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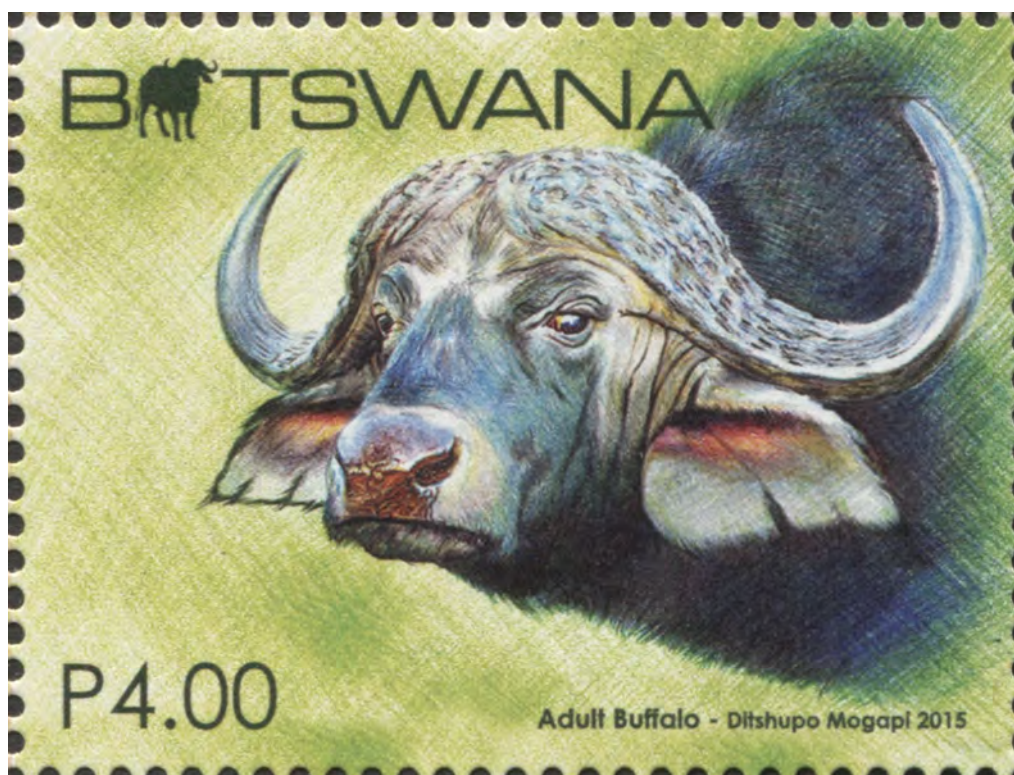
******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXXIV, Number 1, Whole Number 99

January-April 2021



Stamp issued by Botswana in 2015 based on the artwork of Ditshupo Mogaapi.
See Sheila Case's article on page 5 for more details

Highlights

How to revive a Dead Duck
Zululand and Forgeries
Stamp Printing and Production
Aerodrome or Airways Letter Service
BONC and Argus Wheel

Publications of the PSGSA

BECHUANALAND AND BOTSWANA REGISTRATION LABELS

by Gordon Smith

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by Bob Hisey and Ian Matheson

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by David Mordant

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Vol. 3. THE REVENUES AND POSTAL STATIONERY

Vol. 2. THE TELEGRAPHS

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REJECTED-ACCEPTED:

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Compiled by R.W. Hisey

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Lesotho Postal Services issued in 2016 this M2 stamp as part of a set of six stamps illustrating the history of the postal services in the country. Printed by Joh Enschede Security Printers.

Front Illustration:

The buffalo stamp was issued by Botswana Post in 2015 as part of a four stamps and miniature sheet series of African Buffalo in Botswana. The artwork was done by Ditshupo Mogaapi. Sheila Case tells the story on page 5.

***FORERUNNERS

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Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Large Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2020; 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

Our hobby has now survived a whole year with the Pandemic. And so has Forerunners. Our members have clearly had more time at their disposal and have spent part of that writing articles, as you will see in this issue. We may not be willing to admit it, but other good things have come out of this our misery. We have discovered ways, together with the school kids of communicate, using the internet that probably will stay with us forever.

The next journal will be number 100 and a celebration is being planned in the form of an expanded issue. To join in this celebration, you are kindly invited to consider writing an article or two, large or small, on your favorite subjects. You have about three months, but please don't wait until the last minute.

It is not clear when traveling and meetings of large groups will be possible. It is in my view that it will likely be late in the year before we will be able to meet in person.

Peter Thy

Reduction in Ad Rate Schedule

A substantial reduction in the commercial ad rate schedule has been introduced with this issue. It is hoped that it will entice members and dealers more often to consider the Forerunners.

Correction

It is an editor's worst nightmare to report a pagination error. Whole number 98 was misspaginated and should have continued from the last page of number 97, such that the correct pagination for number 98 is as original plus 28. A link to a corrected version is distributed with this issue.

PSGSA Website

The Society website has been updated to a more modern design. Of additions so far are a complete run of Forerunners, with the exception of the most recent issues. The webmaster is planning further reorganizations. Please contact him with your suggestions and offer your help with writing and stuff to place on the new site. Contact Clive Levinson, LevinsonClive@gmail.com.
Clive Levinson

The deadline for the next issue will be August 15, 2021. 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.



2021 Subscriptions Due

Happy New Year! All members have access to the digital copy of Forerunners for the annual fee of US\$20. For paper printed copies, you need to add postage as shown below, depending on your postal address:

For USA addresses digital only \$20 + USA postage US\$5 = US\$25.

For Canadian addresses digital only \$20 + Canadian postage US\$10 = US\$30.

For all other addresses digital only \$20 + overseas postage US\$15 = US\$35.

You may find it easier to subscribe for two or more years. Payment may be by check drawn on a USA bank or US currency (at your own risk) to David McNamee, PSGSA Secretary, 15 Woodland Dr, Alamo, CA 94507 USA or by PayPal to dmcnamee@aol.com. We closed the PO BOX we had for PSGSA for many years. If financial transactions to the USA are blocked for any reason, contact me. Stay safe in 2021.

David McNamee,

PSGSA Secretary-Treasurer

P.S. A reminder to keep informed as the schedules for stamp exhibitions change as the world returns to some form of normalcy.

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 January-April, May-August, and September-December. 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 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 are 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 ideally 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 still most welcome.

President's Corner

Well, my prescience was bang on about opening the Covid Christmas presents under old Tannenbaum. Here we are over a year later from the first of the persistent lock downs around the country. The second wave has come and gone not nearly as bad as everyone expected, but we still left with a horrific death toll. One thing for certain, regardless of your political stance, the \$20 billion given to six of the big Pharma companies has born startling fruit with now three emergency approved vaccines from three of them and potentially more on the way. Yours truly has completed his Moderna shot regimen, being an old fart (one small advantage of being old above and beyond the senior discounts at the local buffet) I started mine in February. If you listen to the CDC (assuming that you like watching confusion in real time) this means that I can fraternize with others who have completed their shots and a couple of weeks have passed, but I still need to wear a mask and can still only be in close quarters with family or others with like immunity. Hmmm. At this rate we will be at a stamp show together by 2023. Seriously, this weekend (March 19-21) St. Louis is having their stamp show, possibly the first in person since the deluge of cancellations last year. Locally, RMSS was cancelled as the venue could not commit to us as they were obligated to become a field hospital if needed! Seriously!

More to the point of the PSGSA, we should just be returning from our trip to the Kingdoms and the Cape about now. Yes it was cancelled/postponed due to you-know-what. What is interesting is the situation there of Covid and its spread with a paucity of vaccine availability. That being said, when we cancelled our trip, they had shut the borders between RSA and Lesotho/ESwazini but the airports were open for international travel even with the "South African" strain. The FIP show is still slated this November and we all hope that it will go on apace.

I hope that you have had time to spend working with your collections, adding from what is still being presented via the internet and all of the auctions going on around the world. I just won an absolutely marvelous and unique item from the Free State, a One Shilling on 3d T provisional of 1902. A vertical pair showing the double surcharge one diagonal dated with the EKU of the issue. This has never been recorded or at least seen by me and was heavily sought after by many bidders, some of whom I know! I think they are still friends. The specialty societies including PSGSA are still publishing good articles and new finds. And don't forget the websites for the Transvaal or Orange Free State Study Circles, as well as the Rhodesia Study Circle. They are constantly improving their material with the completion and update of the postmarks of the OFSSC and a new one being updated for the ZAR. If you are a member of the OFSSC you have access to the Bulletin as well as the six part series of the OFS and the Anglo Boer War comprising 82 pages for a series Richard Stroud did in honor of the centenary of the start of the ABW. The TSC also has a new and improved website. Both are in the process of expansion of information. And there is the previously mentioned Facebook groups that are loaded with new material, information and exchanges of thought and research. Don't let the cloister of Covid get you down; enjoy and prepare for your next outing.

Tim Bartshe

The Article of Distinction

for 2020 is awarded to

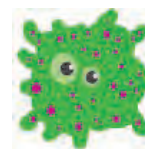
Jan Stolk

for his article on *Rail Labels* in Forerunners # 98



Mark Your Calendar

Most stamp shows and exhibitions have been canceled or delayed because of the pandemic. This situation may last well into 2021. In some cases shows have been replaced by virtual events. Look out for updated announcements.



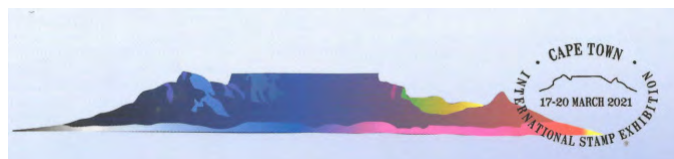
Savpex 2021 is scheduled for July this year.

This is an annual recurrent virtual exhibit that will go on irrespective the status of the Pandemic and traveling restriction. Deadline for submission is May 16th. Go to www.stampssa.africa.

London 2020 Philatelic International Exhibition, Business Design Centre, Islington. The show was postponed to 19-26 February 2022. The literature competition is now planned to be completed together with the main exhibition. Exhibits accepted for 2020 is still accepted for 2022 unless otherwise agreed. Go to www.london2022.co/news for the most recent news updates. Contact the US Commissioner Jack Harwood for information by writing to jharwood222@verizon.net.

Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition is rescheduled for 9 to 13 November 2021. A total of 2,000 frame is expected to be on display. Prepare to join PSGSA in Cape Town at this exceptional event. Go to <https://capetown2021.org> for most recent updates.

Most **US WSP shows** have been cancelled until the summer and fall. The next APS Stamp Shows are scheduled for August 12-15 in Chicago and then August 25-28 in Sacramento the following year. It can, however, be expected that at least some of these will again be cancelled or postponed.



2020 Auction Report

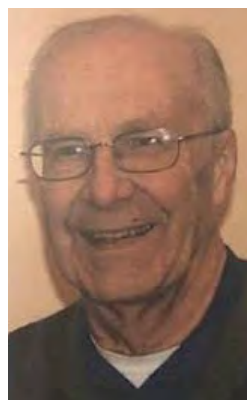
The 2020 Society Auction offered 806 lots with a reserve of \$15,999. 115 Bids were received from 17 bidders in the unadjusted value of \$3,433. Nine of the bidders were society members. The bestselling items were the more pricey, quality stamps and covers. In sheer terms of numbers, 57 lots of the Union of South Africa material sold; the balance of the material being spread almost evenly amongst the other Southern Africa countries.

Moody Tidwell

Final adjusted prices realized

Lot		Lot		Lot	
15	\$7.42	164	\$33.92	417	\$26.50
16	\$6.36	169	\$33.92	442	\$13.78
18	\$8.48	171	\$7.42	482	\$19.08
19	\$21.20	203	\$8.48	503	\$5.30
20	\$24.38	211	\$107.06	511	\$16.96
23	\$318.00	248	\$5.30	515	\$11.66
25	\$24.38	249	\$45.58	544	\$13.78
26	\$19.08	258	\$7.42	558	\$11.66
27	\$58.30	264	\$8.48	584	\$21.20
37	\$5.30	271	\$5.30	594	\$6.36
38	\$25.50	282	\$3.18	595	\$5.30
42	\$13.78	284	\$5.30	629	\$11.66
43	\$12.72	285	\$7.24	643	\$15.90
45	\$4.24	286	\$9.54	673	\$10.60
51	\$14.84	301	\$5.30	677	\$19.10
54	\$13.78	319	\$16.96	680	\$34.96
55	\$9.54	330	\$53.00	682	\$26.50
57	\$90.10	331	\$95.40	688	\$13.78
60	\$344.50	332	\$53.00	690	\$7.42
64	\$7.42	333	\$53.00	691	\$15.90
65	\$24.38	337	\$31.80	692	\$29.68
67	\$12.72	339	\$39.22	695	\$15.90
68	\$6.36	340	\$31.80	735	\$4.24
75	\$19.08	346	\$14.84	739	\$50.88
80	\$53.00	347	\$12.72	740	\$50.88
81	\$116.60	351	\$13.78	741	\$5.30
82	\$42.40	386	\$21.20	742	\$5.30
83	\$164.30	391	\$22.26	744	\$7.42
105	\$11.66	392	\$24.38	745	\$15.90
113	\$10.60	393	\$21.20	748	\$9.54
118	\$11.66	394	\$11.66	749	\$19.08
119	\$5.30	397	\$11.66	762	\$6.36
141	\$26.50	402	\$48.78	763	\$21.20
142	\$11.66	406	\$33.92	770	\$15.90
144	\$11.66	407	\$11.66	771	\$7.42
150	\$19.96	410	\$27.56	779	\$29.68
163	\$16.96	416	\$8.48	785	\$106.00

Closed Album



Guy R. Dillaway (1935-2021). It is with sadness that we must report that we have lost a longtime member and supporter of our society. Guy died on January 28. He was very well known to many of us as a postal history dealer, an accomplished exhibitor of Cape rectangular issues, an excellent philatelic judge, and a cherished mentor. He was a strong support for the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston (MA), and his local community theatre group. Guy was born in Meriden, CT, and attended Tufts

University where he received a dental MD in 1959. After a stint in the US Air Force, he eventually settle down in Weston MA, with his wife Barbara, where he opened a dental practice that is still in existence lead by his son. He was involved in several organizations, taking on many leadership and volunteer roles in his community and professional fields. He was an avid philatelist, exhibitor and judge, published philatelic literature and acted as President of Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston for many years. In addition to his philatelic pursuits, he was also an active member of the Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts. He is said to have sang and danced in many casts, built and designed sets, was the show producer in many cases while also found the time to serve as President and Treasurer for many years. We the philatelist last time met him during the our Africa symposium at the Spellman Philatelic Museum in 2010. Guy will be missed evenly by philatelist and the local community in Weston. Our condolences to his family and friends.

PSGSA Articles of Distinction

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

- 2020. 'T110 Rail Letter Post Labels' by Jan Stolk. Whole No. 98.
- 2019. 'Letters from the Zulu War 1876-1879' by David McNamee. Whole No. 94.
- 2018. 'Lieutenant Alfred Hutton Radice, 1st Battalion Cloustershire 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.



THE NEWS

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Opportunity ... One in a Million (Actually One in Two Million). Or How I Revived a Dead Duck

by Sheila Case



Poso House, Khama Crescent, Gaborone, Botswana

The eleventh floor direct your gaze up the front of the elegant building, Poso House on Khama Crescent in Gaborone, Botswana. On the eleventh floor is the office of the CEO. Now, typically a CEO will furnish his office in order to impress, sometimes even to intimidate. Not my CEO. His office was, indeed, beautiful, with floor-to-ceiling windows giving a staggering view out over Gaborone, but rather than intimidating, the style was friendly, encouraging to open discussion, cooperation and teamwork. It was one of the friendliest offices I have ever been in. (Tea and cookies helped, of course!)

I was there at the invitation of the CEO, with not the faintest idea of his agenda. We had been chatting for about 20-minutes when he finally sat back in his chair, the way people do when they have reached a decision, and dropped his bombshell...*I want you to fix my Philately Department.*

I was flabbergasted! My reaction must have given him cause to chuckle, but he controlled it well. At that time I was 13-years retired, living a slow life due to health constraints. Now I was being offered a fascinating opportunity, one surely given to only a handful of philatelists anywhere in the world,...to develop and run a postage-stamp issuing programme. It got worse, or better,

depending on your point of view...when I asked him for more details, he could give none...his response was, *you know more about it than anyone in the building!* This led to the first outline of a plan.... The overall target would be to develop a stamp issuing programme that was fully up to international standards, and to make it sustainable; the starting point would have to be awareness.

The awareness was easy, but an internationally respected programme...more demanding. However, I had tools in my toolbox that he was unaware of, as we will see.

What was wrong with the Philately Department? And, Why? Next question, Why Me?

Death of a Philately Department

At Independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the poorest countries in the world. A small, scattered population was living at subsistence level in unimpressive terrain. Botswana Postal Services was a fledgling operation, delivering mail and providing an elementary service for cash transfers (remittances).

Before 1966, Bechuanaland stamps had originated from Great Britain. From 1966, the planning was relocated to Bo-

tswana, where the Philately Department consisted of two rather bewildered ladies. There were no guidelines, no job descriptions, but these ladies were supposed to generate stamps for the nation, distribute them to post offices for use, and to conduct international sales to dealers and collectors. It seems like a recipe for failure, but there was support in the form of a Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) consisting of expatriate residents who understood the nature of Philately. It was all very slow and sleepy, but it worked.

Then came DIAMONDS. Discovered in 1967, diamonds created wealth which was wisely used in the development of the nation. Suddenly there were a lot more people, a rapid expansion of government services and business opportunities ...for many years Botswana had the third fastest-growing GDP in the world (after China and South Korea).

A divide developed in Botswana Postal Services. The main business, communications by mail and electronic means, expanded enormously, the demands being recognised and dealt with generating massive multiplication of post offices and expansion of services. There was a new name, BotswanaPost, new corporate colours (red and gold), logos, advertising, new headquarters...all the trappings of a big business as the organisation gained parastatal status...a business rather than a service. By 2013, BotswanaPost was quartered in the elegant building seen above. The smaller, lightly-educated cadre of civil servants had been replaced by 350 younger, better-educated raring-to-go business-minded officers.

But Philately? Oh dear, still small, still somewhat sleepy. For some decades Botswana's stamp programme was successful, and appreciated in the international stamp trade, but all the expertise lay with members of the SAC; the bewildered ladies, now five in number, carried out instructions without involvement in the planning, or understanding of the market. As for the other 345 members of HQ, they did not know what Philately was, nor why we had a Philately department, and as the expatriate advisers died off, one by one, expertise was not replaced...a vacuum was developing. By 2012 the Philately Department was incapable of preparing an annual plan, or even issuing stamps...the Philately Department was a Dead Duck.

Reviving the Dead Duck

Tools in the toolbox...OK, I know you do not actually revive a dead bird with tools, but this is a metaphorical bird, so the normal rules do not apply! No-one knew why we had Philately; the ladies were bewildered, the international market was a mystery, and the SAC had collapsed. But I had tools...for 25 years, as a part-time dealer selling used postage stamps of Africa, I had subscribed to an international magazine for the philatelic trade magazines for 25 years, read from cover to cover had given me international perspective and a view of Botswana's place in the multi-billion dollar international market. And not the least, 40 years of creating school programmes and executing them set me up to create a project titled Reinvigorating BotswanaPost Philately...awareness first, then planning and execution. Here are a few thoughts from the inside story.

Awareness

This will make a whole story on its own, sometime in the future. Our sessions started with deceptively simple questions... What is a Stamp? Why do we have them? Why do we issue new stamps several time a year instead of always using the same ones? The answers involve more than you might realise, and these sessions were always fun, first for Middle Management, then for Senior Management (I was a little daunted by this one) and eventually in greater depth for the Philately Department. The importance of Awareness is presented in this quotation from the Universal Postal Union....

As a method of promoting a nation and its attributes, postage stamps are without peer. They can be seen as promotional tools, as advertising the pleasures of a country, as political statements of sovereignty and as brand image.

One pleasing outcome of the Awareness seminars was that as I made my way in and out of Poso House over the following months, managers at various levels would stop me and chat, explaining how material from the Awareness sessions had been incorporated into their routines...and phrases which I recognised as originating from my teaching materials would crop up in discussions and inter-office memos, a favourite being the concept of stamps as ambassadors for Botswana.



The teacher doing what she does best

Achievements

After Awareness, did we meet our targets? Well the proof is in the pudding...we used a toolbox to fix a dead duck, ended up with a pudding, and it was tasty!

Stamp issues were on target, the full quota and right up to international standards; we got international recognition in various ways, here is one of them, a report in Philatelic Exporter. (By the way, I was asked for an article, wrote one which featured the project, and it got edited to one that featured me. But truth be told, it is an eye-catching photo.)

Artists

We ran artists' workshops, based on a handbook generated specifically for Botswana, *Steps to Stamp Design*. Here is the work of one artist we discovered, the detailed work is outstanding. Congratulations Ditshupo Mogaapi. This was done in one day, with a pack of 10 coloured pencils from the supermarket.

Botswana philatelic revival in the making

A LONG-TIME subscriber to the PE, Sheila Case, has been appointed by BotswanaPost to "fix the philately department".



Sheila Case and friend at the launch of the Lions of Chobe stamps last year

Philatelic meetings take place in an elegant Philatelic Museum which displays Botswana stamps from independence to date. One exhibit this year will be a BotswanaPost copy of a Bechuanaland stamp, of which only four are known to exist: two with BotswanaPost, one in the British Museum, and one recently auctioned for \$80,000. Also planned are stamp art competitions in the schools, media training for philatelic journalists, and a National Stamp Day in August. Sheila's remit is to develop a programme which lives up to its venue.



Citizens for Sustainability.

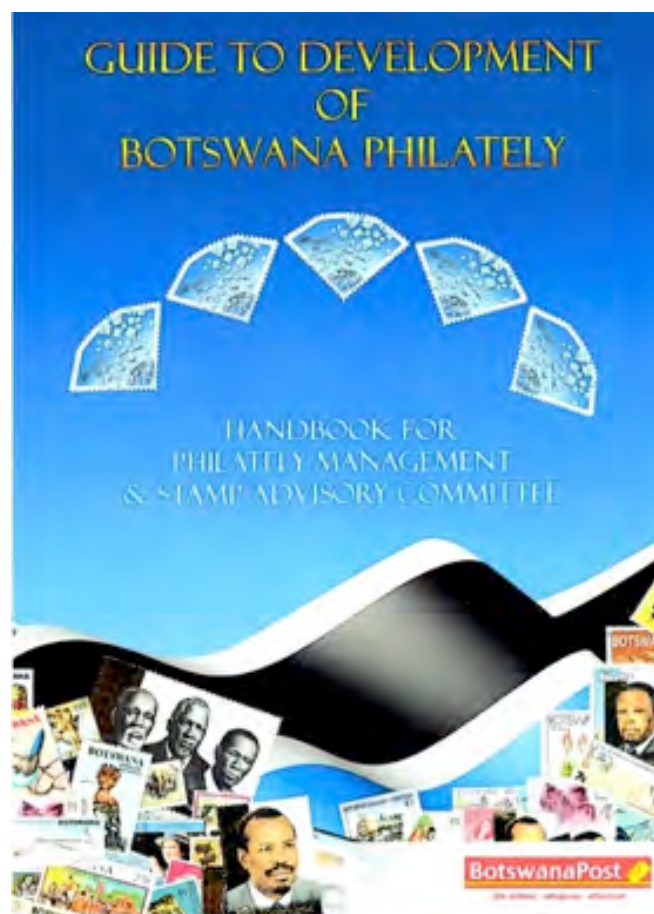
What a team we put together!...upgraded the Philately Staff and supported them with a Philately Adviser, the multitalented Renee Eisen Khonat, a graphic designer, Irfan Kokabi of Citizen Design, and a new Chair for the SAC, the go-ahead and resourceful, Dr. Kabelo Senyatso of Birdlife Botswana.

All three of these will be invited to co-author a story or reminiscence with me before long. For sustainability, all the teaching we had done, and more, was consolidated into a Handbook specifically tailored to the needs of Botswana, *Guide to the Development of Botswana Philately*. I am proud of this work. Three years later the team has met all targets, very credible sustainability.

Stamp of the Year for 2014

The Save Botswana's Vultures stamp set was proposed by Dr. Senyatso, designed by artist Philip Huebsch and graphic designer Irfan Kokabi.

Favourite Stamps of five decades. Let's conclude this story with more pretty pictures. Timing was kind to me, and my BotswanaPost project included 2016, the fiftieth year of Independence. During this year we issued a set of stamps which, in the opinion of several experts, could qualify as the best Botswana





set ever. Congratulations Sheila, Renee, Elisa and Irfan.

Five stamps, one for each decade, presented five themes: Independence (First President), Industrial Development (Diamonds), Flora and Fauna (Kingfishers), Ancient History (Rock Paintings) along with Botswana Culture (Traditional Foods.). Three are shown above..

Footnote. Clifford and the Condoms

This is how Clifford saved me from overwhelming embarrassment. Scheduling had gone adrift and I was working alone to get a set of stamps out in a hurry. Quick review determined that we had never done Abstract Art, so I consulted a book from Thapong Centre for Visual Arts and located four designs which looked good together...in my defense, I was working with very small images. One of the Philately ladies arranged to get images from Thapong (I never saw these), sent them to the printer whose response was generously rapid. Proofs arrived; we had to OK these before actual stamps would be printed. The set looked good and I signed off on it. Thank God for Clifford, who took a magnifying glass to the images...the stamp on 3-D art, a sculpture photographed in attractive lavender-coloured light turned out to be dynamite. It was by an artist known for her provocative approach to AIDS awareness and was entirely composed of ...really... condoms. I had come within a hairbreadth of putting this out in the name of Botswana. Well done Cliff, you saved my bacon.

Sheila Case is, as you can understand from the above, a retired school teacher that now resides in Oregon. She worked most of her life in Africa - latest in Botswana where she also found time to participate in the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and also acted as advisor to the Philatelic Bureau. She maintains a blog under the pen name *Mma Case* where she writes about her experiences in teaching and Africa. The blog called 'Wind of Change by Mma Case' can be reached by going to <https://www.patreon.com/windofchange> or just Google it. You may have to pay a small fee to get access. But trust your Editor, it is worth it if you have even remotely experiences with teaching and with Africa. Sheila has a large stock of used Botswana and Zambia for which she would love to find good homes. She can be reached by writing to sheilacease23@gmail.com.



Zululand Stamps and Collectors

by Tony Davis

When the first Zululand stamps were issued in 1888 there was philatelic interest in the stamps of this new country. Enquiries from European stamp dealers reached Zululand administrators during the ten-year life of the territory. Zululand and Natal archives contain such requests from dealers from several European countries, including Germany and Italy. These inquiries were usually forwarded to Zululand's Distributor of Stamps, H. Gardner, based in the Treasury Department.

Philatelic enquiries were certainly not unique to Zululand and stamps at that time were not necessarily viewed as sources of philatelic revenue by colonial administrators. The subject even prompted England's Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, to issue a circular, dated September 29, 1896, to Britain's colonial authorities, addressing how such revenues should be managed:

CIRCULAR

Downing Street,
29th September 1896

Sir,

The attention of my Predecessors in Office has from time to time been called to various questions connected with the sale of postage stamps by Colonial Postmasters to persons who collect or deal in them as curiosities, and my own attention has recently been called to certain irregularities which still appear to exist in connection with this practice.

2. I am not aware of any abstract objection to the sale of postage stamps to persons who make it their business to deal in them and I see no reasons therefore for altering the general rules laid down by the circular dispatches noted in the margin (31st July 1882, 18th August, 14th December 1893).

3. I have, however, reason to believe that a premium or commission one transaction is occasionally offered by some dealers, and that there is a certain risk of Post Office Officials being bribed to give the orders of one dealer preference over those of others. I need hardly say that such practices are most reprehensible and should be as far as possible be stopped. It appears to me, moreover, that the risk of such temptation being offered to Colonial Postmasters might be obviated by rule requiring that all applications should be compiled with in order of date; and the compliance with such a rule could be insured by periodical inspection of the Post Office letter books.

4. I might add that the practice of obliterating stamps for purposes of sale, which appears to be still occasionally carried on, is, in my opinion, highly objectionable, and should in future be strictly forbidden.

5. It has been suggested as further safeguard against improper practices, that all orders from dealers of above £5 in value should be dealt with by the Receiver General, and not by the Colonial Postmaster, and that requisitions for postage stamps should in future be prepared by the Receiver General. You are at liberty, however, to use your discretion on this point.

In framing requisitions, it should be borne in mind that the traffic in staffs, although unobjectionable in itself, should be carried on within reasonable limits, and that the primary object in view is the supply of stamps to the general public for ordinary purposes, rather than

to those who make it their business to deal in them as a commercial speculation."

Chamberlain's concerns in this regard were evidently not entirely put to rest as he issued a similar circular the following year – in May 1897 – this time dealing with specimen stamps.

CIRCULAR

Downing Street,
26th May, 1897

Sir,

With reference to my Circular dispatch of 29th September last, I have the honour to inform you that it has been brought to my notice that offers have been made to purchase from Colonial Governments the spare specimens of postage stamps, post cards, etc., received by them from the International Bureau of the Postal Union, and that deeming it advisable that a general rule should be laid down on this point. I have been in communication with the General Post Office.

2. The distribution of such stamps throughout the Union is intended for purposes of reference and record, and I consider the Colonial Post Offices should adapt in regard to all such questions the sound policy adopted by the Imperial Post Office, and should discourage philatelic dealings on the part of a Department, which exists primarily for the conveyance of correspondence, and issues postage stamps only as a convenient mode of obtaining payment beforehand for the services rendered.

3. The sale therefore of the specimens in question should be prohibited.

4. If the Government of your Colony does not wish to keep the spare specimens in its possession, they can be sent to the General Post Office, London, where they would be of use to meet official applications for specimen postage stamps."

In the late 1800s philately was a growing hobby in England and Europe as citizens of imperial powers collected souvenirs of far-flung empires in Africa, Asia and in the Americas. The establishment of a new 'country' such as Zululand undoubtedly created interest among collectors and commercial interests. The availability of stamps from a small colony in Southern Africa is another matter altogether. There wasn't much civilian mail being generated from Zululand. Colonial authorities there issued official mails and merchants, mining businesses and the military primarily utilized the colony's postal services.

The demand for stamps from Zululand is evidenced by the number of stamps with clearly forged overprints. Zululand gained the attention of Francois Fournier, who would produce three Zululand overprints - "facsimiles" - which could simply be applied to the current British definitive series, to replicate the first Zululand definitive stamps. These Fournier forgeries came to light after his death when the Philatelic Union of Geneva purchased Fournier's reference materials and alerted the philatelic community. These forgeries are a slanting overprint and two horizontal types of varying thicknesses. (see illustration).

To address the public's interest for examples of these new issues at the time, less scrupulous dealers applied ordinary Brit-

ish postmarks. Numerous examples of these forgeries can be found available today on eBay.

The writer categorizes these Zululand forgeries in five distinctive types, four of which were produced in the 1890s to early 1900s period and the fifth type being modern reproductions.

- Type 1 - placement of the 'Zululand' overprint on British definitive values in differing locations on the stamps,
- Type 2 - obvious spelling mistakes in which Zululand is erroneously spelt (eg, 'Zulluland'),
- Type 3 - varied shades of ink used in the lettering of the Zululand overprint,
- Type 4 - the letters of the word 'Zululand' are in clearly different fonts, some with thick lettering and other with thin lettering,
- Type 5 - 21st century printing forgeries which are sold on eBay as replicas but could easily deceive buyers as being legitimate.

British postmarks are found on many of the Zululand forgeries.

While the writer has no examples of forgeries on the low values in the second Zululand definitive series, caution should be used when purchasing the £1 and £5 pound values especially as these were primarily utilized for revenue purposes. (Note: some examples may have been used for packages in the mails.)

There are 'dangerous' forgeries of the Natal 1/2d "Zululand" overprinted value. Certification of these varieties is recommended. Recent eBay listings for Zululand stamps include offerings of "replicas" (forgeries), including the first definitive 5' duty and second definitive £1 and £5. While these are specifically listed as not being original stamps, they may at some stage creep into regular collections and deceive the casual collector.

Examples of various forgeries from the writer's collection are illustrated below.



Examples of forged overprints



Fournier forged overprints

Index to Volume XXXIII

Whole number 98 has the page numbers mislabeled. In the index both the original page numbers and the corrected numbers are given.

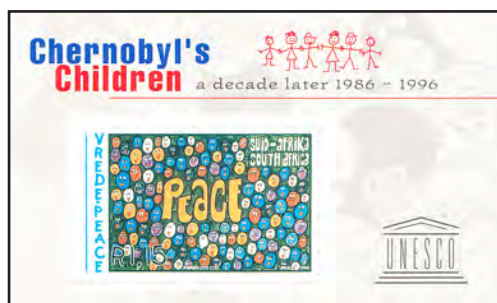
air flights	95/9	Gardiner, S.	96/32	Smith, G.	96/32
Albert, U.	96/53	German South West Africa	98/(81)109		97/74
Anglo Boer War	98/(82)110	graphic designs	96/53		98/(63)91
apartheid	97/75	Green, H.	98/(75)103	Society publications	98/(79)107
Article Distinction	95/2	Groenevald, J.	95/7	Solomon, S.	98/(79)107
Barberton	95/13	Hannath, S.	97/60		95/6
Bartshe, T.	95/3	Highlights Journals	98/(61)89	South African Philately Club	96/32
	95/17		95/27	South African Republic	98/(79)107
	95/25		95/55		95/17
	96/52		97/83		96/52
	97/59		98/(83)111	stamp design	97/front
	98/(59)87		95/23	Stolk, J.	95/22
	98/(82)110	Hong Kong	97/58		98/(70)98
Basutoland	98/(81)109	Iceland	95/23	Sub-Saharan	96/33
Bechuanaland Botswana Society	96/32	Janssen Stamps	98/(62)90	SWA	95/22
	98/(60)88	Janssen, V.	98/(81)109	Swart, D.T.	95/7
	98/(81)109	Johnson, R.I.	96/32	Swaziland	98/(77)105
Benson, P.	98/(81)109	Kenya	96/36	telephone	97/66
BONC	95/21	Klugman, K.	95/7	Thy, P.	96/43
BONC 270	95/19		97/61		97/58
	96/52	Koppe, H.	96/53		97/66
BONC listing	98/(79)107	Kosniowski catalogue	96/39		98/(58)86
Book Reviews	95/25	Latzko, W.J.	95/6		98/(61)89
	96/39	Leefflang, B.	95/25		95/2
	96/53	malaria	98/(77)105		95/6
	98/(81)109	McCorquodale	96/43	Tidwell, M.	95/9
Botswana	96/front	McNamee, D.	95/7		96/33
	98/(63)91		98/(81)109	Transvaal	95/13
Botswana government envelopes	96/32	Melz, P.	96/52	Union South Africa stamps	98/(82)110
	97/74	Milcopex 2019	95/4	Van Riebeeck 1d ship	95/inside back
	95/4	Milcopex 2019 videos	97/82	van Zyl, D.	98/(82)110
Bowman, M.	95/4	Mordant, D.	95/21	vermillion ink	96/43
Bridges, E.	97/60		96/52	Vora, R.	95/8
British Bechuanaland	96/43		98/(79)107		95/23
	97/inner back	Nairobi	98/(81)109	Waterlow & Sons	97/65
Brooks, B.	97/79	Natal	97/61	WhatsApp	95/3
Brown, G.J.	95/6	Natal embossed block	95/front	Woollard, J.	95/19
Cape cover	95/8	Natal POA	95/24		95/21
Cape mail	95/23	New Books	95/26		95/24
Closed Albums	95/6		96/55		96/52
	97/60		97/82		
	98/(60)88	newspaper wrappers	98/(83)111		
colors	95/21		95/13		
Cordonia District	97/inner back		96/39		
Cosed Albums	96/32	pandemic labels	97/67		
Courtis, J.	96/39	Peetoom, O.	98/(62)90		
	97/67	postal collapse	98/(61)89		
	95/13	postal history monographs	98/(58)86		
	96/36	postal rates	95/25		
COVID label	98/front	pre-Union	98/(63)91		
Davis, T.	98/(81)109	President's Corner	95/23		
Dickson, J.N.	95/6		95/3		
economy label	97/75		96/31		
Editorial Notes	95/2		97/59		
	96/30		98/(59)87		
	97/58	prisoner of war card	96/inter back		
	98/(58)86	Proclamation cards	95/17		
endangered birds	96/front		96/52		
Falloon, W.M.	96/36	rail letter labels	98/(70)98		
Financial Statement	95/7	railway letter	98/inner back		
For the Record	95/26	Red Cross	95/9		
	97/80	refused mail SA	98/(79)107		
	98/(80)108	registration envelope	95/22		
	96/54		96/43		
Forerunners Forum	97/79	registration labels	98/(79)107		
	98/(79)107	Rhodesia map	97/65		
Francistown	97/66	SA postcards	95/25		
Fraser, C.	97/60	SAVPEX 2021	98/(79)107		
Frescura, F.	97/75	scientific methods	98/(79)107		
	98/(75)103	Shields, T.	95/6		
Frye, D.	98/(77)105	Simon's Town	98/(81)109		
		slogan cancel	98/(77)105		



Forerunners was awarded a **Large Vermeil** at Chicagopex 2020. This is the highest award ever given to the Forerunners. We received this award together with the Canadian Aerophilatelist. The society journals that achieved higher awards were The Posthorn, First Days, and Postal History Journal. All published by large societies and in glossy print.

Stamp Printing And Production: You Get What You Pay For

by Franco Frescura



In 1996 I spent some time in London as the guest of *De La Rue*, an international security printing company whose work includes the production and printing of banknotes, passports, and, of course, postage stamps. The location of prepaid postal adhesives within such an elite group of high security products is in itself significant, and should be seen as a reflection of the high status that they hold in the economies of their respective countries. Indeed, most European and North American governments hold postage stamps to have the equivalent status of currency, and have policies in place to regulate their production, printing and distribution. They hold security printing to be a serious matter and any infraction will normally attract the attention of their law enforcement agencies.

North American collectors will recall, for example, events in 1995 when stamps bearing the inverted portrait of Richard Nixon appeared for sale on the local philatelic market. Eventually an employee of the security printing company concerned was charged with, and found guilty of the theft of 160 stamps, having a face value of only \$51.20. All but one of the stamps were eventually recovered by the authorities but, as it is now listed as "stolen property", it can never be shown or sold on the open market and should its owner be discovered, that person will face criminal charges as a receiver of stolen goods.

Unfortunately many other countries in the world, South Africa amongst them, do not entertain such high ethical standards. Most African and Pacific island states cannot afford to run a Government Security Printing Works and entrust the production and distribution of their postage stamps to commercial agencies in New York or Sydney without security accreditation. Philately is seen by many small states as a cash cow which only exists to supplement their national budget (or the private income of their Minister of Posts and Telecommunications), and the status of the postal system in the hierarchy of state heraldry is not generally understood. Quite often the outsourcing of their security printing to international companies takes place under the false premise of budgetary economy.

This opens up a grey area of borderline activity within which unscrupulous villains and rogue companies are allowed to operate freely. When I joined the Post Office in 1994, I soon discovered that the South African legal authorities normally refused to look into cases of embezzlements which, at the time, did not ex-

ceed R30,000, and described them as being too petty to become the subject of an official investigation. Court prosecutors also adopted the official line that a stolen sheet of 100 misprinted 1c stamps was worth either its face value or the cost of the printed paper. This made its theft a minor matter little worthy of the time and attention of a State Prosecutor. I believe this attitude to be based upon a legal precedent established in the 1930s which has never been overturned by the courts.

Unfortunately the management of a number of security printing companies have also realised the potential for using the collector's market as a means of increasing their income and since the 1970s have gained a reputation for extending the print runs of some of their clients and disposing their surpluses on the philatelic market. The opportunity for creating "varieties" and "errors" on order was also not lost upon them and over the last 50 years we have seen a constant flow of missing colours, printing errors, misperforated stamps, imperforate plate proofs, overprint varieties, and specimen stamps. These have become freely available on the international philatelic trade, usually through a network of professional philatelic dealers who effectively "launder" this material into the more conventional and fiscally conservative collector's market.

The tired and hoary old excuse that an imperforate sheet of stamps "just could have been bought" over the counter from an ignorant postal worker at a remote post office in the Karoo is so worn that it has become a standard cliché in the philatelic trade, much like the oxymoronic existence of an "honest" used car dealer.

Those of my colleagues who wish to research this subject in greater depth may do so by looking up on the internet articles on the *Philatelic Distribution Corporation* (PDC), Clive Feigenbaum and the firm of *Format International Security Printers Ltd*, a London-based company that, between 1967 and 1989 printed a large proportion of the stamps issued by countries in the British Commonwealth. Its biggest client was the Crown Agents, although it also did quite a lot of work for PDC and produced, on its behalf, a large quantity of bogus stamps. When we consider the staggeringly large number of stamps that must have been printed for Crown Agents by the Format/House of Questa partnership, we must come to realise the degree to which serious philately has been endangered by the unscrupulous ac-

tivities of corrupt producers in partnership with the financial interests of international stamp distribution agents and auction companies.

Fortunately, for the moment, researchers have brought much of this activity to an end. *Format* closed down in 1989 and its archive and holdings of “rare stamps” have long since been sold, mostly to well-intentioned persons interested in restoring the good name of philately. Nonetheless the exposure of its activities has brought the prices of *Format*’s “confections” crashing down, and nowadays few serious professional dealers will carry their material without warning their clients as to its origins. Still, it now means that a thematic collector wishing to illustrate the principles of a progressive colour proof can do so for the price of a solitary meal at McDonalds.

By comparison readers might also wish to research the *Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation* (IGPC), a company, based in New York which has on its staff about 100 researchers and employs more than 300 freelance artists. It was founded in about 1957 by Dr Manfred Lehmann as a genuine attempt to assist newly-independent African countries run their postal services. Its first clients were Ghana and Togo, and today it serves the philatelic needs of about 70 client nations, mostly from Africa and the Caribbean. It is obviously a profit-driven commercial firm, but its products are often educational and generally well designed graphics aimed at the youth collecting market. In 1979 it obtained permission from the Disney company to use their cartoon characters on the stamps of a number of countries to celebrate the International Year of the Child. It also runs charity projects for the benefit of youth, and in 1997 the South African Post Office issued a cheaply-priced miniature sheet in aid of the Chernobyl’s Children Fund, a UNESCO project supported by IGPC (see illustration at the start of this article). Not a conventional approach to philately, certainly, but what better way to introduce young people to the hobby of stamp collecting?

The sale of “special items” to collectors is not, by any means, a recent phenomenon, and was already taking place in 1979 when I personally witnessed in a hotel room in Cape Town the sale to a local philatelist of imperforate plate proofs of the 1973 Lesotho Butterfly issue by members of the Lesotho Post Office. The stamps had supposedly been printed by *The House of Questa*, but subsequent archival research has shown that *Questa* and *Format* may have been partners rather than competitors on the business of security printing.

Security Printing Standards

Bearing all of this in mind, when I paid a visit to *De La Rue* I spent quite a lot of time inspecting their security facilities, and talking about printing and security standards with their technical staff. Because I enjoyed more than a basic understanding of the printing industry and its methods of production I was able to enquire, and elicit answers to questions that are not normally asked by philatelists, and spent quite a lot of my time interacting with staff charged with the inspection of the final printed product. At the time an order from Royal Mail was being processed, and I was impressed by the manner that minute plate imperfections were being identified and by the high the rate of rejection

that was being implemented.

The Perforating Department was not in operation at the time but I was impressed to learn that this was treated as a separate section from the Printing Department and had separate security clearance procedures for their staff. This was an innovation I was able to bring back to South Africa, and which, once implemented by our Government Printers, was instrumental some months later in the detection of a major in-house fraud.

At the time the South African Post Office had just entered into a commercial relationship with the *House of Questa* in London for the printing of its postage stamps, and with *Sprint-Pak* in Australia for its self-adhesive or peel-and-stick products, but based upon my visit, I saw no reason why *De La Rue* should not be added to its list of suppliers.

The *Namibian Post Office*, NamPost, on the other hand took no such precautions and, sight unseen, had entered into a contract with *De La Rue* to print its postage stamps, beginning, I think, with the Tourism in Namibia issue of 1 April 1996. I no longer have my notes on this, and my memory may not be precise in such details. They were offered a good price and, financially, there was no reason why NamPost should not have accepted *De La Rue*’s tender.

Philatelic Services had a distribution agency agreement with NamPost, who received its printing order from the printers and then forwarded our share of the stock to Pretoria. However, when it came to meeting our orders we soon discovered that at least two of the values had been badly perforated, and that the printing suffered from pronounced colour shifts. Windhoek were notified of this, and after some delay we received fresh stocks of this issue. I was never informed as to how NamPost’s management had dealt with this matter, but I would assume that a fresh printing of the stamps had been flown out from London as a matter of urgency.

I remained with the South African Post Office for another three years after this, but I never had an opportunity to work with *De La Rue*. This was not by design; it just did not happen. But I did raise this matter informally with colleagues in the security printing industry, who just smiled wryly and said that “well, you get what you pay for”. You see, Namibia may have the second largest post office in the SADC economic community, but in the context of international security printing, the volume of work it can offer is limited. South Africa was, and still is, the largest economy in SADC, yet in world terms the amount of security work it has on offer is barely respectable. In 1996 the volume of printing business provided by all the other SADC countries combined barely matched half of the volume available from South Africa, and when South Africa awarded its postal printing contract to the *House of Questa* (at the time worth about R350 million), so then smaller countries such as Namibia, were reduced in importance as clients, and as minor clients were expected to accept lesser standards of service.

Of course this information created an uproar when I briefed my colleagues at the next meeting of the SADC’s postal community, but following the introduction of a couple of technical consultants from Europe and Australia, some international security printing companies were persuaded to adopt a more profes-

sional attitude towards this small client base.

Pressure Adhesive Prepaid Postage

On 16 September 2005 I issued an Advisory Notice on the subject of self-adhesive postage stamps. In an open letter I pointed out that during the course of 1998, while still Senior Manager, Philately, at the South African Post Office, I had been instrumental in the introduction of “pressure adhesive stamps”, better known to the public as “peel-and-stick”. This was only done after extensive tests, an examination of the various papers and gums available, and the repeated assurances of our Australian printer, *SPRINTPAK*, as to the archival quality of its product. I was pleased to report that, up to then, South African stamps had stood up to the tests of time and local climate, and thus far appeared to have met the archival requirements of local philately.

Regrettably this was not the case with some pressure adhesive material then in my reference collection, all of which appeared to have originated from the security printing firm of *Enschede*, in Holland. These included the following printings:

- A Printer’s Sample bearing the profile portrait of Joh Enschede, received in 1998. Two sheets inspected
- Namibia’s Postcard Rate issue of 1997, depicting a leopard. Three sheets inspected.
- Netherlands Housing issue of 1997.
- Netherlands Christmas issue of 1995.
- Dutch Antilles Christmas issue of 1996. Three sheets inspected.
- Netherlands 80c and 1.60c stamps in strips.

In each case the sheetlets had shown signs of gum “weeping” along their outside edges as well as inside the die-cut lines of individual stamps, resulting in their adhesion to the Prinz Pro-Fil pockets they had been stored in since 1998. On the other hand similar products originating from Australia and New Zealand (printed by *Sprintpak*), USA, Canada and Singapore (*Ashton-Potter*), Singapore (*Avery Dennyson*), Marshall Islands (*MIPS*), Ireland (*Irish Security Printing*), Bosnia-Herzegovina, DPR Korea, Kiribati and Moldova (*PostLine*), and Venezuela, Norway, Tonga and Norfolk Island (printers not known), all dating from 1995 onwards and stored under the self-same conditions, had not shown any visible signs of distress. By contrast, samples of GB stamps printed by *Enschede* for Royal Mail, which I had been given in 1998, had shown no evidence of deterioration. I may add that in 2020 these same stamps are still in sound condition which, if anything, is evidence that self-adhesive papers of good archival quality were available to *Enschede* at the same time that it was using materials of dangerously poor quality.

This information was circulated to all postal administrations in the SADC region, most of the security printers known to be using self-adhesive papers, and a number of philatelic journals. All but one of the journals refused to carry my letter and to date I have received no feedback of a scientific nature. Following a subsequent enquiry some months later, Stanley Gibbons Monthly replied, stating that, in their opinion, I had no credibility in such matters, and that they had no wish to incur the wrath

of the stamp printing industry. Having no further interest in this matter, I then allowed it to stand over.

During the past four months the current pandemic has allowed me the time to sort through my papers, sell off most of my philatelic research library, and dump all unwanted and irrelevant material into a paper shredder. This has allowed to re-discover the small reference collection upon which these observations are based. As a result I am now happy to report that all of the above observations made in 2005 are still valid today, fifteen years later, that the *Enschede*-printed material is now totally ruined and philatelically worthless, and that the work of all other printers as previously recorded remains in good condition. In the case of a few printings the glue is beginning to dry, but there has been no noticeable damage to the face of the stamps. Eventually though, I believe that most of these papers will begin to yellow and become brittle, and I still maintain that collectors of self-adhesive issues would be best served by removing them from their gum base.

But, before I digress too far, let me return to the theme of this discussion: you get what you pay for. As a rule most printers do not have a sense of history. As a result very few place great value upon an original piece of artwork, and I have lost count of the number of times I have had a screaming match with some ignorant buffoon who has torn, damaged, trampled or spilt coffee on original art work. Something that may have taken the artist two days or two months to create will be destroyed in seconds by a soulless moron personally incapable of creating anything original. So, it comes as no surprise, to me at least, that, at some stage, a printer at *Enschede* may have used the wrong papers to print a set of stamps. To most people, after all, a stamp is only a prepayment for postage, subject to immediate use, and who cares where it will be in five, or ten, or fifty years. The concept of archival materials is not, after all, the subject of many tea-time discussions, and the idea that a rubbish heap may eventually become a source of valuable historical data is little known beyond the realms of archaeology, and people who store their rubbish at home are commonly open to ridicule, disbelief, and psychiatric examination.

But when I look at this list of failed printings, I am struck by the fact that only two were done for potentially uncritical clients. All of the rest were printed for the domestic Dutch market. Thus, while it may be possible to accuse *Enschede* of providing Namibia and the Dutch Antilles with an inferior service, the same cannot be said of the self-adhesive stamps it has supplied to the Dutch Post Office. So, does this mean that the Dutch, a people who are known for their willingness to voice frank and direct opinions and are openly critical of poor service, have suddenly developed a reluctance to criticise their own Government Printers, or that Dutch philatelists have suddenly ceased to collect the modern issues of their nation?

Sadly I have run out of excuses that may explain this situation.

Enschede, of course, is an enigma unto itself. The firm is, to all intents and purposes, the National Security Printer for the Dutch Government, and official government work will take precedence over all other external work, regardless of any client in-

volved. This means two things: the company's annual income is guaranteed by the Dutch state before it has printed a single sheet of paper; and the printer is free to use up the remaining machine time in any way it wishes, working for nothing if need be. In the highly competitive world of international security printing this is important as, on its time sheet, once the *Enschede* management has allocated all the work slots it considers to be necessary to meet its obligations to the state, it can go out hunting for work knowing that it can undercut the prices of every other security printer in the world. In the business this is commonly known as "torpedo pricing". This gives *Enschede* an advantage that few commercial firms are able to meet, and a number of companies have had to turn to the development of new printing technologies, such as *Super-Litho* to counter this imbalance. This has become a matter of quality and service over price.

Something that has not gone unnoticed though, is the fact that all of the *Enschede* executives I have met are generally worldly, well-educated, and well-mannered. They can also be patronising, class-conscious and arrogant. I have watched with amusement when, on a couple of occasions, one of them has suddenly been informed by a colleague that the government official they were dealing with was a design professional with a PhD. Once word got about though, they went back to being very nice fellows, but none of them ever tried again to explain to me the niceties of *Jugendstil*. Still, it might explain why they dumped some inferior stamp printings upon their own home market. By the time anyone had realised their cock-up, the individual concerned would have been running an art gallery in Milano.

In the Army All Greens are Equal

One of the failures of the philatelic market is the assumption that, within the variables of storage, handling and climate, the processes of mechanised production will be able to sustain a level of replication that make it impossible to separate the printing of one stamp from the next. Philatelists know this assumption to be false, and through study and analysis have been able to expose this fallacy, often counter to the official record and the protestations of the printers themselves. For many years the philatelic trade recognised the variants of colour found in the definitive stamps of British colonies during the reign of King George VI but listed them only as "shades". Then, in the 1980s, a number of enterprising researchers gained access to the printer's records and were able to relate these changes to the destruction and movement of the stamp printing works during the Second World War, and it became obvious that these were not colour variants, but represented distinct printings and told a story of human courage and resolve in the face of a totalitarian regime.

In 1996 the South African Post Office issued a set of five stamps recording "the Big Five", the lion, white rhinoceros, elephant, leopard and buffalo, animals that feature large in our national lexicon of wild life. Soon after going on sale to the public, Philatelic Services was beset by enquiries from local philatelists wanting to know why the stamps on sale at local post offices were a different shade of green from those available from our

offices. We made a quick survey of our stock, as well as that of a number of nearby postal agencies and found that the public was correct. They were of a different shade of green.

In this case the problem proved relatively easy to identify. The Government Printer, as usual, denied all knowledge of this and swore blind that there had only been one printing. "Colours change at night, you know", they told my staff who, by then, had been trained to know the difference. Then we discovered that the person in the Stores Department responsible for placing the order with the Printers had under-ordered and, in order to cover-up her clerical error, had surreptitiously placed a second order without telling anyone. As a result the printers were able to charge twice for the same work, and all of it against my budget. As a result we had to carry both shades for collectors, and the person responsible went back to her former job as a warehouse manager for the Army, where they all wear green of all colours.

Do Not Do This at Home!

Following the conquest of German South West Africa by Union troops in 1915, the territory was placed under South African administration. This was confirmed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1922, when its administration was formally given over to South Africa under a mandate from the League of Nations. Then, in 1945, following the end of hostilities in WWII, the South African government refused to return SWA to the control of the United Nations and instead announced plans to annex it to the Union as a fifth province. As a result, in 1949 South Africa gave the white residents of SWA representation in both the South African Senate and the House of Assembly. Despite all efforts by the Nationalist Party Government this proposal was never fully implemented, and from 1915 to 1990 the affairs of the territory, including those of its Post Office, were effectively run from Pretoria.

As a result, from 1923 to 1952 many of the stamp issues of the Union of South Africa were overprinted SWA for use in the territory, and although after 1952 it was given its own postage stamps, their design and printing remained in the hands of its South African administrators. In 1966 the United Nations finally revoked South Africa's mandate, and the SWA stamp issuing programme began to reflect a more aggressive political stance on the part of the Pretoria government.

On 6 December 1966 South Africa issued a set of stamps to mark the passing of Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, and on 6 January 1967 SWA followed suit, with at least one of the stamps having a remarkable similarity to those issued by South Africa. In 1968 SWA celebrated the appointment of CR Swart as South Africa's first State President, something that was not commemorated by the South African Post Office. From 1970 and 1972 the South African Post Office issued five sets of stamps for both countries, with identical designs but inscribed RSA and SWA respectively.

Then, in 1971, the International Court of Justice ruled that South Africa's presence in SWA was illegal, and a slow but inevitable withdrawal from the territory was begun. Nonetheless SWA continued to be regarded by the Pretoria Government as

a South African territory, and the so-called “Border War” was never fought in South Africa but more than 1000 km away, on the border between SWA and Angola.

The South African Post Office made one final attempt to align the philatelic heraldry of both countries, when in 1973 and 1977 INTERSAPA issued two almost identical series of definitive stamps depicting the succulent plants of SWA and the Protea flowers of the RSA respectively. Both were the work of Pretoria artist Dick Findlay, who was instructed by the Post Office to make their design as similar as possible (Findlay, pers com, 1981).

It must have been at this time, in about 1972, that the Post Office began to provide South African diplomatic offices around the world with philatelic displays featuring the stamps of SWA. This continued until at least 1986. Given the political events of their time, the propaganda intent of such a practice must be obvious, but only came to light after I took over as Senior Manager of Philately, late in 1994. At this stage diplomatic missions from around the world began to return these pages to my office in Pretoria. Judging by their condition, some of these must have been on display for the better part of twenty years, while others could not have been older than seven or eight years.

Almost immediately it became obvious that all of these sheets had suffered from the effects of prolonged exposure to sunlight and that, as a result, the printed stamps had been bleached of colour, mostly in the yellow-red range of the spectrum. In some cases the yellow had been removed almost entirely from the printing. This was starkly demonstrated in the Centenary of the SPCA issue of 1972, as well as the 30c value of the Caprivi Strip issue of 1985, where the areas of flat yellow were reduced to near-white, while the areas of flat blue colour on both stamps showed only a minimum of fading. Similarly the golden sand dunes of the 1977 Namib Desert issue were reduced to a ghostly blue landscape. In addition, the paper used in the printing of the 1974 and 1975 national bird issues suffered particularly from the exposure, turning a brittle grey in the process.

Regrettably none of the stamps recovered by my office at this time included parallel issues from South Africa, and thus no comparative analysis has been possible. I do not know whether the philatelic displays distributed to overseas missions were limited to the stamps of SWA, and thus, without making a parallel experiment of my own, I cannot tell whether South African stamp issues from that time reacted in a similar fashion to prolonged exposure to strong UV light. Certainly the “white cat with missing yellow colour” variety is a popular and recurring submission to the local Expert Committee (Wigmore, pers com, 2020), but to the best of my knowledge to date none of these has been given recognition as a valid philatelic variety. It is hoped that this paper will put an end to such submissions.

After a period when local philatelists were invited to examine these examples, most of these colour changelings were sent to Windhoek where, I had no doubt, my counterpart at Namibia Post would enjoy a good giggle before making some kind of announcement to the philatelic press. Sadly this was never made and professional courtesy prevented me from making any announcements of my own. Instead I took my small group of



oddities and stored them in a file labelled “For Future Use”, and quietly forgot all about them. I rediscovered them recently as part of a long awaited spring-cleaning. They have since been sent to the Federation’s Stamp Expert Committee for their reference collection.

Some Afterthoughts

This paper has brought together a number of case studies, each of which highlights a specific failure in the process of



stamp production. They all relate specifically to factors which have a direct bearing upon the status of a postal adhesive as a collectable artefact, and make the point that their value is often affected by circumstances far removed from the assumed honesty of their printers or the pristine premises of a philatelic agency. Indeed, the kind of collectables that philatelists thrive in are often far removed from the competent, the clean, and the honest.

Which leaves me with one unanswered question. When I moved to Durban in 2002, I thought of repeating this experi-

ment, and hung a small lot of South African stamps from the 1970-75 era in a west-facing window where they could enjoy a good five hours of coastal sunlight every afternoon. After three years of healthy sun tanning, I still could not denote any changes in their colours. By then my family had grown weary of this monstrosity decorating our window and for the sake of conjugal peace I brought this little experiment to an end. Thus I have still to discover just how many years of sunlight it would take to bleach the yellow off one of those cats. Any takers?



The Aerodrome or Airways Letter Service and the Special First Flight Service From Johannesburg

by Hugh Amooore

The Aerodrome or Airways Letter Service was a special kind of Late Fee service.

In May 1936, the South Africa Railways Administration¹ weekly notice contained news of the introduction of a new service by which letters would be accepted “at aerodromes”. It gave the following details:¹

1. With effect from June 1, 1936 letters bearing airmail postage as the prescribed rates and additional postage stamps to the value of 2d will be accepted at aerodromes within the Union [of South Africa] or South West Africa for conveyance by mail-carrying aeroplanes operated by or on behalf of South African Airways.

2. Letters may not be accepted

(a) Unless the postage and the fee prescribed above are prepaid;

(b) If they bear words or marks indicating that they are to be registered;

(c) If they contain or appear to contain jewelery, coin, or other articles which, if sent through the post unregistered, would be subject to registration if they contain any article or any thing [sic] which may not be sent by letter post

3. Letters must be handed in at aerodromes to accredited representatives of South African Airways at least ten minutes prior to the departure of the airplane by which the letters are intended to be conveyed.

4. Such letters cannot be accepted at a post office or by postal officials.

5. Such letters will be conveyed by air within the Union or South West Africa to the place from which delivery or onward transmissions can be most expeditiously affected.

6. (a) Upon acceptance, the late-fee letters will be impressed with a rubber stamp over the flap of the envelope, showing the date and the name of the aerodrome. Thereafter they will be placed in envelopes supplied by the Postal Department addressed to the postmasters at the offices of

delivery, a record being maintained as provided for in subparagraph (b) hereof. The envelopes will be delivered to the postal official or contractor deputed to collect the airmails, and the postage stamps will be cancelled by the datestamp impressions of the post office upon arrival.

(b) Letters must be recorded in a book set aside for the purpose, indicating the following particulars: date, plane by which dispatched, full name and address of addressee.

(c) In the event of letters being accepted by pilots at offices where there is no airport superintendent, the date and place of acceptance will be made by the pilot in manuscript.

7. Officials of the South African Airways who may handle late fee letters shall complete the form of declaration, P650.²²

The service was like the Post Office late fee service and the Rail Letter Post; the rules set out above refer to it as a service for “late fee letters” and a label used by the South African Airways, intended for the envelope into which these letters were to be put (but found on covers in cases where there was only one such letter for a flight) was inscribed: “Late Fee Letters/Laat-portbriewe”.

The rule prohibiting the acceptance of “aerodrome” letters at post offices was not always enforced, though it remained the rule.ⁱⁱ After the establishment of post offices at airports this rule was relaxed, apparently without official sanction. Though aerodrome or airways letters could not be registered they could be sent by Express Service if the additional express delivery service fee were prepaid.ⁱⁱⁱ

The service was inaugurated on 1 June 1936. It continued until 31 March 1983 when it was suspended. The 2d fee was increased to 3d in 1954; subsequent rates are given in Table 1.

“First Flight” Late Fee Letter Service from Jan Smuts/OR Tambo International Airport

The Post Office service from the Post Office at Johannesburg International Airport³ allowed all classes of unregistered

Table 1. Aerodrome (or Airways) Letter Service Fees 1936 – 1983

Date	Fee	Date	Fee
June 1, 1936	2d	February 14, 1961	5c
July 1, 1954	3d	April 1, 1980	20c
August 1, 1957	6d	April 1, 1982	50c

Fee payable in postage stamps in addition to airmail postage and other charges

1. The aerodromes (airports) at the time were administered by the South African Railways, as were the harbours

2. By 1961 the South African Railways General Appendix contained similar rules, but with three significant additions. The maximum weight was set at 2oz; the letters had to be handed in at least 20 minutes before departure; and the envelope into which letters addressed to “overseas destinations must be addressed to the Postmaster at Germiston” for transmission to Jan Smuts Airport (now O R Tambo International Airport)

3. This was known as Jan Smuts Airport until 1 May 1995, as Johannesburg International Airport from 1995 to October 2006, and after that as O R Tambo International Airport

Table 2. Fees for the First Flight Service at Jan Smuts, Johannesburg or O.R. Tambo International Airport 1970-2020 [x]

Date	Fee	Date	Fee
January 1, 1970	5c	April 1, 2006	R10
April 1, 1986	10c	April 1, 2007	R10.41
July 1, 1987	15c	April 1, 2008	R11
1987	50c	April 1, 2009	R12.10
April 1, 1991	60c	April 1, 2010	R12.90
April 1, 1992	80c	April 1, 2011	R13.50
April 1, 1993	R1.05	April 1, 2012	R14.30
March 1, 1995	R1.20	April 1, 2013	R15
July 1, 1996	R4.00	April 1, 2014	R15.90
April 1, 1999	R6.50	April 1, 2015	R17.50
April 1, 2000	R7.00	April 1, 2016	R19.10
April 1, 2001	R7.55	April 1, 2017	R20.85
April 1, 2002	R8.20	April 1, 2018	R22.454
April 1, 2003	R9	April 1, 2019	R24.30
April 1, 2004	R9.25	April 1, 2020	R26.25
April 1, 2005	R9.65		

Fees are in addition to other charges¹

mail items, except parcels, “intended for dispatch by air to overseas destinations”^v to be accepted as late fee items. A fee was charged for this, in addition to the airmail postage.

Any such item was then added to the mails on the next scheduled departure if handed in at least one hour before he scheduled departure of the aircraft.^{vi}

A note in the S.A. Philatelist of November 1973 reports the Jan Smuts Postmaster as stating that this late letter service was “so popular on the Frankfurt and London routes that special bags for the mail are often required. A letter posted at Jan Smuts at 5pm for the 6pm flight to Germany will be in the main sorting room at Frankfurt GPO by 8am the next day.”

By 1980 the acceptance was changed to two hours before departure^{vii} and by 1986 mail for a flight that night had to be handed in by 18h00.^{viii} By 1995 (and possibly much earlier) the Post Office marked all such items with a First Flight, or a bilingual First Flight/Eerste Vlug handstamp.^{ix}

Endnotes

- i South African Railways (1936) “WN” (Weekly Notice) 2389 of 8 May 1936
- ii See, for example: South African Post Office Guide No 8, 1983, p96
- iii Hagen, Helmuth (1985) “Express cover with a difference” SA Philatelist, Volume 61(5) p 120
- iv Wyndham, LA (1935). « Air Mail Notes » SA Philatelist, January 1938
- v SAPO. (1986) Post Office Guide No 9
- vi SAPO. (1970) Post Office Bulletin No 49 of 2 January 1970
- vii RSA (1980) Post Office Guide No 7 – 1980, p100
- viii RSA (1986) Post Office Guide No 9
- ix Grutter, WJ (1995) “Eerste Vlug” SA Philatelist Vol 71 no 5 p 171
- x The rates given in this table are taken from the Post Office Guides for 1986, 1989, GN 366 in Gazette 13038 of 1 March 1991; GN 1142 in Gazette 13937 of 24 April 1992; Post Office Bulletin No 6 of April 1993; Postal Rates July 1996; Postal rates 1999-2000

Continued on next page

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- Hagen, H.S. and S.P. Naylor. (1998) Railway Postal History of South Africa: the close association between railways and postal services. Craighall, Philatelic Federation of South Africa. P.279 ISBN 0 620 22184 4
- Wingent, Peter. (1991) Movements on Imperial Airways’ African Route 1931–1939. Winchester. Peter Wingent. ISBN 0 9518598 0 3





1. East London Airport 9 Feb 1940. Handed to SA Airways in East London, conveyed by air to Durban where it entered the postal service and was in time to catch the flying boat service to Switzerland. Paid 1s3d for the ½ ounce airmail rate and 2d for the Aerodrome letter fee

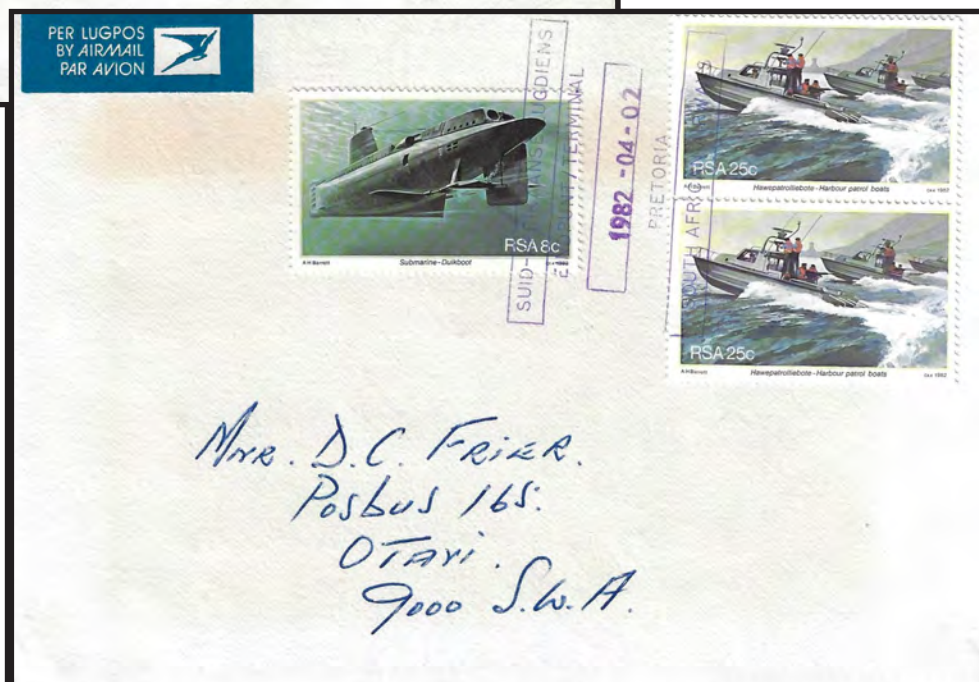


2. Windhoek 6 March 1951. Handed to SA Airways in Windhoek, conveyed by air to Cape Town where it entered the postal service. The 5d franking pays the 3d per ½ ounce inland airmail letter postage and the 2d Aerodrome (Airport) Letter fee

3. Alexander Bay 14 November 1959. Handed to SA Airways at Alexander Bay and conveyed to Cape Town where it entered the postal service. The 9d franking pays the 3d per ½ ounce inland airmail letter postage and the Aerodrome (Airport) Letter fee of 6d set on 1 August 1957



4. Port Elizabeth 7 November 1966. Handed to SA Airways and conveyed by air to East London where it entered the postal service. The 8c franking pays the 3c per ½ ounce inland airmail letter postage and the 5c Aerodrome (Airport) Letter fee set on 14 February 1961



5. Pretoria SAA Terminal 2 April 1982. Conveyed by air from Jan Smuts to Windhoek where it entered the postal service. The 58c franking pays the inland "all-up" letter postage of 8c for standard letters set on 1 April 1982 and the 50c Aerodrome (Airport) Letter fee set on 1 April 1982

The BONC 823 - Precursor Precancel to the Argus Wheel

by Jan Kosniowski



The BONC 823 barred oval numeral cancel is only known on Argus company newspaper wrappers (Figure 1). David Mordant in his electronic paper "The Barred Oval Numeral Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope from 1863–1963" lists BONC 823 as being used by the Cape Town Newspaper Branch. The only known example of a BONC 823 with a dated postmark that is known is illustrated on the Postal History of South Africa website. It has an arrival date of 27 May 1892 in Wuerzburg, Germany. This date precedes any of the recorded dates on newspaper wrappers with an Argus Wheel precancel.

The example in Figure 1 has part of a cancel on the left edge of the wrapper. This is in addition to the cancel on the indicium

on the right hand side.

All known Argus newspaper wrappers are from uncut sheets (based on the writer's collection & observations). The wrapper in Figure 2 was supplied in uncut sheets, 35 inches x 25 inches, designed to be cut to 5 inches x 12 inches, to produce 14 wrappers. The Argus company overprinted the wrappers and precancelled them before cutting up the sheet into individual wrappers.

Microscopic examination of the left side of the wrapper in Figure 2 does not show any ink on actual edge, which would have been expected had the wrapper been cut to size prior to being cancelled. This strongly suggests that the cancel was applied before the wrapper was cut to size.

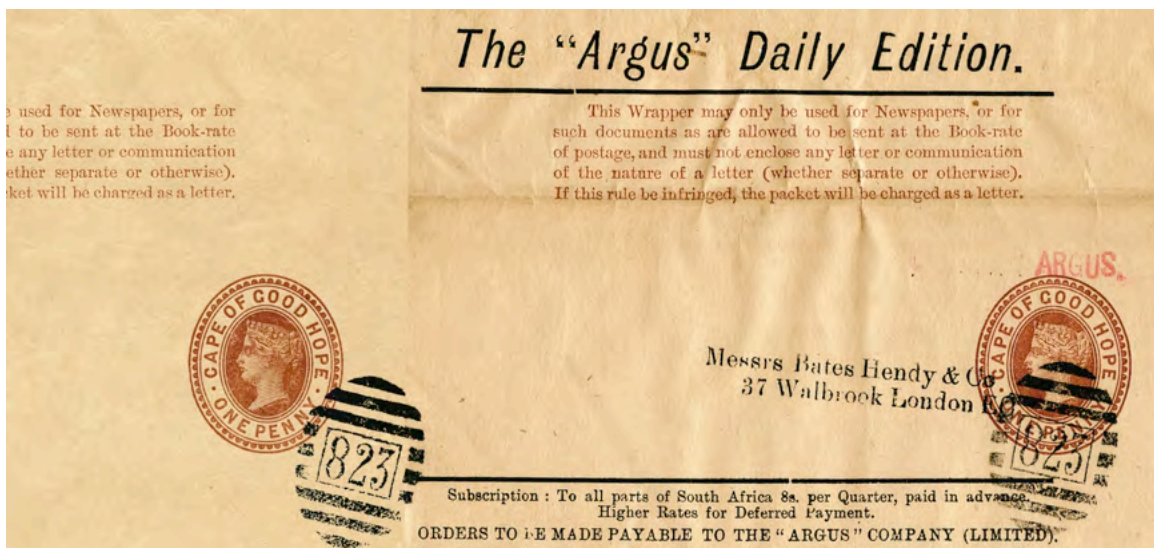


Figure 2. Reconstruction of precut wrappers showing the inferred position of the indicia and BONC 823 precancels



Figure 3. Argus wrapper with a BONC 823 cancel and the postage stamp with a BONC 1 cancel (scan from eBay, item sold in June 2013)

These facts convince me that BONC 823 was in fact used by the Argus company for precancelling (and not by the post office) for a few months at the beginning of 1892. It was then replaced by the Argus Wheel precancels sometime about June of 1892, this being the earliest known date with an Argus Wheel precancel.

Jan Kosniowski can be reached by writing to jan@stampdomain.com

An artistic composite is shown in Figure 2 with wrappers and precancel positioned exactly at five inches apart, showing how they may have looked before being cut to final size.

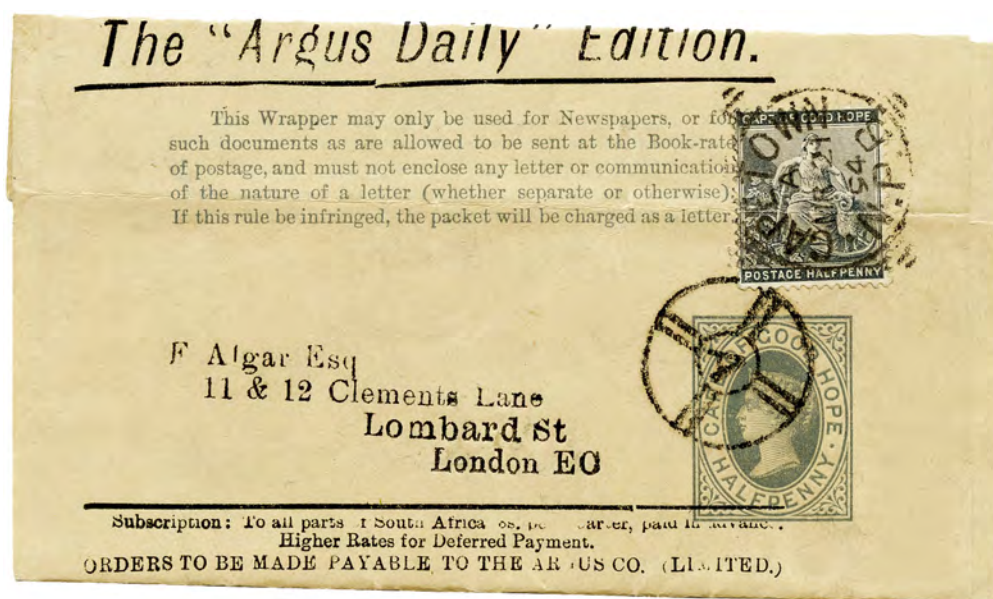
In June 2013, a BONC 823 uprated Argus wrapper was offered and sold on eBay (Figure 3). The postage stamp has been cancelled with a BONC 1. All known examples of uprated precancelled Argus wrappers have the indicium precancelled by the Argus Wheel and the postage stamp cancelled with either a BONC 1 or a Cape Town NPB (News Paper Branch) CDS, but never by a precancel.

Summary

1. BONC 823 is only known on Argus company wrappers;
2. usage is before the Argus Wheel precancels;
3. a partial of the cancel is known on the left edge of a wrapper;
4. the postage stamp on an uprated BONC 823 wrapper is cancelled by a BONC 1.

References

The Barred Oval Numeral Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope from 1863 – 1963, by David Mordant, www.psgsa.org/download/Mordant_Cape_BONC_2017.pdf [accessed Dec 2020]
 Postal History of South Africa - <https://www.postmarks.co.za/PH%20CGH%20BONCS.htm> [accessed Dec 2020]



The Argus wheel cancel used on wrapper also date stamped Capetown NPB (MAR 21 95)



Forerunners Forum

Ocean Mail

Edgard Pockelé writes from edy@pockele.com to ask about a ocean letter in his collection. "I'm a postal stationery collector from Belgium. Attached are scans of a postal stationery envelope of Cape of Good Hope. I was puzzled by the manuscript on the stamp and wondered why the postage stamp received a postmark "OCEAN POST OFFICE" with an N code). I was able to identify the ships name as *Tantallon Castle* (1894–1900). I appeal for more precise info as to:

- why manuscript and postmark and why identical dates?
- extra stamp of 2 ½ pence = 3 ½ total was that the current rate for sending to Paarl or is there some sort of extra charge paid for incoming seamount?
- Can anyone decipher the signature at the bottom of the stamp?
- Maybe the envelope originates from a small occasional landing point where the ship dropped anchor to pick up the odd passenger and collected mail on its journey to the Cape. The sender brought his envelope in his luggage and took advantage of the ship dropping anchor where he was staying so his mail could travel faster by sea then by land, the extra postage being fixed on board where the ships postmaster only had the 2 1/2 pence value in stock = overpaid by 1 penny. You see I have a vivid imagination, yet I want to find a correct explanation."



Pear Trees CGH

Mike Roy writes (via Franco Frescura) from mtbmike.roy@gmail.com to ask about the BONC for Pear Trees. "I have just bought a CGH cover that might be of interest as it might be a nice proving cover of what I think is a scarce postmark."



For the Record

425. The **Guardian** carried on April 11th an article on the Millennials and why the generation had fallen in love with stamp collecting. Click.

426. **Grosvenor** sold the **Jack Harwood** collection of **postal orders and postal notes** in December, 2020, as 226 lots.

427. CNN described a method to read a 300 year old folded and sealed letter without actually opening it by using X-ray imaging techniques on March 2, 2021. Click.

428. The **Cape & Natal Study Circle** has posted their journal on their website available to members. The Society want to make their journal available to members of the PSGSA that may need access for research purposes. All what is needed is to let the Editor Simon Solomon know about your interest by writing to simon.solomon@bigpond.com.

429. **Grosvenor** sold **Steve Lawrie's** collection of telegraph forms and stamps in October 2020. This included an exceptional large offering of the **military telegraph stamps** from the **Warren Expedition** in southern Africa, **Anglo-Boer War**, and other expeditionary operations.



430. **Keith Klugman** will give two virtual presentations on 'Victorian Natal' April 15 at 5:30 and 7:00 pm (ET). Joint presentations of the Collectors Club, South African Philatelic Club, South African Collectors' Society, and Cape and Natal Study Circle.

431. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** have organized local meetings and presentations on the ZOOM platform (UK, US, and Australia).

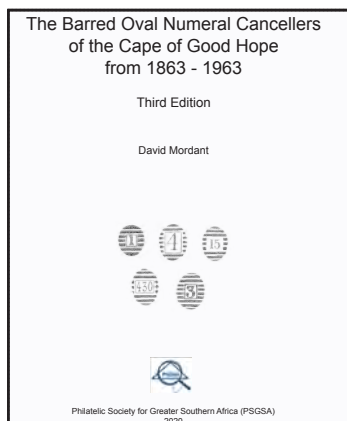
432. The **PFSA** has launched a bimonthly electronic newsletter as part of their social media platforms on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. It is titled 'Stamps South Africa.' If you follow them on the social platforms you should receive it automatically. Otherwise sign-up or contact Andre du Plessis to get on the mailing list (andredupfs@gmail.com).

433. **STAMPEX** has gone virtual for the second time. The show was live 25-27 March organized by the Philatelic Traders' Society and sponsored by Spink. The show features talks, live chats, buy, sell, and other goodies. And an Exhibitors Hub with presentations of the **Museum of Philately**.



434. **Rand Stamps** has been sending out their regular electronic auction lists for some time. Only recently have they started experimenting with illustrations. Contact Paul Van Zeyl if you are not on their mailing list (paulvz@mweb.co.za).

New Society Publication



So far no official list ascribing specific post offices to Numeral Cancellers of the Cape of Good Hope has been located. Thus the information in this monograph has been derived from proving covers, proving pieces and occasionally from individual stamps and/or blocks of stamps, by innumerable philatelists over many years. The number of recorded dates for each numeral is solely the responsibility of the author from his records, and is given more to emphasize the accuracy of the ascribing of specific numerals to individual post offices, and also to emphasize the potential scarcity or otherwise of a specific BONC, than for any other reasons. Where a specific numeral has been ascribed more than once to the same post office, it can be assumed that the ascription is probably correct.

The first edition of this monograph incorporated all the accumulated data of the author on this subject up to 31 December 2016. This edition encompasses the data known to the author as at 31 December 2020. Thus the total number of recorded dates in the First Edition was 3,330 – in this edition 5,507, an increase of 65%. The publication can be freely downloaded from the Society's website.

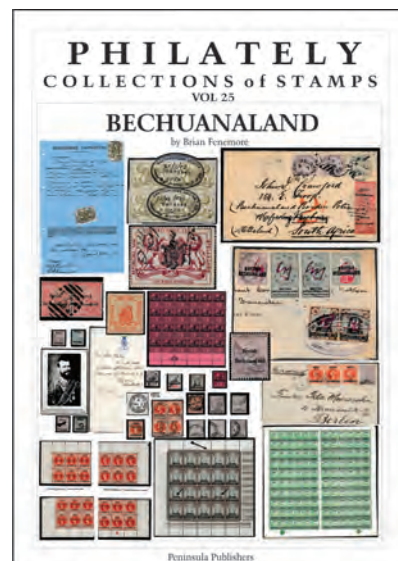
STAMPS South Africa



The PFSA has launched a new bi-monthly electronic newsletter titled “STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA.” It is the continued pledge to what began with the social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter. This communication will not detract from the importance of the long-standing and respected SA Philatelist journal. Rather this new development is created to attract and share snippets of information across all levels of our hobby. Thoughts, ideas and

especially feedback are welcome. “STAMPS SOUTH AFRICA” aims to offer new, or sometimes over-looked possibilities that encourages stamp enthusiasts to find hidden treasures or new collecting interests. Write to Andre du Plessis to get on the mailing list (andredupfs@gmail.com).

Book Review



Fenimore, Brian, 2020. Bechuanaland. Philately Collections of Stamps, Vol. 25, 120 pp, Peninsula Publishers, www.peninsulapublishers.com.

This monograph is a reproduction of Brian Fenimore's Stellaland and British Bechuanaland collection/exhibit, including stamps, revenues, postmarks, stationery, and postal history. The story Brian tells in his collection covers broadly aspects of the philatelic and postal history of Stellaland and British Bechuanaland. The quality of the printed monograph is high with a sturdy and strongly glued binding. The reproduction is also of very high quality with near true colors.

Bechuanaland is a niche collecting area that has a limited, but very dedicated group of followers. During the time I have been collecting this area, I can only think about a small handful of true collectors. First there were Bob Holmes who in 1971 wrote the definitive book and saw his collection partially displayed in a 1981 Harmers sale. John Inglefield-Watson described his collection over a lifetime in the Runner Post and authored the definitive book on the stationery (together with this reviewer). His collection was finally offered by Spink in 2007 and is thus today well known in reasonable details. On our side of the Atlantic, David Wessely build up a large collection that was awarded international golds. In addition his expanded collection was illustrated in scans that were distributed by the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society in 2010, just after being sold by Argyll Etkin.

Now Brian Fenimore offers us an inside view of his rumored and fabulous Bechuanaland collection. It is truly a treat of seeing all the exceptional items and to dream of all the items now in his and not in our own collections. Brian and the publisher should be congratulated for bringing this monograph out to a wider audience.

The recent developments in color printing techniques have allowed this to happen. In addition electronic reproductions of collections and storage media have offered us a boom in online availability of collections.

Peter Thy

Cape Town 2021 Postal Cards

In order to raise funds for the 2021 Cape Town International Exhibition, a set of ten postcards depicting original artworks by Mrs. Julia Birkhead (wife of the late Harry Birkhead RDPSA) has been produced for sale to collectors. These official Postal Stationery cards issued by the Post Office, the fourth in the series, will be sold in a packet of 10 designs, depicting indigenous birds.



Orders may be placed with Emil Minnaar (Emil@Minnaar.org). The cards will also be on sale at Cape Town 2021 International Exhibition in November. The selling price to the US will be US \$17 plus postage and packaging of US \$8 to PAYPAL account: Emil@Minnaar.org. These cards are being described as the fourth in a series.

The original water colour paintings has been auctioned by Philatelic Friends at their auction held on the 27th March.

Support Cape Town 2021 by buying the postcards and include them in your postcard and South Africa collections.



South African Philately Club

This is an online meeting place for collectors of southern Africa. It is a place for discovering new things, to ask questions, to help fellow collectors, and to meet new friends. You will have to register to get the full advantage of the site. It can be highly recommended and is certainly worth exploring. Go to <https://southafricanphilatelyclub.com>.



SAVPEX 2021



It is with great pleasure that we would like to invite your Society members to participate in this year's South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX 2021). Entries are to be received by 16th May 2021 and scans of exhibits are to be sent for evaluation by the 20th June 2021. Judging will take place and be completed during July.

All exhibits will be on digital display at the National Exhibition to be held in Bloemfontein, South Africa on the 22nd July. With the approval of the Exhibitor exhibits will be on display after the 25th July on our website www.stampssa.africa.

The Exhibition will be held under the Auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. The IREX and Entry Form can be obtained from the Editor. Joof van der Merwe should be contacted for further information (Jnc1@Vodamail.co.za), or Emil Minnaar <emil@minnaar.org>, or visit www.stampssa.africa.

PSGSA WhatsApp Group

PSGSA has got its own WhatsApp group. The younger members will probably know how it functions. But just in case: it works on your cell phone and is an easy way to reach our membership (and everybody else who has signed up) with trivial questions and certainly also with complicated requests. Send your cell phone number to Moody Tidwell at rudolph912@gmail.com and follow his instructions.



Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist in electronic format only: December 2020 (Volume 96, No. 6, Whole No. 963) and February 2021 (Volume 97, No. 1, Whole No. 962).

FVZA Bartolomeu .Dias: January 2041 (Volume 33, Whole No. 129).

The PSGSA exchanges printed journals with the Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in electronic format. Forerunners is exchanged as an electronic document to all southern African specialist societies known to us.



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.

The following listing is a continuation from No. 98.

- Klugman, K., 2020. Natal: use of the 1857 embossed stamps. Part 1. London Philatelist 129. 323-333.
- Klugman, K., 2020. Natal: use of the 1857 embossed stamps. Part 2. London Philatelist 129. 386-397.
- Knip, E., 2020. Astrologie, astronomie en ruimtevaart in de filatelie van zuidelijk Africa (2). FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 127), 24-28.
- Knip, E., 2020. Astrologie, astronomie en ruimtevaart in de filatelie van zuidelijk Africa (3). FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 128), 10-14.
- Leeftang, B., 2020. De slag bij Muizenberg 1795. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 127), 32-38.
- Looker, B., 2020. The halfpenny Doubleheads plates: plate 1 revisited. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 333-343.
- Looker, B., 2020. A tale of two plates. A Doublehead puzzle explored. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 272-277.
- Loomis, M., 2020. The Church of Sweden Mission in Southern Rhodesia. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 429-434.
- Maassen, W., 2020. Concerning use of third-party catalogue numbers. Philatelic Journalist Whole Number 163, 34-38.
- Maassen, W., 2020. Copyright and rights of exploitation. Philatelic Journalist Whole Number 162, 21-24.
- MacDonald, D., 2020. Basutoland KGV definitive overprinted 'OFFICIAL'. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 615.
- Menzies, I., 2020. Alfred Bertrand 1856-1924, Geneva explorer, adventurer and philanthropist. Extracts from his diaries. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 278-281.
- Menzies, I., 2020. Frederic Christol: artist and evangelist (1850-1933). Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 341-448.
- Merrick, P., Hensman, S., and Gallimore, R., 2020. The 1924 Double Head "remainders" – another update. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 285-292.
- Moffat, C., 2020. In the footsteps of David Livingstone. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 366-369.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. 1995-2000 rare stamps of the world in London and Paarl. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 600-603.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. Karl Mauch (1837-1875) a German explorer. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 612-614.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. Rhodesia – 1896 Matabele Rebellion and the Bulawayo surcharges. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 594-597.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. South Africa WWII 1942-44 liberty calcs ad labels. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 616-618.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. South Africa WWII labels – fifth column warnings. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 619.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. The decline of the Tati postal route and its data-stamps. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 608-611.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. The Zeederberg mail coach service. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 620-621.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. Thematic – crocodiles on southern African stamps. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 598-599.
- Peetoom, O., 2020. Those South West Africa overprints. Southern Africa Philatelist No. 15 (June), 622-624.
- Peggie, P., 2020. Early missionary mail from British Central Africa. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 346-350.
- Reah-Johnson, S., 2020. What is the genesis of the Admiral colour trials? Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 399-402.
- Ross, S., 2020. Tschinde – a pictorial review from the African Lakes Archives. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 256-257.
- Ross, S., 2020. Up the river to the lake – a pictorial review from the African Lakes Corporation Archives. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 411-416.
- Shawley, J., 2020. Postal history from A.J. Storey – British Central Africa. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 351-353.
- Solomon, S., 2020. Cape and Natal: postcard scenes. Cape and Natal

Philatelic Journal 24, 14-19.

- Solomon, S., 2020. Natal: the Eastern Telegraph Company. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 24, 35-44.
- Stein S., 2020. Samuel Koslowsky, my father. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 301-303.
- Stock, R., 2020. The Sandbach correspondence, Part 1. London Philatelist 129. 179-186.
- Stock, R., 2020. The Sandbach correspondence. Part two. London Philatelist 129. 231-239.
- Stolk, J., 2020. Passagiers- en postvervoer tussen de plaatsen Port Elizabeth en Avontuur c.q. Patentie (4). FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 127), 14-17.
- Stolk, J., 2020. T110 rail letter post labels. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 128), 24-27.
- Thy, P., 2020. Obituary: the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society and its journal the Runner Post. Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal 24, 47-54.
- Thy, P., 2020. On British Central Africa's two pence registration envelope. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 359-364.
- Tonking, M.J.M., 2020. Revisiting the 3rd Definitive perforators. South African Philatelist 96, 124-127.
- van der Vliet, 2020. Ervaar alle elementen uit de natuur! (2) met belastingzegels van Kaap de Goede Hoop. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 127), 8-12.
- van der Vliet, 2020. Ervaar alle elementen uit de natuur! (3) met belastingzegels van Kaap de Goede Hoop. FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 32 (Whole Number 128), 6-8.
- Wilkie, A., 2020. The Rhodesia 'small arms' postal stationery cards. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 439-440.
- Wingent, P., 2020. Air mail between Rhodesia and Russia in the 1930's. Rhodesian Study Circle Journal 70, 248-250.

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New Books

- Fenemore, B., 2020. Bechuanaland. Philately Collections of Stamps, Vol. 25. Volker Janssen, www.janssenstamps.com.
- Gledhill, J.M., 2020. Overprinted British Postal Orders. A Directory. Volumes 1 and 2. (Second Edition), Postal Order Society and Great Britain Overprint Society. www.gbos.org.uk

Society Publications

Smith, Gordon, 2020. Bechuanaland and Botswana Registration Labels: An Updated Typology and Listing. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

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. An Third Edition of the listing is also available 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 99 (CD-ROM). \$30 plus \$5 s/h. Early issues can individually be downloaded from the Society website.

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.

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.

Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

Premium positions:

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1/1 page inside back cover single issue \$25, annual \$70, two years \$120.

1/1 page outside back cover single issue \$30, annual \$80, two years \$140.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

Non-premium positions:

1/1 page: single issue \$20, annual \$50, two years \$80.

1/2 page: single issue \$10, annual \$25, two years \$80.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

An annual advertizer will automatically receive the electronic version of the journal. 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.



Anglo-Boer War postal card mailed in Kanye on January 28, 1900 and addressed to London. It received a dated KANYE BECHUANALAND cancel (JA 28, upside down) and a BONC 677, both in Kanye, and subsequently a transit marking in Bulawayo (31 FEB 00). The card is endorsed 'Via Beira' that was the normal mail route at that time because the southern route was cut off by Boer-Anglo hostilities. The card first went to the nearby Ramoutsa or Lobatsi, then with the railway northward to Bulawayo, continuing to Salisbury and Machipanda, where the just opened narrow gauged rail line took it to the border station of Mutara and final to Beira in the Portuguese East Africa or Mozambique. In Beira it must have cached a southward home bound mail packet ship. However, following Bulawayo, there is no additional postal markings on the card. The card is addressed to 80-84 High Street, Shoreditch, East End of London (today just south of Shoreditch Church). The text is written by Edwin to 'My Dear Brother' and telling him that they got his previous letter when Mr. Woorkey came down from Molepolole to baptize their 8 month old baby girl. He further tells that 'Here food is very, very scare; our chief food is mealies (maize), what you call 'horses' food' and details how they are affected by the Anglo-Boar hostilities in the south.

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, 15 Woodland Drive, Alamo CA 94507, USA. PayPal to "dmcnamee@aol.com" is also acceptable, but please add US\$ 1 extra to cover part of the PayPal fees we must pay to use the service. 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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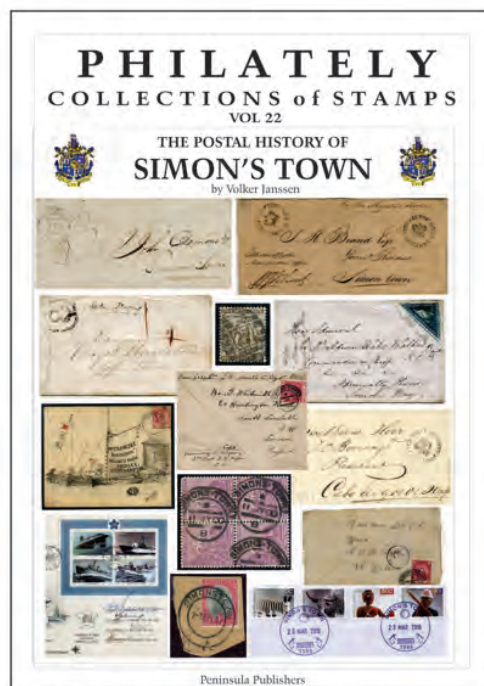
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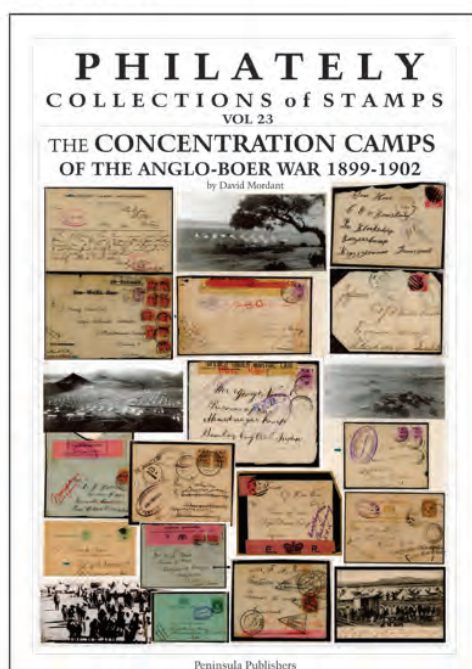
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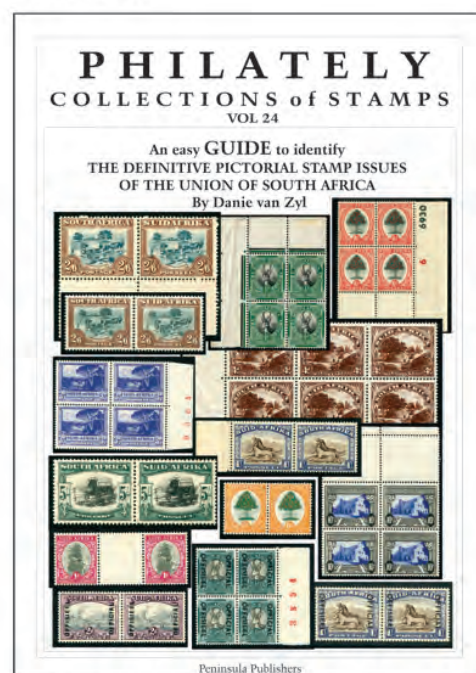
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