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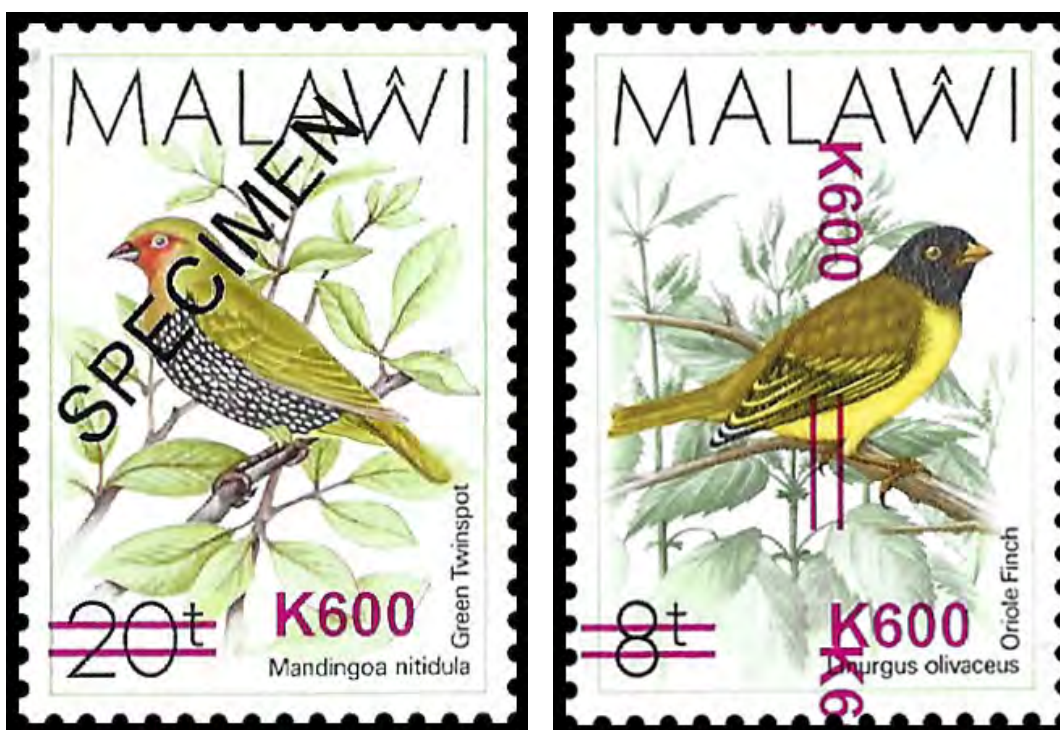
******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXXII, Number 1, Whole Number 92

July - October 2018



Malawi Provisionals Issued in May 2018. See Page 6

Highlights

Malawi Provisionals

Stellaland

Post Office Stones

New SA Exhibition Postcards

Low Hanging Philatelic Fruit

Material is Being Accepted for 2019 Auction

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THE "OFFICIALS" OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Lesotho Postal Services issued a set of 6 stamps on 9 October, 2016, with the theme of postal history and mail delivery. The stamps were printed by Joh Enschede Security Printers in sheets of 10.

Front Illustration:

Malawi has an annual inflation rate of 20 %, meaning that past stamps are essentially worthless and thus have to be surcharged in order to be used. Shown are an overprint error for a May 2018 surcharge together with a specimen canceled stamp. See page 6.

***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

I know that I have said this before, but it always comes as a surprise to me when it finally happens that a new edition of Forerunners is ready to go to the printer. This time is absolutely no exception. Thanks to a couple of members, we again were able to fill the pages in the last minute.

If you are keeping track of the whole numbers of our journal, you will have noticed that we are fast approaching number 100 and an important Anniversary. There is only eight issues to go. It would be appropriate to consider and to plan for a big celebration splash. So it is not too late to start preparing that important article you have been thinking about writing, but never got started. Perhaps we in anticipation of a deluge of manuscripts can talk our Treasurer into letting us expand the page count for the occasion?

It may also be appropriate to consider a new modern graphical design for our front pages and perhaps the interior? The Forerunners have basically had the same look since the first issue in 1987. Is there any members that want to give it a try? And at the same time, perhaps consider our logo too.

Number 100 will also be when the editor has been at the helm for over 50 issues or half of our history. He needs a replacement to let new fresh ideas take over. Do not hesitate to come forward. All that is needed is just a little bit of familiarity with a PageMaker program and some excitement.

Our President, Alan Hanks, is retiring as our President for personal reasons. We thank him for his many years of service.

Peter Thy

Research Gone Begging For a New Home

I have been clearing my shelves of old research, and have just come across a project I began some years ago, but am now highly unlikely to ever finish. I was trying to establish a set of relative scarcity factors for Cape post offices, but got so far and no further. I was never happy with the system used by Putzel in his books, which has never had any scientific base to it, and Michael and I often talked about a binary system of valuation based upon PO incomes plus social variables, but we only had about 300 Money Order Offices to draw upon. I know that Okkie de Jager was working on a similar project before he died, but I do not think I agreed with his basic premises in the one article he published.

Contact me at frescuraf64@gmail.com if you know somebody that might be interested in receiving my notes. I would, of course, relinquish all claims on the research in the process.

Franco Frescura

The deadline for the next issue will be February 15, 2019. 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.



Annual Article of Distinction Award

The Annual Award of Distinction for the past Volume of Forerunners (Whole numbers 80-91) has been given to Paul Benson for his article on 'Lieutenant Alfred Hutton Radice, 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment: British Prisoner of War and the Disaster at Nicholson's Nek' in Number 91. The winning article will also be posted on the American Philatelic Society's 'Articles of Distinction Archive' (www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction). The next award will be for the current volume ending with this issue and will be announced in No. 95.

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.

Active Email and Web Links

Considering that more and more members are using Forerunners in its electronic form, we attempt to preserve hyperlinks in the pdf version. By clicking on an email address or web link you should be taken to an email box or directly to the web page. Let the Editor know how it works.

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 or may be downloaded at no cost together with application form from 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. 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

First, let me apologize for being missing for several issues of our journal, but time marches on and changing situations must be coped with! Various family and personal problems are now taking up large amounts of time and I thought I should pass the president's job on to someone else! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President of the PSGSA and do not intend to give up my membership. The diversity of subject matter appearing in the journal has always amazed me and although I guess this may be true of all the specialist's groups that make up a large part of "Philately!" If I discover anything that I think may be of interest to the membership, I shall certainly submit it!

Alan Hanks



Alan Hanks in 1991 at a the local North York Stamp Society, north of Toronto. Photo by Al Dunlop of the daily Toronto Star

It is with regret that we have to announce that our longtime President has decided to retire after what appears to be 18 years of service to the PSGSA. We understand his decision and wish him all the best in his new role in the society as our Part President. The above picture of Alan appeared in the Toronto Star with the caption: *Philatelist that's the fancy name for stamp collectors like Alan Hanks of the North York Philatelic Society.* The image sums it all up by showing Alan's passion for both insects and stamps.

Tim Barthse has agreed to take over the duties as our President. Our thanks to both Alan for his long services and to Tim for taking over the baton.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

We have a total of 88 members: 48 USA addresses, 11 Canadian addresses, and 29 Europe/South Africa addresses. In 2017-2018, we added 4 and lost 3 for a net gain of 1. Dues have not been received for 30 members yet. All subscriptions were due 1 September.

For Fiscal Year ending 31 August 2018, we report \$118 in net income. The total assets as of 31 August 2018 was \$10,014.

David McNamee

Annual Society Auction

Our auction manager Moody Tidwell announces that he is preparing the next 2019 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.

Please send your questions to Moody at 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 should be received as soon as possible. Please include information about minimum prices if any.



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.

Postal History Symposia have annually 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.'

APS AmeriStamp Expo 2019. APS's second largest show February 15-17, 2019 AmeriStamp visits Mesa (Phoenix), Arizona.

Stockholmia 2019. International Show Sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society London. May 29 - June 2, 2019, in Stockholm, Sweden.

London 2020 Philatelic International Exhibition, Business Design Centre, Islington, May 2-9, 2020.

APS StampShow NTSS 2018. CHI Health Center Omaha, Nebraska, August 1 - 4, 2019.



Come! All are invited



**Time to Mark Your Calendars
and Make Your Reservations for
the Birthday Party of a Lifetime**

WWW.STOCKHOLMIA2019.SE



2018 Auction Results

A total of 91 bids were received for the 545 lots offered in the 2018 auction with as many as four bids on a few items. The total sold was \$6,054 against reserves of \$5,145. Prices realized are:

Lot	Bid	Reserve	Adjusted Bid	Lot	Bid	Reserve	Adjusted Bid
12	\$200.00	\$170.00	\$180.02	195	\$80.00	\$6.00	\$11.66
23	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$5.30	198	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$5.30
24	\$15.00	\$13.00	\$13.78	202	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$12.72
32	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$37.10	210	\$30.00	\$18.00	\$19.08
37	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$31.80	259	\$13.00	\$8.00	\$8.48
41	\$17.00	\$12.00	\$12.72	277	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.36
42	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$7.42	298	\$50.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
59	\$80.00	\$60.00	\$63.60	304	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$26.50
65	\$120.00	\$110.00	\$116.60	329	\$55.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
76	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$15.90	336	\$255.00	\$55.00	\$58.30
77	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.60	337	\$55.00	\$20.00	\$21.20
79	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.60	340	\$45.00	\$20.00	\$21.20
86	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.48	342	\$85.00	\$45.00	\$47.70
89	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$9.54	343	\$75.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
94	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$37.10	344	\$325.00	\$80.00	\$84.80
99	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.60	352	\$55.00	\$22.00	\$23.32
100	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.72	354	\$180.00	\$45.00	\$47.70
102	\$105.00	\$40.00	\$42.40	355	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$10.60
103	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$31.80	356	\$60.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
104	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.60	357	\$55.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
107	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$34.98	358	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$26.50
109	\$90.00	\$40.00	\$47.70	410	\$0.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
110	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.60	429	\$250.00	\$175.00	\$185.50
112	\$80.00	\$45.00	\$47.70	502	\$60.00	\$45.00	\$47.70
114	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$47.70	504	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$26.25
117	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$159.00	506	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$31.80
123	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.92	508	\$140.00	\$95.00	\$100.07
124	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$31.80	509	\$50.00	\$37.00	\$44.52
135	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$15.90	510	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$31.80
137	\$70.00	\$50.00	\$53.00	511	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$31.80
139	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$31.80	512	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$9.54
140	\$60.00	\$40.00	\$42.40	521	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$5.30
145	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.90	522	\$125.00	\$95.00	\$100.07
147	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$15.90	523	\$60.00	\$45.00	\$47.70
149	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$79.50	525	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$9.54
151	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$53.00	528	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$26.50
153	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$74.20	529	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
154	\$80.00	\$65.00	\$68.90	530	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$37.10
155	\$80.00	\$65.00	\$68.90	531	\$70.00	\$45.00	\$47.70
158	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$37.10	540	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.48
160	\$75.00	\$66.00	\$80.56	542	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.90
188	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.60	542	\$35.00	\$15.00	\$15.90
194	\$60.00	\$6.00	\$11.66	547	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.90

Recent Malawi Provisional Overprints

by Steve Zirinsky

October 8, 2016



Malawi has an annual inflation rate of 20 %. This means that the 7t and 20t stamps issued years ago to day are essentially worthless. But there was a lot of stock left over of the 1988 and 2005 definitives. Just to destroy these stamps seemed like a waste and local overprinting is very cheap to do. So the decision was made to overprint by learning from other countries in the region such as Zambia, who has been doing it for a while. Definitives were used because the quantity was there. Commemorative issues could not be used because either they were sold out or the supply was minimal. The birds are now used up and all of the butterflies as well except for the K65....so maybe this will be done next year.

What is interesting is that the quantities are not 2,000 or 10,000 ... but much larger numbers....it is clear that the mail system gets used. And these stamps do get used up.

July 15, 2017



February 6, 2018



May 11, 2018



See the front illustrations for a spectacular error and a printers specimen.

Malawi Provisional Overprints 2016-2018									
Date of Issue	New Value	Original Value	Description	Old		New		No of Sheets	No of Stamps
				Scott	SG	Scott	SG		
2016 October 8	K520	7t	1988 birds	521	792	840		10,000	500,000
	K815	75t	1988 birds	529	800	841		10,000	500,000
2017 July 15	K600	30t	1988 birds	526	797			1,100	55,000
	K600	K1	1988 birds	530	801			2,500	125,000
	K600	K2	1988 birds	531	802			2,000	100,000
	K900	50t	1988 birds	528	799			4,000	200,000
2018 Feb 6	K600	K1	2002 Butterfly	706	1005			2,000	100,000
	K900	K65	2002 Butterfly	737	1032f			2,000	100,000
	K1150	K4	1996 Butterfly	653	955			400	10,000
	K1280	K2	2002 Butterfly	707	1006			2,000	100,000
	K2000	K10	1996 Butterfly	654	956			300	7,500
2018 May 11	K600	8t	1988 birds	522	793			2,000	100,000
	K600	20t	1988 birds	525	796			2,000	100,000
	K900	40t	1988 birds	527	798			2,000	100,000
	K900	K65	2002 Butterfly	737	1032f			2,000	100,000
	K1280	K1	2002 Butterfly	706	1005			700	35,000



The illustrations are not to scale.
Contact Steve by writing to szirinsky@cs.com or visit his website
<https://www.zirinskystamps.com>.



Examples of 2018 first day cancellations.



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www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm

Poole, Holmes and a New Finding

by William J. Latzko

Two short lived republics were formed in South Africa in 1882: Stellaland and the Land of Goshen. Because the people of Stellaland ordered stamps, we know of them today. Only specialists in history know about the Land of Goshen. The Republic of Stellaland never paid the printer for the stamps. The printer appealed to the administrator of the successor country, Bechuanaland, for payment. The administrator auctioned off the remainder of the stamps to raise the funds to pay the printer. Ultimately, Whitfield King & Co. won the lot.

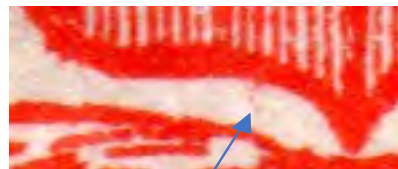
When Whitfield King & Co. received the remainders of the Stellaland stamps, they invited Mr. Bertram W. H. Poole to examine these. Mr. Poole did so, as well as research in the available literature and published his findings in two issues of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Poole, 1908). He found that a “mother” die was used with the word of value inserted. From this a transfer strip was created with eight (in the case of the 6d nine) images. These were replicated 12 times for all but the 6d value. The 6d had 9 positions on the transfer strip and 13 rows for 117 stamps per sheet. The original die had some characteristic flaws by means of which one identifies real Stellaland stamps from fakes. In making the transfer strip additional flaws were created which Mr. Poole (1908, pp. 249-252) catalogued and which he called ‘types.’ In addition, further flaws occurred in specific rows and columns of the sheets which were also noted.

In 1971, Mr. H. R. (Henry Robert) Holmes published *The Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands* (Holmes, 1971). He begins his book with a discussion of the Stellaland stamps. On pages 20 to 24 he cites Poole’s findings, but waits until his last page (189) to tell us that Poole was the original author and that Holmes “used [the ‘types’] with slight alterations in this work.”

This writer was curious as to what these alterations amounted to and so compared the two works line by line. In a few cases Mr. Holmes removed adjectives. He also removed the quotation marks when Mr. Poole cites the word printed on the stamp, such as REPUBLIEK. Mr. Holmes does contribute to Poole’s taxonomy by showing the type for those stamps with flaws that were not columnar ‘types.’

There is very little difference between Poole’s and Holmes’s version of the ‘types.’ Because some of the removed adjectives created a cautionary mood, this writer prefers Poole’s work. He wishes that the ‘types’ would be identified with Poole’s name rather than Holmes.

In examining many Stellaland stamps, the writer noticed a minor flaw in addition to the common flaws mentioned by both



Extension of the sixth line

Poole and Holmes. The flaw appears to be on the die since it appears on proofs of the Stellaland stamps. In the lower left quadrant of the coat of arms, the one with the scales of justice, the sixth line from the right extends about one millimeter below the outline. The writer noticed that this flaw was not always visible when heavy inking was used. Below is a picture of a proof (best way to show that the flaw is in the die) and an enlargement.

Reference List

- Holmes, H. R. (1971). *The Postage stamps, Postal Stationery, and Postmarks of the Bechuanalands*. London: The Royal Philatelic Society London.
- Poole, B. W. H. (1908). *The Postage Stamps of Stellaland*. *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, 206-208, 249-252.



A Survey of Post Office Stones: Used at the Cape of Good Hope, 1601-1652

by Franco Frescura

Introduction

The practice of using engraved stones as postal markers appears to have been started by the English sometime between 1591 and 1601, and became common thereafter. What follows is a chronology of engraved stones known to have served postal use at the Cape during the era immediately prior to the establishment of a permanent settlement by the VOC in 1652. Visits by ships that might have left stones behind, but of which there is no record, are also included.

Arrivals at the Cape

- 1530: The French vessels *Sacre* and *Pensee* dropped anchor in Table Bay before proceeding home. Unlikely as it sounds, they claim not to have landed, despite having seen people and cattle on the shore. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 11)
- 1591, July 31: The English vessels *Penelope*, *Merchant Royal* and *Edward Bonaventure*, outward bound to Batavia, dropped anchor in Table Bay and traded for provisions with local inhabitants. Their log mistakenly identified their location as Agoada de Saldanha, an error that English mariners only began to rectify after 1624. No mention is made in the log of letters having been found or left behind.
- 1595, August 4: The Dutch vessels *Mauritius*, *Hollandia*, *Duijken* and *Amsterdam*, outward bound, with at least 50 members of the crew ill with scurvy on one ship alone, dropped anchor in Table Bay and traded for provisions with local inhabitants. No mention was made of letters being either found or left behind.



1601 stone reused in 1607 by the same captain, but with another ship. From Raven-Hart (1967:100-101)

- 1601, September 9: The English vessels *Dragon*, *Ascension* and *Susan*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. They set sail on 29 October, having lost 107 men to scurvy out of a total complement of 480. Upon their return in 1603

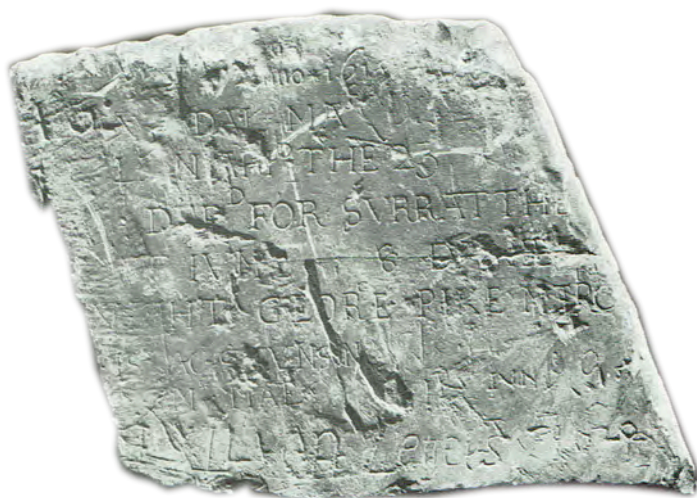
the *Ascension* and *Susan* were sent on ahead, and probably landed at the Cape in January 1603. Capt Hippon, Master of the *Susan*, left behind a batch of letters beneath a flat stone with the following inscription: “ANTO HIPON MA OF THE HECTOR BOVN HOME JANVARI 1600”. Apart from the fact that the year given was obviously wrong, this is the first recorded use of a stone as a postal marker. The letters were probably intended for the *Dragon* who rounded the Cape on 3 February without making landfall.

- 1604, July 13: The English vessels *Red Dragon*, *Ascension*, *Hector* and *Susan*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, their crews greatly depleted by scurvy, and only set sail for Banten on 20 August 1604. When they departed the Indies in about September 1605 the *Hector* and *Susan* were sent on ahead of the others. The *Dragon* and *Ascension* followed on 6 October, but were soon separated, and on 19 December the *Dragon* caught up with the *Hector* just off the Cape. Through disease it had lost 53 men, and was now limping along with a crew of 14. As a result it had to be assisted into Table Bay by a skeleton crew from the *Dragon*. The *Ascension* joined them on 27 December, but the *Susan* was never heard of again. They set sail for home on 16 January 1607.
- 1607, July 16: The English vessel *Consent*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and, during her stay, her crew left behind a stone engraved with the words “THE FOURE AND TWENTIETH OF JULY, 1607, CAPTAIN DAVID MIDDLETON IN THE CONSENT”. The *Consent* had been part of an expedition headed by William Keeling, which included the *Dragon* and *Hector*, but had left for home ahead of the others. The stone, which was intended to inform Keeling of its safe arrival at the Cape, was found in December 1607 when the main fleet put into Table Bay. Its discovery was noted by Keeling as follows: “Then our generall with other sought amongst the stones for to see yf the consent hadd bene heer or not where at length wee found Capt David Middleton in the *Consent* the 29 July 1607 but no Letter to hee was determined to doe. Wee were all gladd to heare of his arryvall heer in salvetie ...” (Raven-Hart, 1967: 36)
- 1607, December 17: The English vessels *Dragon* and *Hector*, homeward bound under the command of William Keeling, anchored in Table Bay. Before leaving they searched for the engraved stone left behind by Capt David Middleton in the *Consent* on 29 July 1607. This was found but without any letters beneath. Hippon, now Master of the *Dragon*, found the engraved stone he had used six years before, and left behind a batch of letters beneath it, add-

- ing the following inscription “ANT HIPON MA OF T-E DRAGON 28 DECEMBER 1607”. They set sail on 1 January 1608.
- 1608, April 1: The Dutch vessel *Oranje*, homeward bound under Capt Cornelis Matelief, dropped anchor in Table Bay. Shortly before leaving on 22 April, the crew visited Robben Island where they nailed a pewter plate to a whalebone engraved with the words “Matelief landed twenty sheep her on April 19, 1608”. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 40)
- 1608, July 14: The English vessels *Ascension* and *Union*, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. They found “where the shippes that are bound outward or homeward doe use to sett their names, where we found the names of Captain Keeling, Captain Myddleton and divers others ...” They set sail on 19 September. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 41)
- 1609, December 22: The English vessels *Dragon* and *Hector* sailed into Table Bay homeward bound, and found a Dutch ship already there. The *Consent*, that had been part of the same expedition, had gone ahead before them. They purchased from the Dutch some livestock as well as a main topsail for the *Hector*, and together they set sail on 10 January 1610. The *Hector* also left behind a packet of letters “as others had done before”. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 35)
- 1610, July 24: The English vessels *Trade’s Increase*, *Peppercorn*, *Darling* and *Samuel*, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay, finding three Dutch ships already at anchor. Sir Henry Middleton, captain of the *Trade’s Increase*, found out “the names of Captaine Keeling, and others bound home in January, 1609. And also my brother Davids name bound in August the ninth, 1609” (Raven-Hart, 1967: 35). He also found a letter buried in the ground which, unfortunately, was so damaged by moisture as to be illegible. They set sail on 13 August.
- 1611, May 20: The English vessel *Globe*, homeward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay and left a packet behind beneath an engraved stone. She set sail on 6 June.
- 1611, August: The English vessels *Clove*, *Hector* and *Thomas*, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. The crew visited Robben Island to look for any letters left behind.
- 1612, April 18: The English vessel *Pearl*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1612, June 8: The English vessels *Dragon*, *Hosiander*, *James* and *Solomon*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. The *Dragon* staggered into harbour, with about 50% of its crew down with scurvy. When they set sail on 28 June they left behind an engraved stone.
- 1613, April 26: The English vessel *Expedition*, outward bound, anchored in Saldanha Bay. Upon a visit to an island they found “a carved boord” by which they “perceived the Hollanders had beene here”. On 26 April they proceeded to Table Bay where, upon arrival on 28 April, they found the *Hector* and *Thomas*, as well as four other Dutch ships, all homeward bound. They were joined by the *Peppercorn* on 10 May. All set sail out of the bay on 15 May. The Expedition returned here on 20 March 1614 on her way home, and left behind an engraved stone.
- 1614, February 20: The English vessel *Dragon*, homeward bound from Batavia, anchored in Table Bay and left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone. On 28 June 1614 they were discovered by William Edwards, who made a report to this effect to his directors in London.
- 1614, May 9: The English vessel *Concord*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and left behind an engraved stone.
- 1614, June 14: The English vessels *New Year’s Gift* (or *Gift*), *Hector*, *Merchant’s Hope* (or *Hope*), and *Solomon*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. Upon their departure on 3 July they left behind a packet of letters beneath an engraved stone. When they came ashore they discovered: “... engrauen vpon the stones the ariual of the Expedicon homwardes, March the 21st 1613, departing the 31st dito ... Likewise there we founde the ariual of captaine Best, with the *Dragon* homwardes, departing from there the third of March 1613: and Richard Petty with the *Concord* outwarde, May the ninth, and deputed Jeune the third 1614”. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 64)
- 1614, October 3: The English vessels *Samaritan*, *Thomas* and *Thomasine*, outward bound, arrived in Table Bay only to discover that their visit coincided with that of a Dutch ship. During the course of subsequent communication between the two groups, the Dutch handed them a packet of letters they had discovered on top of a hill “2 miles distant”. Upon reading, these were found to originate from a previous English expedition headed by a Captain Downston. The packet was resealed and returned to its place beneath their own stone slab. The crew also found inscriptions on stones from the *Dragon* on 14 February 1614, the Expedition on 31 March 1613, the *Concord* on 9 May 1614, and the *Dragon* on 20 June 1612. The flotilla set sail on 20 October, but before departing they left behind a packet of letters of their own.
- 1615, June 5: The English vessels *Expedition*, *Lion*, *Peppercorn* and *Dragon*, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. On 17 June they were joined by the *Hope*, homeward bound, which brought news of an English defeat at Surat at the hands of the Portuguese. Engraved stones from the *Advise*, *Attendance*, *Globe* and *James* were discovered on the shore. They resumed their journey on 20 June. A significant feature of this landfall was the release on shore of ten convicts that had previously been condemned to transportation. Having equipped each of them with a canvas bag, some seed, weapons and basic equipment, they were allowed to leave and do as they wished in their new land. Their subsequent fate was not clear. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 73)
- 1615, August 27: The English vessels *Clove* and *Defence*, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. The *Clove* returned this way on 22 February 1617.
- 1616, March 4: The English vessel *Gift*, homeward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay, and departed eight days

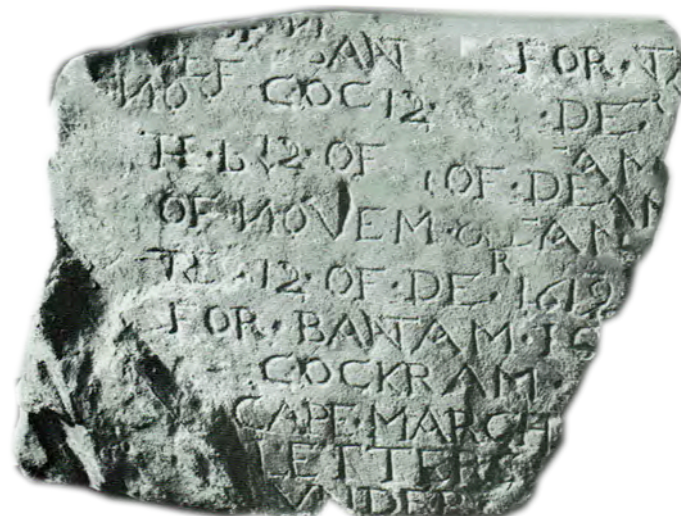
later.

- 1616, May 25: The English vessels Lion, homeward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay.
- 1616, June 12: The English vessels Charles, Unicorn, Globe, James and Swan, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. The Rose was part of the same fleet, but only reached Table Bay on 10 July. Upon arrival they found a Dutch ship already in harbour, together with her Portuguese prize, which she abandoned on 20 June.
- 1617, January 2: The English vessels Dragon and Expedition, homeward bound from Batavia, anchored in Table Bay and, during their stay, left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone. The Master of the Expedition, William Peyton, proposed in his log that the English should now standardize the practice of leaving mail at the Cape and bring out from England a slab especially made for this purpose, approximately 120 cm high, 75 cm wide and 15cm deep, and embossed with the British coat of arms. (Ravan-Hart, 1967: 76)
- 1617, February 10: The Dutch vessels Amsterdam and Groot Sonne, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and during their stay left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone.
- 1617, June 22: The English vessels James Royal, Anne Royal, Gift, Bull, and Bee, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay, and found the Hound already there. They set sail on 13 July.
- 1618, June 20: The English vessels Dragon, Samson, Expedition and Lion, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and upon their departure, they left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone inscribed as follows: "NNO 1618 JO WDAL MAS O LN ARID THE 23 O DEPD FOR SVRRAT TH JVNE & DANIE WRHT GEORE PIKE MARCT ISAC SEVENSON MR MATE ARV JVN E Ye O 3 I LYON 1620".



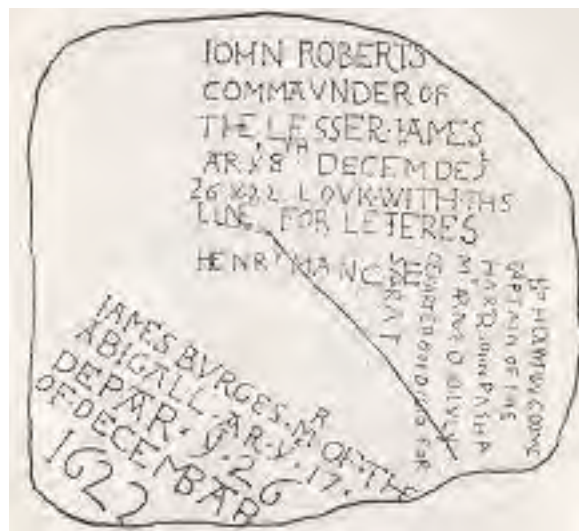
1618 stone. From Goldblatt (1984: 10).

- 1618, July: The English vessels Sun, Moon, Clove, Globe and Peppercorn, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1619: The Dutch vessel Amsterdam under Jacob Dedel outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and left behind an engraved stone.
- 1619, May 15: The English vessel Anne, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and during her stay her crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone.
- 1619, May 20: Soon after the Anne departed the Dutch vessels Dordrecht and Amsterdam, under the command of Frederik de Houtman, Den Opperkoopman and Jacob Dedel, anchored in Table Bay. When they sailed, on 8 June, Dedel left behind a "carved stone" recording their visit.
- 1619, June 24: An English fleet, including the vessels Charles, Elizabeth, Diamond and Ruby, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. There they found a letter left behind but too rotted by damp to be legible. On 8 July they were joined by a Danish fleet of some seven ships, and on 12 July set sail for the Indies.
- 1619, July 8: A Danish fleet including the vessels David, Elephant, Christian, Jaeger, Fyrmand, Patientia and Copenhagen, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and found eight English ships already there. Subsequent correspondence shows this number to be unreliable. When they landed the Danes built an earth redoubt to protect their camp, probably from the English. Relations between the two groups were strained, but outwardly friendly, until the English delivered to them three letters which had obviously been opened and read. Matters were not assisted when one of the Danish ships was accidentally grounded, and the wreck was openly looted by the English. Nonetheless when the English fleet departed on 2 August they took with them a number of Danish letters whose contents had first been vetted by the fleet's Council. The Danes set sail on 5 August having lost more than 200 men through dysentery, with more being expected to die en route.



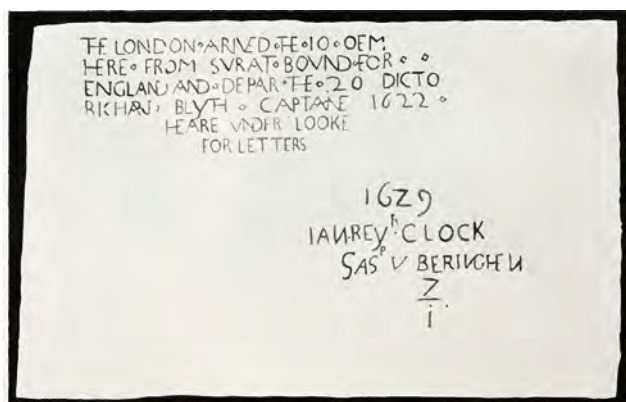
1619 stone. From Goldblatt (1984: 11).

- 1619, November 29: The English vessel Bull, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and during her stay her crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone inscribed as follows: "RO ADAMS COM OF THE BVL ARIVED 29 OF NOVEM & DEP THE 12 OF DE 1619 FOR BANTAM JO COCKRAM CAPE MARCH LETTERS VNDER".
- 1620, January 20: The English vessel Rose, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and during her stay her crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone. They also found letters from Capt Adams of the Bull. They set sail on 2 February, having left behind letters of their own.
- 1620, February 2: The Dutch vessel Goude Leeuw, outward bound, lost her mast off the Cape and had made Table Bay the worse for wear. There she found at anchor the Dutch ship Goede Fortuijn, also outward bound, who had lost 60 men through illness and had barely made it into port. Finding no food available there both made for Saldanha Bay where, by some accounts, the Goede Fortuijn was abandoned. During their stay the crew of the Goude Leeuw left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone, packed in a most thorough and efficient manner.
- 1620, March 15: A French fleet including three vessels, the Montmorency, Esperance and Hermitage, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. Upon coming ashore the crew found: "a large stone, under which there were two packets of tarred cloth, which made them think that they were letters from Flemings or Englishmen. These I delayed opening until I had assembled the officers of my ship ... and when persons capable of interpreting them had arrived" (Raven-Hart, 1967: 102). While in the bay they were joined by the English ships Bull, outward bound, and the Rose, homeward bound. They set sail on 12 April. On the journey back they anchored in Table Bay on 5 May 1622, and over the next week they were joined by the Dutch ships Livree de Rotterdam, Maurice and West Frisland, and on 23 May the Gouda arrived in a state of distress. The French estimated that more than 80 Dutch crewmen died there during their stay. They were finally able to set sail on 30 May.
- 1620, June 24: The English vessels Roebuck, London, Hart and Eagle, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. When they arrived they found that the Lion, homeward bound, as well as nine other Dutch ships, outward bound, were already there. Soon after their arrival the English were joined by the ships Exchange and Unity. On 25 June the Dutch fleet, together with the Lion, bearing their letters home, set sail, but later that evening they welcomed the arrival of the Dutch ship Schidam. The Bear arrived on 10 July. The English flotilla was finally able to set sail on 25 July. During their stay their crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone.
- 1620, June 24: The English vessels Exchange and Unity, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1620, June 25: The Dutch vessel Schidam, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1620, July 10: The English vessel Bear, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1621, May 24: The English vessel Lesser James, homeward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay, where she found the Anne Royal and the Fortune already there, together with Dutch ships Gauda, Black Bear and Herring, all outward bound. Three more Dutch ships sailed in the next day. The English set sail on 28 May.
- 1622, January 29: The English vessels Roebuck, London and Hart returned to Table Bay. Prior to setting sail on 3 February they "buried our letters", probably beneath another engraved stone.
- 1622, May 5: The Dutch vessel Wapen, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, having lost 60 men to scurvy, out of a complement of 380. She set sail on 21 May.
- 1622, May 7: The Dutch vessel Mauritius, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1622, May 12: The Dutch vessel West Friesland, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, fully laden with pepper and cloves, and was joined by the Gouda soon thereafter.
- 1622, June 27: The English vessels Blessing, Discovery and Reformation, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and set sail on 8 July.
- 1622, December 8: The English vessel Lesser James, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. On 17 December the English ship Abegail, outward bound, joined her in the bay. Upon its departure, the crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone inscribed as follows: "JOHN ROBERTS COMMAVNDER OF THE LESSER JAMES AR Y 8 DECEM DE Y 26 1622 LOVK WITH THIS LINE FOR LETERES". This stone was added to a few days later by the crew of the Abegail. Their inscription reads as follows: "HENRY MANCHES JAMES BVRGES M OF THE ABIGALL AR Y 17 DEPAR Y 26 OF DECEMBAR 1622". The same stone was reused in 1627 by the crew of the Hart.



1922 stone. Tracing of stone built into the rampart of the Castle in Cape Town. Here after Solomon (2017), see Jurgens (1943: 4).

1623, March 10: The English vessels London, Jonas and Lion, homeward bound from Surat, anchored in Table Bay. During her stay her crew left behind an engraved stone with the following inscription: "THE LONDON ARRIVED THE 10 OF M HERE FROM SVRAT BOND FOR ENGLAND AND DEPAR THE 20 DICTO RICHARD BLYTH CAPTAIN 1622 HEARE VNDER LOOKE FOR LETTERS". In 1629 the same stone was reused by Dutch sailors. It was discovered on 17 August 1827, during the course of repairs to a sewer on the Heeren-gracht, but for some reason it was reburied, and was only brought to light again in 1897.

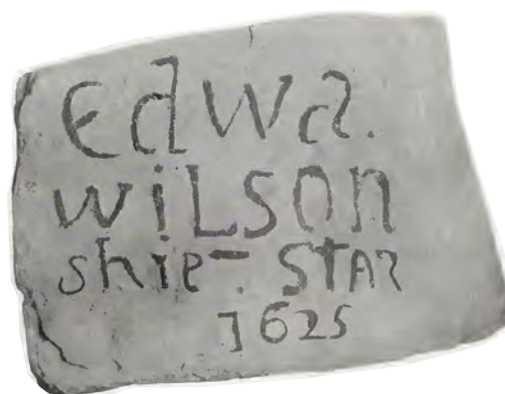


1623 stone. From Goldblatt (1984: 12) with tracing of text from Peringuey (1913, fig. 12)

1623, March 19: The Danish East India Company vessels Christianshaven and Flensborg, outward bound for the Indies, with Icelander Jon Olafsson on board, anchored in Saldanha Bay. His log recorded that, before leaving, the crew had buried the ship's letters in a wooden casket in a very deep hole, and had then marked the position with a wooden post giving the name of the ship. The entry explained, somewhat laconically, that "those homeward bound take the letters of those outward bound ...". They then sailed on to Table Bay where they found four English ships at anchor, the London, Jonas and Lion, homeward bound, and the Roebuck, outward bound. The Danes set sail on 23 March, "after feasts given by the Danes and the English, each to the other" (Raven-Hart, 1967: 112). It is not known whether Saldanha Bay was frequented

often enough by passing vessels to warrant Olafsson's optimism that their mail would be found.

- 1623, May 29: The English vessel Hart, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during her stay, her crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone. They also found the letters left behind by the Jonas, some three months previously. The ship set sail on 8 June.
- 1624, April: The Dutch vessels Hollandia, Gouda, Dordrecht and Leeuwinne, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. While in harbour, on 24 April 1624 the Chief Mate of the Hollandia died, and his grave was marked with a stone. The fleet set sail on 11 May.
- 1624, April: The English vessel Dolphin, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and left behind some letters beneath an engraved stone. While there they met up with the Charles, outward bound.
- 1624, July 17: The English vessels Royal James, Eagle, Jonas, Star, Spy and Scout, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during their stay, discovered an engraved stone left behind by the Dolphin four months previously. However no letters were discovered underneath, and it was assumed that they had been taken by a Dutch or Danish ship. Before leaving the crew left behind a batch of letters of their own similarly placed beneath an engraved stone. The fleet set sail on 29 July.
- 1625, October 14: The English vessel Star anchored in Table Bay and, during its stay, the ship's surgeon, Edward Wilson, left behind a batch of letters beneath a stone painted with the words "EDWAEdwa.WILSON SHIP - STAR 1625".



1625 stone. As illustrated by Ogden cigaret card. (Royal Mail Series No. 1) and by Peringuey (1913, fig. 22)

- 1625, October 14: The Dutch vessels *Maagd van Dort* (also known as the *Dordrecht*) and *Weesp*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. They set sail with the *Star* on 25 October.
- 1625, October: The Dutch vessel *Tholen*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay at the same time as the *Star*, *Maagd van Dort* and *Weesp*. It remained in harbour for 14 days.
- 1625, December 18: The Dutch vessel *Middelburg*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, and set sail on 28 December. It left behind a packet of letters, which was later found by another Dutch ship.
- 1626, January 20: The English vessel *Scout*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and found two Dutch ships already at anchor, the *Wapen van Hoorn* and *Eendracht*, both also homeward bound. A search for letters only produced engraved stones from the *Star*, and the Dutch ships *Maagd van Dort* and *Weesp*, that had visited Table Bay on 14-25 October 1625. The three had been under instruction to sail home together. The letters were collected by the Dutch ship *Tholen*, in Table Bay at the same time. On 23 January the Dutch ship *Leyden*, outward bound, came into the bay and an exchange of provisions took place. The *Scout* and its two Dutch companions set sail on 27 January.
- 1627, January: The Dutch vessel *Wapen van Rotterdam*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. It left behind a packet of letters beneath an inscribed stone, which was later found by another Dutch ship, the *Grotenbroek*.
- 1627, July 6: A flotilla of Dutch vessels, outward bound, begins to arrive in Table Bay, including the *Wapen van Hoorn*, *Gallias*, *Utrecht*, *Vianen*, *Texel*, *Leeuwin* and *Kamphaen*. On 19 July five English ships joined them, the *Mary*, *Star*, *Hopewell*, *Hart*, *Refuge* and *Scout*. It appears that some unpleasantness may have arisen between the two groups. The English flotilla left port on 30 July, and on 4 August the Dutch vessels *Dobbelen Arend* and *Velsen* arrived in the bay. The last of the Dutch ships set sail on 7 August.
- 1627, July 7: The English vessel *Hart*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during her stay, her crew left behind a batch of letters, reusing the engraved stone originally carved by the crew of the *Lesser James* on 8 December, and by the crew of the *Abegail* on 17 December 1622. Their inscription, which is largely illegible, reads partly as follows: "M R ARIVED LY DEPARTED DIT FOR SARAT 27".
- 1627, July 8: The English vessels *Mary*, *Star*, *Hopewell*, *Hart*, *Refuge* and *Scout*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. The fleet set sail on 19 July. Also see above.
- 1628, January 19: A fleet of some eleven Dutch vessels, including the *Vlissingen*, *De Veer*, *Zeeburgh* and *Delffshaven*, outward bound, anchored in the bay at some time between 19 and 31 January.
- 1628, May 9: The English vessels *Discovery*, *Palsgrave* and *Dolphin*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. Over the next few days they were joined by the *Dove*, outward bound, and by the Dutch ship *Vianen*, also on its way home. They set sail on 21 May.
- 1628, September 1: The English vessel *William*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during her stay, her crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone. She set sail on 18 September.
- 1629, March 11: The English vessel *Star*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1629, September 7: The English vessel *Hopewell*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and found letters left behind by Capt Pynne of the *London*. They buried a packet of letters of their own before setting sail on 21 September. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 131)
- 1630, February 17: The Dutch vessel *Gallias van Hoorn*, homeward bound together with other ships, anchored in Table Bay. After protest from the crew against the incompetence of their captain, they set sail on 26 February. A packet of letters was left on shore, presumably under an engraved stone.
- 1630, April 12: The English vessel *Star*, outward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. When the crew went ashore at Robben Island looking for English letters, they "could not find any, wee found the dutch packett of letters which we opened, because wee could not find no English letters, supposing they had taken vp our letters, & therein wee founde English letters left here by Mr Alnuts (Master of the *Speedwell*) & the ships *Hart*, *Expedition* and *Hopewell*, the *Coppies* wheroff wee send you herewith". (Raven-Hart, 1967: 134)
- 1630, October 23: The English vessel *Charles*, homeward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay. When the crew went ashore they "found Flemish letters", and on 5 November the Dutch vessels *Der Veer* and *Vlissingen* sailed into the bay, outward bound. The latecomers also came on shore to trade for provisions, and obviously outbid the English for "we could get non afterwards". (Raven-Hart, 1967: 134)
- 1631: The Khoikhoi chief *Autshumato*, known subsequently to foreign visitors variously as *Hadah*, *Hada*, *Adda*, *Haddot* and, after 1652, as *Harry*, was befriended by the English and taken on the *London*, under Capt John Pynne, to the Javanese port of *Banten*, probably in 1629. During his stay he gained a broad knowledge of their language, and after his return to the Cape early in 1632, he and some thirty of his followers were transported, at their own request, to Robben Island. There he was employed by the English as an agent, liaising on their behalf with other Khoi groups on the mainland, and keeping mail in his possession until collected by the next ship. Consequently he must be regarded to be South Africa's first resident postmaster. By 1638 records indicate that a second Khoikhoi, known as *Isaac*, had also learnt to speak English, and that sometime later he was taken by the Dutch to *Batavia*. He was returned to the bay in 1642, the Dutch no doubt intending to employ him as their own agent. He probably died in 1646. *Autshumato* and his people left Robben Island sometime in the early 1640s, and after 1652 he was in-

stalled by the Dutch as their chief translator. However on 19 October 1853, while the Dutch were attending church, Autshumato absconded with most of their cattle. Eventually the herd was captured by a rival Khoikhoi group, the Goringhaiqua, and in June 1655 Autshumato returned to the Dutch and managed to persuade them that the theft had been perpetuated by the Goringhaiqua, who now held the cattle. The Dutch believed him and reinstated him as their chief translator. Autshumato then proceeded to amass a large herd of cattle and sheep, largely at the expense of his employers. As a result, in June 1658, he was arrested and banished to Robben Island, while his herds were confiscated. In December 1659 he managed to return back to the mainland, escaping in a leaky row-boat, and went into exile among his own people, where he died in 1663.

1631, May 29: The English vessels Palsgrave and London, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during their stay, left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone.



1731 stone. From Perinquey (1913, fig. 9)

1631, June 10. The Dutch vessels Middelburgh, Wassenaer, Egmont, Delfshaven, Deventer and Leeuwinne, homeward bound, dropped anchor in Table Bay.

1631, July 13: The English vessels Discovery and Reformation, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay, discovering the Palsgrave and London, also outward bound, already there. They all departed together on 2 August and the two groups parted company later that day. During their stay, the crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone.

1632, about May: Captain Weddell, probably on the English vessel Charles, anchored in Table Bay and, upon his departure, left behind on Robben Island a batch of letters in the keeping of the Khoikhoi chief Autshumato.

1632, April 3: The earliest surviving engraved stone inscribed in Dutch was left behind when the sailing ships Nassau, Nimmegen, Wesel and Galyas, homeward bound from Batavia, anchored in Table Bay. It bore the following inscription: "HIER ONDER LEGGEN BRIEVEN VAND COMAND DV LEE EN VICE COMD P.CROOCK MET DE SCHEPEN NASSAU FRE HENDRIK NIMMEGEN WESEL EN DE GALIAS. ALHIER DEN 9 APRIL 1632

VAN BATTAVIA GEARIVEERT VIR OCKEN DEN 15 DITTO". They set sail from there on 20 April, and not on 15 April as they had originally planned.



1632 stone. From Rosenthal and Blum (1969: 4-5).

1632, May 15: English seamen from the vessel Pearl landed in St Helena Bay where they discovered "a certain Ler written in french ... in a glasse bottle hangeing vpon a post", which had apparently been left there by a passing ship twenty days previously. There being no provisions available they moved south to Table Bay, where they were met by the Khoikhoi chief Autshumato. He delivered to them a batch of letters which had been left in his safekeeping by the crew of the "London". (Raven-Hart, 1967: 136)

1632, November 12: The English vessel Blessing, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during her stay, her crew collected the mail which had been left by the Charles on Robben Island in the keeping of the Khoikhoi chief Autshumato, in about January 1632.

1634, February 24: The Dutch vessels Wesel, Nassouw and Middelburg, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. Having left a batch of letters, presumably under an engraved stone, they left on 3 March. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 139)

1634, April 7: The Dutch vessels Wassenaer, Banda and Egmont, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, during their stay, they left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone inscribed as follows: "1634 BANDA WASSENAER END EGMONT SYN DEN XI APRIL VERTROCKE SOECKT BRIEF".



1934 stone. From Perinquey (1913, fig. 22)

- 1634, May 13: The English vessel *Mary*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, upon her departure, her crew left behind on the shore a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone. Copies were also entrusted to the Khoikhoi chief Autshumato on Robben Island. He then delivered letters previously entrusted to him by the English vessel *Exchange*, some weeks earlier. (Raven-Hart, 1967: 143).
- 1634, June 4: The English vessel *Coaster*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay and during her stay her crew collected two batches of mail which had previously been left on Robben Island in the keeping of the Khoikhoi chief Autshumato.
- 1635, April 26: The English vessel *Jonas*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay and, upon her departure, her crew left behind a batch of letters beneath an engraved stone.
- 1638, February 20: Six Dutch vessels, including the *Wezel*, *Haerlem*, *Middelburg*, 't Hoff van Holland, *Hollandia* and *Nassau*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay. Upon their arrival they collected mail which had previously been left behind on Robben Island, in the keeping of the Khoikhoi chief Autshumato. Having found him to be reliable, upon their departure they left their mail with him. This was collected on 18 March by the *Amsterdam*. However they also marked their visit with an engraved stone, which they left on the mainland.
- 1638, March 17: The Dutch vessel *Amsterdam*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. The next day its crew went ashore and were met by a local resident who spoke a little English and was dressed in the Dutch manner. He handed them a packet of letters left two days previously by a Dutch fleet, and an engraved stone inscribed "On February 20 Governor Gijsels arrived here, and went on to the Fatherland on March 15, 1638, with the ships *Wesel*, *Nassouw*, *Hof van Holland* ..." (Raven-Hart, 1967: 149)
- 1639, May 6: The English vessel *Mary*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay. Travelling on her was Johan von Mandelslo, who reported that "The Dutch have there a certain place or stone in which they lay letters, so that other Dutch travellers who pass may have news of their journey and all else." (Raven-Hart, 1967: 151). Another passenger, William Bayley wrote: "we sent our shallopp and Jollywatt ashore ... to looke for lres (letters)", and when they left five days later "we sent our shallopp to (Robben) Iland to carry Thomas with whom we left our letters with the Rest of his family of watermen there to reside the whole number Consisting of 20 psons men, weomen and Children". (Raven-Hart, 1967: 146)
- 1643, February 22: The Dutch vessel *Nassau*, homeward bound together with a fleet of seven other ships, anchored in Table Bay. The ships sailed on 12 March and were joined by others at St Helena.
- 1643, March 31: The English vessel *Hester*, homeward bound, sailed out of Table Bay, passing on the way the *Crispiana* and *Aleppo Merchant*.
- 1643, March 31: The English vessels *Crispiana* and *Aleppo Merchant*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay.
- 1643, July 12: The English vessel *Royall Mary*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay for repairs.
- 1644, February 7: The *Mauritius Eiland* set sail on 4 October 1643 together with three other ships. The flotilla was dispersed in a storm and set sail individually for the Cape. They arrived off Table Bay on 7 February 1644, but the ship was wrecked close to Mouille Point while attempting to sail into harbour. They were joined two days later by their companion ship, the *Vrede*, who was able to take on most of the cargo as well as 69 men. After a minor mutiny, the remaining 280 men restored the earthworks of a fort previously built by a Danish crew and settled down to wait for rescue. Their ship was eventually beached and abandoned. On 25 May 1644 the *Tijger* was dispatched from Batavia to bring home the survivors as well as any remaining cargo.
- 1644, February 22: The English vessel *Royall Mary*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay in time to witness the plight of the *Mauritius Eiland*. After having traded a case of spirits for a keg of white wine, a barrel of butter and some powder and shot, she left for home on 2 March.
- 1644, 25 March: The English vessel *Endeavour*, outward bound, anchored in Table Bay and found some 280 castaways of the *Mauritius Eiland* living on shore. Gave them some provisions before sailing out on 29 March.
- 1645, December 29. The English vessel *Malacca*, outward bound for the Indies, anchored in Table Bay, and set sail on 15 January 1646. It left behind a packet of letters with Isaac, which were handed over a month later to the *Zutphen*.
- 1646, February 25. The English vessel *Eagle* anchored in Table Bay, and set sail for home on 9 March. During its stay they were met up with a Dutch flotilla from Batavia that arrived two days after them and set sail six days before them. If any mails were left behind by the Captain of the *Eagle*, this would have been given to the care of Isaac.
- 1646, February 27: Dutch vessels, including, among others, the *Tiger*, *Walvisch*, *Vrede* and *Zutphen*, homeward bound, anchored in Table Bay where they met up with the *Eagle*. Upon their arrival the Chief Mate of the *Zutphen* was sent ashore to make contact with the English and to collect any Dutch mail from Isaac. This is where the story becomes curious. The *Eagle* had been in the bay for five days before the Dutch arrival but, despite all efforts, had failed to make contact with the locals. The Dutch on the other hand, had no such difficulty, and although Isaac was immediately found, he refused to hand over his mails until the next day, when he could make the delivery in person to the Captain of the *Zutphen* aboard his ship. The bulk of this was a packet of letters from Admiral Le Maire, outward bound with a flotilla of six ships, but it also included letters left behind by the English ship *Malacca* six weeks previously. There is no doubt that the Dutch commander opened and read the English mail, otherwise its contents would not have been recorded in the Dutch account, but there is no reference to it being forwarded to

its legal recipients. The Eagle had already been in the bay for some days and, like the Dutch, was also homeward bound, so one can only conclude that Jacob perceived himself to be serving Dutch interests. This perception was supported later on in the same report when it stated that a separation of the mails had now taken place, with Isaac taking charge of Dutch letters. This, apparently did not prevent him from handing over to his masters any English mail that came his way. Before their departure on 3 March the Dutch left behind with Isaac a consignment of letters, paying him with “some trifles such as copper rings, tobacco and brandy.”

Post Script

This research was done in the 1980s, at a time when I proposed to make this part of two introductory chapters in my work on the postmarks and post offices of the Cape of Good Hope (Frescura, 2002). It is quite clearly incomplete, and I am certain that a more thorough reading of Raven-Hart, Thiel and others will produce yet more data.

At some stage, for reasons of volume, the scope of my project was curtailed, and this data was one of the side-shows that was eventually omitted. The work then went into abeyance, and was only resurrected a few months ago as part of a general spring cleaning of my research files. Unhappily, in the interim, I have lost track of the sources originally used, and while the work of Raven-Hart (1967) and Thael (1909) are self evident, the titles of other books, articles and pamphlets I have sourced have been lost to my memory. I therefore offer this article in the hope that others will use it, in due course, as a basis for more conclusive research. I have tried to be as definitive as possible, but I am certain that I have perpetuated some errors of dating,

mostly because I have not been able to resolve the information provided by conflicting sources.

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First eSwatini Stamps Revealed

The Kingdom of eSwatini has released the artwork of its first stamp issue with the new name of the country printed on it. The set of four stamps seems to have been issued on 31 August 2018 and commemorates the 50th anniversary of Independence as well as the 50th Birthday of King Mswati III, the country’s monarch. The designs feature King Mswati III International Airport, the Eswatini Railway, the Eswatini Youth Parliament and a portrait of the king himself. All in all, an historic issue.



Explanation to Map to the Right on Page 19

From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

Johnston, W. and A.K. - South African Republic. Orange Free State, Natal, Basuto Land, Etc. [1897]

Scale:1:4,435,000

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https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9f/Johnston%2C_W._and_A.K._-South_African_Republic._Orange_Free_State%2C_Natal%2C_Basuto_Land%2C_Etc.jpg



Official Postcards to Benefit the 2021 International Exhibition in Cape Town

Last year the Philatelic Federation of South Africa offered a set of postcards with artwork of Julia Birkhead depicting indigenous birds and small animals. This set was without imprinted stamps and showed the logo of the Federation.

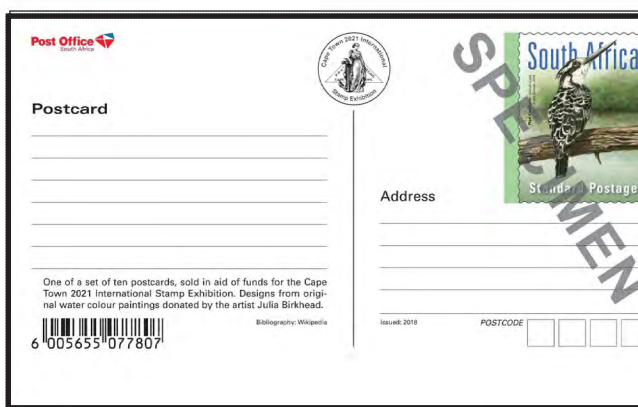
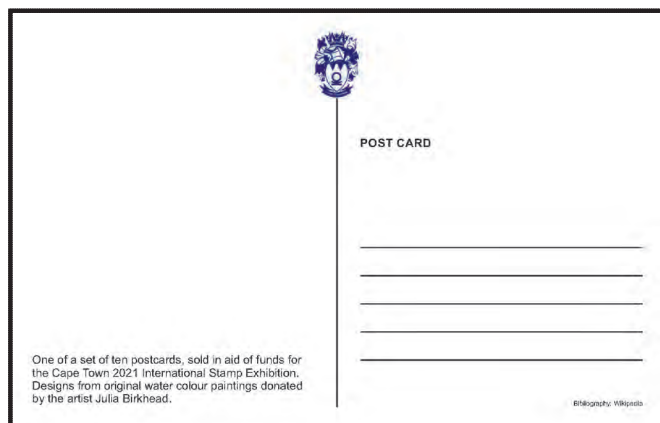
The postcards have now been prepared in an official stamped version by the Organising Committee for the 2021 International Exhibition to be held in Cape Town. They have been prepared with the assistance of the Post Office to make them an official postal stationery issue by adding a preprinted 'indicer' of Standardised Postage. (Note: a limited number of these sets have been printed).

The postcards depict original artwork by Mrs. Julia Birkhead (widow of the late Harry Birkhead). The cards will be sold in packs of 10 designs, depicting indigenous birds and small animals. The cards will be on sale at the "Stamp Show 2018" to be held in Pretoria 17 – 20 October.

Orders can also be placed with Emil Minnaar by email: Emil@Minnaar.org. The selling price is R200 plus R15 (local) and R65 (Foreign) postage and packaging. Payment may be made by EFT to the account of: Philatelic Federation of South Africa – Standard Bank – Branch Code: 012442 Account number: 023 304 669 or to our PayPal account: kiongacollector@gmail.com.

The original watercolours by this renowned artist have been generously donated by her and will go on auction on Saturday 20th October at the Stamp Show. Pre-auction bids may be placed with Emil Minnaar at the above email address. Note that similar paintings donated last year by Julia Birkhead achieved a sale price of R4,800 each. A reserve, as last year, of R3,000 will be placed on the paintings.

Despite that the deadline for the ordering and the auction of the original artwork, have now been exceeded, it is recommended that interested collectors contact Emil Minnaar directly using the email given above for updated information on their availability.



A complete set of the cards can be seen by going to http://www.stamps.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=373

The FIP sponsored international exhibition SOUTH AFRICA 2021 is planned for May 17-21, 2021.

Philatelic Low Hanging Fruit

by Robert Bell, Sean Burke, Yangchen Lin, Gary Wayne Loew, Nick Salter, & Colin Fraser

A Global Philatelic Think Tank was recently established in the US to address the issues of the apparent decline in membership and interest in organized philately seen in the Western World. Membership in many philatelic societies, attendance at stamp shows, and exhibitor participation numbers have all been affected in the US and elsewhere, including Europe, South Africa, Australasia, and Japan.

The philatelic industry consists of many disparate parts and hobbies are not usually subjected to detailed analysis. Consequently, there are very few facts and statistics to consider. It has been estimated that the annual philatelic market is \$5 – \$10 billion.⁽¹⁾ Also, it was estimated in the same reference that there were 48 million collectors of which 18 million were in China. How accurate these figures were and what the figures are today is not known. The main indicators of activity in organized philately are therefore surrogate, often-involving paid membership, inquiries, and show participation.

Considering the discussions and symposia that have taken place to address the future of philately in the West, a number of things are slowly being tried to improve philatelic interest. These are mostly in the area of improved standards, advertising, and technological advances using the Internet. Such projects that often take significant effort, money, and people. These endeavors have most often focused on “the youth” – who mainly neither have the time, money, or inclination for the hobby. Rather, it would seem that, more attention should be focused on younger professionals, or the recently retired, who often do have the time and the resources to actively participate in the hobby. However, the hobby needs to present itself to them in a style that is appealing and enticing. Crucial to this is providing an active “on-line” digital presence that fits in with their electronic life style. However it should be noted that these older groups of people do not have as many years to live as children. The benefits therefore may be short lived making this a temporary solution. However, this approach may well be valuable while looking for longer-term solutions.

For simplicity it can be said that there are low, intermediate, and high hanging fruit to be harvested to help solve or slow the membership problems of organized philately. Low hanging fruit solutions hope to produce positive results in the “short term,” and are not very expensive or too time consuming to undertake. But they do provide the opportunity for individuals to do something and help make a difference. This is different from some complex planned projects that require considerable money, people, and effort. But, one has to be particularly blunt and ask the question; do the traditional philatelic organizations really matter to potential new members? Maybe, they no longer fulfill a relevant role? Looking at organizations in other fields – be it churches or chess, golf, and bridge clubs, etc., they are all similarly declining and experiencing membership issues.

However, there remains a critical role for organized philat-

ely, particularly with the need for physical buildings. These are needed to ensure that stamps, philatelic artifacts and philatelic literature, all in hard copy, are preserved indefinitely, to educate philatelists on how to keep such material safe for future generations and properly bequeath it when needed. Also, to continue to offer a unique atmosphere to meet people, browse through books, and observe actual stamps that the Internet can never provide. And yet again, one can ask the questions; would Cloud storage of books, journals and images suffice for buildings, and are people still looking for these supports and comforts? Would well-conducted surveys, with a focus on technological advances help to clarify?

Maybe it is all to the benefit if membership fees can be used to pay for the physical infrastructure and the salaries of dedicated historians, curators, librarians and administrative staff to keep this all functioning. And many think that it's worth paying for, just as we pay taxes for the upkeep of great museums and national institutions to preserve humanity's legacy. But this is the part of philately that many do not seem to understand. They get almost everything for free online nowadays - music, movies, Wikipedia, etc. Do they need to realize that there's a hidden cost and that people's creativity is something worth perpetuating and funding? And as one discusses all this, one can hear the echoes of the newspaper and publishing industry's problems. And also when one considers things globally, what is expensive and inexpensive often differs from country to country. Within and between countries perceptions of price and value vary greatly.

If the tsunami wave of change is inevitable one can then ask, whether the idea of slowing things down to get the best transition possible is of any value? There is also the issue of the value of camaraderie and whether the “internet freebee seekers” will ever miss the personal friendships that often develop within philately, and consider returning to something that offers this. Would Philatelic Shows that better focus, in some way, on camaraderie/collegiality help? Perhaps also, internet philatelic usage classes at shows would help bridge the gap?

It has been suggested by some that elevating philately from a simple hobby to a branch of art and science might well be worthwhile. However, most philatelists are looking for relaxation and not an extension of work! So would that work? Also, that the hobby be called Postal History/Stamp Collecting or some other name. Also, does calling philately a hobby have any negative connotations? For example one of us was told that we do not need to standardize literature citations in philatelic publications because philately is only a hobby. Much debate would be required before such suggestions were accepted.

And another thought is that, if technology has led to the current situation, will it be the expected immense advances yet to come in technology that rescues organized philately in some way?

Recruitment Groups

The main source of recruitment to philately over the years has been via children. This in recent years is exemplified by the work of the Postal History Foundation in Tucson, Arizona, and the Stamp Active Network in the UK. It is not known whether the general membership issues of organized philately have impacted these programs in any way.

There is also the argument heard frequently that philately is not declining, it is just migrating to another platform. The hobby goes on, continues to grow and prosper, although the venues are changing. If that is true then there should be more philatelic buying on the internet globally. And many say there is. With the maturation of these internet philatelists will it lead to more collectors desiring to join philatelic organizations? And desiring to pay for the services, particularly if they are offered something they want. If such a possibility is correct it would seem very worthwhile encouraging potential philatelists to actively participate in philatelic internet activities. Also, if there is truth to this, it should help to slow the downward drift in organized philately to allow time to plan for the future. In addition, if there is reluctance for the youth of the Western nations to participate in the hobby, then focusing, as previously mentioned, on business professionals, the retired, and elderly may be the way forward.

Many of our organized philatelic members are/were senior executives, professionals, and military officers, developing customized content (articles, etc.) for their society publications. These are individuals with decades of experience, a seasoned world view, disposable income and time for hobbies. By way of specific examples, the following professional societies each have departments or operations focused on providing services for soon-to-retire or already retired senior executives and professionals: e.g. Military Officers Association of America, The Retired Officers Association, Federation of American Scientists, The American Chemical Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Financial Executives International.

There are many more such organizations offering similar programs to their retired or retiring members. The important point is that each of these programs is hungry for content to publish in their newsletters and bulletins. Actively providing the content these organizations are seeking can be valuable. Information articles are an effective way to increase interest. BUT, the content can't be (and should not be) too technical. Many philatelists tend to go too far over people's heads - caution is required. These groups of people would seem to be worthwhile considering with some kind of a defined program.

Use of the Internet

It is also recommended for prospective philatelists/collectors that the following platforms be explored: Academia.edu, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Snupps, and Reddit etc.

Reaching Out to the Arts and Sciences

One strategy if you have the knowledge and skills to is to step out, and undertake multidisciplinary research, which widens the interest in and applicability of philately. This kind of

research can often be done individually at very little cost by collaborating with university labs. Publishing the research is valuable, not only in philatelic journals, but also on personal websites where the images illustrated are high-resolution color photographs. Also, posting about the topic on Facebook, where numerous contacts from all six inhabited continents are useful. This means that people of all ages and backgrounds, from high-school students, to retirees, to blue-collar professionals, to professors, get free and immediate access to fascinating multidisciplinary information, some of which will likely appeal to their particular interests. The following, very specific examples span both the arts and sciences:

Laser spectroscopy of ink chemistry: <https://www.linyangchen.com/BMA-Malaya-15c>, overturning previous theories about the world's smallest perforation through statistical analysis. <https://www.linyangchen.com/Malaya-stamp-perforation>, or graphic design and typography of plate numbers: <https://www.linyangchen.com/Malaya-stamp-plate-numbers>.

Invitations

Can simple invitations be effective?

At a recent meeting of the Rhodesian Stamp Circle in Australia there were 18 people who attended. Five of whom were new folks (two invited by a member). They had no philatelic background but did come from Southern Africa. Two with philatelic backgrounds (who had come via our website invitation) and one of these brought a friend, originally from Zimbabwe. There was a grand philatelic meeting starting at 10 am. This was followed by a BBQ lunch, a wine tasting, with the last leaving at 9 pm that night! Incidentally, one of the attendees had a grandfather who managed a tea plantation in Nyasaland who was imprisoned as a POW in both WWI and WWII as he was of German stock! Invitations may be a beginning.

Stamp Club Formation

A stamp club about 30 miles away from one of the authors meets monthly. The attendance is about ten to fifteen people. One person calls members once a month to remind them of the meeting at a local church. Members pay a small charge to rent the room. In addition, a dealer comes with items for most of the attendees, and members also bring stamps, or postal history items for each other.

There are no talks or lectures and everything is focused on the philatelic material being collected. And it works. The club has been going for at least twenty years. This initiative's success arises from the activity of the coordinator and the dealer.

Also, organizing a room at the local library or Starbucks and inviting people to attend would seem to be worthwhile with the idea of establishing a stamp club with people who have dropped out of the hobby.

Conclusion

Various inexpensive initiatives to philately's membership and attendance problems may be easier than we think. It should be pointed out that the suggestions here have not been evaluated as to their quantitative impact on people's interest in organized

philatelic memberships. Knowing whether a particular initiative is successful is often difficult. If there are no hard membership/participation figures available it may be necessary to rely on softer data such as impressions and survey data.

It is thought that using different approaches at the local personal level could well work to encourage newcomers to participate in philately. Further it would also seem that a book entitled, "Becoming a Philatelist" or similar name, which laid out a road map to how to get started and the joys of the pastime, would be worthwhile.

There must be many other low hanging fruit initiatives that have been tried around the world that could also work. Listing the most "successful" would be worthwhile. We would welcome hearing about others in a brief summary form.

We would also ask collectors to kindly forward suggestions of Low Hanging Fruit initiatives to philatelicsolutions@gmail.com and whether they have, or have not, been shown to work.

It is planned to issue another Low Hanging Fruit Report that includes these additional ideas.

This article was put together by six volunteer members of the Think Tank and represents their different experiences in ways to recruit people to the hobby of philately using relatively simple approaches. These are things that could easily be undertaken by most philatelists.

Reference

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philatelic_investment

Forerunners Forum

Location of South African Post Offices

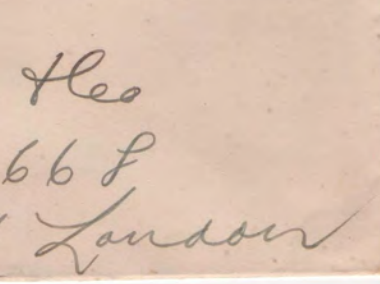
Jan Stolk has emailed to ask about the locations of a couple of South African post offices. He writes: I am interested in railway post offices on the railway lines from Port Elizabeth and hope to publish an article on the narrow gauge line from Port Elizabeth to Avontuur and Patentie soon. In my collection I have 2 covers from Eagles Crag Station. Putzel states that this was open from 1934 to 1970 in Port Elizabeth. Unfortunately I am not able to find this station on any map from the mentioned period. Does anyone know where this station was situated and on which railway line it was or between which stations.

The other query is a registered letter from Evelyn's Post. Putzel states the head office is Humansdorp and it was open from 1927 to 1942. I have a detailed map of this area from 1940 but can't locate this postal agency. Can anybody help?

Jan follows this up with a summary of a correspondence: I already received an answer on my query about Eagles Crag station from **Piet Mulder**, a FVZA member. He provided me with the attached map from the Readers Digest Atlas of South Africa. Eagles Crag is situated between Paterson and Alicedale.

This map also answered another query for me. I have a cover cancelled with a oval rubber canceller: Woodlands 10-11-1942. Woodlands is not listed in R.F. Putzel's encyclopaedia. The cover also has a cancel from Mimosa Rail. 11-11-1942. On this part of the Readers Digest map Woodlands station can be found between Coerney and Mimosa stations. Now I only need to locate Evelyn's Post.

Woodlands and Mimosa Rail



Eagles Crag Station



Exploring Stamps on Your Tube

MaryAnn Bowman has emailed to tell us that: 'There is an Exploring Stamps series on You Tube and one of the segments is on Cape stamps - it starts with a grape/wine SA stamp but also mentions and shows CGH and other union stamps. I have watched several of the series and think they are well done and might be of interest to young millenials, etc.'

The RPSL is Moving

The Royal Philatelic Society of London has formally taken possession of its new home at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, in the heart of the City of London, just a short walk from Bank Underground Station. Work is progressing well to enable the Society to move in the middle of next year, coinciding with its 150th anniversary celebrations.

Apart from the Ground Floor, on which will be found the Reception, members' lounge and Museum displays, the building comprises four floors and two basement levels.

The first and second floors will each house large meeting/function rooms for up to 120 people.

On the third floor will be found the administrative offices, and the offices of the Society's Expert Committee.

The fourth floor has a 'listed' wood panelled meeting room that will accommodate up to 60 people. This will also be used for meetings of the Society's Council.

The basement floors will house the Society's extensive Library and Archives plus secure storage facilities.

Commenting on the new building, the President of the Society, Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL, said 'With the new building, we reach a new milestone. We will be able to fulfill almost all the needs not only of individual philatelists but also of clubs and auction houses that are looking for meeting rooms.' (From an August 2017 Press Release.)



American Philatelic Research Library

Celebrate 50 Years with the American Philatelic Research Library November 2 and 3 at the American Philatelic Center.

Scott Catalogue Fronts

Volumes 2A and 2B contains South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, among other interesting areas. Perhaps for this reason Southern Africa stamps have got a prominent role on the covers with Republic of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and Transvaal.



Old Home



New Home



Make your reservations now — the deadline is Friday, October 19. More information is on the APS website.

For the Record

346. **David Feldman** has sold at their Geneva auction large collections of **Mauritius** (200 lots) and **southern Africa** (160 lots). This happened in June 2018 as part of their Great Britain and Empire sale.

347. Prepare to celebrate **50 Years** with the **American Philatelic Research Library** November 2 and 3 at the American Philatelic Center. Make your reservations now; the deadline is Friday, October 19. RSVP to Scott Tiffney via e-mail or (814) 933-3803 ext. 246. Details of the event can be found by going to <https://stamps.org/APRL-Golden-Anniversary>.



Golden Anniversary Celebration

348. The annual conference of the **Southern African Specialist Societies** has just been completed at Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden. Contact **Simon Peetoom** to get on the mailing list for next years event (simon@af-ricastamps.co.uk).

349. The 2017-18 edition of the South African Stamp Colour Catalogue is now available. Contact your favorite philatelic literature dealer or Janssen Stamps (see contact information on the backside advertizement),

350. **Smithsonian's National Postal Museum** invited to a celebration of the 150 Anniversary of the **Royal Philatelic Society of London**. The event was scheduled for October 17-20.

351. The stamp decision of **Stephan Welz**, Johannesburg appears to have been dormant for some time. Now they have launched a **WelzOnline** auction. The first was scheduled in September this year at www.stephanwelzandco.co.za.



352. The website of **Rhodesian Study Circle** has picked up Gold in the **2018 American Philatelic Society's Website Competition**. The website (www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk) has made major improvements and is certainly worth a visit.

353. **Spink London** has sold **John Griffith-Jones'** collection of 'On India' provisional stamps of **Zanzibar** on auction October 24th.

354. **Spink London** has sold **Steven Gardiner's** collection of **Basutoland** postal history on auction October 24th-25th as 75 lots. Also included was a substantial Cape of Good Hope collection.



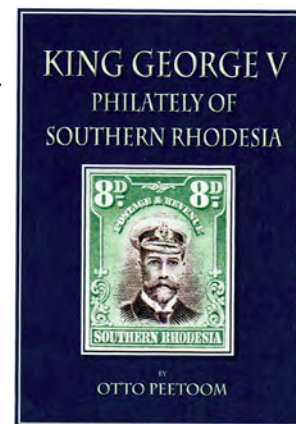
Spink London 24-25 October Auction: Lot 755

355. **David Feldman** has announced that their autumn 2018 auction series will focus on **Bechuanaland** by offering the 'Koi' collection of Bechuanaland.



356. **Otto Peetoom** has announced the eminent release of his book titled '**King George V, Philately of Southern Rhodesia**.' Write to ottopeetoom@btinternet.com for the most recent updates and other information.

357. Recent **Palmeres** to southern Africa literature. **Brian Trotter's** book 'Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations, 1806 to 1916' received a Large Gold at Stampex in London in 2017. It was also awarded the 2017 medal by FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations) for philatelic literature which Brian received in Prague. **John Dickson** received a Large Gold at the SA National this year for his book/CD 'The Atlantic Sea-Posts of the Cape of Good Hope to 1883.' **Franco Frescura** received a Vermeil for his book on 'Postal Cancellers at the 'Cape 1853-1910' also at the SA National in Cape Town.



Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist: April 2018 (Volume 94, No. 2, Whole No. 947); June 2018 (Volume 94, No. 3, Whole No. 948); August 2018 (Volume 94, No. 4, Whole No. 949).

FVZA Bartolomeu Dias: September 2018 (Whole No. 119).

Transvaal Philatelist: No new issues received.

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 specialist societies.

Highlights from Journals and Newsletters

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

- Amoore, H., 2018. UPU International Reply Coupons South Africa issues 1907-2017. South African Philatelist 94, 42-46.
- Barth, J., 2018. CGH: the octagonal postmarks – a correction to Goldblatt. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 22, 151-153.
- Berlin, S., 2018. What's eating our mail? American Philatelist September 2018, 850-858.
- Brakspear, G., 2018. The artwork of Margaret Tredgold and more. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 178-184.
- Briscoe, A., 2018. By mail cart in Bechuanaland. South African Philatelist 94, 89-92.
- Briscoe, A., 2018. The Bechuanaland Border Police. South African Philatelist 94, 126-128.
- Davis, T., 2018. Zululand: early twentieth century postcards of Zululand. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 22, 285-298.
- Gibbs, B., 2018. In search of the 4d RSC 'D' – the 'ghostly' head. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 274-277.
- Hoffman, C., 2018. A look at the printing of stamps. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 286-288.
- Johnson, R., 2018. CGH: Post Office money order business (with appendix). Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 22, 157-175.
- Johnson, R., 2018. Parcel Post. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 22, 264-284.
- Johnstone, I., 2018. Postal history from the Shona rising in 1896. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 283-285.
- Kamffer, G. and Joubert, J., 2018. The centenary celebration of the birth of Nelson Mandela: 18 July 1918 to 18 July 2018. South African Philatelist 94, 78-82.
- Kamffer, G., 2018. Revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa, Series Six (1954) – Queen Elizabeth II Head, and Series Seven (1954-1961) – Coat of Arms. South African Philatelist 94, 132-135.
- Kamffer, G., 2018. Series 4 (1943-1946) the Bantam issues and Series 5 the last King George VI issue of the revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa. South African Philatelist 94, 52-55.
- Kilroe, J., 2018. Development of the African Airways – the early years (1919-1931). Southern Africa Philately No.10, 396-399.
- Klug, J., 2018. The stamps of Swaziland show the long road to independence. Linns, August 28, 2018.
- Lee, D., 2018. More about censorship of mail to and from No. 1 Squadron, Southern Rhodesia Air Force and RAF (Rhodesia) Squadron. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 110-115.
- Macdonald, D., 2018. South African Airways – a government acquisition and change of attitude. Southern Africa Philately No. 10, 404-405.
- Menuz, W., 2018. The Watson Post Cards. Part 2. Postal Stationery 60, 111-121.
- Menuz, W., 2018. The Watson Post Cards. Part 3. Postal Stationery 60, 184-194.
- Menuz, W., 2018. The Watson Post Cards. Part 4. Postal Stationery 60, 241-250.
- Palazzo, G., 2018. De nationale spaarzegels van Zuid Afrika. FVZA

- Bartolomeu Dias Whole No. 119, 14-15.
- Peetoom, O. and Boström, A., 2018. Mount Currie local post from Nieu (New) Griqualand. Southern Africa Philately No. 10, 392-394.
- Peetoom, O., 2018. 1896 drought, locusts, rinderpest plus rebellions. Southern Africa Philately No.10, 386-389.
- Peetoom, O., 2018. 1952 International Tercentenary Exhibition – Cape Town. Southern Africa Philately No. 9, 346-351.
- Peetoom, O., 2018. Christmas Island Indian Ocean. Southern Africa Philately No. 9, 364-368.
- Peetoom, O., 2018. No stamps, no money – only potatoes on Tristan. Southern Africa Philately No. 9, 342-345.
- Plessis, A. du, 2018. Johannesburg Empire Exhibition (JIPEX) 1936. Part 1. South African Philatelist 94, 93-97.
- Plessis, A. du, 2018. Johannesburg Empire Exhibition (JIPEX) 1936. Part 2. South African Philatelist 94, 114-119.
- Price, K., 2018. Registered letter markings of the CRC. South African Philatelist 94, 48-50.
- Reah-Johnson, S. and Hensman, S., 2018. The colours and printings of the 4d Rhodesian double head. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 116-125.
- Reah-Johnson, S., and Hensman, S., 2018. The colours and printings of the 2/- Rhodesian Double Head. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 246-253.
- Reah-Johnson, S., and Hensman, S., 2018. The colours and printings of the 10/- Rhodesian Double Head. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 254-258.
- Reah-Johnson, S., and Hensman, S., 2018. The colours and printings of the £1 Rhodesian Double Head. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 259-273.
- Schamroth, J., 2018. Thornton's stripes: the spectacular flaw on the 6d Admiral. Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle 68, 132-141.
- Solomon, S., 2018. Natal: the 1877 ½ HALF surcharges. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 22, 299-307.
- Solomon, S., 2018. Zululand: covers from the 1879 Anglo-Zulu war (continued). Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 22, 140-147.
- Sorour, V., 2018. The 5/- ox-wagon stamp. South African Philatelist 94, 58-62.
- Spivak, D., 2018. The BSAC Admiral 1/2d postal stationery newspaper – more questions than answers. Postal Stationery 60, 163-165.
- Steyl, P., 2018. Development of postal services along the foothills of Towerkop. South African Philatelist 94, 84-87.
- Stolk, J., 2018. Smalspoorverbinding Port-Elizabeth Avontuur/Patent. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No. 119, 10-13.
- Toussaint, J., 2018. Een paradijs voor olifant en iedereen. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No. 119, 30-38.
- Zegerman, K., 2018. De 6e lamglopemde gebruiksserie van de Republiek Zuid-Afrika (4). FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No. 119, 4-9.
- Zegerman, K., 2018. Winnie Masikizela-Mandela. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No. 119, 26-29.

PSGSA Articles of Distinction

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

2018. 'Lieutenant Alfred Hutton Radice, 1st Battalion Cloucestershire Regiment: British Prisoner of War and the Diaster at Nicholson's Nek' by Paul Benson. Whole No. 91.
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
 Cape and Natal Study Circle
www.capenatalstamps.com
 Orange Free State Study Circle
www.orangefreestatephilately.org.uk
 Rhodesian Study Circle
www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk
 South African Collectors' Society
www.southafricacollector.com
 The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa
www.psgsa.org
 The Rhodesian Philatelist
www.rhodesianstamps.net/The_Rhodesian_Philatelist.htm
 Transvaal Study Circle
www.transvaalstamps.org.uk
 Thanks to Otto Peetoom for making this compilation.

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PFSA Social Media Survey Results

The Federation recently conducted a survey among members concerning social media. A brief summary of the results of the eight questions is given below.

All in all 36 people responded - 12 directly by e-mail and 24 via the survey. Everyone, except for 1 respondent were in favor of such platform / channel of some sort.

Q1 *Would a social media platform for the discussion of SA philately be of interest to you?* Six people said that they either did not use social media or had very little exposure to social media

Q2 *If yes, what social media platform would work best for you?* The collecting interests were varied - many people said that they also collected across categories.

Q3 *What is your main area of collecting interest?* Strongest support was for Facebook, with What's App in second place - suggestions were to set up a website to which the social media could connect or setting up one channel with sub-channels. Respondents also put forward the fact that the Edenvale Philatelic Society has a Facebook profile. One person suggested we look at the India Study Circle who have both Facebook and What's Up forums.

Q4 *Would you like a broad general channel or specific channels?* Most respondents said they preferred a broad channel but with some way of searching or sorting into areas of specific interest.

Q5 *What would you like to see the platform used for?* General discussions and questions appeared to be the most important requirements

Q6 *Are there any restrictions that you would place on the membership of the group or on the activity on the group?* Two respondents wanted to see some kind of limitation on membership - one on the basis of past refusal of membership of a philatelic association, one wanted to see active marketing restricted

Q7 *On a scale of 1 to 10 how much interest do you have in this?* High interest of 7+ stars

Q8 *Would you like to see a moderator for the channel / each channel?* Nearly 80 % of respondents wanted to see a moderator in place and many people volunteered to perform this service



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Society Publications

Hisey, Bob and Matheson, Ian, 2017. The "Officials" of South Africa. PDF on Memory Stick, \$30 pp.

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

Hisey, Bob and Bartshe, Tim, 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, Bob (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 Schuylkill Dr., Calabasas, CA 91302.

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

Mafeking 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 dmcmamee@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.

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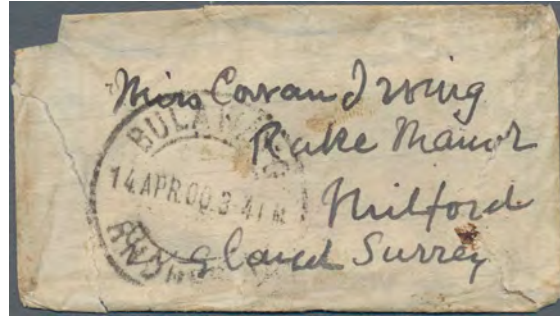
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All advertisers who reserve a full page ad for one year or longer will receive full membership in the PSGSA. Contact the Society Treasurer or Editor for any special requirements and for booking your premium spaces. All payment should be addressed to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



Mafeking Siege small-sized (72 x 40 mm) **KAFFIRGRAM** to Milford, Surrey, England. Franked on back by horizontal pair of 6d on 3d lilac & black (type 1, overprinted on 1888 3d of Bechuanaland) tied by 'MAFEKING C.G.H./AP 4/1900,' with part Godalming (Milford) late May 1900 arrival cancel alongside and with Bulawayo '14 AP 00' transit datestamp on front. The letter was mailed from the besieged Mafeking and vent via the northern route to Bulawayo. The kaffirgram was carried by native runners, smuggled out of the siege of Mafeking during the Boer War, and finally carried by British mail to England. The average number of letters per week forwarded via the north, like this letter, was approximately sixty with a runner leaving Mafeking twice per week. Via the south it was thirty, once per week. It is, however, more than probable that many of the runners were captured by the Boer forces, and that the letters being conveyed by them never reached a British post office. The rate for letters via the north was 1s per ½ oz and via the south 6d per ½ oz. The kaffirgram was offered in Auction 42, October 2018, by Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner as Lot 8097A.

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.

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