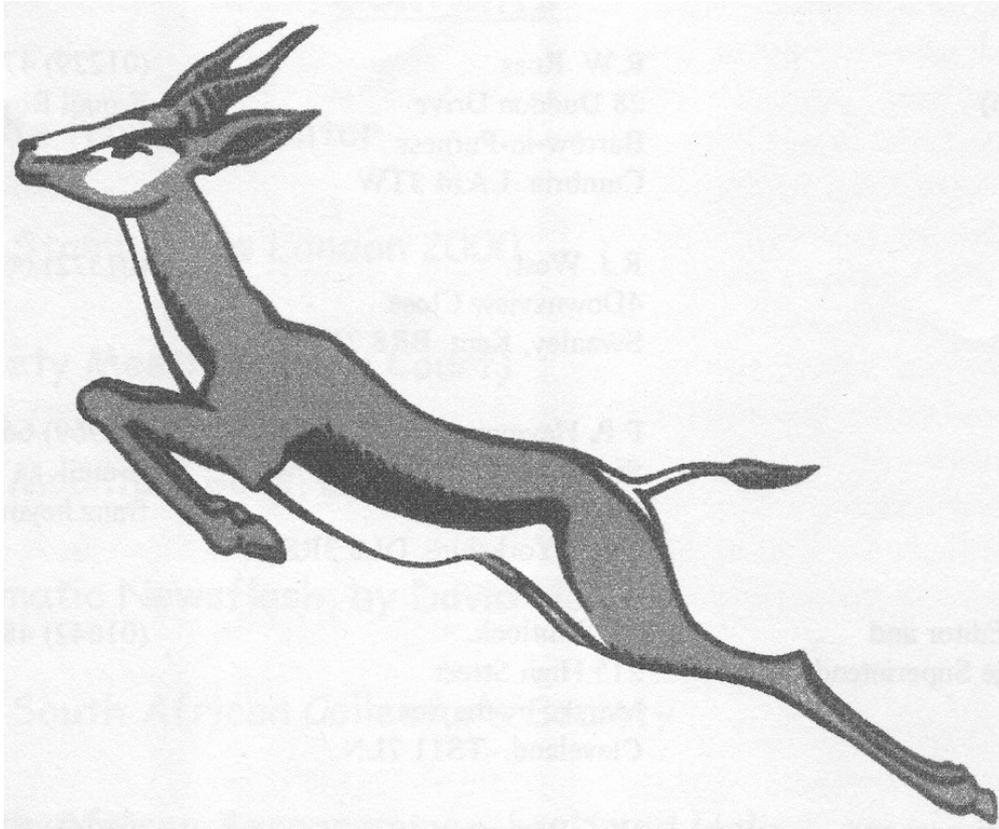


# *THE SPRINGBOK*



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

**QUARTERLY**

**Vol. 52**

**No. 2**

**Apr/Jun 2004**

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# *The Springbok*

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ISSN: 0955-6753

Vol. 52 No. 12 Whole No. 286

**Member:** Association of British Philatelic Societies  
The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

We are also a sponsor of the Stamps in Schools Project.

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*The Springbok* is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors' Society. It is not available to non-members. Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All correspondence including SAE will be acknowledged.

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## Events for your Diary 2004

<b>15th May</b>	<b>SACS London meeting</b>	<b>Subject: Postage due covers and marks</b>
12th June	Swinpex	St Josephs Lower School, Queens Drive, Swindon
<b>4th Sep.</b>	<b>SACS London meeting</b>	<b>Subject: Bantam War Effort stamps</b>
15-19th Sep.	Autumn Stampex	Business Design Centre Islington, London
<b>25th Sep.</b>	<b>SACS Carlisle meeting</b>	<b>Subject: Pre-Union and S. African Stamps used abroad</b>
30 Sep. -3 Oct.	A.B.P.S. Congress	Winchester
<b>6-7th Nov.</b>	<b>Southern African Societies Convention, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa.</b>	
11-13th Nov.	Autumn Philatex	Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
21-22 Nov.	A.B.P.S. Basildon 2004	Exhibition
<b>22nd Nov.</b>	<b>Basildon 2004</b>	<b>Open displays by all members</b>

## Events for your Diary 2005

23rd April	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject to be announced
26th June	Midpex	Tile Hill, Coventry

**For details, please contact the secretary. We have joint meetings at Swindon and Basildon. Please support these events.**

### From the Editors Desk

Time appears to fly when you do not plan ahead. I had put most of the items together for **The Springbok** and was just waiting for the Carlisle meeting to get the final bits before going to print. This did not quite happen according to plan. I was called to a few overseas meetings and one thing led to the other and here I am 3 weeks late!

I have received a lot of correspondence from members wishing me well with the Editorship of **The Springbok**. My sincere thanks to all who wrote or sent e-mails. I have had some pledges of articles and I eagerly await them. For the rest of you, put pen to paper on that issue or subject you are studying. The more variety we can publish in The Springbok, the more likely we are to get responses from members. Remember we do not all collect the same thing. This is the joy of collecting South Africa. It has many varied aspects and collecting fields.

I have also made contact with several of our "sister societies" around the world. We will in future be exchanging journals, newsletters etc. We have also been discussing the possibility of using information or articles that may be of interest to our members. This has been well received and hopefully these other societies might benefit from articles and information from our members.

A list of Societies who we now have "Reciprocity" arrangements with is listed elsewhere.

A new feature you will note is that we have started placing some adverts from dealers. This will be kept to a minimum so as not to overwhelm the journal with adverts. This is however necessary to offset some of the costs of producing **The Springbok**. To improve the quality and keep the costs under control is not easy. Better software, production techniques etc all cost something. This will be discussed at the next AGM in more detail.

Finally, on a sad note we have to report the passing of one of our well known members, Bill Fincham. John Shaw has provided an obituary to Bill which is placed elsewhere.

Enjoy the journal. Remember, if you would like to see something appear or are interested in a particular topic, please let me know. Better still, if you put something together it could be included!

Thanks to the contributors for this quarter. Keep the articles coming in.

**Eddie Bridges**



## Letters to the Editor

Please use this forum to advise me of your interests and what you would like to see in the Journal. I can only change, adapt or modify format, articles if you let me know what your thoughts are. Constructive criticism will always be taken onboard.

**Ed.**

### Auction Lists

**Nicholas Arrow** writes with the following appeal.

I have the pleasure of typing out the auction lists for Bill Branney. It is great fun, and I am learning a great deal about South African stamps into the bargain.

However, I would like to make a plea to all those who submit material to the auction to ensure that I can enter all the necessary information onto the auction sheet.

However daft it sounds, **PLEASE** could everyone remember to put the SACC number on the list sheets. I may have made a rod for my back in so far as the layout of the Auction list is concerned, but I do feel that the bidders will be more keen to buy if they know exactly what they are buying and in what condition your material is. A description of the lit is all very fine and large, but it helps to know that the stamp in question is, eg. SACC 150. To tell me that it is Animal series, 1/2d Warthog, Springbok watermark issue 1 means that I have to look it up to see what number it is and it all takes time!

Also could you remember to put in the condition of the material. With the modern mania of adding a premium to unmounted mint as opposed to mounted mint, it does make a difference to the value of the stamps. If the purchaser is asked to bid £30 for an unused set of the KGV Silver Jubilee set (SACC 64/7), he will do so with far greater enthusiasm knowing that it is \*\* (unmounted mint) as opposed to \* (mounted mint)

Concerning Postal Stationary, there is a need for the information as to whether it is used or unused to go into the narrative, of course.

I would just like to remind all you lovely vendors with your absolutely splendid material that I do not see it when preparing the list, so I cannot cross check with the material—I am not prepared to guess. I would simply remind you that the bidders will bid with more enthusiasm if they know what they are getting. **Thank you in advance!**

### John Davis from Alicante in Spain writes.....

First of all I would like to extend my good wishes to you in your new capacity as editor of **The Springbok**. Thanks John. Ed

In the first issue under your name you ask for an input from members as to what they would like to see in forthcoming issues. So here goes.

I am a stamp collector rather than a philatelist. I have a general interest in stamp collecting as well as a number of particular interests among which South Africa is one. So I would welcome occasional articles which are rather more "earthy" than most which appear in the pages of **The Springbok**. Here are a few examples of what I mean:

1925 Airmails. These turn up with great regularity in various auctions. There is usually a note saying they are forgeries. I have a set which I fondly believe is the real thing. How can I be sure? How does one distinguish between genuine and forgery? **(any volunteers for an article describing this. Ed.)**

First definitives of the Republic. Most of the coils can be identified even as used singles because they have a unique combination of features. A few do not. Specifically SACC 264a, 267b, 290e, 294b, 298d. Yet The South African Colour Catalogue gives prices for used singles so there must be some way of distinguishing them. What is it?

1977 Proteas. According to Gibbons, some were printed photo and others litho. Try as I may, I cannot detect the difference. Most of the time this doesn't matter as the perf count enables them to be distinguished. My problem arises with the 20c. Gibbons show this as photo perf 12 1/2 and both photo and litho perf 14 x 13 1/2. My edition of the SACC ignores the printing process difference. Gibbons give prices for used singles of all three versions so they must know how to spot the difference. Please can someone enlighten me?

1987/88 Natal flood disaster overprints. These seem to me to be quite difficult to find even though they have modest catalogue prices. Puzzlingly (to me) Gibbons price bilingual pairs at just double the price of a single. Yet the Union bilingual pairs are priced very much higher than singles. There must be an explanation for all this. It would be interesting to know what it is.

Most of these things are probably kids' stuff to the high profile philatelists in the society. However, I suspect that there may quite a few more ordinary collectors like me who rarely if ever come out of the woodwork. If that is so I would hope that others might indulge occasional articles such as those I have suggested. **Thought provoking.....Ed**

## DR BILL FINCHAM - 1930-2004

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Dr Bill Fincham, who died unexpectedly from a heart attack in mid February. His funeral was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February and the church was filled, with many of those attending coming from the philatelic world, especially from his local area societies and his two main specialist societies, the Indian Study Circle and our own SACS, represented by our secretary, Christopher Oliver, and his wife Susan, who also represented the Middlesex Federation as chairman and secretary respectively.

Whilst few of our newer members knew Bill, he had been one of the pivotal members of our committee, spending over 25 years as our auctioneer, taking over that mantle after my mentor, Bob Lawrence, died – and he took over this work at what was a most difficult time both for the society. Bill's main interest in South African philately was in the Union period, with especial interest in the fringe topics of air letters and Christmas seals. He was still actively studying both of these topics, the latter most recently in collaboration with the late Alan Caines. However, with the increase in Republican material coming in to the society auctions, Bill handed over this area to Bill Branney and then, as other interests made increasing demands upon him, Bill Branney took over the Union period material as well.

Like most of us, Bill had philatelic interests outside South Africa and his was India, for which he showed continued great enthusiasm and which gradually took over as his main interest, resulting in him becoming less active in SACS - although he continued to attend many London meetings. He was most active in both the study and society work of Indian philately and at the time of his death he was research co-ordinator of the India Study Circle, and had also served as its secretary. We had long talks at the last two MIDPEX events when he was manning the India Study Circle stand, close to our SACS stand, and he was always interesting to talk to and full of ideas for future study. Bill telephoned me only a few days before he died and we spent over 30 minutes discussing various stamp topics, including the India KG V "NINE PIES" surcharge and all its varieties, Bill stating he could mount a 100-page display of these, and warming to my suggestion he should come and show his India to my local society. We also talked of the surcharge essays on the K Ed VII and KG V high values and he promised to try and get me the Hammond-Giles listing of them. He also enthused on his post as India Study Circle research co-ordinator, asking if I would suggest a similar appointment at our next London meeting, which I duly did.

Bill had been a lecturer at Queen Mary, University of London, and worked there well beyond normal retirement age, although tapering his workload gradually down to one day a week, and finishing completely last year. He spent a lot of time commuting to Europe on various academic projects, which also resulting in having to cut down some of his philatelic activities. Like the late Tony Chilton, he has been taken from us just as his research was at its peak. Like Tony, however, and from the bubbly enthusiasm that came through when Bill telephoned me just before he died it is obvious, to coin a phrase, that Bill died with his tweezers in his hand.

Bill leaves behind his wife, Liz, and his two daughters, Niki and Helen, to whom we offer our sincere condolences. May he rest in peace.

John Shaw

# The History of South Africa

## From the Great Trek to the Boer War

By David Haig

The years between the Great Trek and the start of the 2nd Anglo Boer War in 1899, marked a period of massive change within the country and set the groundwork for what happened during the Boer War and on into the 20th Century.

The era started with the Afrikaners disgruntled by British rule trekking north out of the Cape into the interior. Reaching Natal, they entered negotiations with the Zulu King Dingane and started pegging out stands for their new farms. They hadn't reckoned on Dingane's paranoia and treachery & suffered severely particularly at Weenen and Blaukraantz when Zulu impi attacked the scattered encampments.

The surviving Boers and the British made common cause against their common enemy. At Blood River the massed Boer and British forces supported by cannon from the trading post at Durban, slaughtered the attacking Zulu forces. A large mounted column advanced into Zululand itself but found Dingane's capital Ungungundhlovu near present day Ulundi deserted and on fire. Dingane's fate isn't known for certain, but the few clues there are suggest that Swazi warriors killed him.

Following the victory, the Boers established a Republic called Natalia, with their Capital based on Pietermaritzburg. The Boers started forcibly relocating Africans within Natal to get the best land. Britain decided to assert her claim on Natal and in 1842 ordered Maj. T. C. Smith to march north with 2 companies of the 27th Regiment and seize Port Natal (Durban). On arrival at Durban, Smith dug in on the banks of the Congella River & commenced negotiations with the Boer leader Andries Pretorius.



Church of the Vow after the battle of Blood River



Pretorius was in no mood to negotiate & wasn't intimidated by the British force. Smith decided to attack and on the 23rd May 1842 part of his force marched along the beach to attack the Boer Camp. Detected by the Boers, the column was ambushed and driven back with severe casualties. For the next month Smith was besieged at Fort Congella until reinforcements arrived by sea, summoned by Dick King's epic break-out and ride from Durban to Grahamstown. In 1843 Great Britain formally annexed Natal and the Boer republic of Natalia was dissolved. Most of the Boers, left Natal trekking back over the Drakensberg to make a new life on the Highveld.

Natal from then on was a very different place compared to the other regions of South Africa. The province from then on was considered "English", indeed most whites living there are of British origin and English was the language of choice for both the Zulus and the large Indian community as well as the Europeans. It is still possible to see bumper stickers in Natal featuring a large Union Jack and the legend, "Natal, Last Outpost of the British Empire".

Meanwhile in the Cape, nothing much was happening. Various people either based there with the colonial administration or passing through on their way to or from India called the Cape pretty but backward and dull while the locals were peasants. To save money the UK Government did propose disembarking convicts at the Cape instead of transporting them the remaining 6,000km to Botany Bay. During the period of the convict transports to Australia prisoners who'd finished their sentence by the time the transports reached the Cape were sent onshore at Cape Town.



The only disruption to this quiet backward colony was the continual conflict between an expanding European population and the African Tribes on the borders of the Cape. The most powerful tribe were the Xhosas living in what is today the Transkei. In total there were 9 Frontier Wars, the first in 1779-81 with the last in 1877/79. Britain occupied the Xhosa lands as British Kafferia, using Cape of Good Hope stamps. The stamps are only identified from their cancels and are incredibly rare. The army built dozens of forts all over the Eastern Cape to try and pacify the area. One of the largest was Fort Hare where an all black university was established. Fort Hare University's most famous student was none other than Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.



Generally the wars involved raid and counter raid. The Xhosas were in fact highly proficient at this form of guerrilla warfare and under highly skilful Chiefs such as Sandile gave the Cape Forces a bloody nose on many occasions. The wars did result in one event of worldwide importance. In 1852 the 8th Frontier war was in full swing, but the Xhosas were proving to be a little difficult to subdue. The Birkenhead a chartered transport was enroute to Port Elizabeth with 630 persons on board, various detachments of reinforcements for the various regiments serving on the frontier plus a small group of women and children being the allocation of dependants allowed to accompany the fighting men.

In the early hours of the morning of the 26th of February the ship struck an uncharted reef just a mile from shore. With 15 minutes the bow tore off. The remaining section of hull remained afloat for only 10 more minutes, but what happened those 10 minutes became legend. The horses onboard were driven overboard to save the passengers being trampled by the panicking animals. Unfortunately their thrashing attracted a school of sharks & the sea turned red with blood as they slashed into the attack. Previously such a situation would have resulted in panic as people fought each other for a place in a boat.

As was usual then the ship carried to few boats for the number of persons embarked a situation that wouldn't be rectified until the loss of the Titanic 60 years later. Only 3 boats were available, the remainder destroyed or unusable, place enough only for 80 people for the 630 onboard. As the ship settled into the water, closer and closer to those dreadful sharks for which the South African coast is notorious Major Seton of the 74th Highlanders commanding officer of the embarked troops gave an historic order. All men fall in, "Women and Children First"!

As the young drummer boy beat a tattoo the troops fell in quietly without any sign of panic. The women & children were bundled into the boats, some off them torn bodily away from their husbands. With the boats clear of the ship the Captain said that the men could now save themselves. Major Seton ordered "Stand Fast" realising that the large numbers of men would soon swamp the boats. It was only as the ship capsized & sank did the orderly ranks of men break. Out of the 630 men on board only 193 reached shore safely, but not a woman or child was lost. Rudyard Kipling was soon to write "To stand and be still to the Birkenhead Drill is a damned tough bullet to chew".

I'm now turning to events in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. Boers from the Treks settled all across the highveld in what would become the Orange Free State and the Transvaal establishing Bloemfontein in the Free State and Potchestroom in the Transvaal. The Boers were constantly in a state of turmoil, badly organised, perpetually bankrupt and always conflicting with the local Africans.



Conflict with the Basutos led the Basuto King Moshoeshoe to appeal to the British for protection, as many of the Basutos were British Citizens. Moshoshoe had gathered the scattered survivors of Shaka's Mfecane (The Reign of Terror) into a new nation who called themselves Basotho. They retreated into the mountains of Lesotho and made that country their own, safe from all attack in their mighty mountain fortresses of Thaba Nchu and Thaba Bosio.



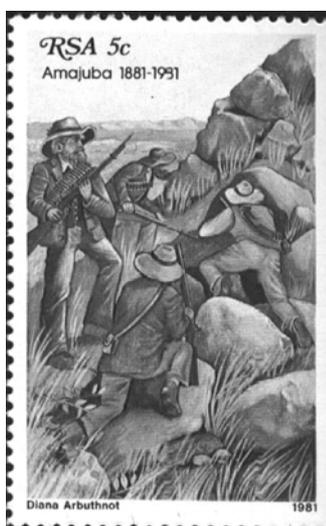
The new Cape Governor Sir Harry Smith a veteran of the Peninsula war in Spain annexed the OFS in 1848 as the Orange River Sovereignty. Andries Pretorius along with other hard line Boers invaded the Free State driving out British residents. Harry Smith crossed the Orange River to intercept him. The two forces clashed on the Boomplaats Farm on the 29th of August 1848. Harry Smith savaged the Boer forces in a brisk attack on their positions using a combination of his infantry with well co-ordinated Artillery support. Boer resistance collapsed leaving Britain in full possession of the Free State.

British policy on South Africa during the 19th century varied constantly between conciliation and a hard-line policy with the Boers. No sooner had Harry Smith effectively conquered the Boers than the new government recalled Smith and repudiated his actions. The Sand River Convention of 1852 and the Bloemfontein Convention of 1854 guaranteed the internal independence of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, with the Boers choosing the year 1853 as the establishment of the Free State.



By 1877, the Transvaal was in disarray, disorganised and completely bankrupt. British foreign policy by this time had changed and British troops marched in and annexed the country. They didn't however count on the level of feeling among the Boers and resistance to the British occupation soon erupted. A massed rally in 1878 voted to restore the republic and demanded British withdrawal. Opposition centred around an energetic politician by the name of Paul Kruger, a name that would return to haunt South African history again 20 years later.

The British garrisons in the Transvaal were besieged, and a small force from Lydenburg enroute to Pretoria was attacked at Bronkhorstspruit on 5th Dec 1880. On 28th Jan 1881, General Colley with a British relieving force tried to force the Laings Nek pass into the Transvaal. The Boer blocking force drove the attacking British infantry back with heavy losses. Colley suffered another defeat at Boer hands at the Ingongo River on The 8th of February.



On the evening of 26th of February Colley set out to occupy Majuba hill, which overlooked Laings Nek and the Boer positions blocking the road to the Transvaal. Colley had only 375 men with him on the summit, made no attempt to bring up heavy weapons, disguise their presence or even dig in on the hilltop. They were spotted at dawn and the Boers initiated a hasty attack on the hill. The Boers quickly moved up slope, dashing from cover to cover, while other men provided covering fire. The Boers quickly overran the position; the Boers lost 2 dead and 4 wounded while Britain suffered 92 fatalities including Gen. Colley and 134 wounded. The defeat effectively ended what became known as the 1st Anglo Boer War.

Britain promptly abandoned the Transvaal delighting the Boers who'd regained their independence. The hero of the hour Kruger became President of the Transvaal a position he was to retain for most of the following 20 years. Britain retained a claim of ultimate sovereignty a claim along with bitterness over the war soured relations between the Boers and British and were to provide the background to the 2nd Anglo Boer War.



The year 1867 changed everything. In June of that year a diamond was found near Hopetown in the northern Cape. In 1869 a huge 891/2 carat stone was discovered in the possession of the local Batlapin tribe. Thousands of prospectors flocked to the area, staking claims all over Griqualand. Officially the land belonged to the Orange Free State, but a falsified land survey map conveniently located the diggings in the British sector, which Britain promptly annexed as Griqualand West. It meant that the Free State lost their potential source of wealth and remained a quiet, relatively poor agricultural country.



1871 brought further diamond discoveries this time at Kimberley just 5 miles inside Cape Territory. Again thousands headed towards to the diggings including a young man from Bishop Stortford by the name of Cecil John Rhodes. This source of wealth made all the difference to the Cape, having a major source of income, no longer reliant on Colonial Office Funds, the colony was granted self government in 1872, joining Canada, New Zealand and the Australian States as fully independent nations within the

British Empire. The Cape developed quite rapidly from this point, investing heavily in infrastructure including railways, telegraphs, roads, telephones and even electricity. Port Elizabeth in fact had a full telephone exchange years ahead of London the Imperial Capital.

Natal had been fairly quiet since the defeat of the Boers. In 1872, there was a nasty campaign to disarm the Hlubi Clan of weapons that they'd bought with wages earned working on the diamond fields. All that remained was to deal with the fearsome Zulu tribe. Battered by the Boers 40 years earlier, by 1879 with Cetshwayo as king the Zulu Nation had returned to full power. The British used a variety of false excuses including accusations of raiding and cattle rustling. The Zulus were given an ultimatum to hand over a chief accused of marauding & rustling. Knowing the man to be innocent, the Zulus refused and British forces under Lt Gen. Chelmsford invaded.



That Zulu War as it became known has become the stuff of legend with the film "Zulu" in particular creating an image of the Red Coated British Infantryman bravely facing the enemy hordes with the sound of "Men of Harlech" in the background. The initial part of the campaign was a complete disaster. The northern column advancing to Isandlwana camped for the night.

The next day parties from the camp stumbled on Zulu Impis hidden in dongas nearby. The Zulus were hidden, waiting for the next day, having been told by their Asenghomas that the day was not propitious for an attack. Having been discovered the Zulus erupted from hiding and deployed into their classic

and deadly "Buffalo Horns" attack formation. In spite of possessing modern rifles, artillery, machine guns and even rocket launchers the British forces were quickly overrun and massacred. It was the worst defeat by a British army at the hands of a native force.

A portion of the Zulu force was despatched to destroy the garrison at nearby Rorke's Drift. The garrison consisted of a single company of the 2nd Battalion 24 Regt of Foot from South Wales. The company was commanded by Lt Bromhead; but the senior officer present was Lt John Chard Royal Engineers who was only there to improve the river crossing. Chard used his engineering skill to fortify the mission station and in an epic defence lasting all that night successfully defending the position against massive enemy forces. The action resulted in 13 Victoria Crosses being awarded, the largest number ever awarded in the history of the British Army for a single action.



Further actions were to follow at Escourt, Khambula, Hlobane and Ulundi. During the campaign the French Prince Imperial accompanying the British Forces was killed by Zulus. The event caused a scandal and the British patrol

commander was vilified and unfairly blamed for the death. Zulu power was smashed the colonial and later South African government ensured it stayed that way. The next big event in Natal history was the arrival of thousands of indentured workers from India destined mainly for the cane fields of the Natal coast. Among them was a young man who worked in both Natal and the Transvaal as a lawyer, becoming a particular thorn in the side of the Transvaal

Attorney general Jan Smuts. During the Boer War he served as a stretcher-bearer in the British Army during the Natal campaign.

Tossed off a train to Jo'burg on a freezing cold night because he wasn't white & saved from hypothermia by a sympathetic Zulu, he decided to dedicate his life to resolving such injustices. That young man was named Mahatma Gandhi. When their indentures ended very few of the Indians returned home choosing instead to make a new life in South Africa where there were so many more opportunities than in India. In doing so the Indians made a colourful addition to the ethnic composition of South Africa. To this day Natal is well known for its exotic curry dishes, Indian tailors, Hindu, Sikh & Islamic temples; women in colourful saris and the exotic pungent smelling stalls of the Indian market in Durban.



Besides Diamonds, Gold was discovered during the 1870's in the Transvaal on the edge of the escarpment, an area stretching from Pilgrims Rest through Barberton to Jeppe's Reef in Swaziland. The Gold was alluvial and each strike was worked until it played out and the prospectors moved on. Like the American West, Kalgoorlie and the Klondike, the landscape today is still littered with ghost towns and abandoned mine workings.

The big strike came in 1886. An Australian prospector called George Harrison on his way to the eastern Transvaal goldfields short of money stopped off on the farm Langlaagte to take a temporary job. Taking a sample from an outcrop on the ridge called Witwatersrand, which ran east to west through the area, he panned it in a nearby stream and stared amazed at the

incredible streak of gold glittering in the pan. Again thousands flocked to the area and a small township sprang up.

The Boer Government didn't expect the gold to last long as had happened in the lowveld goldfields and decided to make as much money as quickly as possible. By luck the Boer Government actually owned a piece of waste ground called Randeslaagte. At 10am on 08 December 1886 the first plot of the township was sold for half a crown. The township was given the name Johannesburg.

When news of the gold strike reached Pretoria, the now aged President Kruger is reputed to have said that he wished the gold had never been found and that this would be the end of their independence. He was right. The Johannesburg gold isn't alluvial but reef gold, requiring large organised workforces with heavy equipment to extract it. The gold content isn't very high, but there's an awful lot of it, so much in fact that 80% of all gold mined in the history of mankind comes from the Witwatersrand!



What started as a temporary prospector's camp rapidly became a permanent city. Fortunes were made and lost as mine owners jostled for power and money. Nearly everything had to be imported, and the Boer government gave monopolies in certain key products to various individuals who were able to hold the mine bosses to ransom. The monopolies, corruption, unfair taxes and refusal to grant the immigrants any sort of representation caused a huge amount of bitterness among the Uitlanders as the Boers called them.

Even though Johannesburg has an Afrikaans name, it wasn't and still isn't an Afrikaans city. European Immigrants, English speaking South Africans and migrant black workers make up the majority of the population. The mine bosses felt that it would be much better, politically, socially and most importantly economically, if Britain ran the country. Lets not forget that like the Morgan's, Astor's & Carnegie's of North American Robber Baron fame, Rhodes, J.B. Robinson, Wernher, Beit, Solly Joel and Sammy Marks were not running charities.

Rhodes decided to do something about it. Using the vast fortune earned in Kimberley, Jo'burg and Rhodesia to finance the operation he built up a force at Pitsani just across the Transvaal border and only a few days ride from Jo'burg. The force was mainly composed of troopers from Rhodes own British South Africa Company. The column led by Rhodes' personal friend Dr Jameson rode into the Transvaal. The column reached to within a day's ride of Johannesburg. The co-ordinated uprising by the Uitlanders in Jo'burg never happened and this time the Boers were fully alerted. After a brisk action, the force surrendered and Jameson was carted off to jail.

The Jameson caused the most god-awful scandal. Rhodes at the time was Prime Minister of the Cape and as the scandal deepened he was forced to resign. Britain had to launch a public enquiry at which Rhodes was blamed. Within South Africa, the effect was disastrous. In the Cape the Europeans of both British and Afrikaans be grown closer together, but the Raid destroyed that sense of common identity and nationality. A dislike and mistrust sprang up between the two peoples that has lasted to this day. Britain as "Perfidious Albion" had been proved.

The Boer republics spent millions on modern weaponry updating their now aged military equipment. A Series of forts were built round Pretoria to protect the city from any repeat of the Jameson Raid. Relations in the Transvaal were extremely strained; the mine bosses still wanted a solution to their problems. A series of unfortunate events including the killing of a British citizen by the ZARP's (Transvaal Police) just made things worse.

Plotting started again, aided and abetted by the new German born High Commissioner to South Africa one Sir Alfred Milner. He created a situation to up the ante, playing on Kruger's paranoia to force a conflict. Kruger too distrustful to defuse the situation and unable to see through Milner's scheme issued an ultimatum to Britain. When the ultimatum expired unresolved, Boer commandos started forward into the Cape and Natal. The Boer War had begun.

**Sources:**

- Lifting the Lid on the Treasure Chest. David Haig (SACS Article for The Springbok)
- The Randlords. Geoffrey Wheatcroft
- The Boer War. Thomas Pakenham
- British Forces in Zululand. Osprey Elite Series No 32 Ian Knight
- Queen Victoria's Enemies. 1 Southern Africa. Osprey Men at Arms Series No 212. Ian Knight
- Boer Wars (1) 1836-1898. Osprey Men at Arms Series No 301. Ian Knight
- Maritime South Africa. Brian Ingpen & Robert Pabst
- Against the Sea. Douglas Reeman
- South African Colour Catalogue

**Deadlines for Contributions**

The following is a guide for the deadlines for contributions for *The SPRINGBOK*. I would like to stay as close to these dates as I can to enable us to get the journal out to you before the following quarters meetings, events etc. We are aiming to publish as close to the beginning of the quarter as possible. Please let me have your input. I am also looking for a few feature articles to keep on standby. I am particularly keen to receive studies on issues, commemoratives or definitive series of the Union or Republican period.

Start those articles coming in. I will publish as much as I can. It will go in sooner or later!

**Issue 3 Jul/Sep 2004**                      **10 June 2004**

**Issue 4 Oct/Dec 2004**                      **10 Sept. 2004**

**Issue 1 Jan/Mar 2005**                      **10 Dec. 2005**

I will accept correspondence in English, Afrikaans and German. All articles, information will be translated to English and replies will be in English as well. I hope this will encourage more of our distant members to correspond as well. **Ed.**

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 No need to trek, just use  
 contact details if you want  
**Paul van Zeyl**  
 to make you an offer on any of  
 your "gems"

\*Totality of philately = stamps, postal history & stationery, postmarks, postcards, documents and literature

## Reciprocity Journals Newsletters

We have established reciprocity arrangements with the following societies for their Newsletters/Journals. These will also be a source of articles if something of interest is seen for our membership.

South African World War II Study Group	Johannesburg South Africa
The South African Stamp Study Circle	South Africa
South West Africa Stamp Study Group	South Africa
Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa	USA
Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika	The Netherlands
RSA Study Group	South Africa

## In The Philatelic Press

### Setempe

I have finally received the latest edition of "Setempe", the South African Post Office philatelic magazine. This now has the Stamp Issuing Program for 2004 in it. Their web site has been under construction for some time so I was unable to give you the new Issue program for this year. It can now be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Springbok*.

### South African Stamp Study Circle Newsletter Jan 2004

Some information on a display of Union booklets at the Jan. meeting covering Booklet 10, the Razorblade booklets 12 and 13. Also included an example of the blank or dummy booklets used to test the vending machines. Booklet 16 as well as some pages from the final booklet 21.

### South African Stamp Study Circle Newsletter Feb 2004

Article on drunken perms which is of interest and could be the base of a future article. A wonderful across the sheet strip of two rows of the 1/2d Springbok stamps prepared for the Unhyphenated Roto booklets but not cut. It shows the pane with the tete-bech setting. A very desirable item!

### South African Stamp Study Circle Newsletter Mar 2004

An interesting short article on bar coding as used on modern philatelic material.

### South West Africa Stamp Study Circle Newsletter Jan 2004

Intriguing article on the scarcest postage due stamp of SWA.

### South West Africa Stamp Study Circle Newsletter Feb 2004

Interesting article on the Airmails in South West Africa from 1914 to 1939.

I see also that the SAP will have a new Editorial Board and that the existing editor has resigned his post. I must admit that the SAP has not been inspiring for the last few years!

If you see any interesting articles regarding the philately of South or South West Africa, please let me know or better still send me a copy!

Eddie Bridges.

## Members Queries

If you have a query about anything, I will put it in and if an answer is forthcoming, I will publish the answer for all here as well. You may also use this forum to request information, items etc.

### FIVE SHILLINGS ISSUE TWO – AN UNLISTED VARIETY?

Our member Patrick Williams recently wrote to me concerning an unlisted variety he had found on the 5/- Issue Two hyphenated oxwagon stamp. The variety occurred on the Afrikaans stamp in a mint pair and consisted of a diagonal, North-west to South-east break in the bottom frameline, just below and slightly to the right of the first "S" of POSSEEL. Patrick sent this to me knowing of my interest in the 5/- oxwagon stamps and asked if it was a constant variety and, if so, what was its position on the sheet?

Searching through my own material, I found two other examples of this variety, one being a right marginal block of four, sadly without gum, and with the variety on the top left stamp and which also had a further prominent variety, a distinctive blob above and to the right of the first "S" in POSSEEL on the bottom right hand stamp. Now the marginal block allocates the variety to vertical column five and, since the first stamp in the sheet is Afrikaans, the fact that the Afrikaans stamp is in column five also allocates the variety to an odd row number. Absence of the two listed varieties, the "Rain" variety on stamp 20/6 (V4) and black dot by yoke pin on 18/6 (V3) also rule out the possibility of the variety occurring in the bottom four rows. Therefore, Patrick's variety is constant and occurs on stamp 5 in an odd numbered row between 1 and 15 and my "blob" variety on stamp 6 in an even numbered row between 2 and 16. To date, and in haste, I must report that I have so far got no further than this, but that I shall indeed pursue the matter. Moving stamp rooms at home, for the second but definitely final time this year, I cannot at present lay my hands on the writings of Gilbert – who was seldom wrong about any Union plating matter - and, of course, he may have already chronicled it. The two varieties are illustrated below.

**John Shaw**



I have tried to highlight the flaws, but the clarity is dependent on the resolution of the original. Ed.



**Ken Radley from Canada send the following request:**

Wanted: April 1984 issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly. If anyone can help, please let me know and I will forward his details.

Ken also made a plea for pictorial records of displays held at meetings. This is possible, finances and access to material permitting. Ed.

## Members in the News

### Brian Trotter

Brian Trotter has been appointed a trustee of the British Philatelic Trust. Our best wishes to him for the task ahead.

An extract from the ABPS news gives his background as follows:

Brian's main interest is in the history and philately of Southern Africa, with special emphasis on the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Philatelically this interest extends to not only the stamps but also revenues, postal history and postal stationary. Brian has written several articles on his interests..

A fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, he is a member of the Council of the Society, and its Honorary Assistant Secretary. He is a member of several other Philatelic Societies, holding office in a number, while his collections have been awarded both gold and large gold medals, nationally and internationally.



Photo: ABPS news Feb 2004

### Godfrey Mellor

Godfrey was awarded an ABPS award of Merit at a recent convention of the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies. Godfrey is a tireless worker behind the scenes in his local society as well as our Society. Recognition well deserved. Our congratulations to him.



Photo: ABPS news Feb 2004

## Welcome to the following new members.

Mr. Terry J. Gentle	of Hitchin Hertfordshire UK
Mr. Steve Hannath	of Cambridge UK
Mr. Cedric Roche	South Africa
Mr. D.L. Pearce	of Wolverhampton UK

## Wanted !

We are looking for a representatives in South Africa and in the USA to represent members in these countries and to facilitate payments and possibly distribution of material. This position will not take a lot of time but will help make the Society run a little easier in these countries. If you feel you could take on this small task for the SACS, please let Chris Oliver or Eddie Bridges know.

## National Savings Stamps of the Union of South Africa.

Giovanni Palazzo

These bilingual South African Union Savings stamps were sold at the Post Office for the purchase of Union Loan Certificates. Pairs inscribed alternatively in English and Afrikaans were printed on upright single springbok head watermark and perforated 14.5 x 14. Green and gold colours were used on white background for the vignette which shows a ship in rough seas. A bilingual card known as U.L.C. 40, was provided and when filled with 21 savings stamps of 9d each, the holder could exchange it for a Union Loan Certificate representing the value of 15/9d. Postage stamps were not accepted if affixed to this form and should the form be lost, no refund could be claimed. The Post Office had printed 80000 cards for distribution between 1941 and 1942. The unfolded size of this card is 20.5 x 14 cm, and on the reverse a slogan reading "Make a gift of a complete card to a friend" is printed. Incidentally the document was given to me by my father in law and after 63 years is still a good gift as appropriately suggested at that time by the Post Office. At the bottom right corner of the card, the date stamp of the Post Office issuing the Union Loan Certificate was required and therefore we assume that the savings stamps were left uncancelled as they had no postal validity. **Any additional information from readers would be gratefully received.**

U.L.C. 40.

		9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.
9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.
9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.	9d.

No. of Certificate Issued. 9d. 9d. 9d.

Date Stamp of Office issuing Certificate.

No. van sertifikaat uitgereik

Datumstempel van kantoor wat sertifikaat uitreik.

Inside of the savings book showing two savings stamps



Examples of the savings stamps

Front of the Savings Certificate

G.P.-S.478 -1941-2-80,000. U.L.C. 40

NASIONALE SPAARSEËLS  
VIR DIE AANKOOP VAN  
**UNIELENINGSERTIFIKATE**

HIERDIE VORM HET, WANNEER VOLGEPLAK, 'N KONTANTWAARDE VAN VYFTIEN SJELINGS EN NEGE PENNIES EN KAN VIR 'N UNIELENINGSERTIFIKATE, INGERUIJ WORD.

POSSEËLS MOET NIE AANGEPLAK WORD NIE, INDIEN DIE KAART VERLOOR WORD, SAL GEEN EIS OM TERUGBETALING OORWEEG WORD NIE.

o o o o o o o o o o

GEE 'N VOLLEDIGE KAARTJIE AS 'N GESKENK AAN 'N VRIEND

NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS  
FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
**UNION LOAN CERTIFICATES**

THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED REPRESENTS CASH VALUE OF FIFTEEN SHILLINGS AND NINE PENCE AND MAY BE EXCHANGED FOR A UNION LOAN CERTIFICATE.

POSTAGE STAMPS MUST NOT BE AFFIXED.

SHOULD THIS CARD BE LOST NO CLAIM FOR A REFUND WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

o o o o o o o o o o

MAKE A GIFT OF A COMPLETE CARD TO A FRIEND

## Was the recess-printed London pictorial 3d black and red printed in two-pane sheets?

**Sebastian Payne**

As most Union collectors are aware, the printing history of the 2d grey and purple recess-printed pictorial was relatively complex, and has taken a long time to work out. The account given in the Union Handbook (Hagger 1986: summarised in a table on p. 26), describes four issues, using four exterior and two interior plates, the earlier in sheets of four panes and the later in sheets of two panes. The earlier issues (1927-28) are always found with Group I perforation (p. 14), while the final issue (1929-1931) is found with Group I, II (p. 14 x 13½ down) and III (p. 14 x 13 ½ up) perforations. Each pane had the printer's inscription on the bottom margin between the two centre stamps; one of the more important sources of evidence used in working out the printing history has been tiny consistent differences between different imprint blocks in different panes and different plates.

The account given of the 3d black and red is, by contrast, relatively simple: according to the Union Handbook the stamps were printed in sheets of 240 stamps arranged in 4 panes, and there is no suggestion that there was more than a single interior and a single exterior plate.

"The first of the 2d stamps to be produced were printed in sheets of 240, as were all the 3d and 4d ones, whereas later 2d and 1/- to 10/- values were in sheets of 120. In the former there were 4 panes of 60 separated by vertical and horizontal gutters and in the others there were two panes and only the vertical gutter. In the pane there were 10 rows x 6, and the printer's inscription appeared on the margin below it under the two centre stamps." (Hagger 1986: 23).

As the 3d is only slightly less common than the 2d, it seems a little unexpected that it had only one plate while the 2d went through no fewer than four. A recent meeting of the Society at which John Shaw led a discussion of the recess-printed pictorials, provided a stimulus to a more detailed study of 3d imprint blocks, the idea being that if the Union handbook account is right, there should be four different imprint block types, but if there was more than one exterior plate, there would be more.

Thanks to the kind loan of material by John Shaw, it has been possible to assemble 16 imprint blocks, 10 Group I (including two SWA overprints) and 6 Group II (again including two SWA overprints). Two different positionings of the guide dots are very distinct; each is associated with different fairly consistent minor flaws, and a different and consistent positioning of the frame guide dot in the upper frame of the right stamp (10/4):

	<b>Imprint block type A (thought to be left pane – see below):</b>	<b>Imprint block type B (thought to be right pane – see below)</b>
	1 x Group I,	9x Group I,
	4 x Group II	2x Group II
Red guide dot above the K in WILKINSON	about 1.25 mm above the top of the lettering, and about 0.25-0.3 mm to the right of the right side of the upright of the K	about 1.1-1.15 mm above the top of the lettering and about 0.45 mm to the right of the right side of the upright of the K
Red guide dot above the U of BRADBURY	about 1.2 mm above the lettering and about 0.2 mm to the left of the second upright of the U	about 1.1 mm above the lettering and about 0.1 mm to the left of the second upright of the U
Tiny oblique red line below R of BRADBURY	absent	Group I: 2 absent, 1 faint , 6 clear Group 2: 2 clear
Faint red mark above GR of ENGRAVERS	absent	Group I: 2 absent, 2 weak, 4 clear, 1 concealed by cancel; Group 2: 2 clear
Red mark above DE of MALDEN	Group I: 1 weak; Group 2: 1 weak, 3 clear	absent
Red guide dot in upper frame of 10/4	lower and centrally placed between vertical shading lines (hidden by o/p in Group II SWA)	higher and placed to the left in relation of shading lines



Inscriptional pair from Group 1



Inscriptional pair from Group 2

The minor flaws are commoner or stronger in Group II than in Group I, and are all relatively small and faint; small brighter spots of ink were found on most of the blocks but aren't consistent. Unexpectedly, imprint block type B is commoner in Group I and imprint block type A in Group 2 – similar numbers would be expected.

Numbers aren't large enough for definite conclusions, but the results so far are surprising – not only are there too few different imprint block types to suggest that there was more than one frame plate, but the fact that only two imprint block types have been found suggests that this may have been a two-pane plate rather than the four-pane plate suggested by the Union handbook.

Some of the material in John Shaw's collection adds further information about sheet layout.

> First, a strip of four from the bottom of a Group I pane had a Type B imprint, a perforated left margin, and a vertical guide line, showing that Type B is from the right pane, and suggesting, if there are only two imprint block types, that Type A is from the left pane.

> Two other blocks, one of Group 1, the other of Group II, have similar vertical guide lines, with two dots to the left near the top, again consistent with the suggestion that there was only one plate. One is a Group II inter-pane strip and shows that the distance between the right frame of the rightmost stamps of the left pane and the left frame of the leftmost stamps of the right pane was approximately 16 mm; the guide line is marginally closer to the right than to the left pane.

> Two Group 1 blocks with "oval perforations" have 12 oval perforations at the bottom of the stamps in the /6 row (including the hole in the right vertical row) and 9 circular perforations to their left. This shows that there would have been 8 perforations in the interpane strip, as reported for Issues 3 and 4 of the 2d. (Group II sheets have only two perforations in the interpane strip, with a gap in between.)

> The existence of interpane strips for Group II shows that these were at least sometimes issued as two-pane sheets, and the controls listed in the Union Handbook (UHB 25 Ca-Cc) suggest that this was also the case for Group I. However the two Group I left corner blocks with guidelines in John Shaw's collection had been guillotined and were presumably issued as single-pane sheets.

**The reason for publishing these results at this point is to ask other members to check their collections so that we can add results from more imprint blocks. I would be grateful for any information, and plan to summarise the results in a future issue of The Springbok. Please help if you can.**

**Reference:**

Hagger SJ (ed.) 1986 *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961*. Reijger Publications (Pty.) Ltd., Cape Town.

**Acknowledgements:**

Particular thanks to John Shaw, for providing both the impetus and much of the material on which this is based; and thanks also to Eddie Bridges.

## Feedback on last quarters queries and articles.

### Mike Tonking from South Africa responds to the query by John Archer regarding the 7c Second RSA definitives.

*I reproduce his letter here as other members might also benefit from this information...Ed.*

The second definitives were printed on the, new at the time, De la Rue-Giori machine also known as the 841 machine which has the ability to use five photogravure cylinders plus a single intaglio cylinder which could print up to three colours in a single revolution. In total up to eight colours could be printed on a single stamp. The photogravure cylinder circumference was half that of the intaglio cylinder, thus if both cylinder types were used to print the same stamp, as indeed occurred in the case of the second definitives, many different cylinder combinations could be expected.

This may be represented as shown below:

Photogravure cylinder	A B A B A B A B
Intaglio cylinder	a b c d a b c d

It is thus evident that in fact there are four panes printed for each of the small format stamps and two panes for the large format stamps in the second definitive series.

Thus in the case of the 7c value there are two 'A' and two 'B' panes. The one 'B' pane has two bars in the bottom right margin and the second 'B' pane three bars as illustrated. These thick lines or bars are the register control marks and are exactly 20 mm apart and were used for electronic eyes to control the exact registration of the colours. The extra deep purple top line is printed from the intaglio cylinder which will only appear once on every second 'B' pane.

Mike also comments about the information on the first definitives and also recommends the Philatelic Federation of Southern African publication 'Stamps of the Republic of South Africa Handbook/Catalogue' which was produced by the South African Stamp Study Circle around 1978. Several other members also commented favourably on this Catalogue.

**Thanks Mike Ed.**

### Jamie Gale wrote with the following comment to Fred Clark's Paquebot article:

I read with interest the article by Fred Clark and can add a little bit to the information: I have a cancellation on piece in purple, cancelling 3 English 1d Utility printing stamps, which may enable somebody to trace the boat on which it was sent to its final destination.. Unfortunately there is no trace of any censor cancel or indication of its addressee.

### Chris Miller also responded to Fred's article.

Fred Clark's article on the Paquebot mark was particularly interesting. I am enclosing a scan of my only cover with a circled arms S handstamp as well as an article, which the late Alec Page had published in the Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin in 1993. I am not sure that these help with the Paquebot angle but do show that there are a few of the circled arms handstamps.

I do not know where I obtained the information that the arms S was used in Port Elizabeth. It was one of those stated 'facts' that I had always accepted although I cannot now find any published information to support it. Indeed if you take my cover as the only example it should have come from Durban. I know of at least three of the arms S handstamps on cover.

The FL on Fred's cover is very interesting as only the Cape Town censor station used initials to identify an individual examiner. So now we have the position where it appears to be both Cape Town and Durban

I am sorry that I cannot comment on the Paquebot mark. Although I have a large number of covers from this period, I have none of the mark shown. It is more accurate to say that I cannot find any! I think that this is evidence that it is more likely to be a Port Elizabeth mark even if somewhat tenuous.

***I passed this information on to Fred and his response is on the next page. Ed.***

## Fred Clark responds.....

The paragraph re the initials FL on my two covers was most interesting and I regard the point that "only the Cape Town censor station used initials to identify an individual examiner" as most important and another indication that the Paquebot mark in question was used at Cape Town.

With regard to Chris's cover with the circled arms S mark and Durban Paquebot mark, I note that this also has the censors initials FL (upside down to the left of the air mail label), which from the above statement by Chris, would indicate censorship in Cape Town. This cover of Chris's thus agrees with my two covers and that the circled arms S mark is a Cape Town mark. The cover does not appear to be dated, is addressed to the USA and is franked with four 1/- BWE stamps of South Africa which would indicate that it was an overweight air mail item. The franking would probably cater for air mail Durban to Cape Town and within the USA. Due to war time restriction, air mail was not resumed from S. Africa to G.B. until 23rd May 1944 and I believe this cover was sent from Durban to Cape Town for onward transmission by sea mail via G.B. and so was censored in Cape Town.

It is suggested that the write-up to this cover may need amending eventually by Chris, when this matter is finally resolved. With regard to the Paquebot mark I am questioning, I am afraid I cannot follow the logic behind Chris's last sentence on page 1 of his letter. How can scarcity of this mark be evidence to make it more likely to be a Port Elizabeth mark no matter how tenuous? The only suggestion that this Paquebot mark was of Port Elizabeth origin lies in the SAP article of March 1981 and I believe my January Springbok article explained that away.

### Chris Miller also provided an answer to Rudolf Lazar's query.

On page 8 Rudolf Lazar asks why this cover was censored as if censorship of mail to an allied country is in some way unusual. Allied territories tended to follow the same lines as South Africa. All mail to neutral countries and to and from those on a 'watch list' was examined. Mail to friendly countries was examined on an occasional basis.

South Africa introduced censorship of mail to neutral countries by proclamation on 26 November 1939 and this was extended to cover internal communications and to mail within the Commonwealth on 15 June 1940. The United States of America was of course neutral at the time.

In practise it is considered that one third of the friendly mail was examined by the censor.

Mail to enemy countries was not permitted except by use of the special arrangements for Prisoners of War, via Thomas Cook or in the case of South Africa via Lisbon for those with relatives in occupied Holland.

### Remember Lusitania

Both George Gibson and Francis Kiddle responded to this one.

Francis reminded me that he did an article in Stamp Magazine as recently as October 2000. I managed to find my copy and attach some scans herewith. George also supplied photocopies of the sheetlets of the labels. **Ed.**

The labels were printed in blocks of four by Winox Ltd., Richmond, Surrey. These blocks featured Lusitania, Edith Cavell, Kultur and Zeppelin Triumph. They are found in different colours.

Why on a South African cover? Poster stamps did not have any boundaries and South African Troops were here in the UK. Probably some of the poster stamps were sent to SA.



The four poster stamps as printed by Winnox Ltd.

## Strange Booklet Pane.

No positive answer has come back on this query. Chris Palmer did respond proposing that it might be a booklet pane from the Green Dri Foot booklet (B16), but this turned out to be a possible red herring. Chris, on closer examination appears to have been sold a booklet that was made up from sheet stamps! It pays to examine these expensive booklets very carefully. I had inspected my panes from these booklets and they were all perforated and so were all the panes belonging to other members who own panes from this booklet. There appears to be no apparent reason why this pane margin was not perforated through like all other panes in this period. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know. Eddie Bridges.

## Items of interest

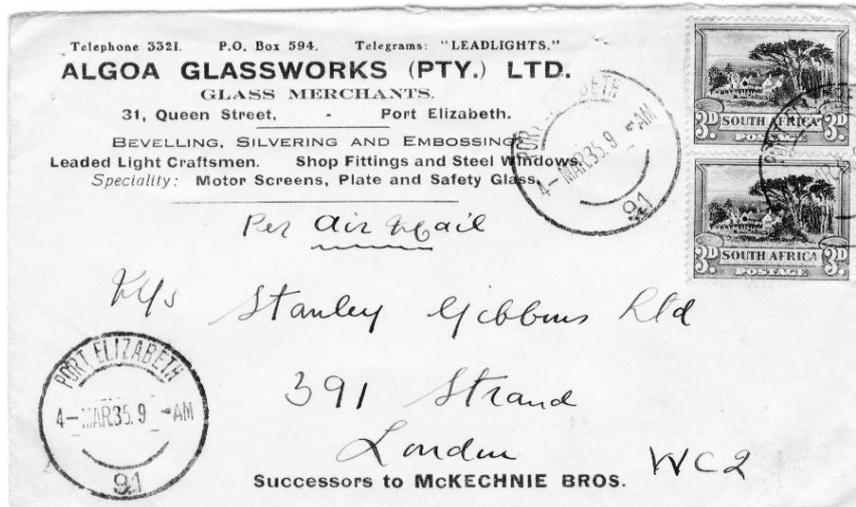
I have been requested by members to include the odd item of interest as not all were keen on doing articles, but were quite happy to supply the odd snippets of information or interesting items. So if you have anything that you think may be of interest to the members, please send them to me.

Member Eric Hammond submitted the following items:



A newspaper cutting which appeared in a local paper in Glasgow illustrating the FDC. Eric obtained both together still after all these years!

Items of interest cont....



This cover has two 3d blue definitives with the shuttered window variety! A most unusual item. Most likely philatelic judging from the address!

**Annual Conference in Leamington Spa 11 to 13 November 2004**

Just a reminder to keep a note in your diary for this event which is not to be missed. If you think you will be likely to attend, please let Brian Trotter or myself know. Brian is co-ordinating the room bookings at the hotel. Rooms will be available on a first come first served basis. Remember there will be members from the other Southern African Societies also attending. On this note, I would like to make an appeal that more SACS members consider attending. Last year the presentations were some of the best I had seen and this year promises to be no different!

If you have some material you would like to put on the auction, please let me have it with a description and a reserve. There has been some good material at the last two years gatherings. Also, we will have some dealers who will provide better class material for sale.

Brian Trotter's contact details: Tel: 020 8870 7100 e-mail brian@btrotter.co.uk  
My details as at the front of the Journal.

**Eddie Bridges**

**For the Elusive and Unusual in Southern African Philately**

**Contact**

**John-Peter Wharton-Hood**

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## Auction Report

### Forthcoming auctions

**Philatelic Friends-Hout Bay South Africa**

Closing date: 22 May 2004

Website: [www.philatelicfriends.com](http://www.philatelicfriends.com)

**Southern Cape Philatelic Auctions-George East**

South Africa

Closing date: 26 May 2004

*If information is too hand, I will publish auctions with a South African Interest if the closing date is such that the information will reach you in time.*

*If you know of auctions which regularly feature South African Material, please let me or Tony know. Ed.*

### AUCTION REPORT (for 2003)

#### Tony Howgrave-Graham

I remember well a few years ago in France stopping over at a nice little town on the Loire and finding a marvellous eating house with a “*menu gastronomique*” – unable to resist I was onto about course 3 of 7 when asked if I would like “*saumon ou roc*” – “*Yes please*”, says I. The question was repeated several times – I thought the waiter must be deaf or dopey but continued with increasing irritation to say “*yes please*” until it suddenly dawned on me that the “*ou*” in the middle meant “*or*” (the “*roc*” by the way was pike – I expect you all know the salmon which I was keenly anticipating cooked “*ou roc*!”). I think our new Hon. Ed. Eddie must have been sitting behind me. I recently offered him a choice of three options and got the answer “*yes please*”!

The first of these was the auction report. As the shrinking number of people to whom I send sheets of available lots know, 2003 was not a bumper year. The auctions were badly spaced and there were not a lot of interesting items. It was further complicated by the rand which has clearly taken a liking for trampolining! Just as the experts were predicting further decline to 20R to the £1 it took off in the opposite direction. The fluctuations are making the market difficult to read with the SACC adjusting to the decline just as the rand strengthened again, and not by a little, starting the year at about 17 to £1 it ended up at about 11 and is now sliding again!

To prevent these reports getting too long I think, if there is a need and people want them, I must do them twice yearly. I must emphasise that the picking of items is entirely personal and any comments entirely gratuitous. I’m entirely happy to be taken to task if people think they are inappropriate (as has happened in the past!). More importantly, if you want me to cover different areas, or items, you must let me know, and if you come across interesting realisations could you send them on?

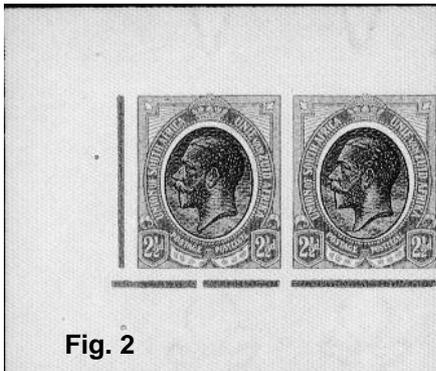
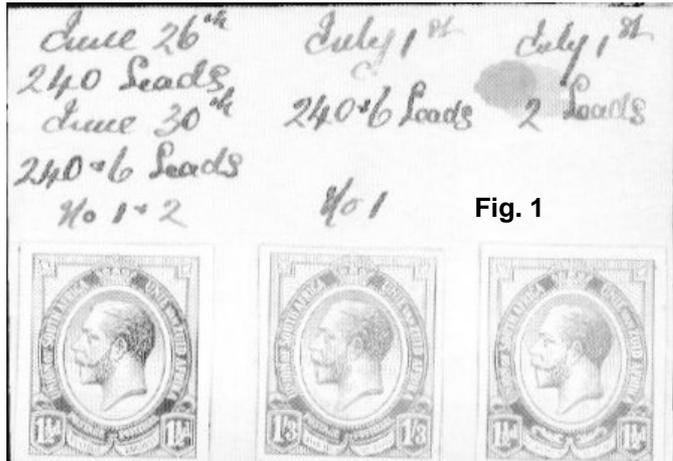
Recording prices is fraught with difficulty so must be judged accordingly. The “*superb*” may fetch twice the “*fine*” and ten times the “*poor*”. The catalogue description may not be fully accurate, and how does one describe large lots?

For a change I’ll have a shot at the latter, very large lots, in fact. Harmers (27 Jan 2004) have just had a sale which I viewed and was surprised to find it doubling as an SACS meeting! Members were acting as Harmer’s helpers and viewing. Three boxes, in particular, each weighing 20lbs or more were huge and crammed to overflowing with rubbish, collectable material and some relative goodies, some not quite right such as a very skilfully rejoined pair of the last 10/- official. The first which also contained pre-Union material and estimated £240 made £1495! Another box bursting at the seams with mostly postal stationary (ev £500) made £1150 and a third entitled “*Postmarks*” (e/v £250) made £414. Two excellent collections, albeit poorly presented, went well over estimate with e/v £600 making £1380 and e/v £200 making £1035 with me an under bidder! One well known senior SACS member is now the proud owner of a very extensive lot of Christmas seals at £332. All in all I hope they were bought by Society members as there’s enough material to keep Bill Branney busy for years with the Society Auction!

**Auction Report Cont.**

I'll restrict my review of 2003 to the three Stephan Welz sales as I haven't got many interesting realisations on UK offered lots, which, as I say, were unusually restricted in scope. The price of the rand was so variable that I have give a rough £ translation for each. Our "Philatelic Friends" have in fact taken to producing their catalogues with £ estimates.

The first Welz sale was in March with the rand about 17 to £1. It was notable for the sale of Jeff Fine's award winning King's head issues. Your editor has got me to agree to do a series of "short articles" on this issue based on the display I showed at Leamington, so I'll try not to duplicate things and I'll skip the essays and specimens which will feature then. A proof of the head only, dated 2 Dec '12 and initialled, made 6050R (£350) and of the complete design with uncleared surrounds 7150R (£420 – a rise on the £350 of a couple of years ago). The scarce cut down and annotated die proofs from the DLR archive books made 4255R (£250) each for the ½d and 1d but only 3450R (£200) for the 2d (which looked exactly similar!). A nice trio of 1½d and 1/3 (Fig. 1) on a single piece made 9900R (£580). The single value proofs of the frame only on glazed card, tended not to sell, probably because they were estimated some 40-50% higher than previous realisations which have generally been in the £200-240 range. The 10/- did, however, sell for 5175R (£300). An imperf 2½d colour trial pair in black and orange believed to emanate from a small trial sheet (Fig.2), the only other known portion of which is in the Royal Collection,



made 49,500R (nearly £3000). The more usual single colour trial in the £1

colours made 8800R (£500+). Turning to the issued stamps the ½d dk mossy emerald green in a blk.4 (2mm, 2um, one tone spot) made 5290R (£310). The 1d Plt.1 btm rt corner blk.10 with no cut made 7150R (£420), Plt.2 with cuts, btm rt corner pair 4140R (£240) and the scarce Plt.5, all 4 corner strips of 3, 2760R (£160) Co-extensive jubilee lines are expensive, a 2/6 corner pair making 5175R (£300) and a

10/- pair 11,000R (£650). As mentioned at Leamington, I have no idea why 5/- control pieces seem to fetch as much, or more than 10/- ones. Corner control pairs of the 5/- with the stamps um made 3680R (£215) and 4025R (£240) whereas the same for the 10/- made 3450R (£200). For those aspiring to £1 controls, two fine mint corner pairs of the green and red made 9350R (£550) each, the same as an "olive" pair with brown gum. You may be interested by a few variety realisations. The famous 1/2d double print (ex Ritchie, Simenhoff, Sydow and Rall) fetched 16500R (£1000) and the rare 5/- with watermark inverted, og 17,600R (£1000+). A double row of 1d from plate 6, the top row of six without watermark, made 22,000R (£1300). Meanwhile the single 11/2d with the unexplained sideways watermark failed to sell at 15-20,000R. A 2d corner pair, one without watermark, made 4140R (£240). The 3d blk/orange & 4d, both with "new moons" made 1725R (£100+) whilst the spectacular control blk. 6 of the 3d blue with the same variety, the key and remaining portion of the Thys Rall block made 4830R (£285)

(Fig.3). A blk.6 2d with a paper intrusion (still attached & affecting 2 stamps) fetched 2760R (£160), a 6d Plt. Blk. 4 with one stamp affected by a large tapered intrusion 2875R (£170) whilst a 2/6 pair, one with a central triangular intrusion made 3450R (£200) (Fig. 4)



Fig 4

Turning to the used, the 1/2d-6d on FDC made 7150R (£420), a single 11/2d with 1st day cancel made 575R (£34), whilst another was unsold.

The set in blocks of 4 to the £1 made 9900R (£580). A 1d bi-sect + 1d making up the 11/2d rate on a 1/6/20 cover with a non philatelic look and escaping untaxed, made 2530R (£150).

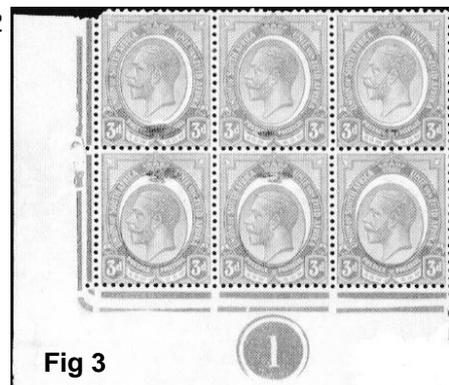


Fig 3

**Auction Report Cont.**

Various items of the possible "1 1/2" overprint trial remained unsold. The 2d dark plum used on piece, with certificate, made 805R (£47). The 10/- inverted wmk fu (described and looking as such in the photo) made 5750R (£260).

The next Welz sale took place in August, by which time the rand had strengthened to about 13 to £1. I remember the sale best for two blocks of the 1944-6 11/2d official with diarsis (SGO33a, SACC26ba, SAHB o99). The top left corner block of 9 without the diarsis (V1) on rows 1,2&3/2 made a lot more than I bid at 20,000R (£1500), as did the bottom left corner block of 46 (with the same variety on row (8/1) which fetched 36,000R (£2750). The sale was probably better remembered by Air Mail collectors for the sale of the Claude Malan material.

Three 1911 Kenilworth-Muizenberg 1st Flight covers made 5060R (£390) & the 1st return flight (1 cover) 3680R (£280). A 2nd flight cover made 2300R (£175) and a stampless and taxed example of the same 4600R (£350). The 2nd return flight card was estimated 1800-2200R but realised 13,200R (£1000)!. I know a member who has been looking for this for some years-its clearly a scarce item. Four 1918 "large wing" Cape cards in average condition made 6050R (£460), the Transvaal "small wings" remaining unsold. A 1919 "Peace Pigeongram" (no.26) with ironed out fold made 4830R (£370) and the 1920 Handley Page cover (Fig.5) made 12,100R (£930). A 1920 letter from Lloyd George to Smuts relating to the Van Ryneveld & Brand pioneer Cape-Cairo flight fetched 13,200R (£1000). A GPO souvenir card with the 1925 set attached and signed by Stuurman (Fig.6) reached 5175R (£400). The full set on a 1925 Govt. Exp. Service 1st flight cover, with the 2d postage & a brochure made 1725R (£130) and a later cover without the 2d postage and thus taxed made 1840R (£140).

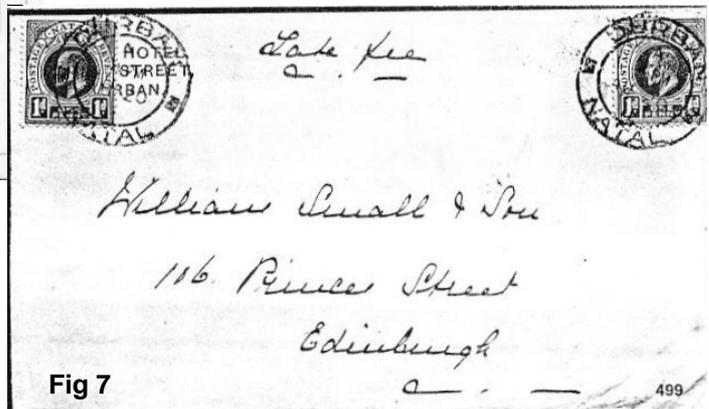
A 1926 Mittelholzer "Afrikafug" cover made 3450R (£265), a 1929 Verneuk Pan flt. Cover + photo 12,100R (£930), a Casparethus flt. + repro-photo 4370R (£335), a 1932 Mollison flt cover + ephemera 19,800R (£1500) and a 1933 Eshowe crash "letter bill" for the airmail bag carried on the flight 16,500R (£1250).



Inter-provincial period collection, so I bid, as I thought, generously.

Cont. on next page....

By the time of the November sale the rand was about 11 to £1. As this report is running on a bit and there wasn't a huge amount in the sale, I'll just pick a few of interest. A 1910 21/2d FDC with a letter from a 7 yr-old boy reached 1840R (£165) despite creasing. Four more regular FDC's made 2760R (£250). I thought a rather nice 1911 Natal "Late Fee" envelope (Fig.7) was optimistically estimated at 800-1000R, despite the recent articles showing its interest and the fact that the "Late Fee" was a misnomer for an additional Sunday fee to enable it to catch the Wednesday morning Cape Town sailing for the UK. I've not seen one priced before and thought it would enhance my



## Auction report cont.....

It went to someone else for 1380R (£125)! And who says vertical pairs are unsaleable? A 1926 vertical 1/2d pair made 15,400R (£1400) ! It did, however, have the missing "1" from "1/2" variety, plus the rather strange estimate "less than 5 copies believed to exist". The 1927 2d inverted wmk, a marginal block 4 (top pair mm & short perfs, lower pair um) made 5750R (£520) and the 4d, also inv wmk, a Group 3 corner blk 4, um made 12,100R (£1100). The scarce Gp.2 2/6 inscrip-tional pair, mm, made 3220R (£290) and a Gp.3 5/- inscript. Pair, um, 5175R (£470). A straight forward perf 14 5/- pair, um, made a good price of 2990R (£270). A collection of 10 Ocean PO cards used 1912-13 made 3680R (£380) and a 1921 envelope franked with a strip of 4 x 11/2d cancelled by the Cape Town "Shipping Postmaster" CDS (No 3) made 5060R (£460). For comparison with the August sale, a straight forward mm pair of the 11/2d official with diæresis (SAHB O99) made 1610R (£145) and the 1950/4 2d with inverted overprint, um, 9900R (£900).

Remember, if you want different areas covered, or a different format of article, I need feedback and I look forward to receiving details of interesting realisations that you may come across.



## For the Bookshelf

### No new publications were submitted for review.

David Haig's list of South African related books is published here. Some of these books are worth looking for to add to your bookshelf. David writes.....

Frans Heymann the SACS editor asked me to do an article about literature on South Africa. Everyone is familiar with the philatelic publications such as the handbooks, South African Colour Catalogue, Stanley Gibbons and Ralph Putzel's books on South Africa and Namibia post offices and postmarks.

However what if you want to know more and increase your knowledge of South Africa and the subjects depicted on its stamps with some background reading? You could wander into your nearby WH Smith, Waterstone's or Borders books and start buying. Chances are you're either going to be faced with a wall of books, uncertain which to buy or they'll be just a few fairly expensive publications making you wonder whether or not to take a chance and just spend the money.

This is my selection of publications on South Africa, some of which I think are essential, others useful and some not worth bothering about, although I leave you to make your own opinions.

- \* **South Africa: Land of Beauty and Splendour - Readers Digest.** A very nice hardback book full of pictures maps snippets of history. Unlikely that anyone will be able to find a copy in Britain but a lovely book.
- \* **Cape Epic - Hymen Picard.** Basic general history of the Cape, with some good maps and pictures. Also published in the RSA.

## New Venue for London Meetings

### Just a reminder!

The London group will be meeting at a new venue for a trial period in 2004. The old venue at Hawkstone Hall was becoming too expensive. The new venue is the **British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 M 6PT.** Please make a note of this for the meeting on the 15th May 2004. There will be no one at the old venue!

### Subject for 4th September meeting in London

The meeting in Sep. will look at the **Bantam War issues** again. This was handled some years ago with some reports in **THE SPRINGBOK.** Members are requested to bring their material to the meeting and it is hoped to be able to produce some pictorial record for further study and development.

**If any member has large holdings of this material, please let the Editor know. I have the dubious honour of leading the discussions on this day!**

## David's reading list cont.....

- \* **Contact 1 and Contact 2 - Paul L Moorcroft.** Excellent series on the Rhodesian War, currently being reprinted but very expensive at £200 a book. Even 2nd hand originals are fairly expensive.
- \* **South African War Machine - Helmoed Romer Heitmann.** General history of the South African Armed Forces and detailed descriptions of the war in Namibia and Angola and South African weaponry at time of publication (mid 80's).
- \* **South Africa's Border War - Willem Steenkamp.** General history of the Border War against Angola and the Warsaw Pact from 1975 to 1990. Contains more details than SA War Machine.
- \* **Janes Fighting Ships - Janes Publishing.** Technical details of South African Naval Vessels. Very expensive, use the copies in your local library's reference sections.
- \* **Great Steam Trek - Jorgensen Lewis.** Excellent for train enthusiasts, containing descriptions of all the steam lines in South Africa and containing dozens of spectacular photographs.
- \* **Oxford English Dictionary of South African English.** Title says it all, explanations of various arcane South African expressions unique to the country.
- \* **Groote Afrikaanse Woordeboek.** Essential for people wat nie Afrikaans verstaan nie.
- \* **Birds of Southern Africa - Ian Sinclair.** (great for thematic Collecting)
- \* **Snakes and Reptiles of Southern Africa - Bill Branch**
- \* **Mammals of Southern Africa - Chris & Tilde Stuart**
- \* **Struik Publishers** - Major South African publishers, producing the three books above as well as dozens of others on a variety of topics.
- \* **Osprey Publishing** produces a number of very good books about military history and soldiers in South Africa lavishly illustrated with photographs and their now famous artworks. I have 10 volumes ranging from the frontier wars to Angola & the Air force units serving in Korea.
- \* **Germ. The Ultimate Weapon & Plague Wars:** Very scary books about the danger of Biological Warfare round the world including sections on the secret SA Germ weapons programme used for assassination and destabilisation during the Apartheid era.
- \* **The Boer War - Thomas Pakenham.** This book is an absolute must; the bible for anyone interested in the 2nd Anglo Boer War.
- \* **National Army Museum Book of the Boer War - Field Marshall Lord Carver.** General history of the war produced for the 1999 centenary of the start of the conflict. Not as good as Pakenham's Book.
- \* **Scramble for Africa - Thomas Pakenham.** Very good book about the European scramble to colonise Africa during the 19th century.
- \* **Forty Lost Years - Dan O' Meara.** Detailed study of the National Party and its politics during the Apartheid era. Brings back many memories, but probably not for the general reader.
- \* **The Great Treks - Norman Ethrington.** History of both the Boer great Trek, but also the treks of the African peoples during Shaka's Umfecane (Reign of Terror).
- \* **The Elite - Story of the Rhodesian SAS - Barbara Cole.** Very good history of the regiment and the war in general.
- \* **Washing of the Spears - Donald R Morris.** Like Thomas Pakenham's Boer War, the large and detailed Bible of the Zulu War. Very good descriptions of the Battles including Rorkes drift.
- \* **The Struggle is My Life - Nelson Mandela.** His autobiography.
- \* **My Traitor's Heart - Rian Malan.** Excellent and very readable book about modern South Africa during the years of Apartheid.
- \* **Commando - Denys Reitz.** Very good narrative of the Boer War as seen through the eyes of the author.

This is just some of the best non-fiction books on the country. I have copies of all of these publications plus several more, which I haven't listed including Afrikaans titles. In the area of fiction, Wilbur Smith is the best known, but Jock of the Bushveld by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick is also very good. I like the books by Dalene Mathee such as "Fiela se Kind" which are in Afrikaans but are obtainable in English. Alan Paton won the C.N.A Prize (SA version of Booker prize) several times & his best known book, Cry the Beloved Country was made into a film starring Sidney Poitier. Other South African authors probably easier to obtain in Britain include Andre Brink, Coetzee, Breyten Breytenbach and Geoffrey Jenkins. The most famous South African author, though most people don't know it, was born in Bloemfontein with the name of JRR Tolkien and we all know which books he's famous for!



**Chairman's Report**  
**John Shaw**  
**LONDON MEETING – February 2004**

This was to have been our first meeting at the British Philatelic Trust at Charterhouse Street – and it almost was! Only 10 days before the meeting the Fire Safety authorities condemned the fire escape facilities and major work is now in progress to put things right. The Trust very quickly found alternative premises – a room in the pub across the road, and display frames were in the room waiting for us. Hopefully, things will have been put to right by our next meeting.

By popular request, this meeting was almost a re-run of a 2002 meeting, covering the London pictorials, and again led by John Shaw. John restricted his display to the Bradbury Wilkinson recess printed stamps rectangular stamps, showing mint only and omitting the 4d triangular stamps which were more than adequately covered at the previous meeting.

John's "normal" set of specimens which started the display was complemented by Eddie Bridges' specimens set on a Bradbury Wilkinson Appendix sheet, in two halves – an exotic item indeed – and continued with the issued stamps with all three perforation varieties, all values appearing with Group I and Group II perforations, but without the 3d, 2/6d and 10/- group III, which were never issued thus. This time all of the 19 different inscriptional pieces were present including the rare 2/6d and 5/- Group II items, the first time all of these have been shown together at one of our meetings since our jubilee display at the Holborn YWCA in 1973. The 2d value was covered in depth, with a pair of the 2d inverted watermark, the "Split d" variety on the Group II and III stamps and gutter items including the Group I stamps with both 8 and 9 perforation holes in the central gutter, the latter by courtesy of Fred Clark. It was noted that SAC/H now lists six different types of 2d, four Group I and one each Group II and III, with some of the Group I types being very difficult indeed to distinguish. One new listing in SAC/H is the "windmill" variety on stamp 10/6 of the Group III issue and bottom right corner items from all three Groups were shown, the Group I and Group II being without the variety. Strangely, with the 2d value, the Group III stamps appeared before the Group II stamps, which is the contrary to the issue sequence for all other values in the set.

The 3d value again included the bisect on cover, but previous requests on further information have so far been to no avail. The star item from the 4d values

was a card from the Bradbury Wilkinson archives bearing four imperforate examples, in the issued colour, two in each language and two printed in fugitive ink and two in fixed ink. The government wanted the stamps to be printed in fugitive ink, to minimise the possibility of fraudulent removal of the obliterations and re-use of the stamps, but fugitive ink is more expensive, so various types were tried out and a similar known card bearing two 10/- values, one in each type of ink bears smears where the ink had been tested. Two examples of the 4d inverted watermark were included, the horizontal pair coming from the Harman collection and not described when John bought this study from the auction. With another member now also having a fine pair, and a further member possibly having the block of four recently offered in the Stephan Weltz sale, there may now exist more examples of this variety in the UK than ever before. It is one of the real "plums" of the issued Union stamps and it is good to know where such a high proportion of the remaining stamps reside.

Since sheets of the 2/6d to 10/- values were guillotined into two panes of 60 before issue to the post office, gutter pieces from these values do not exist. However, there were gutter pieces of all values to 1/- value shown (two of the latter with slightly different marginal markings). Two especially nice items to see together were inscriptional pairs of the Group II 1/-, one with and one without the guide dot in the first "A" of Afrika. There was mild duplication of some of the scarce higher value inscriptional pairs, or was there? Since the stamps were printed in adjoining panes of 2 x 60 (or 4 x 60 in the case of some of the 2ds), the next task is to attempt to obtain examples of the inscriptional pieces from both panes!

John's display over it now fell Jack Newman, now apparently fully recovered from his eye operation then showed a selection of his beloved used stamps, with some lovely, and very scarce, multiples of the 5/- being especially pleasing. Although most of us had seen these before, they never fail to please. Finally, Fred Clark showed a selection of the mint London typographed issues with some nice marginal pieces showing control markings. Fred went on to postulate how very difficult it is to obtain examples of the typo sheet stamps with inverted watermark, especially the 6d value, a feature which also applies to the Pretoria printings of the same stamps. Most considered that the very small differences in catalogue value between the upright and inverted watermarked items did not

truly reflect the relative scarcity of the inverted watermark items.

This meeting saw the attendance reach double figures, this for the first time in two years. Sadly, our president, RDA, was not well enough to attend, but it was good to see both Brian Trotter and Sebastian Payne attending for the first time, and I feel neither of them will be put off by the temporary venue.

### **Hon. Secretary/Hon. Membership Secretary**

**Chris Oliver**

We were sorry to learn of the sudden death of member number 587 Bill Fincham. An obituary is included elsewhere in this issue.

The committee has decided to offer Life Membership to Jack Hagger, now in his hundredth year, who has done much to promote the philately of South Africa both in that country and internationally. We hope that he will accept.

Following the request in The Springbok Vol.52, No. 1 we are pleased that Eric Day has agreed to become our Hon. Independent Examiner (formerly Auditor) and welcome him to that post.

#### **We welcome the following new members:**

Cedric Roche 1074 of Hatfield, Pretoria, S.A.

Terry Gentle 1076 of Hitchin

Steve Hannath 1077 of Cambridge

David Pearce 1078 of Penn, Wolverhampton

We need more members. If any members have colleagues who may be interested in joining, please urge them to do so.

**Will members who have not renewed their membership for 2004 please do so. A reminder slip is included with this issue.**

We may be able to obtain a meeting room in the same venue as a regular stamp fair held in Arbury on the outskirts of Cambridge. Car parking is available. We now have a number of members in the eastern counties. If the committee were to arrange a country meeting at such a venue how many members would attend on a Saturday? Please let me know. We do, however, have a meeting at Basildon on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 (see programme card) and that is about as far east as we can get unless we cross the North Sea.

If members would like to see a country meeting elsewhere in the U.K. and feel that this would attract at least six members please advise me.

The London meetings scheduled for May and September should be in the newly restored British Philatelic Trust rooms at 107, Charterhouse Street, EC1M 6PT. as planned.

There will be a joint Southern Africa Societies meeting at Swinpex on 12<sup>th</sup> June, hosted by the Transvaal Study Circle. All are welcome.

The South African Collectors' Society has booked a table for Midpex on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2005. We will need members to help "man the stand" so please put this date in your diary.

For the Society archive I am hoping to make a list of all members, past and present, with their membership numbers. Several members have helped me with this so far but there are still a few gaps. Any suggestions?

### **The Cover Packet Superintendent**

**Max Whitlock**

After a slow period caused by lack of material and also lack of my time, things have improved and there are three packets starting their circuit, although two seem to have gone astray already. Amongst the covers sent to me recently, are several hundreds of Date Stamp Cards, at prices from 4p to 10p. At this price level it is not worth photocopying each one, and so I will be sending out lists, probably with a whole packet devoted to this material.

If you are already on the cover packet list and do not want to see this material, please let me know. If you are **not** on the cover packet list and wish to see this material, then please also let me know.

### **Hon. Auctioneer**

**&**

### **Packets Exchange Superintendent**

**Bill Branney**

Bill has made a plea for more material for the auction as he does not have sufficient for an auction yet. As a result the auction will be moved back to April.

Please have a look through your material and if there is something that you have been thinking of moving on, please let Bill have it. You know the sort of material he needs.

### **Hon Librarian**

**J.B. Carter**

The library is there for the members. Make use of it. Ask John and he will send you the book or books you would like to look at. All it costs is the postage both ways. We are hoping to be able to publish an updated list of books in our library soon. The Librarian also has access to funds and if you think we should buy a particular book for the Library, let the Librarian know. He will put it forward for consideration. He also has the Index of **THE SPRINGBOK** listed from day one on a floppy disk. If you are interested in this please contact him. Costs are about a fiver. **Ed**

## Joint Meeting of South African Collectors Society and Rhodesian Study Circle

8<sup>th</sup> November 2003 – County Hotel, Carlisle

Malcolm Ridsdale

### Attendees: -

#### SACS

W. Branney, F. Heymann, M. Ridsdale, D. Todd, R. Ross, G. Mellor, G. Palazzo, D. Haig, B. Carter and E. Hammond (10)

#### RSC

K. Ashworth, K. Harfield, K. Harrop, C. Hoffman and D. Lambert (5)

#### SACS & RSC

P. Williams (1)

### Apologies

#### SACS

E. Bridges, M. Whitlock and R. Jones

#### RSC

H. Hoyte

Meeting opened with Godfrey Mellor in the Chair who welcomed everybody at a little after 10.00am. Briefly went through the programme for the meeting.

He reminded everyone of Stampex 2004 which will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Also confirmation to SACS members that the Carlisle autumn 2004 meeting would take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### Presentations: -

#### Miscellany of Rhodesia and South Africa Connections – Keith Harrop

Keith displayed a range of first day and postal history covers. They included first flight and aero philately generally, royal visits to both countries and covers marking the meetings of prime ministers etc at important junctures of southern Africa's history. He also covered the journeying of mail from South Africa to Rhodesia through Bechuanaland.

#### Darmstadt trials through to "Officials" – Patrick Williams

Patrick displayed a small selection of his items from within his collection covering the early Union period to the 1930's. His display included a wide range of mint and used items showing a number of the varieties, including scarce ones that are associated with SA stamps of this era. He also displayed a number of very nice Darmstadt trial items that were of particular interest to the attendees.

#### Revenues – Giovanni Palazzo

Giovanni displayed a wide range of revenue stamps principally covering the period from the creation of the Union to the Second World War. He included a number of provincial revenue stamps that had been used on an interprovincial basis in varying multiples after the creation of the Union. He also displayed a number of KGV revenue stamps that had been used on documents prior to their official introduction in September 1913 as well as KGV and KGV I revenues on a wide range of documents.

#### RSA, 4<sup>th</sup> Definitive Issue and booklets – Bill Branney

Bill displayed a number of the mint varieties that are associated with this issue across a range of values. He also displayed his study of the B21 booklets that were the last of the Union booklets to be issued.

#### South Africa Christmas Seals – Godfrey Mellor

Godfrey displayed his collection of Seals, which represented a period from 1929 to date. He explained that the Seals had been sold to collect funds for the Anti TB Campaign for SA children and the proceeds go to create facilities to support the Campaign. Although the Seals have no postal value they are closely related to philately with varying values although he had not seen the ten-shilling value to add to his collection. Since 1964 the Seals had been issued in sheetlet format.

### “JIPEX” – Roy Ross

Roy principally displayed the half penny sheets but detailed some of the background to the issue of the “JIPEX” sheets. The sheets had been issued to support the Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition that was run in tandem with the Empire Exhibition. FDC’s were issued using both of the sheets as well as the Mine Dump definitive. Roy made particular mention of covers that have materialised with the missing red of Africa and the missing shading on the mine dumps. Postcards of the Exhibition were available using a halfpenny postage rate to anywhere in the world. He had seen cards that had used the Bathurst (Gambia) – Lufthansa ship catapult route to get to the USA.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm with a vote of thanks from Keith Harfield of the Rhodesia Society. Keith made particular mention of the depth of study that had come out with the presentations.

It was agreed that the next joint meeting would be held in Carlisle in 2005 at a date to be agreed with the SACS looking after the morning and RSC in the afternoon.

## 2004 South African Commemorative Stamp Issuing Programme

Stamp Issue	Issue Date
Chinese Lunar Year of the Monkey	22 January 2004
Drive Alive	27 March 2004
10 Years of Democracy	27 April 2004
Heroes of the Struggle	16 June 2004
Coerced Labour in South Africa	1 May 2004
National Bird (joint issue with SAPOA member countries)	25 May 2004
Spiders (JUNASS 2004)	30 July 2004
The Gift from Volunteers	Date to be announced
Influential Women in South Africa History	9 August 2004
Olympic Games	13 August 2004
The Ecology of Table Mountain	1 September 2004
Christmas 2004	1 October 2004
World Post Day	9 October 2004
Anti Crime (SA Police Service)	Date to be announced
South African Large Telescope (SALT)	Date to be announced
Additional Values to the Seventh Definitive Series	Date to be announced

### Note:

Please treat these dates with caution as we know from past experience that the PO does not always adhere to these dates. Some planned issues were cancelled in the past as well. *Ed.*

## Members Smalls

***This forum is available to members who wish to advertise material, seek material or require information on a subject or subjects. Please use this if you require anything. There is no charge!***

### **Bantam War Issues**

Looking for marginal pieces with sheet numbers. Particularly, numbers in blue and red. All values sought. Offers to Eddie Bridges please.

### **Wanted**

Copy of Lobdels Georgians, published in the early years of the Union. Book on the Kings heads series. Offers to Eddie Bridges please.

### **Wanted**

Back issues of The Springbok for the years 1954 to 1969. If you have the odd copy lying around and you want to part with it, please let me know. Postage and reasonable costs will be covered. Offers to Hon. Editor please.

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### **Frama Labels for Sale**

Franz Heymann has an extensive list available at very reasonable prices. This list is from Frank van Rensburg in South Africa and dates back to April 2003. If you contact Franz, he will be happy to send you a copy. Contact details as per the inside front cover.

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### **Information wanted**

I am looking for information on the stamp vending machine used to vend the "razor blade" booklets. It was supplied by a company called "Brecknells" This is all I have. I have searched to no avail. If any of our readers know where I can find info, or have a picture, advertising material, please let me know.

Eddie Bridges. Contact details as per inside front cover.

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## THE CAPE TRIANGULARS

Translated by Franz Heymann

*(The article which follows was translated from Afrikaans with the permission of the Editor of Beeld. It originally appeared in that newspaper on 30 October 2003.)*

The first local stamps, the Cape Triangulars, were issued in the then Cape Colony on 1 September 1853. Today, these stamps have achieved world-wide recognition as one of the most classical and sought after stamps of all time. A special commemorative stamp was issued this month (*October 2003*) in order to celebrate the 150th birthday of the original Triangular.

The stamps were designed by the Scottish-born Charles Davidson Bell (1813-1882). He was, inter alia, Surveyor-General of the Cape, a businessman and an artist. The unusual triangular design of Bell was accepted because it was considered to be the most convenient, the most economical and easily distinguishable from English rectangular stamps.

Originally, two denominations were envisaged, namely the four penny stamp, which would be printed in red, for ordinary letter mail up to half an ounce in weight, and a blue penny stamp for newspapers and for use by soldiers.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 240, in fifteen rows of sixteen, which, because they were imperforate, had to be separated with scissors.

The stamps were printed in England by the postage stamp printers Perkins, Bacon and Co. Initially, only 100,000 of the four penny and 50,000 of the penny stamps were ordered.

In 1857 the sixpenny and shilling denominations were added. The intention was to have a uniform postal tariff, namely sixpence per half ounce, between the Cape and Britain. These stamps were printed in the same format. A slate-blue-purple was adopted for the sixpenny stamp, whilst the shilling stamp was printed in green.

Contrary to expectation, all Cape Triangulars are not necessarily either particularly valuable or scarce. Indeed, the opposite is true.



Stamp Miniature sheet issue to commemorate the Cape Triangular

More than 17 million were printed, of which nearly half were four penny stamps. A Triangular may be acquired for as little as R100, and yet, there are some which will lighten ones pocket a few hundred thousand Rands. The prices are reflections of the printing varieties, the condition of the stamp and the size of a block. (*And the widths of the margins! Franz*) An undivided block of four, for example, is worth considerably more than four single specimens of the same stamp. Additionally, a stamp which is still on its original envelope may be worth up to fifty times that of a loose specimen.

There are tens of varieties which form the subject matter of many chapters in books and journals. These are, for example, concerned with the type of paper, the colour of the stamp, whether the paper was used

upside down, faults in the printing process, and the identity of the printer. The best known and most valuable varieties are to be found amongst the so-called "woodblocks", which is actually a totally incorrect nomenclature, since they were printed with steel plates.



Error of colour 4d Vermillion



Error of colour 1d Pale Bright Blue

In 1860, a batch of stamps was ordered from England, but the consignment went missing because of a confusion which arose in connection with the shipping documents. The nett effect was that the supply of stamps in the Cape dwindled to nothing in January 1861. In order to save the situation, 100,000 of each of the penny and four penny stamps were printed by the Government Printers, Saul Solomon & Co. The plate was prepared by the engraver C.J. Roberts. The appearance of these locally printed stamps was rough and unfinished in comparison with those which were printed in England.

Additionally, there are at least five recognised varieties of the penny and ten of the four penny stamp of this printing, mostly concerned with colour variations. Some of these varieties are literally as scarce as the proverbial hens' teeth and have catalogue values of more than a million Rand

The "lost" stamps were discovered in May 1861 in a warehouse in Cape Town, and they were brought into circulation immediately.



1d Deep brick red block of eight tied to back of envelope paying the 8d rate to Ireland.



Three colour combination: 4d blue, 6d pale rose-lilac and 1/- yellow-green tied to small piece.

In 1864, the Triangulars were taken out of service and replaced by perforated, rectangular stamps, thereby bringing to an end a celebrated era in the postal history of the world. Nevertheless, research articles and books dealing with these remarkable stamps still appear regularly, and encountering a Cape Triangular remains enough to make the heart of a stamp- or postal history collector beat faster.

Nowadays, it is not really possible for an ordinary collector to assemble a representative collection of the Cape Triangulars. The cost would be in excess of a prohibitive R10 million, if indeed the stamps could all be acquired.

However, there are many other periods in the postal history of South Africa which are of equal interest, and which would be very rewarding, either as a hobby or as an investment. That is something to bear in mind if ever you have money burning in your pocket!



1d deep brick red on deeply blued paper tied to complete 4 pages newspaper issued on the Steamship "Australasian" sent from Cape Town to London paying the special 1d newspaper rate.

Thanks Franz for an interesting article and the translation. I have added some illustrations with acknowledgement which are from an article in the Exhibition Brochure of the National Stamp Exhibition in South Africa last year. (Stampex South Africa 2003) All illustrations from the Lutz Heffermann collection!

Eddie Bridges



## Requirements for sending items for Publication

Eddie Bridges

To ensure that we try and maintain a reasonable quality for *THE SPRINGBOK*, I need your co-operation on the following points please:

### 1. Text Articles/info

Please send all text in Microsoft Word. This makes life a lot easier for me as I do not have to retype pages of text. (My typing speed is not good!) This text can be sent as an attachment by e-mail or on a floppy disc or CD if you have the facilities. If you do not have the facilities or the use of a computer, then by all means send the article on paper and I will type it out. I would rather do this than have no article at all!

### 2. Illustrations and pictures

This is a problem for most of us. Poor photocopies do not reproduce well at all. Some of the copies I have received have been faint and poor. It is important to try and get a crisp clean copy in black and white.

Better still do the photocopy in colour if at all possible. This usually reproduces better.

My preference is of course scanned images which you can send by e-mail or on a disk by snail mail.

This allows me to manipulate the resolution to suit and the file size. If you are scanning, please save in jpeg format. I find that, depending on size of illustration, a fairly good resolution can be achieved if you make the file size about 300 to 500 Kbyte

Please do not try and incorporate pictures and illustrations on to a page with the text and only send me a paper copy! If you do this, you might as well send me the disk to enable me to use the text and I can lift the image and position it to fit the page. This makes page layout easier. I cannot scan your information again as this just loses all the resolution. I tried to do this with an article I received ready on paper without success. I had to use such a high resolution scan that the file became too big to manipulate with ease.

If in any doubt, give me a ring or send me an e-mail. I will try and help.

Your co-operation in this regard, will make for an enjoyable experience for all of us!

## Regional Meetings

If any members would like to get a small group together for a regional meeting in their area, please advise the editor so that we can publicise the event.

### South West Group

What has happened to the South West Group? Anyone willing to revive this group?

### Midlands Group

There are several society members living in the Cambridge, Northampton, Leicester, Derby and Peterborough

areas. I am sure we will be able to get a group together in this area. We need meet once or twice a year. I would be willing to arrange such a meeting if the interest is there. Please let me know if you are interested and we can look for a suitable central venue to meet. It is envisaged that this would be sometime just after the summer. **See info in Secretaries report.**

We would like to see at least one more group meeting and who knows we might be able to get more interest generated and possibly some more members.

Eddie Bridges.

## Next issue due out in early July.

**Please note the deadlines for submissions printed on page 34**

**New Publication coming soon!  
(End May or early June)**

**THE AEROGRAMMES OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
1942-1961**



**EDITOR**

**EDDIE BRIDGES**

**A  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
PUBLICATION**

**The Aerogrammes of the Union of South Africa 1942-1961**

This publication is a result of two years collating information and notes of all the Active Service Letter Cards, Air Letter Cards and Aerogrammes used during this period. This was a study topic started at one of the London meetings by the late Tony Chilton. This started my interest again in this topic and we had several informal discussions on how to put all the information together in a publication. Unfortunately Tony passed away before this could come to fruition. It also set the work already done back by a year or so. Many of the members of SACS and non members here in the UK and in South Africa helped with information and illustrations. This listing is as definitive as possible and all the airletters/aerogrammes are illustrated in colour to make identification easier.

This publication is now nearly finalised and should go to print in April. It would be helpfull if you are interested in a copy to let me know as this will make judging the quantity too print, a little easier-hopefully! An estimated cost is between £18 and £22. Please let me know if you have an interest in a copy so that I can reserve one for you. **Eddie Bridges.**