be organised. The SAAF also set up a base in the operational area at Grootfontein. This SAAF base became more and more crucial for airlift soldiers and provisions from SA to the border. At first it was 91 Tactical Airfield Unit. It was later reorganised under 301 Air Component.

Katima Mulilo is the capital of the Caprivi Strip. It was therefore important that an air force base was established there. A Tactical Airfield Unit (TAU) purpose is to supply all the necessary facilities for an operational squadron. All the facilities that was needed are stored in containers. It has to be set up very quickly to provide everyone staying at the camp with all they need to be operational. A TAU cannot operate in isolation and the help of various other divisions and support units of the SADF must also include in the strategic planning to put it on the ground.

The various air force squadrons deployed in SWA and Angola each had their own set of cachets reflected in the variety encountered. An example is shown in Figure 13.



Figure 10. Two early military covers from SWA to South Africa.

### Censor Markings and Cachets

Initially the SADF entered Angola in secrecy. This secrecy involves definite action by the postal system. The incoming mail to the soldiers in Angola was first sent to Grootfontein. There the postal orderlies sorted the mail. During this sensitive period, the main task for the mail orderlies was to stamp a cachet “Vernietig Sodra Gelees/Destroy After Reading” (Figure 14). This was to prevent any identification of the SADF member. The soldier had to read the letter in front of an officer and after reading, throw it in the fire – that was the way to destroy it. This cachet was used to the end of 1975 and at the beginning of 1976. This cover is scarce to obtain for a collection. After this period, the cachet was never been used again (SA Philatelist Feb., 1979). The “Destroy After Reading” impression was only used for two months - Dec 1975 – Jan 1976.

The mail across border in Angola was transported by mail orderlies in vehicles. “It’s that happy time again – Freddie, the regimental postman had arrived with several postbags with letters from home, lending his official presence to the serious business of sorting mail by companies, is Hitler as the Regimental Police Sergeant was affectionately – more or less – known to all”.





Figure 11. Various cachets used by the South African police units.

### Political Prisoner Mail

During every war, there are prisoners of war. That became evident as the war progressed. During the Border War, it was a similar situation, SWAPO soldiers, when they were caught on the border, were regarded as normal political criminals. They

were accused of entering SWA illegally and then brought in front of a court, sentenced and sent to Robben Island as political prisoners. The letter in Figure 15 illustrates that it was sent from Robben Island to Ongwediva Training College at Oshakati in SWA with a rectangular cachet, "Gevangenis Sensorkantoor"/Prison Censor Office, "Privaatsak"/Private Bag, "Robbeneiland"/Robben Island, Prison. This indicates that the letter was censored before it was sent to its destination. The envelope was serviced as an "Official Free" letter. The rectangular cachet reads, "Dept van Gevangenis – Gevangenis" Robbeneiland – Prison - Prisons Department. It was in the same period when Nel-



were accused of entering SWA illegally and then brought in front of a court, sentenced and sent to Robben Island as political prisoners. The letter in Figure 15 illustrates that it was sent from Robben Island to Ongwediva Training College at Oshakati in SWA with a rectangular cachet, "Gevangenis Sensorkantoor"/Prison Censor Office, "Privaatsak"/Private Bag, "Robbeneiland"/Robben Island, Prison. This indicates that the letter was censored before it was sent to its destination. The envelope was serviced as an "Official Free" letter. The rectangular cachet reads, "Dept van Gevangenis – Gevangenis" Robbeneiland – Prison - Prisons Department. It was in the same period when Nel-

Figure 13. From South African Airforce squadron at Katime Mulito

son Mandela was in prison at Robben Island.

### **Forças Armadas Populares de Libertação de Angola (FAPLA) - MPLA's Military Wing**

It was only after the Portuguese revolution that a MPLA delegation brought a request for economic aid, military training and arms to Cuba on 26 July 1974. In early October, Cuba received another request, this time more urgent, for Cuban military officers to help organize the Angolan MPLA army - FAPLA. Cuba saw its second main task in training and equipping the Angolan



Figure 14. Upper cover: field letter to Johannesburg without postal marking indicating its origin. Lower cover: reverse of cover showing the “Destroy After Reading” cachet

MPLA army FAPLA which Soviet generously supplied with sophisticated weapons including tanks and a fully equipped air force unit with MiG-21. It was decided to staff FAPLA with almost 500 Cubans instructors instead of the requested 100. This resulted, during a period of three to six months, in about 4,800 FAPLA recruits grouped into 16 infantry battalions, 25 mortar batteries, and various anti-aircraft units. MPLA had the 232 Cubans of the CIR (Cuban Instructor Recruits), a freshly trained and an untrained FAPLA infantry battalion at its disposal.

MPLA, the Angolan army, with its military wing FAPLA had their own Military triangle cachet, which they used for On Active Service, Postage Free (Militar Gratuito). Interesting is the fact that the cover shown in Figure 16 was sent from Cabinda in Angola, internationally to “Brasil”, postage free with no date.

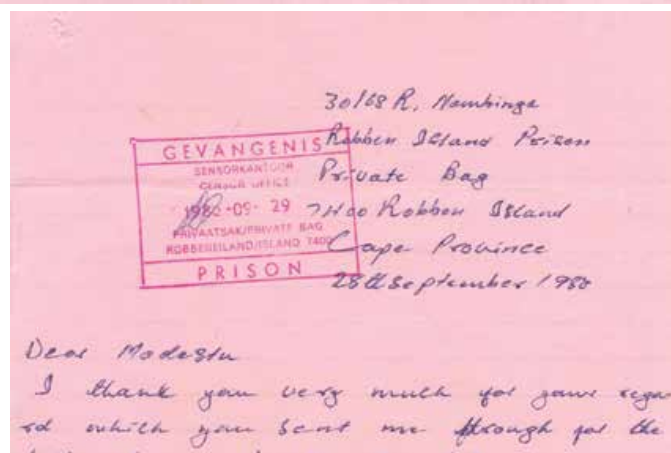
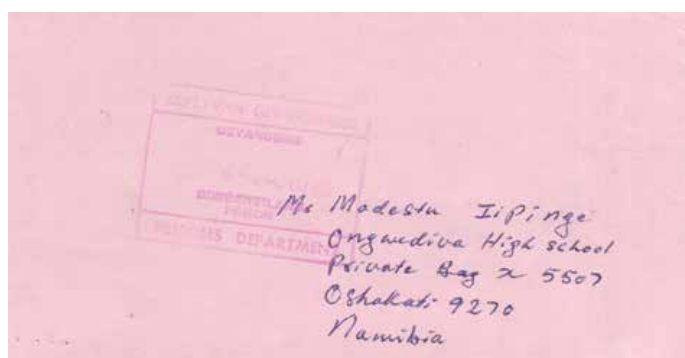


Figure 15. Letter written from Rehabeam Olavi (Rauna) Nambinga, who had been arrested and detained under the ‘Terrorism Act’ in 1968 before being jailed on Robben Island. Rauna Nambinga was part of the SWAPO 6. Note the cachet from the ‘Censor Office’ on Robben Island applied on the letter as well as the Robben Island cachet applied on the front of the cover/ Rauna Nambinga photo to the left.

The freedom fighters had precisely the same longing for their loved ones. They also needed news from home. This cover is exactly that (Figure 17). News from home! They had their own postal distribution system and addresses for the soldiers. “Para o camarada”, “Unidade Militar”, with the number of the soldier. They made use of Casa Postal No. 54, Ongiva, and Cunene. This one was manuscript with RPA, military force of Angola (Republic Popular de Angola). The cover was sent from inland Angola, dated 13-2-81. This freedom fighter was obviously stationed at the Cunene hydro-electrical complex.

### **Cuban Involvement**

The Cuban Armed Forces (the “Ministerio de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias”) or Minfar organised mail to the military participants abroad. In 1981, Telcor/Minfar began distributing hand stamps (cachets) for use on outgoing military mail to the political “commissars” of the Cuban Military units



in Angola. The cachets were used to frank mail and/or indicate posting with the Telcor/Minfar postal system. Use of the cachets in Angola appears to cease after the establishment of the Luanda Mincom Postal office in January 1985. The emblem of the Telcor/Mincom cachet consists, of three winged bolts of lightning and a star. This type of cachet is also known in Cuba as an “abejita” (little bee). “Porte Pagado” appears at the top centre of the rectangle over the emblem. Barreiros, Eduardo and Louis.

Eventually the Cuban troop strength in Angola increased to about 55,000, with 40,000 deployed in the south of Angola. Due to the international arms embargo since 1977, South Africa’s aging air force was outclassed by the sophisticated Soviet-supplied air defence system and air-strike capabilities fielded by the Angolans and it was unable to uphold the air supremacy it had enjoyed for years; its loss in turn proved to be critical to the outcome of the battle on the ground. The Border War reaches the point of negotiations after the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. As a result a total Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola was agreed to. Two covers posted by Cuban soldiers and their support personnel deployed in Angola. First cover posted to Cuba in 1982. Note the Minfar postal system cachet. Cover (below) posted from Angola in 1989. Note the RPA (Republica Popular de Angola). The Cuban Armed Forces or MINFAR was responsible to organise the postal system abroad. Telcor/Minfar began distributing hand stamps or cachets for use on outgoing mail to Cuban troops in Angola. Cover with the Minfar cachet also known in Cuba as an “abejita” (little bee) is seen in Figure 18.



Figure 17. Cover posted to a FAPLA soldier deployed in the Cunene region of Angola in 1981

### Soweto Uprising 1976

The Soweto uprising near Johannesburg was an important turning point in the “struggle against apartheid”. This was a series of protests led by high school students in South Africa that began the morning of 16 June 1976. Students from numerous schools in Soweto began to protest against the instruction

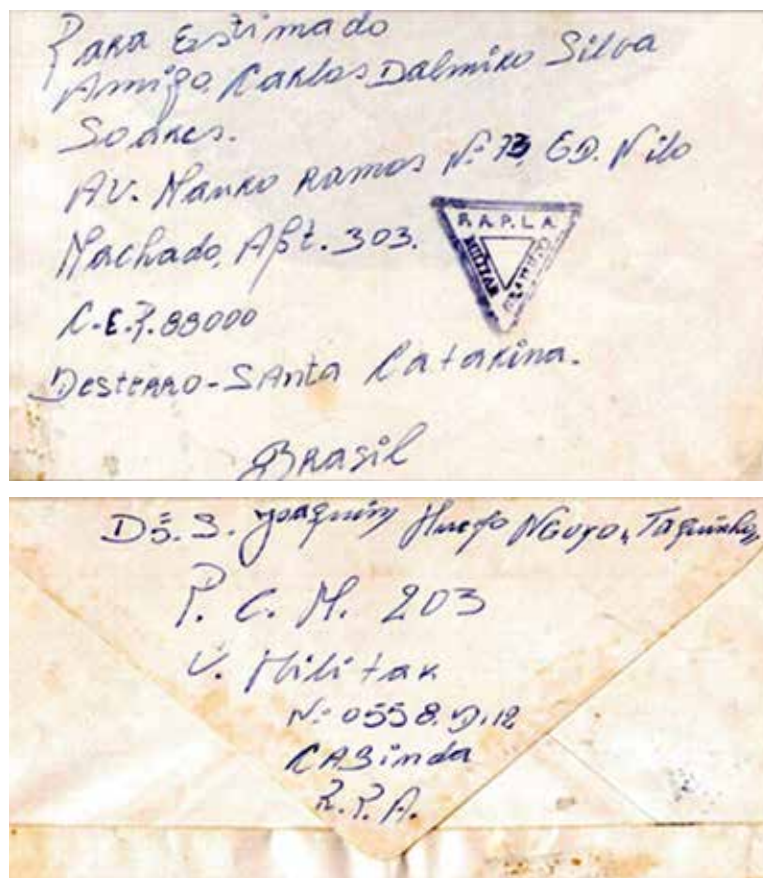


Figure 16. The MPLA Angolan Army with its military wing FAPLA had their own military cachet which they used “On Active Service” mail

of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in local schools. It is estimated that 20,000 students took part. They were met by fierce police brutality. A total of 176 protestors were killed by the police. In remembrance of these events, the 16th June is now a public holiday in South Africa, named “Youth Day”. The photo of the late Hector Pieterse carrying by Mbuyisa Makhubu and his sister Antoinette Sitole running beside them, was the turning point of International pressure against the South African Government policy towards “apartheid”.

A registered cover tied by a Mozodo date stamp dated 15 June 1976 with a handstamp “DAMAGED DURING RIOTS JUNE ‘76” are shown in Figure 19. The other cachet inscribed “Witwatersrand Investigation / Regional Director. The Mozodo Post Office in Soweto was opened in 1966 and closed after

being burnt down during the Soweto riots in 1976. Extremely rare cover from the 1976 uprisings.

The Soweto uprising of 1976 marked a decisive shift in internal black politics towards massive resistance, with the ANC reverting largely to the tried and tested tactics of the early 1960’s: sabotage. The primary objective was to “raise and sus-

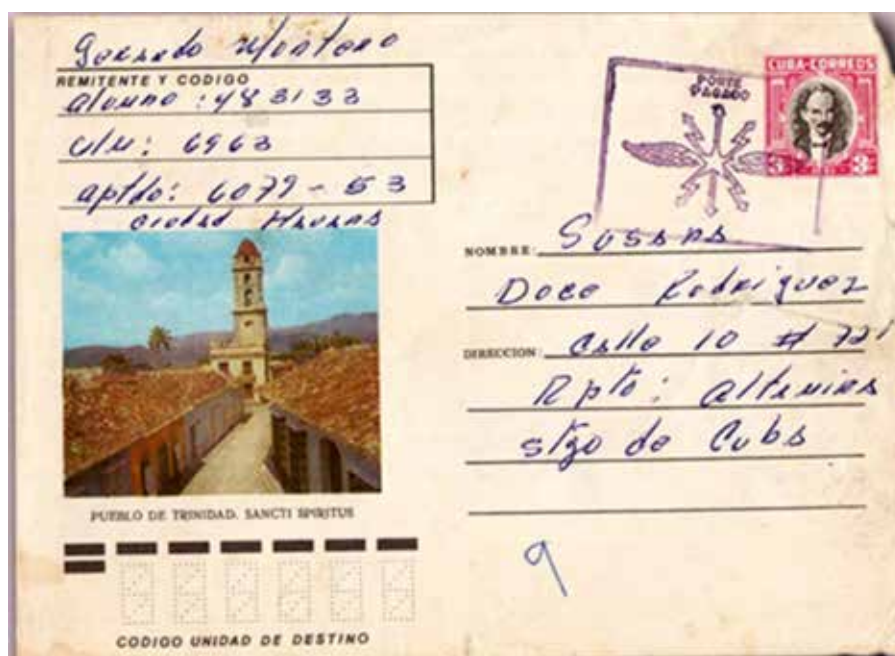


Figure 18. Cover with the Minfar cachet also known in Cuba as an “abejita” (little bee)

tain the level of morale and militancy among the masses inside the country”. The 1977-1980 period witnessed Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) engaging in a range of operations which were to dramatically increase in 1977. Small combat groups of two or three struggle fighters armed with grenade launchers were sent to urban areas to carry out attacks under the direction of the internal leadership. (Source: The Road to Democracy in South Africa, Vol. 2, pp. 463-513).

As Figure 20 is shown a damaged registered letter posted from Arcadia Post Office dated 10 December 1977. An example of extremely rare damaged mail recovered during the period of the urban struggle in 1977. The note dated 9 December 1977 from the Postmaster of the Head Office in Pretoria informing the Postmaster of Arcadia, where the damaged letter was originally registered, to inform and explain to the addressee that a “letterbomb” exploded while the mail was in transit. During 1977, various explosions and bomb blasts took place on railway lines and at railway stations.



Figure 19. Riot-damaged cover tied by a MOZODO date stamp dated 15 June 1976 with the handstamp “DAMAGED DURING RIOTS JUNE 76”

### Prisoner of War Mail 1978

During Operation Savannah seven SADF soldiers were captured by the Angola military. The SADF had also captured three Cuban soldiers. This secret operation came to light when the POW's were showed to the media a year after they were captured by the Angolan Government. It left both sides with red faces. South Africa had to admit that the SADF were in Angola and Angola had to admit that they used Cubans in their advance to the SWA border. President Augustino Neto revealed at Saurino, on the 29th October 1977, that the seven POW's would stay in Angola until the ‘problems’ were solved (Rapport Sunday 30 October 1977). Mr. P.W. Botha in his reaction said that the situation was a sensitive and delicate matter, which

could be resolved only on high level discussions. The SADF asked the media not to comment on this matter and not to publish their names again. Newspaper headings from the time read “SA POW's First news from seven in Angola”. Also shown was photo of Kitshof with his parents that welcomed him back on SA soil with the inscription “Jubilation greeting.”

The cover shown as Figure 21 is from Kitshof to his family in South Africa to inform them that he was captured by the enemy and held as a Prisoner of War by the Angolan Government. The cover he used was “Official, Ministerial of “Justica” from the Republic of Angola. The cover was sent from Luanda, date not clear.





Figure 20. Letter damaged by a letter bomb with explanatory letter from the Post Office

### UNTAG in Namibia

Implementation of UNSCR 435 officially started on 1 April 1989, when the South African-appointed Administrator General, Louis Pienaar, who took the place of the UN's Bernt Carlsson, began the Namibia's transition to independence. Former UN Commissioner for Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari was appointed United Nations Special Representative in Namibia, and arrived in Windhoek in April 1989 to head the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). The major impetus to the success of the ongoing peace talks leading to the New York Accords after which Cuban and South African forces withdrew from Angola while South West Africa gained its independence from South Africa. Cuban military engagement in Angola ended

in 1991. It was only after the US elections that the parties agreed on a timetable for the Cubans. On 22 December 1988, one month before Reagan's second term ended, Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed the Three Powers Accord in New York, arranging for the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and Namibia, the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Cuba agreed to an overall time frame of 30 months and to withdraw within 27 months after implementation of Resolution 435. The accord ended 13 years of Cuban military presence in Angola which was finalized one month earlier on 25 May 1991. At the same time the Cubans removed their troops from Pointe Noire (Republic of the Congo) and Ethiopia. Figure 22 shows two UNTAG/NAMIBIA covers

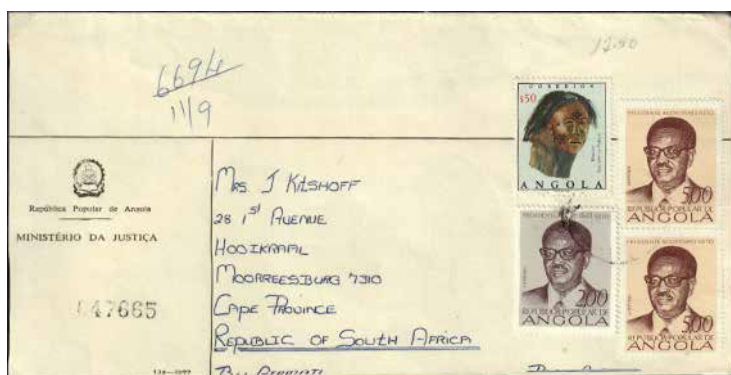


Figure 21. Cover from Rfn Kitshof to his family in South Africa to inform them that he had been taken prisoner. To the right is Kitshof in the center captured by the enemy and held as a Prisoner of War by the Angolan Government. He also used an official cover from the 'Ministério da Justiça' (Justice ministry) from the Republic of Angola. The cover was sent from Luanda, date not clear.

mailed with SWA and Namibia stamps, respectively.

## Conclusion

In May 1988, a US mediation team – headed by Chester A. Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs – brought negotiators from Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, and observers from the Soviet Union together in London. Intense diplomatic maneuvering characterised the next 7 months, as the parties worked out agreements to bring peace to the region and make possible the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 (UNSCR 435). In the "New York Principles" the parties agreed to settle their differences through negotiations. The following round of talks in Cape Verde, 22-23 July 1988, only produced a commitment to set up a Joint Monitoring Commission which was to oversee the withdrawals. On 5 August, the three parties signed the "Geneva Protocol" laying out South African withdrawal from Angola starting 10 August and to be completed by 1 September. By then Cubans and Angolans were must agree on Cuban troop withdrawal. On 10 September, a tripartite peace settlement was to be signed and Resolution 435 was to be implemented on 1 November. A cease fire came into effect on 8 August 1988; Pretoria had pulled its remaining forces out of Angola by 30 August 1988. Cuban and SWAPO forces moved away from the southern border.

The last Cuban personnel in Angola departed 25 May 1991. Free elections in Namibia were held in November 1989 with SWAPO taking 57% of the vote despite Pretoria's attempts to swing the elections in favour of other parties. (See Martti Ahtisaari and History of Namibia). Namibia gained independence in March 1990. The 11-month transition period ended relatively smoothly. Political prisoners were granted amnesty, discriminatory legislation was repealed, South Africa withdrew all its forces from Namibia, and some 42,000 refugees returned safely and voluntarily under the auspices of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Almost 98% of registered voters turned out to elect members of the Constituent Assembly. The elections were held in November 1989 and were certified as free and fair by the UN Special Representative, with SWAPO taking 57% of the vote, just short of the two-thirds nec-

essary to have a free hand in revising the framework constitution that had been formulated not by UN Commissioner Carlsson but by South African appointee Louis Pienaar. The opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance received 29% of the vote. The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on 21 November 1989 and resolved unanimously to use the 1982 Constitutional Principles in Namibia's new constitution.

## Philatelic Postscript

From a philatelic and postal history point of view the items illustrated in this presentation constitute a fascinating facet of modern military mail.

A diverse range of postal material was generated by the Border War of which POW mail and political prisoner mail are the most difficult to get hold of.

Some of these items can be classified as philatelic "gems" in their own right.

Collecting and recording the modern postal history of the "Border War" is an interesting aspect of philately to explore, not only for the gifted amateur but also the seasoned philatelist and postal historian.

## Acknowledgement

Thanks to the organizing committee of the May 4, 2017, postal history symposium "Philately and Postal History of Southern Africa" for the opportunity to discuss the postal history of the South African Border War. I also thank Gawie van der Walt and Gerhard Kamffer for permission to use their material. Figures 15, 19, and 20 are from the collection of Gerhard Kamffer,

## Sources and Further Reading

- Van den Hurk, George, 2001. Border Mail, Postal History and Markings of the War in Angola and along the Namibian Border, 1975-1988. Bendon James Ltd, PO Box 56484, 3307 Limassol Cyprus.
- Steenkamp, Willem, 2016. South Africa's Border War, 1966-1989, Tafelberg, Cape Town, 2016.
- SADET (ed.) 2007. The Road to Democracy in South Africa, Volume 2 (1970-1980), pp. 463-513, South Africa Democracy Education Trust.
- Giliomee, H. and Mbengo, B. (eds.). 2010. New History of South Africa, 2 Edition. NB Publishers





Figure 22. Two UNTAG covers mailed with SWA and Namibia stamps, respectively

This article is adapted from a presentation of the same title at the May 4, 2017, postal history symposium "Philately and Postal History of Southern Africa" sponsored by the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History and the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa at Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts.

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# Forerunners Forum

## Interesting Natal Cover

**Daryl Kibble** emails: I was hoping someone could tell me what the postal regulations are for the 1895 cover to the right. There are 5 “half” penny stamps to Germany (which I have also seen used to UK and also Australia similarly in multiples of five). What weight would this be, for example, or other service? Hope that somebody can help?

**John Dickson** responds via email: This is the standard UPU 2½d per half ounce to British and foreign destination. John ads that sources for southern Africa rates and postal regulations are available in the Cape and Natal Journal. An archival copy of the journal between 1997-2013 at £50. Contact John by writing to johndickson@nzsc.demon.co.uk to obtain a copy. Brian Trotter's book from 2016 titled 'Southern African Mails. Routes, Rates and Regulations, 1806-1916 (Royal Philatelic Society, London) may provide a good introduction to the subject. The **Editor** adds: Can anybody provide a reference to or a code for the Natal P.O.A. numbers, like the one used to cancel the stamps on this cover (P.O.A. 44)?



## Last Countries Standing

The last countries selling UPU reply coupons in southern Africa are South Africa and Malawi according to the UPU website <http://www.upu.int/en/activities/>. The current design was released during the 2017 Istanbul UPU congress and is valid until the next UPU congress in four years or 2021. An example with the country code 'ZZ' is shown here (truncated at the base). The reply coupon design is known after the city where they were introduced, which in this case makes it the Istanbul design. The design was selected following an international competition between member countries. In 2016, Viet Nam won the competition and Viet Nam was awarded 10,000 free coupons.

Reply coupons were introduced in 1907 following the UPU Rome congress. Since then they have been available in most countries until recently when the coupon's popularity has dwindled leaving only two countries in southern Africa still to offer the coupons. It should be remembered that even if a country does not offer coupons, it is still obligated to accept them.

Reply coupon collecting are still a popular subject although not as hot as in the past. The coupons are certainly part of a postal history approach to philately and by some considered a part of postal stationery collecting.

To the left is shown an example of the Rome design inscribed Union of South Africa. It is used 1917 in the Transvaal province of the Union, but is probably from 1910. The same design was issued in 1907 in the Cape of Good Hope, the Transvaal, Natal, and Orange River Colony. Anybody seen these early pre-union coupons?





# For the Record

312. The publisher '30-Degrees South' has issued in 2014 a book by **David Hilton-Barber** titled '**The Baronet and the Savage King**' detailing the story about the **Tati Concession** in northern Bechuanaland. It is available from the usual places on the internet.
313. **Steve Zwillinger** has been selected as president of the Board of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL).
314. The North American section of the **Rhodesian Study Circle** will be convening during **Westpex** in San Francisco during 27th-29th April, 2018.
315. **Candice Millarid**'s account of **Winston Churchill**'s adventures in southern Africa during the **Boer War**, originally published in 2016, has now been published as a paperback by Anchor Books, New York.
316. **Southern African Philatelic Societies Joint Conference** is planned for 3rd-5th November, 2017. The conference has moved to a new venue at the Strawberry Bank Hotel in Meriden, Warwickshire. Contact Simon Peetoom for the details by writing to [simon@africastamps.co.uk](mailto:simon@africastamps.co.uk).
317. A joint meeting of the **Anglo-Boer War, Cape and Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State Societies** will hold a joint meeting during **SAPDAPEX** on 14th October (11-12 am) at the Italian Club, Edenvale, South Africa.
318. **Rhodesian Study Circle** is preparing for their **70th Anniversary Celebration** at Victoria Falls, 18th-24th March, 2018.
319. The second **Bloemfontein Digital One Frame Stamp Exhibition (BOFEX)** has been concluded with success. A total of 46 exhibits completed for the grand that ultimately was won by **Ian Matheson** for an exhibit on entertainment tax in Russia (91%).
320. The 2017-18 program of the **Royal Philatelic Society of London** includes presentations by the **Belgium Study Circle** (26 October, 2017) and the **East African Study Circle** (15. February 2018), both at 1 pm, 41 Devonshire Place, London.
321. The **Forerunners** has received a **Vermeil** award at APS STAMP-SHOW in Richmond, VA. This achievement is simply due to the support of writers and members without there would have been no journal.



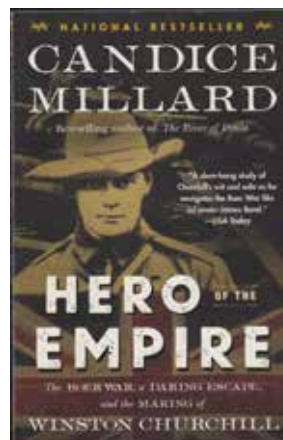
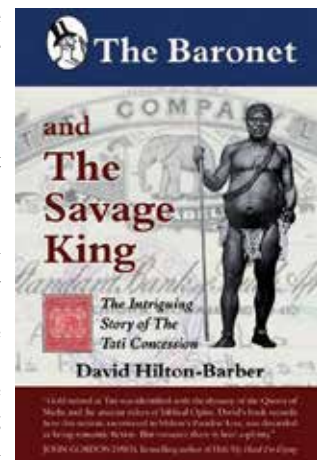
322. The **GB South African Collectors' Society** will celebrates its **70th Anniversary** this year. A sixteen page souvenir journal can be downloaded in PDF format from their homepage or simply follow this [link](http://www.southafricacollector.com/70th_Anniversary_of_the_South_African_Collectors.pdf).



## Book Reviews

**Baronet and the Savage King: The Intriguing Story of the Tati Concession** by **David Hilton-Barber**. Published by 30-Degrees South Publishers; 2014).

The concession to mine gold at Tati was granted to a British baronet, Sir John Swinburne, by Lobengula, last king of the Matabele. Although called by colonial imperialists as a savage king and a native despot, Lobengula was exceedingly well-made (in height about 6 ft 10 inches), corpulent, with a commanding presence and, when in a good temper, having a kind heart and a full appreciation of humour. The gold at Tati, which was discovered by the geologist Carl Mauch, was actually on the site of pre-historic diggings that had been mined there 400 years previously by the Makalanga people. Tati lay on the missionary road to the north, used by Livingstone and Moffat, and it was part of Cecil Rhodes's dream of a continuous tract of British imperialism from Cape to Cairo. The annexation of Bechuanaland was a direct result of the conflicts between the tribes within the area and the threats from President Kruger and from Germany which had recently colonised Angra Pequena. Gold from the early diggings here found its way to Great Zimbabwe and the famous golden rhinoceros from Mapungubwe was probably fashioned from gold mined at Tati. This forgotten corner of the sub-continent encapsulates a chapter of our history involving five countries, powerful men, much subterfuge, a botched invasion, a rebellion, land annexation, prospectors, hunters, traders and adventurers. It is a story begging to be told. (from a publishers press release.)



**Hero of the Empire. The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill** by **Candice Millard**. Anchor Books, New York, 2017 (paperback edition).

The Hero of the Empire is about the young Winston Churchill's adventures during the Boer War. This is not the first book about this young lad and his adventures in southern Africa. It is still worth re-reading the story in the author's vivid prose and with well researched details. 'A formidable narrative with color, excitement and life' (quoted from The Washing Post).



## Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist: June 2017 (Volume 93, No. 3, Whole No. 942),

FVZA Bartolomeu Dias September 2017 (Whole No. 115).

Transvaal Philatelist Volume 52, No. 2 (Whole No. 197, July 2017).

The PSGSA exchanges printed journals with the Transvaal Study Circle and Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. The Forerunners is exchanged as an electronic document to all southern African

## New Books

Millard, C., 2017. Hero of the Empire. The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill. Anchor Books, New York (paperback edition).

Hilton-Barber, D., 2014. The Baronet and the Savage King. The Intriguing Story of the Tati Concession. 30 Degrees South Publishers (paperback).

Legassick, M., 2016. Hidden Histories of Gordonias. Land Dispossession and Resistance in the Northern Cape 1800-1990. Wits University Press, Johannesburg.

### PSGSA Articles of Distinction

Posted at: <http://stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction>

2017. 'The intersection of African Liberation and Philately in the Life of an Activist' by Ken Lawrence. Whole No. 88.

2016. 'The 'Woodblock' triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope' by David Mordant. Whole No. 84.

2015. 'The South Africa Christmas Stamp Project' by Franco Frescura, Whole Number 83.

2014. 'The Cape Post Office 1795-1910: A Final Report' by Franco Frescura. Whole Number 79.

## Websites that Promote Southern Africa Philately

Anglo Boer War Philatelic Society

<http://www.boerwarsociety.org.uk/>

Basutoland, Bechuanaland & Swaziland

[www.bechuanalandphilately.com](http://www.bechuanalandphilately.com)

Cape and Natal Study Circle

[www.capenatalstamps.com](http://www.capenatalstamps.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.

## NOW AVAILABLE

Bechuanaland Scott No 19 Mint Never Hinged



Scott 2017 Catalogue Value \$275 as hinged  
Stanley Gibbons 2007 Catalogue Value £180

ADD THIS STAMP TO YOUR COLLECTION  
\$170.00 (check drawn on a USA bank)  
£130.00 (sterling cheque)

Peter Lodoen  
2625 13th Ave SE, St Cloud MN  
[peterlodoen@gmail.com](mailto:peterlodoen@gmail.com)

## Podcast: Stamp Show is here Today

The 'Stamp Show is here Today' is a weekly podcast from southern California. It was organized by a small group of collectors and dealers about three years ago and is today being downloaded more than 18,000 times per month. It was originally organized by Carl Brejffus, Scott Murphy, Steve Pattillo, and Tom Schilling, the latter with the needed technical skill. Dawn Gross is the host to an often lively roundtable discussions of various philatelic subjects, including expertizing, detecting forgeries, postal censoring, stamp popularity poll, fancy cancels, stamp shows, and many other subjects. With currently 137 episodes, there is plenty of entertainment. You can access the podcast from its website [www.stampshowheretoday.com](http://www.stampshowheretoday.com).



## Highlights from Journals and Newsletters

This regular column lists some of the more important articles on South African 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 articles are missing, please supply the relevant quotes.

- Barter, M., 2017. From Bechuanaland to the BSA Co. and back again, Tati Matabeleland / Francistown post offices. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 149-150.
- Board, C., 2017. A 1901 one penny postal stationery postcard of the ZAR overprinted 'V.R.I.' from a recruit to the South African Constabulary in Krugersdorp. *Transvaal Philatelist* 52, 37-38.
- Collin, D., 2017. Tales from the archives - Matabeleland: the 1896 post-rebellion police and native department posts. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 158-160.
- Goulding, A., 2017. A question of location: Mulungushi postal agency open one hundred and eight days. 8.9.24 to 24.12.24. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 138-141.
- Harwood, J., 2017. Postal Orders of the South African Homelands. *Postal Order News* Whole No. 125, 16-20.
- Krip, E., 2017. Voetbal in de brandende zon 2. De nationale elftallen van Zuidelijk Africa. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* Whole Number 115, 4-9.
- Leeftland, B., 2017. Goedverwacht, Wittewater en Great Berg Siding. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* Whole Number 115, 24-30.
- Reah-Johnson, S. and Hensman, S., 2017. The colours and printings of the 5d Rhodesia Double Heads. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 142-148.
- Reah-Johnson, S. and Hensman, S., 2017. The colours and printings of the 8d Rhodesia Double Heads. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 169-173.
- Spiwack, D., 2017. The BSAC die 1 8d Admiral – historical overview and identification. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 128-134.
- Thy, P., 2017. Specimen cancelled presentations to the Royal Empire Society. *Postal Stationery* 59, 135-136.



## 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.

**AmeriStamp Expo** - APS Winter Convention, Birmingham, Alabama, February 23-25, 2018.

The **Third International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately** will take place in London at the Royal Philatelic Society during 13-15 October. Visit [www.analytical-philately.org](http://www.analytical-philately.org) for details.

A **Postal History Symposium** has been hosted jointly by the American Philatelic Research Library and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum since 2006. The 'Tenth Blount Postal History Symposium' will be held Nov. 1-2, 2018 at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The theme is 'WWI and its Immediate Aftermath. Visit <http://www.stamps.org/Postal-History-Symposium> for information.

## New Society Publication

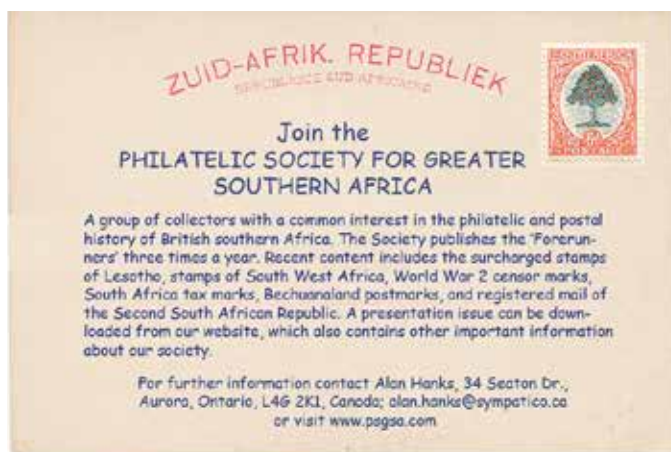
### The Barred Oval Numeral Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope from 1863 – 1963

David Mordant



Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA)  
2017

We are able to offer all members and non-members alike an electronic version of David Mordant's compilation of the Cape of Good Hope barred oval numeral cancellers (BONC). The monograph is 48 pages long and contains David's lifelong compilation of the allocations of the BONCs in southern Africa together with first and last observed usages. The information is presented in two main tables: numeral and alphabetic tabulations together with a short introduction. The monograph can be downloaded from the Society website under "Publications". The author has given permission to print copies for your own use. He will appreciate your feedback with corrections and additions and can be reached by writing to [david.mordant@shaw.ca](mailto:david.mordant@shaw.ca).



## Society Publications

David Mordant, 2017. Barred Oval Numerical Cancellers of Cape of Good Hope 1863-1963. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey and Bartshe, 2003-9. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1. The Postage Stamps, 280 pages.

Vol. 2. The Telegraphs, 250 pages.

Vol. 3. Revenues and Postal Stationery, 205 pages.

CD version 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. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, B. (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

To order contact David McNamee using the address given on page 1.

## The Market Place

**South Africa OFFICIALS.** Want to purchase/trade for stamps overprinted official/offisiel. Collections, accumulations, units or pairs, for studying purposes. The usual is as interesting as the spectacular. Can offer Union and RSA stamps and covers. Send scans and price to Roald Sand, Bygdoy alle 27B, 0262 Oslo, Norway. roald.sand2@getmail.no

**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.

**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.

**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

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

## Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

Premium positions:

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

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

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

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

Non-premium positions:

1/1 page: single issue \$40, annual \$95, two years \$170.

1/2 page: single issue \$20, annual \$60, two years \$100.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

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



No 5784 F BX 1  
 No 21339  
 BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. Date 11/1/1925  
 LEFHATSE YA SIRELETSO. Letsatsi 1925  
 RECEIVED from Basufi Yafa, owner of 1 huts.  
 Ke amogotse moo go, mun wa matlo ale,  
 residing at Tsessebe, under Headman Masunga  
 eo o agilen kwa, moo kgotten ea  
 of the Chief Masunga, the sum of £1 5 0, being  
 wa kgosi, £1 5 0, ebong madi a  
 Hut Tax £1 0 0 } For year 1925-1926  
 Native Fund 5 0 }  
 £1 5 0  
 S. F. Towne  
 Collector.  
 Mophuthi.

Hut Tax was introduced in Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1899 at the rate of 10s. In 1907, the tax was referred to as Poll Tax now at the £1 rate. An additional Native Fund tax of 3s was introduced in 1919. This tax receipt for the year 1924-1925 shows that the Native Fund tax had raised to 5s. The total amount was paid by Basufi Yafa in Tsessebe to the local headman Masunga and transferred to the Francistown Magistrate. The receipt is signed by the Francistown tax collector Towne. The gazelle in the upper corner may signify the tax year. See Forerunners #45 and #48 for further discussion of hut tax and tax tokens.

## Membership Application

Membership includes a subscription to the Society's journal *Forerunners*. The membership fees are \$20 for an electronic version of *Forerunners*. To obtain also the print version add US\$5 to US mailing addresses, US\$10 to Canada addresses, and US\$15 to the rest of the world. Those that join before July 1 will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1. If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." Mail all payments to David McNamee, PSGSA Treasurer, P.O. Box 37, Alamo, CA 94507 USA. PayPal to "dmcnamee@aol.com" is also acceptable, but please add US\$ 1 extra to cover part of the PayPal fees we must pay to use the service. For some overseas members, it might be more advantageous to send in dues for two or more years to avoid the annual currency conversion fees.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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