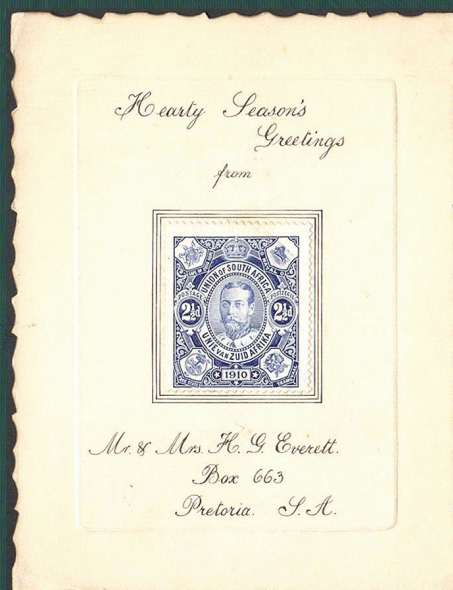


October 2017

ISSN 0955-6753

*The 70th Anniversary
of the*
**SOUTH AFRICAN
COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**
1947-2017





The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society 1947 - 2017



A Special Edition of *The Springbok*

President	John Shaw	Librarian	Malcolm Ridsdale
Chairman	Tony Howgrave-Graham	Treasurer	David Osborn
Secretary	Chris Oliver	Auctioneer	Nick Arrow
Editor	Roy Ross	Packets	Tony Johnson
Webmaster	Otto Peetoom	Conference Organizer	Simon Peetoom

Introduction by Otto Peetoom

Collating a history of any Society is a daunting task, earlier this year I took on a similar challenge for *The Bechuanaland and Botswana Society*. In this instance I documented 33 years 'through the eyes' of its journal *The Runner Post*. It took me the best part of six weeks and there is still more to be done!

No one in this society has ever done something similar using *The Springbok* as their source of information. In the first instance the author requires access to all its journals and the job itself would probably require several months of patience...then there is a question...*Is it worth the effort?*

Any project requires time and patience and hopefully input from 'others'...the latter is as rare as 'hen's teeth'...present day stamp collectors are usually busy with other priorities. They all excel at reading, but writing is not usually their forte!

My appeal for assistance solicited a reply from one person who apologised that he was unable to help and responded...*Just to say being a relatively new member I cannot add much to the information request...* Said individual has been with the society for 27 years and exceeds the length I have been a member!

How to Celebrate a Seventieth Anniversary?

Chris Oliver raised the above question in a 19 May email and I discussed the matter with him on Saturday 27 May...the point I made is what exactly did he have in mind?

My suggestion was that one ought to look back in history to assess what was done for previous milestones and the answer to that is...*'Not a great deal'*.

Thus whatever I end up doing is essentially 'as good as it gets!'

Looking Back

From J.B. Carter's Index it intimates that nothing was published in *The Springbok* for the 30th (1977) Anniversary. Eddie Bridges was good enough to send me scans of pages from obsolete editions of our journal that includes write ups from the founder of the society Eric Sherwood.

The May/June 1987 edition of *The Springbok* No 207 repeated what Eric had written for the following events.

21st Anniversary, a page in issue No 95 (Sep/Oct 1968)

'100 not Out' by Eric on the occasion of its 100th journal in the July/August 1969 issue.

Twenty Five Years Old in issue No 119 Sept/Oct 1972.

The 40th Anniversary Is ironically the year Eric Sherwood passed away.

The 50th Anniversary

This was subject to a short 'off the cuff' write-up by Alec Page, the Secretary, in Volume 45 No 2 of *The Springbok* No 258.

The 60th Anniversary

In Volume 55 No 4 of *The Springbok* No 300 Oct/Dec 2007 Editor - Eddie Bridges. The front cover boasts:- *SACS 60th Anniversary Issue & 300th Issue of The Springbok* On this occasion Chris Oliver, the Secretary, presented *A short history of the South African Collectors' Society and its members*. An apt title as the history is 'short' (less than twenty lines). Chris broke new ground for the society by collating all past members No's 1 to 1123, Abel Trophy Winners since 1957 and *The Wicks Award* Winners since 1961.

Chris Oliver also collated a list of Officers and Committee of the Society and concluded...*In sixty years we have only three Presidents, four Hon. Secretaries, six Hon. Treasurers, six Hon. Editors and five Hon. Librarians!*

The 70th Anniversary or Platinum Jubilee

Although I made an array of suggestions that ought to cumulate into a 'Joint Effort'...reality dictates that the vast majority of members prefer to keep their distance. Chris Oliver's 60th Anniversary has been updated to 2017 and has been a good source to draw on and I started work on 28 May.

The SACS Website plus a '70th Souvenir Journal'

Construction of a suitable webpage got underway at the end of May, by 2 June I emailed a link to members for a 'Preview' and on Monday 5 June the 70th Anniversary page went 'live'. Since then I continued adding material and by 10 June completion was in sight. At that point I decided to use some of the information and create a *Special Edition Springbok*.

Sources and Available Information

1953 *The Springbok* Volume 1 No 1

Eric Sherwood's first Editorial.

The South African Philatelist

I searched this from 1946 to 1988 and located a whole array of useful snippets including Obituaries, Society advertising, Announcements and Reports.

1947 Gibbons' Stamp Monthly - Drew a blank there.

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Collated by Otto Peetoom

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SACS Anniversaries

The 50th Anniversary

The Springbok No 258 April/June 1997 - Editor D.W. Painter. On the last page of said journal two photographs appear entitled **A Fiftieth Anniversary Occasion - London**. The pictures include Reg Allen, Chris Board, Tony Chilton, Fred Clark, Alec Page and Ron West.

Other Photographs

The September 1997 edition of *The Springbok* No 259 includes two poor reproductions on the last page entitled

A Fiftieth Anniversary Occasion - Carlisle

This includes J. Ahmad, W. Branney, B. Carter, W. Fullard, J. Grassom, D. Haig, E. Hammond, F. Heyman, G. Mellor, A. Moffat, R. Ross, D. Todd and P. Williams.

The 60th Anniversary

Included the 'Chris Oliver Initiative' in *The Springbok* No 300 Oct/Dec 2007.

Obviously a great deal of work went into the foregoing, if I may offer 'Constructive Criticism', much more 'History' ought to be present.

The 70th Anniversary or Platinum Jubilee

Other than the 'Oliver Initiative' and the input from Eddie Bridges very little was forthcoming thus what there is...has been 'trawled' up using my own available sources...Read on...

Where, When and How?

From the first Editorial it transpires that the two key players were Lauder and Sherwood, I was acquainted with the latter, but know nothing of the former. Both ought to feature in a write up for the 70th. Lauder passed away in 1965 and a Tribute by Reg Allen appears in Issue No 74 page 25.

Sherwood wrote about the past, for instance *Memories are made of this* - Issue No 205 pages 14/16. Eric Sherwood died in January 1987 - Obituary issue 207 pages 52-54.

The South African Philatelist

I searched *The South African Philatelist* and found interesting information, for instance Chris Oliver alleged that Alec Page was Secretary from 1962 to 1992 and R.E. Mason the Auditor (1968-1990). The info gleaned suggests Mason was Secretary from circa April 1970 and still in office by December 1972.

What the SACS Lacks

There is no *Cumulative Index* for *The Springbok*, thus Carter's 'Contents' is as good as it gets...it is accessible on our website if anyone cares to find it.

What is Next?

Initially I advocated...It is not a 'One Man Job' and certainly not mine alone! Somehow that is exactly as it ended up.

Given that Eric Sherwood was the founder of this society I attempted to locate as much about him as I could and *The South African Philatelist* is my main source.



Among the guests who attended the reception, seen here looking at a publication of Mr Batten (second left) were Mr Derek Hepworth, vice-president of the Orange Free State Study Circle, Mr Bezuidenhout, Mr Eric Sherwood, president of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society and Mr Bob Allison, chairman of the OFS Study Circle. (Photos: RSA Department of Foreign Affairs and Information)

The South African Philatelist December 1981

The South African Collectors' Society

This Society celebrates its 70th Birthday during 2017 and although we know it started in 1947. An exact date or month appears to be unavailable...October is suggested, thus this Special Edition carries that month.

First Editorial by Eric Sherwood *The Springbok* (Jan.1953)
...Originally, the Society was started some five years ago with a membership of approximately 12, chiefly as a result of the efforts of my esteemed friend, Mr Edw. Lauder. Then, we circulated articles and news by means of one news folder but with the growth of membership developed the need for two and three news folders until the stage has been reached where, with a membership close on 100, a Magazine is a necessity if members are to be kept up-to-date and fully informed...

A complete copy of the first Editorial appears on page 4.

1947 - 1953 The Formative Years

For its 21st Anniversary Eric wrote...*We started the magazine more or less from compulsion in that the dissemination of news and information by four monthly news folders was proving too much and a little cumbersome...We hoped it would succeed but at that time South Africa was not in the class of popular countries. At times we despaired of meeting the deadline for publication, we despaired of finding enough material, we wondered if we would have the energy and the time to continue to publish but to our occasional astonishment we did...*

I have not gained sight of any of the above 'Bulletins' and whether or not any of them have survived I cannot say.

1947 Gibbons' Stamp Monthly They used to publish 'Society News' but in the post war years that was not the case and a search provided no result for the formation of the SACS.

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

1947 - 1953 The Formative Years of the Society

The South African Philatelist September 1948

A Blast from the Past

The earliest reference to our Society that I was able to trace appeared in the above edition of *The South African Philatelist* under a title **SOUTH AFRICAN STUDY CIRCLE**. We have received particulars of the formation in Britain of a South African Collectors' Society, it being a club and study circle for collectors of South African Stamps. They propose having a monthly bulletin and the issue of the 'S.A. Philatelist' to members, an exchange packet and a new issue service. The Secretary is Mr C.E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, England. Our best wishes for their success.



Mr Eric Sherwood (right), president of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, came from Manchester to attend Vrijstaat 81 and presented the society's Anglo-Boer War Cup to Mr Nico Combrink of Paarl. Mr Combrink, a previous winner of the trophy, received it on behalf of Mr Flip Olivier of Cape Town. (Photo: The Friend)

The South African Philatelist September 1981

The South African Philatelist May 1949

In a letter from S.C. Chantler published under 'Correspondence', the writer urges the need for a Union Postal Study Circle in South Africa and mentions a successful Overseas organization which I suggest point to the SACS.

During and since the war a large number of collectors have given more attention to the stamps of the Union; such collectors being scattered throughout the country, and, often in places where opportunities for meeting others of similar tastes are rare and who would, probably, welcome some means of exchanging notes and queries which arise from time to time.

This need can be met by the formation of a Postal Study Circle open to collectors of the stamps of our country. *Such an organisation is already functioning overseas with success*, and there is every reason to believe that such a study circle could be run successfully in the country which produces the stamps. A provisional scheme has already been worked out and if any of your readers are interested in the matter, I should be very pleased to hear from them and to give further information.

S. C. CHANTLER

Readers who are interested should get into touch with Mr Chantler, PO Box 169, Grahamstown.

The South African Philatelist

October, November and December 1949

During 1949 Eric Sherwood placed an advertisement in the SAP for three consecutive months. He invites collectors, resident in Great Britain, to join the society. The foregoing seems unfortunate in as much that Eric was not encouraging Union collectors (Worldwide) to join the Society.



Collectors...are invited to join...

The Springbok (Journal of the Society)

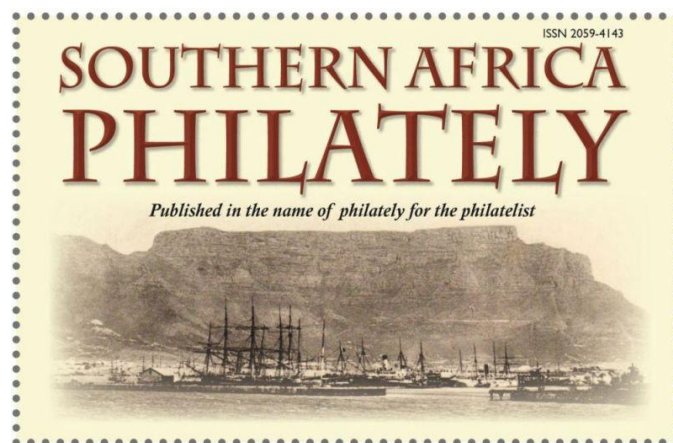
First edition published in January 1953 and received a review in the March 1953 edition of *The South African Philatelist* ...the following appeared...**The Springbok**

Edited by C.E. Sherwood for the South African Collectors' Society, 105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester.

The Society now has a membership of nearly 100 and a magazine is considered necessary to take the place of the news folders previously circulated amongst members. We gather, though, it is not specially stated, that it will be a bi-monthly production. No price is mentioned, so it may be presumed it is only to be issued to members.

It is very nicely produced, with an attractive cover, the design being based on our 1/2d stamp. The contents are good solid meat, 20 pages of them and we welcome our new contemporary.

The editor states that it is not intended to replace or to compete with the 'South African Philatelist' but to be complimentary to it in order to increase the interest in the collecting of South African stamps outside that country and in particular in the United Kingdom. Good luck to it!



Subscribe Today - Go to

www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

1953 *The Springbok* Volume 1 No 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

THE SPRINGBOK

1953

Contents

- The Editors chair
- The narrow perforation variety in the Union stamps
- Current topics
- The Ha'penny Springbok (halfpenny)
- Its never too late
- Union Philatelic diary for 1952
- The production of the "Kings Head" Coil stamps of S Africa
- Resume of auction realisation during 1952
- O.A.T. (Onward Air Transmission)
- Membership information
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1953 First Editorial by Eric Sherwood - The Editor's Chair

A word by way of introduction as to the reason for this Magazine. Originally, the Society was started some five years ago with a membership of approximately 12, chiefly as a result of the efforts of my esteemed friend, Mr Edw. Lauder. Then, we circulated articles and news by means of one news folder but with the growth of membership developed the need for two and three news folders until the stage has been reached where, with a membership close on 100, a Magazine is a necessity if members are to be kept up-to-date and fully informed.

I would like to emphasise the fact that this Magazine is not in any way intended to replace that excellent publication *The South African Philatelist*, for which we all have the greatest regard, nor even to offer competition, but rather to be complementary to it in order to increase the interest in the collecting of South African stamps outside that country and in particular in the United Kingdom. It should be regarded essentially as a Society Magazine expressing the views and observations of its members. I have tried at some length to ensure there is no misunderstanding with S.A.P., and I am happy to acknowledge the fact that every support has been offered from the Union.

The present scope of the Society covers the Boer War Period down to present day issues, but if later there is a general demand to widen activities, then due consideration will be given to the matter.

It is imperative that this venture be supported actively by members by contributions of articles and by letters to the Editor and might I suggest that members intending to take up their pen, advise me before doing so, as to the subject in mind, in case it is being considered already elsewhere?

Where possible submission of articles, in duplicate would be of great help, written on quarto paper. Here, perhaps I might say that the Editor does not accept responsibility for any views published but will welcome correspondence for publication.

We are all indebted to Mr Lauder for presenting to the Society, the very handsome die as reproduced on the front cover and furthermore by the gift of the outer covers for this very first issue. Behind the scenes, Mr Lauder has been working tirelessly to ensure the success of *The Springbok*, despite ill health and so I hope that having started well we shall be able to continue so.

Let us not forget the contributors who, by their articles, have assisted in 'putting to bed' this number.

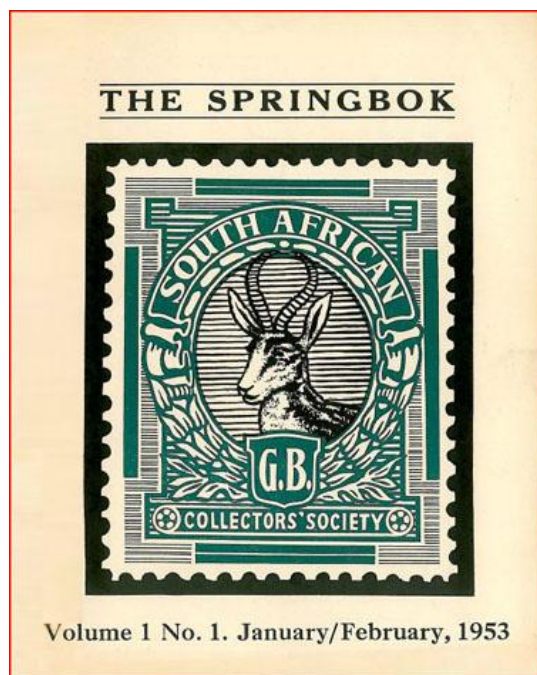
An Exchange Packet will be circulated in two sections, but its frequency will depend on the support rendered in the form of sheets or books from members. Booklets may be purchased from the Editor at 3/- per dozen postage paid. I can promise sales will be good if the material is right and priced reasonably. With the Exchange Packet may be circulated from time to time, books with stamps requesting comments or identification, etc., and here I must note that Mr J. Hodgkinson of Derby has asked me to express his thanks for the help in classifying the stamps shown in such a book recently. He is busy preparing another which will incorporate such information for our general benefit.

The magazine is being issued for your benefit - do make use of it.

Editor

C.E. Sherwood, 105 Marford Crescent Sale Manchester U.K.

Another Point of interest in Volume 1 No 1 appears on page 21 under New Members - Member No 116 R.D. Allen of 82c Hackford Road London SW19 has joined the Society



The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

The Springbok - Editors - Past and Present - The Changing Face of the Cover

Editors - Past and Present

Name	Member	Editor From
C.E. Sherwood	No 1	January 1953 to October 1962
R.D. Allen	No 116	October 1962 to December 1981
C.P. Ravilious	No 599	January 1982 to December 1989
D.W. Painter	No 524	January 1990 to December 1997
F. Heymann	No 971	January 1998 to December 2003
E. Bridges	No 977	January 2004 to April 2012
O. Peetoom	No 799	April to September 2012
E. Bridges	No 977	September 2012 to April 2013
R. Ross	No 993	April 2013 to date

The Changing Face of The Springbok

The Front Cover of The Springbok - See No 1, previous page
Using a customized image of a ½d Definitive stamp on the front cover during 1953 may be thought of as 'very upmarket' for that era and its use continued until the end of 1992, thus it enjoyed forty years of 'Service'.



The Fat Springbok

By the early 1990's the editor D.W. Painter thought it was time for a change and employed a new image for the front cover. In my opinion it looks like a pregnant Springbok, either that or, it had just devoured several plates of Mince Pies!
F. Heymann took over as editor in 1998, continued using 'The Fat Springbok' and at the end of 2000 he 'boxed' the image.



A New Slender Springbok

The first journal for 2002 (Issue 277) brought a much better image into use. Eddie Bridges became the editor at the beginning of 2004 and by 2006 colour finally arrived. In my opinion this was an ideal opportunity to change over to a 'pretty' front cover, but most society's are loathe to change and are slow in embracing the available technology.

Journal Production, Colour, Quality etc.

An important issue that most amateur journal producers miss is that the quality of the finished product is very much dependent on the quality of paper used.

Most societies, including the SACS, printed their journal on cheap paper and settled for 'In house' production that meant stapling the pages together.

Personally I started using colour as early as 1990, at that time the cost of colour was high, the machines were slow, delivering about four A3 sheets per minute and colour could only be printed on one side of the paper. Collating and stapling was done manually. In early 1992 I produced my Rhodesian Specialized Postal Auction No 36 which included four pages of colour illustration. The response from our customers was positive and they were delighted with the colour innovation.

It brought home to me how important colour is for philately. Thus when I launched my own journal a year later, it boasted four A4 pages of colour. Granted the subscription rate was not cheap and I suggested to subscribers that black and white was more economical...they loved the colour so that was that. I feel these comments are relevant as most philatelic societies avoided colour... 'too expensive they cried' and subsequently continued publishing drab journals for years to come. My journal *The Rhodesian Philatelist*, first published in July 1993 and produced by a high street printer with four pages of colour was streets ahead of most society journals.

Printed on A3R folded and stapled in the middle into an A4 booklet. At first pages had to be collated by hand, folded and stapled manually. Soon there were printers which collated the pages and a separate device that speeded up the process which folded and stapled. That was followed by machines that did the 'whole job'. In comparison many societies continued using antiquated methods of production that were no cheaper than those I used.

In late 2011 I took an interest in the quality of *The Springbok* and asked the editor why he did not print the journal on better quality paper. The answer was 'We can't afford it!' and I noted that the society funds reflected almost £9000 in the bank. Eddie Bridges finally included an image on the front cover in March 2012 and I followed up in with something more colourful.

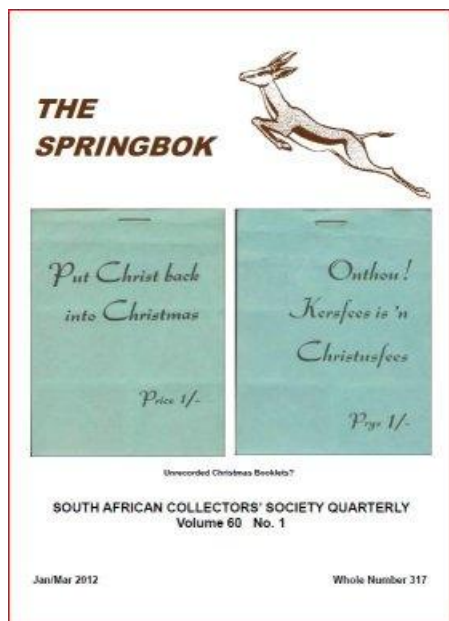
Roy Ross has now been Editor since September 2013 and varies the look of the front cover. Examples of all the illustrated front covers may be viewed on the appropriate page on our website...go to the 'About the Society' page.

In my opinion the front and back covers of any journal is the gateway to how good or bad the rest might be!

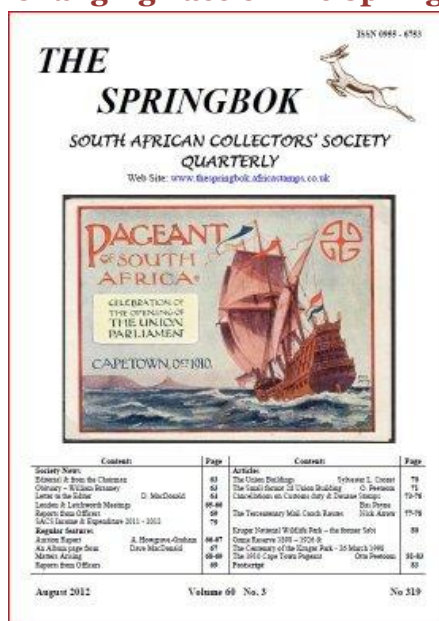
Folded and Stapled in the Middle I started this trend in 2012 with Issues 318 & 319 and it continued from Issue No 321.

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

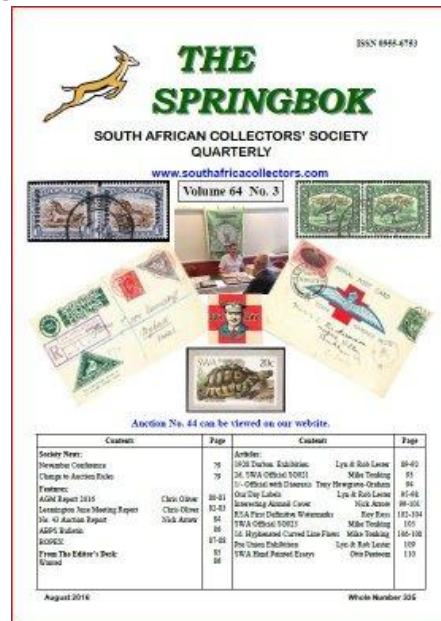
The Changing Face of The Springbok



March 2012 an Eddie Bridges Production



August 2012 an Otto Peetoom Production



August 2016 a Roy Ross Production

Eric Sherwood - Founder of the South African Collectors' Society (1947 - 1987)

Eric Sherwood

Specialist Dealer in South African Stamps and Postal History
I first met Eric in 1978 at the monthly meeting of the Merseyside Dealers Club, he came every month along with his handicapped wife Gladys and travelled by taxi from Sale. Nigel Haworth informed me that Eric was the instigator who started the Manchester and District Dealers Association during the mid-1960's.

Eric was a soft spoken man, pleasant and charming person and anyone who knew him had a good word to say about him.

Eric was a dealer, a member of the PTS and a personal write-up appeared in the September 1965 SAP and includes an interesting insight into his activities.

Alec Page merely intimates that Eric was a part-time dealer; he was much more than that!

Eric effectively enjoyed almost 40 years being part of the society, from its inception until his death in January 1987.

The C.E. Sherwood Story

The South African Philatelist in September 1965 published a two page article under the above title...extracts from it read...
in Egypt during the last war in Alexandria I found three stamp shops, one run by a Greek, another by a Frenchman and the third by an Egyptian. At the Greek's place on my arrival he always sent off his boy for Turkish coffee and a glass of water from a nearby cafe. This together with all the time in the world to look at his stamps made a very pleasant break in the life of a not too happy R.A.F. type. His South African stock was mainly a few bantam war efforts plus one or two large war efforts cancelled in Egypt.

The Frenchman made me very welcome encouraging me to take what I wanted and to pay when next I was in on leave as I was then in receipt of 2/- per day all found! I have never remembered whether I left Egypt owing him any money or not but I like to think if I left a debt he credited it to our war effort.

At the Egyptian one pleasant day, a large gentleman entered speaking a large amount of Arabic to the shop-keeper who turned to me and said. 'This gentleman would like to buy you stamps - what do you want?' Being a modest type I believe I picked the Egyptian long air set, the gentleman paid up, finished his own business and departed. The shop-keeper turned to me asking If I knew who it was, and when I said no, he told me, 'the brother of the Head Postmaster of Alexandria.' Never anywhere have I met such pleasant service in stamp shops, I wonder if they are still there?

Back to England and eventually civilian life again thoughts turned to stamp dealing. One of the pleasures of dealing in stamps is that one can never foresee from one day to another just what customer will turn up in the flesh or as represented by letter. Although I have had enquiries from behind the Iron Curtain never yet have I made a sale and indeed I do not think I have ever heard from the same man twice. I have been told that it is not always the safest of things for a man behind the Curtain to receive mail from the Western world so maybe they are working out their time in foreign prisons? Writing of prisons, I was somewhat surprised to receive a letter from an occupant in gaol in this country asking for approvals. Being an entirely new situation to me I wrote to the Governor of the prison asking if it was all right and I received a letter to say that certain prisoners were allowed to have their stamp collections with them and that this particular man had received lots of approvals although of course the Governor could not accept any responsibility. Although I wrote again to the man I did not hear anything further - I still wonder just what could have become of the situation.

Following the death of a customer I learnt a lesson. He had only spent the odd shilling or so more or less keeping up with new issues and one day I had a letter from a relative saying he had died and would I be interested in buying his stamps.

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Eric Sherwood - Founder of the South African Collectors' Society (1947 - 1987)

The C.E. Sherwood Story - continued

Frankly the notepaper was not impressive and with what I thought was my knowledge of his purchases I wrote a letter to say I was not interested. However, before posting it I thought I have really little to lose, it will only cost me the return postage after I have looked at the collection, so tore up the first one and wrote saying yes. The package duly arrived and on opening I nearly had a heart attack. The man had evidently collected over the 1930 rotogravure period to the early hyphenated issues of the lower values up to around, at the time, for the collection consisted of about 20 complete arrow sets of different ½d and 1d issues along with sets of 2d, 3d and 4d values. Also some of the early booklets intact and exploded plus large blocks showing varieties on the ½d and 1d stamps. Add the early rota control letter blacks with 'F' control normal, partially albino and completely albino and can you wonder why I nearly suffered the heart attack to think in a careless moment I might have passed the collection up?

In London recently I came face to face with one of the happiest collectors I have ever known. He is deaf and he is dumb but never have I seen him without a smile on his face which positively beams when someone stops to have a talk on his slate or a bit of paper he or you dig from your pockets.

He has acquired some very nice material including quite a number of first day cancellations on and off covers of the first 2½d of 1910 and a large collection of air mail covers.

He is also a keen photographer and at one of the London exhibitions of the South African Collectors' Society he took a picture at me at my stall which I liked so much that I have a quantity always on hand to send one to each new customer-include an extra guinea and I will autograph it too!

You can tell how good it is, the wife of an American collector thinks I am the double of David Niven! So for the sake of modesty I shall not have a picture with this article but if you are really interested you know what to do.

A very good friend of mine who is an ardent collector of postal stationery sent me a quantity of airletter greetings forms some while ago. Starting to make up new issues I was startled to come across one with the orange colour missing completely and when I found yet two more in succession, I was dumfounded to put it mildly. The fourth in the run had the orange half missing. Now what would you have done? Write to your friend and tell him what he had sent and risk the possibility that he would jump in the nearest river? Knowing he had a charming wife and family I thought it wiser to maintain a discreet silence for a while and then break the news somewhat gently. Like the good chap he is, he accepted the fact that he just simply bought them from the post office and sent them off without further ado, so cheerfully bought one back from me and then bullied me into letting him have the half orange printing as well. Mind you he has not done it again since!

I wonder what happened to the farmer in New Zealand who used to keep bees and send me pots of honey regularly. What happened to the Jap buying South African stamps from me to prepare for an exhibition? The collector who went off to a sanatorium in Switzerland? The man who immigrated to Australia? The collector who used to write me regularly from Aden and then stopped when he came back to this country. I still hear regularly from a collector in the Argentine who told me of roasting a whole side of beef on Christmas Day at his barbecue for the family.

An American I envy always when I get letters from him, lives in Honolulu - when I write Hawaii on his envelope how I sigh as the rain pours down. I was invited to write a story about myself and whether I have succeeded is for you to judge but there is a limit to the amount of space I can take up and my story is not half told, but you have one consolation - that photograph is yours for a subscription to my monthly 'South Africa Gnus' 3/- a year or if you are impatient 4/6 a year by air.

The photograph Eric refers to with his 'David Niven' look alike, see page 3.

Advertising in *The South African Philatelist*

Eric Sherwood's first advertisement appeared in the October 1949 SAP (See illustration on page 3)

His first insertion confirms he was a member of the PTS - *Philatelic Traders Society*, London.

In April 1951 he resumed advertising, skipped May and continued in June through to December.

I want to buy Union issues from Inter-provincials to date, mint and used, including booklets, Boer War covers, etc., and should be pleased to receive offers with full details of price, condition, quantities, etc.

C. E. SHERWOOD, P.T.S.
105 Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester
Great Britain.

The South African Philatelist

1951 April, June, July, August and September

SOUTH AFRICAN PICTORIALS

A complete Tabulated Summary of these stamps, ½d. to 10/- from 1926 to 1950, with no less than 70 printings of the ½d. value included, keyed to Gibbons and the Union catalogues.

Price 6/- (90 cents), postage paid.

My monthly list of Offers and News—Union issues only, 2/6 (35 cents) or 4/- (60 cents) air mail.

I deal only in Union stamps — let me have your offers and enquiries please.

C. E. SHERWOOD, P.T.S.,
105, Marford Crescent, Sale, Manchester, G.B.

The South African Philatelist

1951 October, November and December

SOUTH AFRICA.

I shall be holding another postal Auction on May 24th, 1952, again Union items only. Catalogue and prices realised, 1/6 post free.

Union Handbook/Catalogue, 23/- postage paid.

C. E. SHERWOOD
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE,
MANCHESTER, G.B.

The South African Philatelist

1952 From January, Postal Auctions were announced. This advert appeared in March

In July 1952 Sherwood suggested BUY UNIONS and in August he announced...

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA is my only country so if you are interested too why not subscribe to my monthly Notes...

At a later date Eric dubbed his 'monthly Notes' as 'South Africa Gnus'

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Eric Sherwood - Founder of the South African Collectors' Society (1947 - 1987)

Advertising in *The South African Philatelist* continued - In the December 1952 SAP advert Eric offered SG 43a in a marginal strip of four, two stamps with 'Frame omitted', one stamp partially omitted and the 4th normal. Price £40.

1953 Advertising was entirely devoted to promoting the Society's new journal *The Springbok*

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY.

Later this month "THE SPRINGBOK", the official bi-monthly magazine will make its debut.

Subscription to the society is 10/- per annum and includes Magazine, Exchange Packet for U.K. Members.

To become a member write to:—

C. E. SHERWOOD
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE,
MANCHESTER, G.B.

January 1953
The Springbok is imminent!

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY.

The first issue of "The Springbok" has now been distributed. Early application for membership is desirable if you wish to have your copies starting from Volume 1, Number 1. Overseas applications welcomed.

Details from:—

C. E. SHERWOOD
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE,
MANCHESTER, G.B.

1953 February and March
Issue No 1 has been published

"THE SPRINGBOK"

When this advertisement appears, the second issue of the magazine of the South African Collectors' Society will be in the post to the rapidly growing membership in all parts of the world.

From the many letters received commenting favourably on the first issue there is no doubt the magazine is wanted. Subscription is 10/- per annum postage paid, so if you are at all interested in the stamps of the Union, write without delay, for membership, to—

C. E. SHERWOOD
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE,
MANCHESTER, G.B.

1953 April and May
Issue No 2 has been posted

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY.

The third issue of "The Springbok" has been distributed to nearly 200 members, in various parts of the world. Need more be said in favour of an immediate subscription of 10/-?

C. E. SHERWOOD
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE,
MANCHESTER, G.B.

1953 June and July
No 3...to nearly 200 members
---000---

HIGHER AND HIGHER

Goes the membership of the South African Collector's Society. Now over 200 strong, there are 39 in South Africa and 17 in the U.S.A. among them. Why do you not join to-day and receive the popular magazine "THE SPRINGBOK" — The subscription is only 10/- per annum. Details from:—

C. E. SHERWOOD,
105, Marford Crescent, Sale Manchester.

1953 August to December
Membership over 200
---000---

"THE SPRINGBOK"

is still being published bi-monthly and read and appreciated by over 200 members of the South African Collectors' Society (Great Britain). Subscription to Society, 15/- per annum.

Details:—

C. E. SHERWOOD,
105 MARFORD CRESCENT, SALE, MANCHESTER,
U.K.

1954 October
Annual subscription up from 10/- to 15/-
---000---

The above **HIGHER AND HIGHER** advertisement was repeated in the January, February and March 1954 SAP.

In April 1954 Sherwood resumed adverting as a dealer calling himself 'The Union Specialist'. **In July** he offered the 1927 Definitives, **in September** it recommends his 'Monthly Notes', then **in October** *The Springbok* received another 'plug'. **In November & December** under WANTED Eric offers 'To Buy' shades, varieties, office lots or Bank clippings.

1955 SAP - The same 'Wanted...I wish to buy' advert repeated for this year and continued up to and including March 1956. In April and May 1956 Eric offers Philatelic Literature, in June and July he offers to buy Diastasis varieties on Officials. From August to November he wants to buy South African Kiloware, either by the lb, by the cwt or by the ton! **In December 1956** there is once again an advert encouraging subscriptions to *The Springbok* that is repeated in January and February 1957.

WANTED

Collectors, interested in Union Philately, to join South African Collectors' Society. Must be prepared to meet their commitments and pay debts. Subscription 15/- (\$2.25) a year includes magazine "The Springbok".

C. E. SHERWOOD,
"The Union Specialist,"
105, Marford Crescent, Sale, Cheshire, U.K.

1956 December
1957 January
and February

Annual
subscription
is still 15/- or
\$2.25

Eric Sherwood Obituary

I anticipated that there ought to be an obituary in *The South African Philatelist* and an initial search drew a blank, later I stumbled across it in the April 1987 edition, not included in the 'Contents' was the reason it was difficult to locate.

OBITUARY
ERIC SHERWOOD

16 January 1987 saw the passing in England of a specialist collector/dealer of South African stamps in the person of C Eric Sherwood. He was extremely knowledgeable in all fields of SA philately (also editing a book on Revenues) and was an active member of SA-related societies in the United Kingdom.

He commenced dealing in the mid-1940s and conducted his postal business successfully until recently when he sold his entire stock to Stanley Gibbons Ltd. There are many collectors of South African stamps throughout the world who are indebted to him, not only for material but also for advice — always so freely available.

Both he and his wife, Gladys, occasionally visited South Africa in spite of her being a semi-invalid. These visits cemented many friendships commenced through correspondence. To his widow and family, we extend our sincerest sympathy. It was good to have known him — we have lost a good and faithful philatelic supporter.

— John W Hodgson

Comment I have no idea who John W. Hodgson is and Eric's stock was not sold to Stanley Gibbons. It was acquired by *Stephen Mayer* who was the UK agent for the *South African Post Office*. They sold a company called *C.E. Sherwood Ltd* of Sussex to *Stanley Gibbons* circa late 1980 (Reported in *The South African Philatelist* October 1980)

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Society Advertising and Promotion (P.R.)

Promoting the Society

During the 1950's and 60's, under the leadership of Eric Sherwood, the society successfully advertised their presence and promoted *The Springbok* via *The South African Philatelist*. As may be seen in the previous section Eric, in his advertisements, gave the society its first boost in October 1949 and its journal a regular 'plug' from January 1953 to December 1957. He built up a steady membership that at one point exceeded 200 and on average maintained that level for many years.

It is interesting to observe that the Society's early PR efforts seemed to be much more intense than it was in later years when complacency replaced enthusiasm. Nowadays the only effective tool for the society's PR is its website which may be accessed World-wide on a 24/7 basis.

At the 2017 AGM the Chairman said...*the website keeps our profile high and is the source of most of our new membership.*



July 1958 Society Advertising in *The South African Philatelist*

The above advert was a regular monthly and a cost effective method of 'Flying the Society Flag' and remained in place for some fourteen years. Why it was discontinued in December 1972, I cannot say. At approximately 5/6 per insertion, the advertising cost £3 6s 0d per year.

The above advert continued until December 1962.

The South African Philatelist January 1963

Under 'Society News' the following announcement appeared:

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The 11th AGM held in London on 27th October, marked the end of an era for the society. This was through the retirement of Mr C.E. Sherwood who had held many offices in its management ever since it started. There was much appreciation of the services he had rendered and regrets at his giving up.

Mr E. Lauder, of Glasgow, becomes President; Mr. W. A. Page. Hon. Secretary and Mr R. D. Allen, Snr the Hon. Editor of *The Springbok*.

Comment - The above reference to the 11th AGM implies that the Society's first AGM was during 1952.

In January 1963 the Advertisement under **WANTS, OFFERS & EXCHANGE** was modified and reflects the New Secretary's address, but excluded his name. Advertising rate in Decimal currency 2½c per word, minimum insertion 30 cents.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- (\$2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent, England.

South African Collectors' Society for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- (\$2) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent, England.

October 1963 Amended Society Advertising in SAP Now includes the name (W.A. Page) of the Secretary

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- (2 dollars) year. Write Hon. Secretary, W. A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent, England.

January 1967 Society Advertising in SAP

Advert amended with a bold heading that is in keeping with other adverts. Advertising rate now 3½c per word, minimum insertion 40 cents.

The last insertion reflecting W.A. Page as the Secretary was in the April 1970 edition of *The South African Philatelist*.

The South African Philatelist May 1968 - An Announcement **THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS SOCIETY**

We extend a hearty welcome to the South African Collectors' Society, Great Britain, upon their election as an Associated Member of the *Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa*. May their association be of mutual interest and benefit to South African Philately. (See comments at the end of the column)

The South African Philatelist May 1970

A new Secretary takes over R.E. Mason this is in contrast to Chris Oliver's contention that W.A. Page served continuously as Secretary from 1962 to 1992. According to Oliver, Mason was the Society Auditor from June 1968 to April 1990 and there is no mention of him acting as Secretary.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- year. — Write Hon. Secretary, R. E. MASON, 137 Lichfield Court, Richmond, Surrey, England.

May 1970 Society Advertising in *The South African Philatelist* New Secretary R.E. Mason in Richmond

SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY for the Union Collector—magazine, exchange packet. Subscription 15/- year. — Write Hon. Secretary, R. E. MASON, 38 Rosslyn Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex, England.

October 1970 Society Advert in *The South African Philatelist* Secretary R.E. Mason change of address to Harold Wood

The same advert continued monthly **from October 1970 to April 1971**. From November 1970 the Advertising rate increased to 5c per word and a minimum insertion was 60 cents

The South African Philatelist May 1971 - A change of Policy
The title of the SACS advert is changed to **THE SPRINGBOK** and the Secretary R.E. Mason relocates to his old address in Richmond.

THE SPRINGBOK, magazine of the South African Collectors' Society for Union and Republic collectors. Subscription R2 a year. Membership: Secretary, R. E. Mason, 137 Lichfield Court, Richmond, Surrey, England.

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Society Advertising and Promotion - Continued

THE SPRINGBOK, magazine of the South African Collectors' Society for Union and Republic collectors. Subscription R2 a year. Membership: Secretary, R. E. Mason, 137 Lichfield Court, Richmond, Surrey, England.

The above advert continued until December 1972 which brought to an end the Society's PR exercise in *The South African Philatelist*.

The South African Philatelist February 1973

Under a title **Specialist Groups are Growing**

'The Springbok'

The SA Collectors Society pioneered the study of South African stamps in the U.K. It publishes a bi-monthly magazine, 'The Springbok', which, as a specialist publication, has been awarded many prizes at philatelic exhibitions and which is a most important reference source to students of South Africa's stamps. Members of this society include erudite specialists on the Union Pictorials particularly. The society will stage an exhibition of South African stamps in London on 28 April this year. Mr Eric Sherwood, who is President of the SA Collectors Society, is also Chairman of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society.

Less than a Quarter of the members of this study group are South Africans, the bulk of the membership being in the UK.

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

'Associate Membership' versus 'Affiliated Membership' I recently raised this issue with the present Committee and no-one appears to have an answer. Societies in South Africa who are 'Affiliated' to the PFSA automatically receive a copy of each edition of *The South African Philatelist*...the SACS does not share that privilege...therefore are we in fact 'Full Members' of the PFSA or merely 'Associated' to it?

Eddie Bridges became Editor of *The Springbok* in 2004 and in issue No 285 inserted on the title page (for the first time) 'Member of *The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa*'.

The above was bounced back and forth until I finally got to the bottom of the matter. The society falls in '**Region 8**' being '*Areas outside South Africa*'. We are regarded as full members, we may attend Congress, but we do not have any voting rights. The members Subscription for the SAP is effectively looked upon as our Annual donation to the PFSA.

Past Society Personalities - Alec Page

William Alexander Page - Member No 27 Joined by 1952

Born in Hammersmith in 1921, passed away on 16 December 1997. **John Shaw** wrote an obituary which was published in the March 1998 edition of *The Springbok* (Volume 46 No 1). Alec's collection of South Africa was sold in 93 lots by *Phillips* in London on 17 April 1998. A brief resume of his life was included in the catalogue plus a photograph which is reproduced here.

I met Alec Page on several occasions at Stampex and during the late 1980's, I recall Alec showing me a commercial envelope with a 035 on it; unfortunately I cannot recall whether it was a single or a vertical pair, someone, somewhere must be the proud owner of it, it did not feature in the *Phillips* sale.



Alec Page (*Phillips* catalogue)

Chris Oliver noted that Alec was a Committee member from at least October 1954 and as noted earlier, at the 11th AGM on 27 October 1962, he was elected as Honorary Secretary. He was succeeded by R.E. Mason (probably in late 1969)...Mason continued until at least 1973 and at some point in time Alec Page once again resumed as secretary until his death in 1997.

John Shaw said in his obituary...*Alec was a man of many interests and considerable accomplishment. Obviously we had a mutual interest in Union material and our collections strangely complemented one another, as did our individual approaches to philately, myself wishing to plug the gaps and tell the story of the stamp, Alec always more concerned with the story behind the correspondence and with a wary eye for the unrecorded plating flaw.*

The latter was particularly the case when I expanded Freshwater's plating study of the bi-coloured Springbok essays and sent it to Alec, who found another three constant flaws I had missed! A particularly interesting, but regrettably not concluded, collaboration was on the Darmstadt Trails where, again, our collections complemented one another very nicely.

Living some 150 miles apart, our meetings were maybe twice or three times a year and, if anywhere in his vicinity, I would suggest dropping in for maybe an hour. These hours never lasted less than four hours, and quite often extended to seven or eight, after which I found myself on the M11 in the early hours, staying awake by contemplating the collections we had so much enjoyed together. His fabulous array of War Train covers, for which he paid only 2/6d each, is something I asked to see maybe every four visits, but usually we looked at the World War II material.

Note - Alec Page's 'War Train' collection was the last lot in the *Phillips* sale and John Shaw promptly bought it!

...Among his other honours, he won many Silver and Vermeil medals at International level; he was several times winner of our Abell Trophy and, possibly the honour that pleased him most was our own Wicks Medal for his philatelic writings...

An Obituary for Lauder is on our website

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Past Society Personalities Reg Allen (1906 - 2005)

Reg Allen - Member No 116 Joined 1953



Obituary by John Shaw - *The Springbok* October 2005

I first met RDA some 40 years ago when he was chairman of our society and one of a group of dedicated and expert philatelists I was privileged to know. The knowledge I gained from RDA and this group will stay with me forever - and I also gained a set of valued friends. The group included Eric Sherwood, our founder, Alec Page, Robert MacDougal, Bob Lawrence, Jim Nunnely and the inseparable twins, Merriman and Mason. Many of these will be just names to most of you but they were the greats of the 1950s and 1960s; Now they are gone and RDA was the last of this very special group. Always ready to share his knowledge, he gave much encouragement to the younger members, most of whom, with time, now have their bus passes and pension books.

RDA held office continuously in our society for 50 years and apart from chairman, served as secretary, editor of *The Springbok* and, on the death of Eric Sherwood some 20 years ago, became our president, in respect for his memory, this office will remain vacant for at least a year. A prolific writer, he wrote several books and major articles including those on postage due markings, maritime marks, coil stamps, and a major research work on the 2d Union Buildings. Attracted to a Union definitives article in the now defunct Stamp Collecting by one Alan Hardy; I did not know the name but recognised the style and, if you omit the 'H' and turn the name round, you will see that 'Ardy, Alan' becomes RDA, which was typical of his wit and sense of humour

RDA started collecting stamps when he was given a bag of stamps (pre-Union!) in the orphanage where he was brought up, this being the first thing he had ever owned! His collecting continued during service in the Royal Irish Rifles and in the Metropolitan Police; he founded the flourishing Met Police Stamp Club, retiring as a sergeant 50 years ago. He sold his British Commonwealth collection many years ago to take up the challenge of Union philately and, off duty from the Met, he was often seen in the Strand and Leicester Square stamp shops using his sharp eyes and expert knowledge to acquire otherwise unrecognised treasures.

Having built up several specialised studies, he sold most of his collection in 1977 to members of the society, including the 2d Union buildings (which I bought).

Also a silver medal airmail collection and wonderful shipping postmasters, which I admired but could not then afford.

When asked why he was selling the collections he had so lovingly assembled he replied 'Look John, if we now want to eat steak, we shall eat steak', but added that he was keeping some studies, notably the coil stamps and revenues.

Whilst I was still in the RAF I wrote saying I had two meetings in London with a gap between them, and could I come and see him? By return he wrote 'There is a bed for you here. Tea will be at four; don't be late or you will upset mother'. This was typical of their hospitality and the start of a long and lasting friendship with both of them and which I cherish. Vera was a wonderful lady.

Whilst the likes of Robbie Merson and Robert MacDougal were deep specialists in fairly narrow fields, RDA was a general Union specialist who could converse authoritatively over a wide range of topics. With a keen eye and a quizzical mind and a host of learned publications, he was a giant in Union philately and pivotal to the success of our society over half a century, keeping it together over some difficult times.

A generous man, he frequently donated the remainders of his club booklets and other duplicates 'to be sold for club funds', raising many hundreds of pounds for the society. He served our society with distinction, a fact recognised by making him only our second life member, after Eric Sherwood our founder.

A warm hearted man, who sometimes displayed the crustiness of age, he was a good personal friend and mentor whom I was privileged to know; I shall miss him greatly. I was honoured to be asked to deliver a tribute to him at his memorial service.

The society extends its condolences to his sons, Reg junior and Stan, and to their families. May he rest in peace re-united with his beloved Vera.

On 9 June 2017 John Shaw commented... *I cannot lay hands on a photograph of RDA but I have contacted his granddaughter, Sarah, who will ask her mother, RDA's daughter-in-law, Joan, if she has something, which I am sure she has...Sarah told me that RDA's eldest son, Stan - Joan's husband, passed away just over three years ago. I last met the family at RDA's funeral shortly after we moved to London.*

RDA, Stan, and one of the grandsons were all very keen scouts and RDA was known in the family as 'Skipper'.

He died age 99 and three quarters and last went to scout camp at age 95 - not bad!



**One of the
'Veterans'
of the Society**

**Reg Allen
Joined in 1953
Member No 116**

*RDA was a
member
until his death
in 2005*

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

The Wicks Award

John Wicks - Member No 376 Joined 1959

Passed away in 1969 August? His obituary by Reg Allen was included in *The Springbok* No 100.

Obituary - The South African Philatelist July 1969, page 149

Note - An obituary in July 1969 suggest the above month of August is incorrect

The passing of John Hermon Wicks has removed a significant figure from South African philately. John, as he was affectionately known to hundreds of philatelists here and overseas, was born in England and as a young man entered the tea trade. Before the War he lived in Assam and during war service in the Royal Navy he was stationed in the Persian Gulf; that war service proved ruinous to his health and after being discharged he came to South Africa a very sick man.

Wicks' Stamp Agency was founded by him in the early fifties to deal in and to auction stamps, the latter part of the business eventually demanding all his frail energies. Despite continuous ill-health, John's indomitable spirit enabled him to conduct the largest regular public stamp auctions in the Republic and many famous South African collections were dispersed through his agency. The last auction sale was held only two weeks before his death and, as so often during the last seventeen years, he was the auctioneer.

He will be much missed, not only by his wife Phyllis, who nursed him through so many bouts of great ill-health, but by innumerable devotees of our hobby to whom he was guide, confessor and friend. He was always willing to share his knowledge and to help the beginner and his fortitude in face of great handicaps was an example and an inspiration. Our sympathy is extended to his widow and to his parents in England.

A T T

The Wicks Award-Medal

In 1961 John E. Wicks, an auctioneer in Pietermaritzburg, in his tenth year in business he wished to present a prize to be awarded on or around 30 September each year to a worthy contributor of a written and published work on South African philately during the previous year.

Winners of the Wicks Award

1961 Dr Gordon R. Ward - posthumous award *The Ship Penny* book

1962 A. Sterckx - Member 462

1963 W. A. Page

1964 R. J. Raubenheimer

1965 R. J. Lawrence

1966 R. B. Cronwright

1967 P. D. Haigh

In 1982 the rules were amended to confine the award to those members contributing a worthy article for *The Springbok*

1982 P. Cattell *Ocean Penny Post*

1983 W.A. Page *S.A. Survey ship 'Agulhas'*

1984 A.R. Chilton *Union Postal Stationery*

1985 W.A.E. Hall *The KGV Silver Jubilee issue*

1986 M. Leeman *The Union Defence Forces in WWII*

1987 F. Eustace Two articles on the ½d Springbok

1988 R.D. Allen, T.R. Brownrigg, E.W. Merriman, W. Grutter and W.A. Page - Special awards for contributions to *The Springbok*



**JOHN H WICKS
MEDAL**

1989 Dr C. Board *What is an Interprovincial?*

1990 M. Farrell *Typographed 1d - issue one*

1991 R. Glanville-Jones *The Design of Commemoratives* by Henry de Wet

1992 W.A. Page Various articles and M. Farrell *The Typographed 1d*

1993 W.A. Page *The SA War Train*

1994 F. Clark

1995 W.A. Page *Study of SA Weather Stations*

1996 W. J. Branney *Study on the Flaws of the 5th definitive issue*

1997 A. Howgrave-Graham *SWA Occupation period*

1998 W. J. Branney *Analysis of flaws in the JIPEX sheets*

1999 A. R. Chilton *RSA Booklets & RSA Postal Stationery*

2001 E. Bridges *1d Ship Studies*

2002 G. Palazzo *The Revenue Stamps of the Union of SA*

2003 F.F. Heymann *For Services as Editor*

From 2004 the Award was made at the AGM

2004 A. Howgrave-Graham *Registration marks of SWA*

2005 E. Bridges *Union Pictorials*

2006 S. Payne *3d Hyphenated Pictorial Issue 5*

2007 A. Howgrave-Graham *Auction report & Studies on the 1/- pictorial issues (Springbok No 1 7 No 4 with Morgan Farrell)*

2008 A. Howgrave-Graham & Morgan Farrell jointly for *Studies on the 1/- pictorial Roto issues*

2009 Nicholas Arrow *Flying Sixpence together with book on SA Airmails*

2010 Giovanni Palazzo *Revenue Stamps of the Republic of South Africa*

2011 Nicholas Lindstrom *Using Rotary Blade Damage to Study Union Stamps*

2012 A. Howgrave-Graham *11th Row Flaws*

2013 John Ahmed *South African POW's in Italy & Germany during WWII*

2014 Otto Peetoom *1910 Capetown Pageant & 1950 2d Official reading up SG 035*

2015 Jan van Beukering *Union KGV Roll Stamps and SWA Cigarette Tax Stamps*

2016 A. Howgrave-Graham *Revenue Stamps of the Union 1910-46*

M.J.H. Tonking, RDPSA Special award for regular contributions of small articles to *The Springbok* over a number of years

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

The Abell Trophy

F.C. Abell - Member No 45 Joined by 1952

Passed away in January 1961

A Tribute by Eric Sherwood included in *The Springbok* No 48

F.C. Abell served on the committee from 1952 until shortly before his death in January 1961. In 1956 he proposed and subscribed to a trophy to be awarded annually for a competition comprising not more than nine sheets of philatelic material. Judged by those members present at the meeting, the venue alternates between London and Carlisle, usually at a September meeting.

Winners of the Abell Trophy

1957 A.J. Brown *Roto coil ½d stamp*

1958 G.M. Whitten *A study of Jipex & advertisement booklet panes*

1959 R.J. Lawrence *Study of 1½d gold mine, large format*

1960 P. Haigh *Photogravure printing tied with R.J. Lawrence ½d Multipositives flaws*

1961 G.M. Whitten *Marginal Inscription varieties*

1962 R. McDougall *Study of doctor blade flaws on 1d ship issue*

1963 R.J. Lawrence *2d issues I, II and III frame multipositives*

1964 R. McDougall *Cloven hoof flaws*

1965 R.J. Lawrence *Unhyphenated roto coils*

1966 R.J. Lawrence *A revised history of 17/9 1d ship multiflaw*

1967 W.A. Page *Plating the 1d monocoloured coil*

1968 W.A. Page *½c Republican coils*

1969 P. Haigh *2d hyphenated issue*

1970 R.J. Lawrence *½d Springbok roll 14 & 14S*

1971 R. Massey *2d bantam postage due*

1972 W.A. Page *War Train Exhibition*

1973

1974

1975 P. Haigh *Issue 7A - 2d Union Buildings*

1976 W. Hall *Compact study of the Silver Jubilee issue*

1977 R. Rapley *1925 Experimental Air Mail Service - covers*

1978

1979 C.P. Ravilious

1980 D.C. Todd *Maritime mail*

1981

1982 W.A. Page

1983 W.A. Page *World WarII A.P.O. 's.*

1984 D.C. Todd *Maritime mail*

1985 W.A. Page *WWII Internment Camps*

1986 W.A. Page *2d Zebra*

1987 A.R. Chilton *WWII Censor markings in S.W.A.*

1988 R.D. Allen *Coils R5 to R9*

1989 R.D. Allen *Coils of the fourth definitives*

1990 (September) W.A. Page *Darmstadt trials*

1990 J. L. Shaw *Study of 5/- Trek cart*



1991 P. Cattell *UK & SA PO's between Southampton & Cape Town*

1992 J. L. Shaw *Silver Jubilee flaws study*

1993 J. L. Shaw *Study of Postage Dues*

1994 J. L. Shaw *1d Unhyphenated Pictorials*

1995 J. L. Shaw *The Harrison Essays*

1996 J. L. Shaw *Study of the Mackennal head*

1997 competition not held

1998 competition not held - one entry only

1999 J. L. Shaw *Study of 5/- hyphenated Trek Cart*

2000 J. L. Shaw *Study of 2d unhyphenated Union Buildings*

2001 E. Bridges *1d Ship studies*

2002 E. Bridges *S.A. booklets 1921 - 1941*

2003 J.L. Shaw *The first Postage Due issues of the Union*

2004 W.J. Branney *B21 Union booklet panels*

2005 J.L. Shaw *5/- Ox Wagon definitive*

2006 G. Palazzo *Revenue Stamps used in Natal*

2007 E. Bridges *The Darmstadt Trials*

2008 G. Palazzo *Revenues of S.A.*

2009 J.L. Shaw *Union Postage Dues*

2010 W.J. Branney *Panes of the B20 booklets*

2011 A.J. Howgrave-Graham

2012 Roy Ross *1½d Mine Dump colour variations*

From 2013 the Competition is held during the Annual June Philatelic weekend

2013 E. Bridges *The Darmstadt Trials*

2014 R. Hill *Cork Postmarks of the Cape*

2015 Lyn Lester *Kimberley Exhibition 1892*

2016 Rob Lester *Early Exhibitions*

2017 A.J. Howgrave-Graham

The 70th Anniversary of the South African Collectors' Society

Society Membership Past and Present

Introduction

As noted previously Chris Oliver collated a historical list of members that was published in the December 2007 edition of *The Springbok* No 300 and which includes Members 1 to 1123. Today that number extends to 1204 and the current membership stands at 129.

Chris informed me that the records are incomplete and that his data was gleaned from earlier lists. To this end twenty five numbers have no allocation being No's 3, 8, 9, 11, 15, 18, 20, 26, 29, 33, 37, 39, 43, 47, 52, 53, 54, 61, 64, 68 to 71, 76, 86 and 87.

The above 25 omissions may be reduced as Oliver's list include two members, both numbered 73 being J.E. Hodgkinson and A. Hilton-Sydow (incorrectly spelt Hylton). In addition *The Springbok* No 1 indicates the resignation of A.S.C. Paterson, Mrs D. Stewart and Major E.D. Graham Brown. The foregoing reduces the omissions to 21.

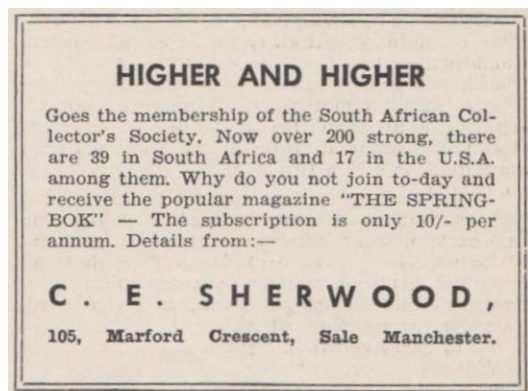
The First Two Members followed by more

As may be anticipated Eric Sherwood is No 1 and E. Lauder No 2. I gain the impression that those listed as having joined in 1952 (No's 3 to 114) are probably those who were members 'By 1952'.

In *The Springbok* No 1 (January 1953) it includes a list of new members starting with No 115 and R.D. Allen is noted as No 116, he was to become one of the veteran's of the society.

A Summary of Members Joining

1952 (105) 1953 (144) 1954 (43) suggesting an average of 97 per annum in three years. After the initial flurry the 'new faces' slowed down and over the next five years 78 joined (1955 to 1959) - about sixteen per year.



The South African Philatelist 1953 August to December
Membership over 200.

This Advert indicates 200+ members by mid 1953

Chris Board recently advised...*Membership numbers rose to a peak of 229 in 1954 and was affected by the loss of relapsed members in 1955 settling for a time at about 200...*

During the following four decades the figures for people joining are: 1960 - 1969 (171) 1970 - 1979 (180) 1980 - 1989 (158) and 1990 - 1999 (146) giving an average of 16+ per year.

2000 - 2017 So far in the twenty first century the numbers joined since 2000 is 172, thus the average has slowed down to around 10+ per annum. The first person to join in 2000 was J.C. Mottram, member 1034.

Well Known Names Amongst Early Members

They include W. Sheffield (63) A. Hilton-Sydow (73) G.N. Gilbert (92) C.P. Rang (139) Dr T.B. Berry (144) J.B. Levy (155) J. Robertson (159) Sam Legator (160) R.J.F. Axer (176) C.R. Reynolds (189) L. Simenhoff (225) J. Michaelson (226) Gordon Ward (242) J. Wicks (376) The number in brackets is their membership No.



Farewell to Marais Steyn - **SAP July 1984** - Left to right Tony Chilton, Marias, Bill Hart plus Eric Sherwood & his wife

Early Members (60th Anniversary 2007)

When Chris Oliver published his list the remaining 'Early birds' were 1952 - F. Lowry (85) and S. Price (107) 1953 J. Russell (125) and A. Whitworth (183) plus 1958 R. Glanville-Jones (359) Sadly none of them are with us today.

Our Current Earliest Members I analyzed the list recently and our two earliest remaining members are:

1966 - J.N. Dickson (432) and 1971 - Dr P.A. Olver (578)

Other Observations on Membership

1972 - from 600 up seven people, 1979 - from 711 ten persons, 1985 - from 806 fourteen souls, 1990 - from 904 fifteen, 1996 - from 1001 twenty seven and 2005 - from 1100 forty nine members plus 2017 - from No 1200 to 1204 five new people.

A High 'Fall-out' Rate

Those joining from 1990 to 1997 (900 up) 85% are no longer members.

1997 to 2005 (1000 up) 73% went A.W.O.L. and 2005 to 2017 (1100 up) 51% of them have drifted to other pastures.

Thus the number of current members remaining from 1 to 1000 is 48-4.8% and those numbered from 1001 to 1204 = 81-39.7%

Year	No	Year	No	Year	No	2001	1046
1953	115	1969	533	1985	803	2002	1062
1954	259	1970	550	1986	811	2003	1068
1955	302	1971	570	1987	827	2004	1076
1956	309	1972	584	1988	849	2005	1091
1957	325	1973	606	1989	858	2006	1106
1958	346	1974	628	1990	887	2007	1117
1959	360	1975	642	1991	922	2008	1124
1960	380	1976	653	1992	932	2009	1132
1961	397	1977	672	1993	954	2010	1137
1962	420	1978	685	1994	962	2011	1152
1963	445	1979	707	1995	973	2012	1161
1964	466	1980	730	1996	986	2013	1167
1965	486	1981	737	1997	1002	2014	1177
1966	499	1982	756	1998	1014	2015	1185
1967	505	1983	771	1999	1023	2016	1193
1968	517	1984	792	2000	1034	2017	1196

The above grid provides the first No joining each year.



Union of South Africa
Coat of Arms
1910-1930



Eric Sherwood doing his
David Niven look alike -
See page 7



London Meeting September 2014 - Happy smiling faces