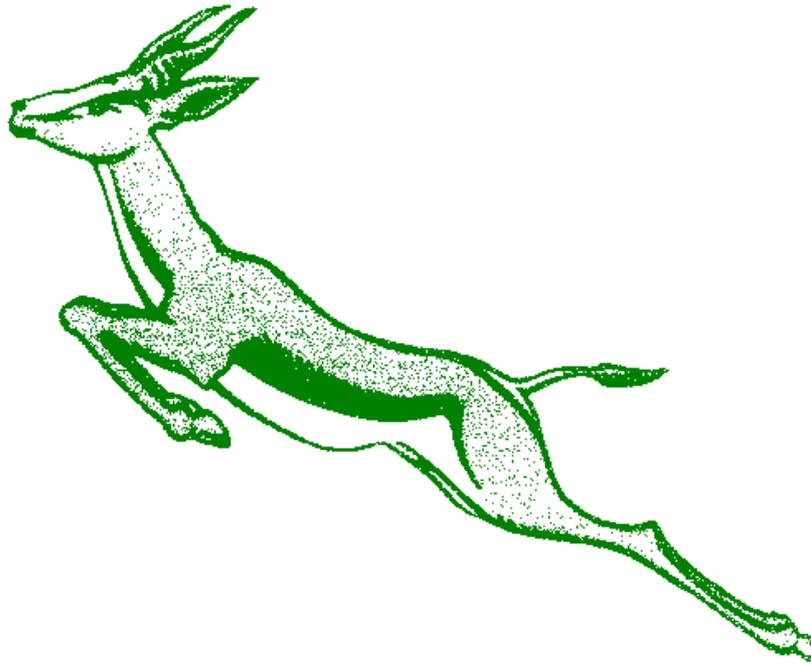


THE SPRINGBOK



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

Vol. 54

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Apr/Jun 2006

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The Springbok

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Events for your Diary 2006

London Meetings commence at 1.30 pm
Carlisle Meetings commence at 10.00 am

28th Jan.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Hyphenated Pictorials 1½d, 3d, 4d & 6d values
4th Mar.	SACS joint meeting with Cinderella P.S. at B.P.T. offices in London.	(all day meeting)
25th Mar.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Republic Revenues
6th May	SACS London meeting	Subject: Hyphenated Pictorials 1/-, 2/6, 5/- & 10/- values
2nd Sep.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Union Officials
16th Sep.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: First 10 years of the Republic of S.A. Abel Trophy Competition.

3-5th Nov. Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa

Other Events for 2006

13-14th Jan.	York Stamp and Coin Fair
22-26th Feb.	Spring Stampex, Islington, London.
13th May	Worpex in Worcester
10th June	Swinpex in Swindon
25th June	Midpex
6-9th July	A.B.P.S. Congress, Renfrew
28-29 July	York Stamp & Coin Fair
20-24th Sep.	Stampex, Islington
19-21st Oct.	Autumn Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London.

**For further details, please contact the secretary. We have several joint meetings in the year.
Please support these events.**

From the Editors Desk

This issue is filled with some interesting articles, including the long awaited article on the forgeries of the 1925 Airmail stamps. This has taken well over a year to get to this stage as information was gathered from far and wide. I hope it has been worth the wait. Thanks to John Shaw for all the support and advice.

It is my sad duty to report the passing of Jack Hagger in May. This giant in Union Philately will be sorely missed.

Unfortunately this issue is late again. I apologise for this. This has been due to a very busy year in the office with approximately two overseas trips a month to date. I am slowly recovering and if you have correspondence unanswered, rest assured this will be attended to shortly.

I am still waiting for someone to come forward and help me with a regular feature on Republican issues. This is badly needed to keep a balance of articles in the journal. I detect a revival in the interest in the Republican period again with studies ongoing on the Republican Aerogrammes (publication pending), 1st Definitives, which was exhibited a few times in recent exhibitions and the Republican booklets. Some attention has also been given to the Building definitives in recent times. Someone out there must be motivated/inspired enough to contribute something on the Republican period! I wait in suspense.

We are now in the fortunate position of having many small articles that have come in over the last few months. This will keep the pages filled for the next issue or two, but we need one or two main features.

Several of the regular features have been skipped in this issue due to space limitation and the series on the Pictorials will be continued in the next issue.

Once again we are enclosing a monograph with this issue, this time on the Handley-Page Flight of the "Pioneer". This has been prepared by Bryan Stokoe. My thanks to Bryan for the effort he put in to this monograph.

I hope you enjoy this issue and as ever, if you have any proposals or feed back on anything, please let me know.

Eddie Bridges

S.J. (Jack) Hagger, RDPSA (1904-2006)

by

Eddie Bridges

A giant in South African philately closed his albums on 17th May, 2006. Jack Hagger was the doyen of South African philately, in particular the stamps of the Union period. He also formed collections of postal history, aerophilately as well as Postal Stationery of the Union period and contributed to this journal over many years. His correspondence with previous editors was always to the point and contributed to some lively debates through the pages of *The Springbok*.

I first met Jack at the at the Palmares of the Stamps 150 National Exhibition in Johannesburg in 1990, where I had the pleasure of sharing a table with him. I had exhibited my Penny Ships for the first time and he was very critical but also very helpful the following day where he pointed out the errors and provided advice on improving my exhibit. From then on we met regularly at local and National exhibitions where he was always a source of knowledge and inspiration on the stamps of the Union of South Africa.

At the Durban National Exhibition in 1993 he again looked at my exhibit and offered his advice. I had recently acquired a Waterlow 1d coil stamp with the leader still attached. This leader was the first he had seen and offered to purchase it from me. I declined to sell it, which he remembered for years afterwards!

It is enough to say that my interest in Union Philately is almost entirely due to the inspiration and support I got from Jack in these early years of collecting Union. My memories of him will be with me for many years.

His letters and articles will be missed by the readers of *The Springbok*. He was also an Hon. life member of our Society. His legacy in the form of the definitive edition of the handbook "The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961" will remain the reference work for this period. Published in 1986 it has withstood the test of time, as it has not been updated since.

He will be missed by all with an interest in South African Philately.

Our condolences to his family.



Advertisers needed

If you are a dealer, part time dealer or know of a dealer, please look at the opportunities in advertising in *The Springbok*.

We have an active membership who are always on the lookout for material to add to their collections.

The rising costs to produce the journal can only be absorbed if we have a few more advertisers.
The alternative is increased membership fees.



The Early Union Essays in the South African Post Office Archives



Compiled by
Eddie Bridges



A South African
Collectors' Society
Publication
© 2005

Publication Mishap!

This publication is progressing now again. I have had to scan close to 200 photos again which has taken a huge amount of time. I hope to have it complete by the time we meet for the Conference in November.

LOOKING FOR THE UNUSUAL (OR THE USUAL)



1892-4 Cape of Good Hope 1/2d slate/white Postal Stationery Envelope with addit. 1d KEVII red tied by manuscript WALVIS BAY 5/7/09 in black pen, to Swakopmund, with very neat arrival postmark 12.7.09. a rare copy of this PO manuscript cancellation.

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Update on the Proposed Exhibition of Union material in 2010

I have resent the letter to the organisers of STAMPEX 2010 but still with no official response. I have heard unofficially though that our request has not met with favour. I will continue to pursue this but will look at alternatives as well. In 2010 a number of events will be held in conjunction with the International Stamp Exhibition in London which will fall under the banner of "Festival of Stamps". Hopefully we will find an opportunity somewhere.

Thanks to the members who have responded with offers of material top display. These will be kept on record and members will be advised when and what will be required. If you are able to provide material according to the list as published last month, please let me know. I know it is still some years away, but time goes by quickly and we need to do some preparation now!

Eddie Bridges

Washington 2006 Show - A Report.

by

Chris Oliver

The philatelic exhibition commenced on 27th May and lasted until 3rd June with 860 competitive entries, all of a very high standard. The S.A.C.S was represented, with one of the forty-three jurors being Francis Kiddle. Brian Trotter & Gary Brown were apprentice jurors. Medal winners from our membership were Patrick Flanagan, Ian Matheson, Bob Hisey and "Corny".

Both Patrick and Ian won gold medals but not with South African material, displaying the Rhodesian admirals issue and the early years of British Honduras, respectively.

Bob Hisey achieved a Large vermeil with his S.A. officials and "Corny" a vermeil for S.A. civil censorship in WWII. A large number of people attended, including many British dealers. It was good to meet old and new friends from around the world.

Washington was hot and humid causing the organisers to soup up the air-conditioning in the hall to quite a cold temperature at times. Exhibits were placed in all parts of the hall with numbering of both exhibits and stands needing careful getting used to. It was, however, an excellent and enjoyable gathering.

Our congratulations to all our members who achieved awards.

Another snippet of information is that Ian Matheson and Bob Hisey have met in Washington. The significance of this is that both collect Union Officials and they have tentatively decided to pool their resources and put a publication together on these issues. We look forward to this publication. Maybe SACS can be the publisher?

Eddie Bridges

Torquay 2006

Chris Oliver has hired a table and two chairs plus two frames for the two days of the show 24-25 November. We need some volunteers to man the stand during the day as well as provide some material for the frames.

This is an opportunity to publicise the Society and hopefully sign on a new member or two.

Please contact Chris if you will be attending the show and can spare an hour or two to help look after the SACS stand. His contact details are on the inside front cover.

Joint Southern African Societies' Auction

Leamington 5 Nov. 2006

It has been agreed to make an attempt to upgrade this auction and make it available to all members by producing fuller descriptions with some illustrations and then making it available to all members with postal bidding allowable.

With no buyers' premium, and only 10% commission being charged to sellers, it should provide an ideal opportunity for members to dispose of, and acquire, some nice material within a prescribed time frame.

It is a bit of a trial year as we don't know yet if the 10% commission will cover costs. Expenses will depend on whether or not the "catalogues" can be sent out with Society magazines. We are very open to suggestions. 500 lots would appear to be the maximum one could manage at public auction – extra, or smaller, lots might be able to be added as "postal only". Viewing will be available at Leamington.

The "prices" will be given, in keeping with tradition, as a reserve. Lots should be "priced to sell". The aim of the auction will be to provide lots to suit all pockets. Unsold lots will be returned, at owners expense, along with settlement.

Lots should be sent to Tony Howgrave-Graham at "The Cottage, Barford Lane, Downton, Wilts. SP5 3QA". Tel.01725-510067, e-mail ajbmhg@btinternet.com

Advice as to suitability, or pricing, of lots will happily be given but if in writing, please enclose an SAE. I am fairly confident at pricing Union material but will need help with the pre-Union.

If more convenient, lots could be delivered to the London SACS meeting on Sat. 2 September. Large lots may be brought to Leamington provided the description, pricing and lotting number are agreed in advance and the buyer (or seller if unsold) collects. The deadline for receipt of lots will be Fri 8 September.

So – a good opportunity for all. Let me have feedback on enthusiasm, or lack of it! – also on other thoughts.

Tony Howgrave-Graham

Wanted

Volunteer required to provide the Springbok with updates and news on new releases for Republican Issues. This will cover the stamps, booklets and postal stationery. This is not a huge task but needs someone who is an enthusiast on the RSA period. There is much of interest in this period and needs a willing contributor.

Apply to the Editor!

We also require more items on the Republican issues. Please put pen to paper.

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1993 Aviation Booklets

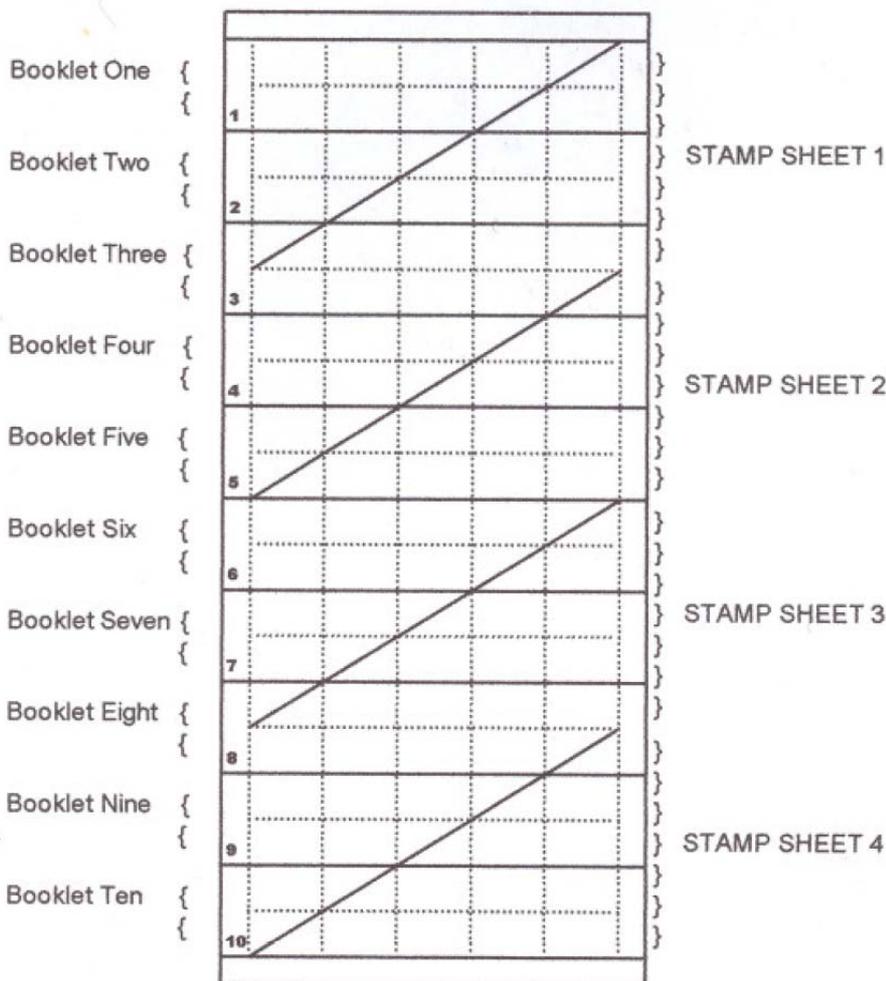
by
Chris Oliver

A se-tenant sheet of 25 stamps (5 x 5) was issued on 7th May 1993 to mark the progress of aviation in South Africa. These were printed in four sheets to a printed sheet.

On the same date of issue another printing of these stamps was produced for inclusion into booklets. This printing in sheets of 100 (20 x 5), with perforations on alternate rows, enabled division into panes of ten 45c (2 x 5) stamps for each booklet. Stamps were fixed inside the cover by moistening the left marginal selvedge.

Another booklet was issued on 4th August 1993, whilst the Aviation booklets were still on sale, with 10 (2 x 5) standard postage rate (45c) Rhino stamps affixed in a similar manner. Instances have occurred with Rhino stamps being inserted into the Aviation booklet covers.

The booklet sheet of 100 aircraft stamps was, as previously mentioned, cut into ten rows of ten stamps with each having a numeral inscribed on the bottom left of the fixing selvedge.



Therefore rows 1 & 2 appear in books 1 & 6, rows 3 & 4 are in books 2 & 7, rows 5 & 1 in books 3 & 8, rows 2 & 3 in books 4 & 9 and rows 4 & 5 in books 10 & 5.

STAMP SHEET 1 These stamps were still in general use in June 1995.

During the period of use three distinct covers were used.

The first has, on the back cover, the exhortation "For your convenience, stamp booklets are now available at selected supermarkets, stationers, pharmacies, cafés and garages nationwide." in English and Afrikaans with the date 93/1 at the bottom left and all within a grey frame. Inside the front cover the basic postage rates are given, within a black lined frame on a light buff card.

The second booklet is similar, externally, but is blank on the inside front cover and is on a smooth white card.

STAMP SHEET 3
STAMP SHEET 4
In June 1993 a third type was issued. It has an advertisement for savings bond certificates, which is set in a red frame on the back cover and has no date indicated.

Inside the front cover the basic postage rates are included but without a frame and all on a smooth white card. Random numbers, printed under the front flap may mean something? It is this type of booklet that has been noted to sometimes contain Rhino stamps of identical value.

Continued on next page.....



Cover to booklet type 1
(2 is identical)



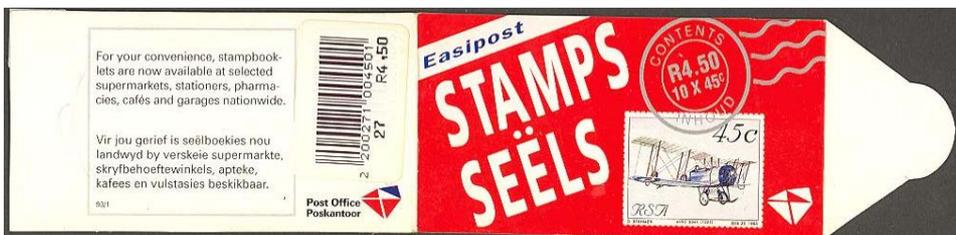
Cover to booklet type 3



Booklet type 3 badly cut on the left with random numerals on the flap



Booklet type 1



Booklet type 1 with label stuck over earlier bar code

One of the covers of the first type, in my possession, has an adhesive label, over the bar code, and indicating a different bar code alongside the value of R4.50. all covers have the Printpak TVL logo.

With at least two known printings of the stamps some differences might be expected. Common variations to all booklet stamps are found and these are:

Lines are generally softer than on most sheet stamps.

Lettering on the aircraft are more indistinct on booklet stamps Row 10/3; 10/5 and 17/1.

On row 16/4 an emerald green dot to the left of the front vertical spar and just above the lower wing is evident on all booklet panes.

Booklet covers of the second and third type were often badly cut at the right hand end, possibly a use of blunt scissors!

The stamps on rows 1/1 and 5/5 also appear se-tenant on the e'Tekweni National Philatelic Exhibition miniature sheet where the colouring is more dense.

London Meeting – May 2006 – High Value Hyphenated Pictorials by John Shaw

The Swedish Church hall, just off Marylebone Road is now our regular London meeting place and has proved reasonably easy to get to. We had nine at this meeting including Brian Hurst, who came as a guest of Brian Trotter; to most of those who attend the Leamington conferences, Brian is a familiar figure. Apart from the two Brians, those attending were mainly the regular crowd of Chris Oliver, Fred Clark, David Page, John Archer, Eric Day and myself and an unexpected but welcome visit by Tony Howgrave-Graham. Eddie Bridges was away on business in Germany.

Tony led the display by showing Issues 3-6 of the 1/- value, explaining the difference between Issue 3 and the remainder, with the former not showing the mark in front of the gnu's head, and including most of the arrow and control pieces of all the issues, and the most distinctive of the varieties; Issue 4 is distinctive because the arrows are printed in the colour of the vignette and not the frame, and is known as the "brown arrow issue". I well remember how long it took me to get my first example of this item but this time I could sport all four arrows and a selection of varieties, including the vertical blue lines through column 2 and blocks of Issue 5 with the missing central perforation hole (50B V2), the latter and Issue 6 being printed from screened cylinders. Both Tony and I showed a good selection of the progressive deterioration of the "6935" cylinder number, quite common in its faulty state, but scarce in its early state. Tony also referred to the Blackish-brown & Ultramarine shade from Issues 5 and 6, stating there were many, many interim shades, since these issues had a very long life - of over 20 years. This shade is highly catalogued by Gibbons, when overprinted official, but examples offered are usually one of the interim shades and seldom the "real McCoy".

There were three issues of the 2/6d value, all printed from screened cylinders, and Tony explained how these were best identified by their distinctive shades; Tony showed all three cylinder blocks and top and bottom arrows; the sheets were cut in half before distribution and, for this value complete arrow blocks were never available to the public.

The 5/- value is the most interesting in this series, because of the number of highly visible varieties, and there was interesting discussion on the broken jukskei variety on Issue 1 and the apparently transient position of the missing pin – which we concluded was not the broken pin at all, but another variety. Between the assembly, we showed many jukskei varieties and all the listed varieties, plus several unlisted; Tony showed some lovely blocks and Fred Clark produced a fine block of the two bottom rows of Issue 2 with arrow, control numbers and the "rain" variety on R20/6 (52A V4). These varieties are frequently offered as normals by dealers and one should especially be on the look out for items such as the "broken bucket" and "window in tent" quite scarce varieties as well as the more distinctive "thunderbolt", "rain" and "jukskei" flaws.

Varieties on the 10/- value are difficult to detect and Tony showed the projection to "1", ball in frame, white spot in frame and cloudless sky varieties, as well as a fine range of shades including the distinctive interim but unlisted Olive-sepia frame (SG list just the extremes of Sepia and of Blackish-brown). My only offering here was a pair with red offset from the ink used to mark joins in the paper during the printing process. Eric Day then showed some fine and beautifully written-up high values and a superb 1918 Benoni (light Blue) "Make your sixpence Fly" card,

Finally, Brian Hurst showed some wonderful British Bechuanaland overprints on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope (1885-87), including one of only three known blocks of the quite modestly catalogued 4d value and his "working" collection of forgeries of this issue. It was very nice to see something a little different, but not too far from our own interests.

Membership Matters.

All of our members will be sorry to learn of the death of our Honorary Member, Jack Hagger, at the age of 102. [An obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.]

We are pleased to welcome

1107	Robert A. Allan	of Old Coulsdon, Surrey
1108	John Sussex	of Elvington, York
1109	Brian Morris	of Brocton, Stafford
1110	Colin Waldron	of Ashford, Kent and
1111	Don Farmborough	of Didcot, Oxon.

Barry Illingworth of Bolton [1037] has resigned.

The following folk have not renewed their membership:

D. Ackermann	1102	R. Boezak	1092	Mrs. A. Coltman	1090
R.J. Cowan	605	B.H. Smith	983	P.M. Toft	782
C. Touzell	1007	R. Turnell	1101	Mrs. J. Turner	1020
J.P. Wharton Hood	1091				

If this has been an oversight, please remit to Chris Oliver. We are losing members as fast as we can sign new members. The Society will only survive if we grow our membership. **Ed.**

E-mail Addresses

If you have an e-mail address please let the Hon. Secretary have this. It is a very convenient way of communicating if we need to advise members of anything at short notice.





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

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Flyspecks & Transpositions

by

Tony Howgrave-Graham

Flyspeck philately has taken a bit of a knocking over the last few years. This despite the fact that South Africa with their early experimentation into rotogravure printing produced some of the best flaws known – bluebottles at least – if not dragonflies! They always managed to get the flaws to appear in a good place, too, so that they could be given exotic sounding names, and even if they were just flies, at least they would be a swarm! These bigger flaws always seem to be cylinder flaws. What this article is about is rather more anoraky than flyspeck – it's about multipositive flaws and they do tend to be smaller. They are, however, interesting and often philatelically important as they can show how sheets were put together. This becomes increasingly fascinating when looking at the coil issues. Most of the information below is readily available in the handbook but I don't think it's been presented in quite this form before, nor illustrated, so I hope members may find it of interest.

Multipositive flaws which appear to change position, or even the language setting of their frames, have always fascinated me. Undoubtedly the best known of these is the "bush tick" flaw which along with the little black dot on the springbok's nose appeared on row 3/4 of Issue 16 of the ½d. It remained there (with the exception of Issue 17 which was printed on narrow paper with the 1st three vertical rows absent placing it on row 3/1) until Issue 20. On Issue 21 it was removed leaving a white flaw but with the black dot on the nose remaining, but on row 2/4.

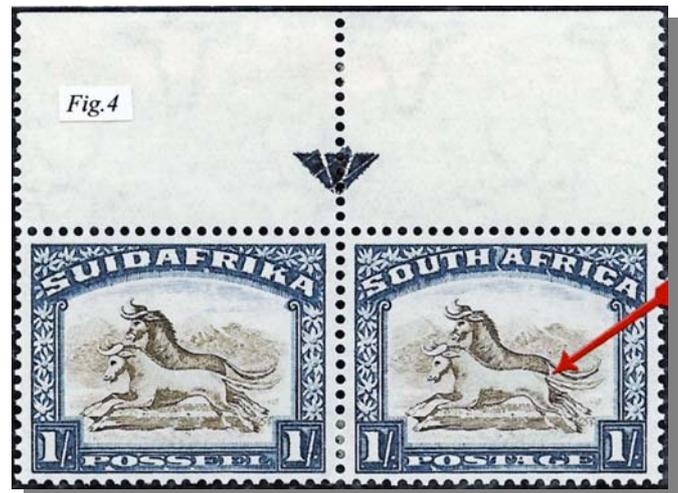
On Issue 19 (*Fig. 1*) a triangular white flaw developed on left side of the vignette of the neighbouring left stamp (3/3) and there is also a smudgy top to the left frame bar on row 4/3.

For Issue 20 (*Fig. 2*), however, the selection of the 20 rows of the frame multipositive started one stamp lower. This had the effect of moving all the frames up one row and thus changing the language setting of the "bush tick" and "white triangle" flaws. The "blurred top to left bar" has also moved up one place to accompany the "white triangle".



A similar, but different, story occurs on the unhyphenated 1/- where the handbook lists mp V1 as a "dot at the base of the blue gnu's tail". In Issue 1 (*Fig. 3*) this occurs on row 2/4 but on Issue 2 (*Fig. 4*) on row 1/4. The language settings this time, however, remain the same. This is because the multipositive selection for both centres and frames was from one place lower. We will thus never know if the good "twisted horn" variety on row 1 of Issue 1, or the "dart" or "collared gnu" on row 20 of Issue 2 were multipositive, or not!

As hinted at in the first paragraph, however, the real purpose of this article is to highlight the interest of the neglected rotogravure coil issues. The problem facing the printers in Pretoria was how to make a cylinder printing sheets of 20 rows suddenly produce reams of continuous stamps to cater for coil strips of 500 or 1,200 without there being two blank stamps after every 20.



The cylinder was made to be 22 stamps long so the answer was, in principle, easy – just print another two stamps on the blanks forming the margins and keep rolling! It sounds easy, but technically, was a bit more difficult. The method chosen was perhaps surprising as it wasn't until 1948 that 22 row multipositives were created. On all previous bicolour rolls, except R14 & 15, the 20 row multipositives used for sheet stamps were used and re-prepared with two of their rows re-lifted and used again to form rows 21 & 22.

The first effort at the ½d is notorious because the two rows were placed in the wrong language setting causing the well known error of 2E & 2A stamps appearing se-tenant, or vice versa. The re-etching often produced lighter or darker stamps (as the exposures were different) – also minor differences in alignments or slightly different gutter widths.

Here we're talking about multipositive flaws, however, and I have a few to illustrate. For the first 1d hyphenated coil (1935, perf 14x13½, R15 & 15S) new multipositives were prepared in 20 row size (which really is a bit odd seeing that they were new) and rows 3 & 4 were then re-used again to create rows 21 & 22. Row 3/8 had a mp vignette flaw in the form of a "black vertical line at the top, under AF". This was thus replicated on row 21/8 and the two positions can be seen in a single block (Fig.5). Also showing clearly on this block is darker stamps on row 21, the wider gutter between rows 21 & 22, and the slight misalignment between rows 22 & 1. A similar closely associated flaw occurs on the 1943 first ½d mono colour roll where rows 17 & 18 were re-used so that the "line in front of the buck's head" on row 17/11 reappears on row 21/11 (Fig.6). (the slightly narrow gutter between rows 21 & 22 can just be seen on this strip, too).

Returning to the 1935 coils the ½d (R14 & 14S) had some remarkable mp flaws. Rows 3 & 4 were re-used to create rows 21 & 22. Row 4/9 (Fig.7) had two green marks in the left of the top bar.





When lifted the holes causing these blobs must have been clogged because when they reappear on row 22/9 (Fig.8) they are no longer green, but white! This block also shows a white flaw on 21/8 which similarly appears green on row 3/8.



Next up for a look are the roto 2d's. Here impressions were made from the same multipositives as the sheet issues 1 to 3 and the booklet stamps. The coil printing came between the sheet printings of Issues 2 & 3. Here, however, rows 2 & 3 of the vignette and rows 3 & 4 of the frame were re-used to create the extra rows. This meant that flaws could either be separated or brought together. Vertical row 2 contained the mp variety "stop after L of Posseel" on row 3/2 (Fig.9). It also had a tiny mp vignette flaw of a small "dot in sky left of left tower" on the same stamp. If we now look at stamps 21 & 22/2 we find they have been separated so that the "stop" is on 21/2 and the "dot in sky" on 22/2 (Fig.10) Looking instead at coil row 5 there is a vignette flaw in the form of a "dot in sky to right of left tower" on row 3/5 and on row 4/5 there is a tiny dot in the U of Suid and another in the left frame (Fig.11). I confess to having enhanced these frame dots as they are very small. However if we now look at row 22/5 (Fig.12), we find the two flaws have come together on the same stamp.



Finally, another coil curio. This time a cylinder flaw occurring on the 1940 R20 & R20S. This had the “fish hook in upper right frame, and dot to left of top of mast” occurring with an “E” frame on row 13/2 (Fig.13) in the coil printing and with an “A” frame on row 14/2 (Fig.14) on the sheet printings. This is due to a transposition of the vignettes in relation to their frames on the same cylinder printing. There is another rare transposition on a few sheets of this cylinder where it appears on row 16/12! Yes, indeed, the coil issues really do provide some unusual fun for flyspeck enthusiasts!

Short stamps, large, small, and drunken perforations -a contribution to the printing history of the 3d pictorial Groote Schuur Issue 5 (SG 117a)

by
Bas Payne

Introduction:



Fig. 1: Issues 3, 4 and 5 (from left to right) are sometimes confused. Stamps of Issue 5 (on right) are most easily distinguished by the three or four lines of cloud in the lower part of the sky; Issues 3 and 4 generally have a paler sky, with any clouds mainly in the centre of the sky.

Issue 5 of the 3d Groote Schuur pictorial (SG 117a) was first issued in March 1951 using a single cylinder (Cylinder 17) prepared from a new multipositive; it remained in use until late 1954, when it and the other stamps in the same set were replaced by the new animal pictorials.

According to the information provided at the time by the Government Printer (and published in the South African Philatelist between 1951 and 1954), Issue 5 was printed in four print jobs which were delivered between March 1951 and June 1954:

Job number	Delivery	Number of sheets	SAP
(final part of) 1883	3.3.51 – 20.3.51	124,140 sheets	(earlier parts of this order were printed with Cylinders 44A and 44B [Issue 4])
12451	11.3.52 – 20.1.53	122,472 sheets	delivered in several instalments
12743	10.3.53 - 8.12.53	109,600 sheets	delivered in several instalments
17412	8.6.54	34,330 sheets	single delivery

Table 1: 3d Issue 5: Information provided by the Government Printer.

The initial purpose of this study was to try to sort out subgroups and relate them to these printing Jobs by studying variation in shade and other characteristics, using stamps dated by postmark to provide a chronological framework. It is already reported that one printing was done on a different machine (Hagger 1986), and that one printing or batch had an unusually deep dark blue colour (UHB 48Ba; Gibbons 117b, but recently deleted).

This note is an interim statement, based on detailed work on perforations. It is published at this point partly because the results already indicate that more than four different subgroups can be identified, which is of wider interest as it suggests that large printing Jobs were sometimes printed in instalments rather than, as has recently been suggested by Quik (2003), always being printed as a single operation; and also because it is already fairly long because of the detailed nature of some of the evidence, and would have become even longer if shade had also been considered. It is planned to return to the question of shade - and, in particular, the status of the deep dark blue shade in a following note.

Background: printing machines and perforators.

As outlined by Hagger (1986) in UHB and described in more detail by Quik (2003), the Government Printer used two rotogravure presses to print stamps at the time the 3d Issue 5 was printed.

The faster of these, a Goebel MKII known as the Goebel 830, in use since 1930, was a two-colour press. It had a built-in eleven row comb perforator which, as there were twenty rows of stamps and (except in coil stamps) two blank rows, made two strikes to perforate each sheet and returned to the same place each time during a print run, usually, but not always, the first row of the perforator comb fell between rows 10 and 11, and between the two blank rows. An automatic adjustment mechanism made frequent adjustments to allow for minor variations in paper tension and stretch, in order to keep the perforations close to the centre of the gutters between the stamps; usually adjustments produced a row of narrow stamps in which the line of perforations across the bottom of the stamps is closer than normal to the nearest perforations up the side of the stamp, sometimes the two holes overlap, producing an hourglass perforation. Such adjustments are normal in most complete sheets, they can be seen clearly at both comb junction positions. (Staggered perforations are found at the same position but less commonly; they are caused by lateral adjustment of the paper relative to the perforation die.)

Raubenheimer (1964, 1965) adds important details based on information and samples supplied by the Government Printer and on visits to examine the presses. In particular, he describes two eleven row combs used for the 3d and other large format pictorials. Die 2714 had small holes; Die 2715 had larger holes and, reportedly as the result of damage and repair around 1936/7, the holes were noticeably out of alignment in two places between Columns 2 and 3 at Rows 1-3 of the comb, and between Rows 8 and 9 at Columns 3-4 (see Legge 1982; the positions as described by Raubenheimer differ because he is describing them in decimal pictorials after the first row had been removed). Raubenheimer (1964: 23) also says that there was a key or slot in one end of the cylinder, preventing it from being inserted reversed. By the same token neither the cyclometer nor the perforator can be reversed.

A second Goebel machine, reportedly in use from 1940 on, was a three-colour press. It had a built-in one row perforator (two row according to Quik (2003)), which made it considerably slower. Hagger (1986) says that it was generally used for smaller runs. (The built-in perforator was removed in the early 1960's, but this is after the period considered here.)

Sheets printed by these two presses can be distinguished by the cyclometer or sheet numbers. The Goebel 830 cyclometer had 4 digits; during the early 1950's these were always printed in red (before 1945 they were black, or sometimes blue); the Goebel 840 cyclometer had 5 digits which were always printed in black (Raubenheimer 1965; Hagger 1986; Quik 2003). Legge (1982:5) suggests also that the perforation holes produced by the single comb perforator of the Goebel 840 were intermediate in size between those of the two eleven comb dies used on the Goebel 830, and could thus be identified; but this does not appear to be the case (see below).

Large and small perforations:

Though not mentioned in the standard catalogues, many collectors have recognised the existence of large perforations and small perforations in stamps of Issue 5. The difference is quite marked: the diameter of the small perforation holes is just over 0.8 mm, while the large holes are around 0.95 mm (Fig. 2). The gauge remains the same at about p. 14 and so, when the holes are larger, the bridge of paper between the holes is narrower: the width of the bridge is about three-quarters of the diameter of the perforation hole in small perf. stamps, and around half in large perf. stamps. The distinction is very clear given pairs or blocks of both, but more difficult in single stamps.



Fig. 2: Small perf. (left) and large perfs. (right).

There is a very clear difference in dates of use between the small perf and large perf stamps in the Issue 5 3d. As Table 2 shows, in a sample of over 400 dated pairs all those used before October 1953 are small perf, while most of those used after January 1954 are large perf.

Date of postmark	Small perforations		Large perforations	
	# seen		# seen	
1-3.51				
4-6.51	6	■ · first date 1.4.51		
7-9.51	5	■		
10-12.51	2	··		
1-3.52	10	■■		
4-6.52	55	■■■■■■■■■■		
7-9.52	54	■■■■■■■■■■ ····		
10-12.52	35	■■■■■■■		
1-3.53	56	■■■■■■■■■■ ·		
4-6.53	24	■■■■ ····		
7-9.53	22	■■■■ ··		
10-12.53	16	■■■ ·	10	■■ first date 30.10.53
1-3.54	4	····	37	■■■■■■ ··
4-6.54	3	···	26	■■■■ ·
7-9.54	1	·	21	■■■■ ·
10-12.54			8	■ ···
1-3.55			7	■ ··
4-6.55	1	·	1	·
7-9.55				
10-12.55				

Table 2: 3d Issue 5, dates of use of examples with small and large perforations. ■ = 5 examples

Note: includes data kindly provided by Fred Clarke

The first date of use seen for the small perf. stamps is, as expected, shortly after the first date of delivery given by the Government Printer. The first date for the large perf. stamps (30.10.53) is several months later than the first delivery of Job 12743, though clearly well before the issue of Job 17412, suggesting that Job 12743 probably included an earlier small perf. printing and a later large perf. printing:

Job number	Delivery	Number of sheets	SAP	Small and large perf. holes
(final part of) 1883	3.3.51 – 20.3.51	124,140 sheets	(earlier parts of this order were printed with Cylinders 44A and 44B [Issue 4])	Small perfs: First seen 1.4.51
12451	11.3.52 – 20.1.53	122,472 sheets	delivered in several instalments	Small perfs.
12743	10.3.53 - 8.12.53	109,600 sheets	delivered in several instalments	Earlier printing small perfs. Later printings large perf. holes (first seen 30.10.53)
17412	8.6.54	34,330 sheets	single delivery	Large perfs.

Table 3: 3d Issue 5: Information provided by the Government Printer combined with information about small and large perf. use dates.

4 digit red sheet number blocks (from the Goebel 830) have been seen with small and with large perfs – presumably from Perforation Dies 2714 and 2715 respectively. 5 digit black sheet number blocks (from the Goebel 840) have only been seen with small perfs; despite Legge's (1982:5) suggestion, these are not intermediate in size: they are about 0.8 mm in diameter, like the small perforations from the Goebel 830.

Narrow or short stamps:

As described above, narrow (better described as short, as it is the height of the stamp which is affected, not its width) stamps are produced by automatic adjustments to keep the perforations close to the centre of the gutters between the stamps.

Generally, these adjustments happen at the bottom of the stamp - the line of perforations across the bottom of the stamps is closer than normal to the nearest perforations up the side of the stamp (Fig. 3). However, examples were also found in which the adjustment was at the top of the stamp instead (Fig. 4), indicating that the perforation comb was reversed in relation to the image of the sheet. These different states are abbreviated here as SAB (short at bottom, the commoner condition), and SAT (short at top). This distinction is important as Raubenheimer is clear that the cylinder and the comb could not be reversed in the press; it is suggested here that the SAB stamps are probably from the Goebel 830, and the SAT stamps from the Goebel 840, partly also on the basis of blocks seen of the 1/- Wildebeeste (SG 120) which have SAT perforations in combination with 5 digit black sheet numbers (Fig. 5).



Fig. 3: In these pairs, the upper stamps are short at the bottom (SAB)



Fig. 4: In these pairs, the lower stamps are short at the top (SAT)



Fig 5: 1/- black with 5 digit black sheet numbers (Goebel 840) and SAT short stamps. The adjustment is between Row 20 and the first blank row; the perforations are closer together, and there is also some lateral adjustment (staggered perfs). Image from eBay.

Row	Short at bottom (SAB)		Short at top (SAT)							
	10	11	1	2	3	9	10	11	18	20
Cancellation date										
1-3.51										
4-6.51	2+?1									
7-9.51	2									
10-12.51										
1-3.52	1									
4-6.52	1						3			
7-9.52		4					1+?1			
10-12.52		3				1				
1-3.53		2			1	1+?1		1		
4-6.53										
7-9.53		?1		1						1
10-12.53	2		1						1	
1-3.54	L3	L1								
4-6.54	L4	L1								
7-9.54	L4									
10-12.54	L4									

Table 4: 3d Issue 5: positions and dates of use of short stamps
 Notes: The numbers in each square show the number of examples. Figures in bold with the letter L indicate examples with large perforations.

Nearly 50 short stamps with legible postmark dates were found during the course of this study, SAB being about twice as common as SAT. Their positions in the sheet have been determined using the plating flaws described by Allen (1973):

Though numbers are not large, the patterning seen is clearly not random. In particular, SAT stamps are all in the middle period, between April 1952 and December 1953; before this all the examples are small perf SAB, and after this all are large perf SAB. Another clear difference is that while all the SAB stamps are from Rows 10 and 11, as expected from the Goebel 830 with an eleven row comb, and as seen in sheets and part sheets with 4 digit sheet numbers (exceptions exist but are uncommon), the SAT stamps are from a variety of sheet positions.

Putting this together with the information from the Government Printer:

- All five examples clearly used before March 1952 (and on that basis printed as part of Job 1883) are SAB Row 10, and were presumably printed by the Goebel 830 as the last delivery of Job 1883 using Perforation Die 2714.
- Examples used between April 1952 and March 1953, after the first delivery of Job 12451 but before the first delivery of Job 12743, are more varied. Earlier in this period, several clearly-dated SAT short stamps from a variety of row positions, are, it is suggested, likely to be from a printing on the Goebel 840. But there are also nine SAB Row 11 short stamps which were used during the second half of 1952 and early 1953; it seems reasonable to suggest that these are from a Goebel 830 printing which was produced some time in mid-1952 as part of Job 12451, again using Perforation Die 2714 but with the comb repeat starting at the bottom of Row 11 instead of the bottom of Row 10.
- Stamps used over the following year, between April 1953 and June 1954, after the first delivery of Job 12743 and before the delivery of Job 17412, are even more varied. Small perf SAB Row 10 short stamps and small perf SAT stamps could simply reflect the continuing use of earlier printings from 1951 and 1952; but perhaps more probably they may represent two earlier printings of Job 12743, one on the Goebel 830, the other on the 840. Large perf SAB Row 10 and SAB Row 11 stamps used later in 1953 and the first half of 2004 follow; though numbers are fairly small, the generally earlier dates of use of drunken perforations from SAB Row 11 (see below) provide further indication that these are separate printings, each using Perforation Die 2715.
- All examples dated in the second half of 1954 and early 1955 are SAB Row 10, suggesting that Job 17412 was another SAB Row 10 printing on the Goebel 830, again using Perforation Die 2715.

Continued on next page

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The following outline sequence of printings is suggested:

Job number	Delivery	Number of sheets	SAP	Small and large perfs	Short stamps and drunken perforations (see below)		[First use seen] and common use
					?Goebel 830	?Goebel 840	
(final part of) 1883	3.3.51 - 20.3.51	124,140 sheets	(earlier parts of this order were printed with Cylinders 44A and 44B [Issue 4])	small perfs: first seen 1.4.51	all SAB Row 10; Perf Die 2714		[1.4.51] 1951 and early 1952
12451	11.3.52 - 20.1.53	122,472 sheets	delivered in several instalments	small perfs		first printing SAT	[24.5.52] mid 1952
					second printing SAB Row 11; Perf Die 2714		[22.8.52] late 1952 into early 1953
12743	10.3.53 - 8.12.53	109,600 sheets	delivered in several instalments	earlier printings small perfs		??first printing SAT	(mid 1953)
					?? second printing SAB Row 10; Perf Die 2714		(later 1953)
				later printings large perfs (first seen 30.10.53)	third printing, SAB Row 11; Perf Die 2715 (with drunken perfs)		[31.12.53] late 1953 and early 1954
					fourth printing, SAB Row 10; Perf Die 2715 (with drunken perfs)		[3.3.54] early to mid 1954
17412	8.6.54	34,330 sheets	single delivery	large perfs	all SAB Row 10; Perf Die 2715 (with drunken perfs)		later 1954 and early 1955

Table 5: 3d Issue 5: Provisional printing history built up from information provided by the Government Printer combined with information about small and large perf use dates, and with short stamp and drunken perforation information.

Drunken perforations:

Further confirmation for the later groupings is provided by stamps with “drunken perforations”, in which the perforations are out of line to an unusual extent. These have been noted in a variety of Union stamps (Hagger 1986: 43). An illustration kindly sent by Mike Tonking shows an example of a large perf 3d Issue 5 block with drunken perforations between 0/2 and 0/3, 1/2 and 1/3, and 2/2 and 2/3. (Unfortunately this can not be illustrated as the illustration was in an unreadable format. I will try and illustrate this in a later issue if a suitable illustration comes to hand. **Ed.**)

About 30 examples of stamps with drunken perforations were found in the course of this study; all with large perfs. Some are from SAB Row 10 printings, in which the first comb row variant falls in Row 11, the second in Rows 1 and 12 and so on; others are from SAB Row 11 printings in which the first comb row variants falls in Rows 1 and 12, the second in Rows 2 and 13 and so on. Numbers of dated examples are fairly small, but use dates suggest that the SAB Row 11 printing (earliest date 31.12.53) was earlier than the SAB Row 10 printings (earliest date 22.4.54):

As Figure 6 shows, the drunken perforations in each row, differ slightly.



Fig. 6: Drunken perms: differences between the first, second and third comb rows are exaggerated by setting the right side of Column 2 against the same side of Column 2 reversed so that the differences are effectively doubled and stand out more clearly. The first comb row particularly shows right to left alternation from hole 4 to hole 10, counting down; the second has hole 1 particularly displaced to the right and holes 9 and 10 very close together; the third has holes 2 and 3 close together and holes 4 to 7 progressively further left.

	Drunken perms: SAB Row 11 combinations	Drunken perms: SAB Row 10 combinations
10-12.53	22.10.53; 31.12.53	
1-3.54	-2.54	
4-6.54		22.4.54
7-9.54		26.7.54; 28.8.54; -.8.54
10-12.54		12.10.54; 17.11.54; -.11.54
1-3.55		-.3.55; --.55

Table 6: 3d Issue 5: Use dates of drunken perforation variants from SAB Row 10 and SAB Row 11 printings.

Conclusion:

It is not claimed that this is more than a rather provisional account of the printing of Issue 5. Numbers of dated examples for the subgroups are still rather small, and the linking of SAT stamps with the Goebel 840 needs further work especially in relation to whether there was more than one Goebel 840 printing. Also variation in shade has not been taken into account, especially in relation to the late deep dark shade. It seems likely from dated certificated examples that these deep dark blue stamps were part of the last Job (Job 14712); but there is doubt, as reflected by the recent de-listing, about whether their colour is really distinctive, or whether they are at the dark end of a continuum. It is hoped to return to this in a later note.

But two points of wider interest have emerged. The first is the change from the earlier small perf issues to the later large perf. issues (first appearing in October 1953), which seems well worth separate listing in specialised catalogues.

The second is a more general point about the way stamps were ordered and printed during this period. It has been suggested (Quik 2003) that all the stamps in a printing Job were printed at the same time, and then delivered in instalments. However, the subgroups described above suggest that the four Jobs included eight or more distinct printings, usually with different periods of use, suggesting that large Jobs were often printed in instalments.

It is also hoped that this study illustrates the interest and value of studying used stamps. There is a tendency for specialists to concentrate on mint corner blocks, imprint blocks and arrows; however interesting these are, post-mark dates and their distribution in time provide information that mint stamps cannot.

Footnote:

Two other minor observations relate to how the 3d was issued and used.

First, after nearly 1000 used vertical pairs had been positioned on the basis of flaws, it was clear that vertical pairs between Rows 10 and 11 are rare – only one was found while, on a random basis, about 50 might have been expected (one in twenty). The probable reason is that sheets were usually torn in two, probably by post office staff at the time they were put into the counter books; a simple enough explanation, but one which causes problems when trying to reconstruct a whole sheet. Mint arrow blocks from Rows 10 and 11 do not seem to be unduly scarce, but have often been folded – this may suggest that sheets were whole when distributed to post offices, and so postal staff were able, if asked by collectors, to provide complete arrow blocks (and sheets).

Second, it is interesting to remember (and easy to forget) the scale of operations that is involved. The 3d was not, at this date, the stamp with the highest rate of use – this would have been the 2d, as this was the basic internal letter rate. Even so, the 3d, which was used mainly to make up air mail rates, was being produced and used at the rate of around 10,000 sheets a month, or about 15 million stamps a year (see Table 1). As the rolls of paper used for printing were around 2.5 km in length, and as each sheet was just over 0.5m long (Quik 2003), the supply of 3d stamps needed for a year would have needed about 25 of these 2.5 km rolls of paper (in fact more because of inevitable wastage); as the Goebel 840 could print at about 1000 sheets/hour (Hagger 1986), it would have needed to run day and night for most of a week to print a year's supply (the Goebel 830 was faster, but no figures are available for the rate at which it was printed). Finally, as a gummed 3d is about 0.1mm thick, the stack of sheets needed for a year would have stood something of the order of 12 metres high. Little surprise, given these figures, that a year's supply was sometimes printed in smaller instalments!

Thanks:

I am grateful to a large number of collectors who have very kindly given me unwanted used singles over the years for use in this and similar ongoing studies; and to the dealers who have kindly accumulated material for me. I am grateful to Fred Clarke and Eddie Bridges for discussion, ideas, information and encouragement, to Uli Bantz for help with translation, and particularly indebted to Mike Tonking for all his help. Any errors are my own.

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Thanks to Bas for this in depth research on the 3d Issue 5. If you have anything to add or correct to this article. Bas may be contacted via e-mail at bas@paynes.demon.co.uk or you may write to me and I will pass on the information. I am sure many collectors will go and have a fresh look at their holdings of this issue! Ed.



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.

*Mike Tonking from South Africa writes in response to items in the previous issue of **The Springbok**:*

Dear Eddie,

With reference to the report on the London meeting held in January 2006 I would comment on the 11/2d. 'green over gold background' or greenish vignettes which is found on the Issue 1 with inverted watermark (SAHB 46). The strange green shade resulted from the slower drying of the shiny gold ink before the frame was printed. A very thin film of ink consisting of the impression of the whole or part of the vignettes was picked up by the frame cylinder. The doctor blade did not immediately remove this ink which had hardened a little which then resulted in a very thin film of green being deposited on the previously printed shiny gold vignettes. I have an example over-printed OFFICIAL (SAHB 064) sheet number 2400. It is of interest to note that the sheet number 2402 is known in the normal colour.

Further to the Buildings varieties, a list of these was prepared by Mrs. R. Smith and printed in the RSA Stamp Study Circle Newsletter 91 of April 1992. She listed those known at that time and no doubt more have been recorded since that date. I well remember during the time the Buildings were in circulation being offered all sorts of strange things including the infamous gutter pairs and of course, the now catalogued, imperforated stamps. The latter should be treated with caution as it is more than likely some were backdoor products.

Meanwhile I have a query which some member may be able to assist me with an answer. It is known and can be proven that the 6c, 15c and R2 values were at some stage printed with re-chromed cylinders after the original cylinders became worn or broken. At the time there were rumours that the 3c (cylinder S21 dated 82.07.10) and the 50c (cylinder S39 dated 1985.06.21) were also printed with re-chromed cylinders however I have never been able to find the proof. I have not been able to obtain a reply from the GPW via Philatelic Services nor any member of the RSA Stamp Study Group. At the time of the issue of these values I, together with G. de Swart, were doing the plating at Philatelic Services for the RSA Stamp Study Group and did not note the rumoured re-chroming.

*Can anyone help Mike with this? **Ed.***

The article on RSA roll stamps by G. Palazzo is of interest. I am not surprised to learn that some rolls were too large for the vending machines as many Building Series roll stamps were badly miss cut. I am attaching an example of the 10c value where the number of stamps has been altered from 200 to 500 as well as the value from R20 to R50. I have never seen an English version wrapper and wonder if they do indeed exist.



Illustration of wrapper described above courtesy of Mike Tonking.

*Several Members commented on the Bantam publicity photos published in the previous issue. It appears that everyone has a copy of these except me! Thanks to those who responded. **Ed.***

Members Queries and Feed Back



Queries

Members are urged to use this column to raise their queries and the Editor will publish all replies and feedback received in response to queries published. This column has led to some worthwhile information being uncovered by members in response to queries. **Ed.**

Chris Board has responded to the query Fred Clark posed on the Issue date of PC 17, the Half Penny view cards. His response is quoted in full below. If anyone has anything further to add or further illustrations of these cards, a good quality scan of both sides of the card will be appreciated by the editor.

Union of South Africa: Second series of Halfpenny View Cards: a revision.

Fred Clark has provided just the evidence to challenge the accepted wisdom on the date of issue of PC17. I am convinced that Fred is correct to argue that the catalogues and handbooks are wrong in ascribing their date of issue as 1934. As early as 1952 in the first Union Handbook Catalogue this series was listed as Type 11, PC18. Type 11 is illustrated by a halfpenny Springbok card with an extra halfpenny stamp added. In the Golden Jubilee Handbook Catalogue (1960) the series is renumbered Type 12, PC17, but there is no illustration of Type 12. The second revised edition of 1979 has no illustration of Type 12, but Quik's catalogue does illustrate it and shows the additional halfpenny stamp. Now Fred has two cards cancelled 23 December 1931 and 29 December 1932. With the help of some cards and some records I can now offer an explanation and a revised date of issue.

In 1927 there were two issues of pictorial cards - one at 11/2d and one at 1/2d with 24 views in the set. The former sold in envelopes of six for 1s.3d. (price in black) and the latter also sold in envelopes of six for 9d (price in red). The inland postcard rate had been 1/2d since 1 January 1926. Ordinary postcards without views had been issued in 1927 and were not subject to such a premium. The Wembley Exhibition of 1924/25 had generated more photography and it seems the Post Office wished to extend the illustration of other places and scenes on a new series. I imagine a new series being prepared to replace the 1927 set, for inland use but adaptable for overseas use by adding a 1d stamp. Let us assume that these had been proofed and printed ready for issue when the Great Depression upset the Union's economic recovery from the post-war depression. In January 1930, Post Office Guide No.22, still advertised the earlier set of view cards at 9d for six. On 1 April 1931 the inland postcard rate doubled to 1d, leaving the overseas rate at 11/2d. As is known from examples where the extra stamp has been removed the new 1/2d postcards could be uprated for overseas use, but now had the wrong amount in the box - 1d rather than 1/2d. A simple way to obliterate this and to uprate the postcards to pre-pay the new inland postcard rate was to stick a 1/2d stamp over the box. It is most likely that the new postcards were only issued with the extra 1/2d stamp, hurriedly affixed because many of them reveal the box beneath. Such a temporary measure avoided waste and was accomplished only when it was known that the postal rates were to be increased.

Thus we find the Post Office Guide no.24 of January 1932 advertised packets of six view cards each with a 1d stamp at 1s. per packet. (Perhaps the use of 1d rather than two 1/2d stamps, put all collectors off the scent, until now.) These cards were advertised in the 1933 and 1939 Post Office Guides. I have two such packets, the re-printed envelopes of 1927, with a price change to 1/- applied by a violet hand stamp, with six of the PC17 cards inside all of which have extra 1/2d stamps. Such postcards are very hard to find used but were probably issued after April 1931, but certainly before 1934. When the postcard rate was reduced to 1/2d on 11 April 1934, these view cards were overpriced for inland use, so ordinary domestic communication took place on ordinary un-illustrated postcards. All those found without the extra stamp show signs that there had been such a stamp over the bilingual uprating instruction.

Before leaving this topic, Tony Chilton's assertion in the Supplement to the S.A. Philatelist devoted to The Pictorial Postal Stationery Cards of the Union, that the postcard rate was raised again to 1d in 1935, has no basis in fact. Thus it cannot be argued that PC17 cards enjoyed another period of currency before 1941. If this scenario is accepted, we should look to the revision of future Handbooks and Catalogues.

© Christopher Board
June 2006

Members Smalls

Mike Tonking has advised of the following:

1. I am looking for a right margin strip of 10 with no sheet numbers of the 4c Arms WM original printing.
2. Working through my RSA Postage Dues I have a number of duplicate mint cylinder blocks for sale or swap if any of our members are interested.

Eddie Bridges is looking for the following:

1. Any information on the Union Booklets for a future publication. Publicity information, articles that did not appear in the SAP or *The Springbok*. I am also willing to buy complete unexploded booklets. Offers to the address on the inside cover please.
2. I am also in the market for un-hyphenated Rotogravure pictorials in positional blocks, controls etc.

Smalls will be left here for a number of issues. If you no longer need the smalls published, please advise the editor. **This is a free service for members. Make use of it!**

Intending to send the Editor an Article with a few pictures?

First of all if you think this is not you, think again! The journal is the lifeblood of the Society. The Editors job is to collate the articles lay out the pages and generally do the necessary things to make the journal ready for printing. The Editors job is **not** to write all the articles in the journal. What he does not mind doing is helping with research, feeding and encouraging others to write. If the Editor has to write all the articles, provide all the items of interest, write to **himself** to add some interest to the "Letters to the Editor" column, then this journal will die.

I have a few stalwarts who have sent in some items which I am always grateful for. However, these stalwarts and the Editor have specific collecting interests and these topics are soon exhausted or we end up with similar editorial content in every issue. What I need is a variety of items which will enable me to balance the content and save some articles for a rainy day. If you do not see your article appear in the next issue, do not despair as it will get used unless I advise you that it will not be published. (this is unlikely to happen!)

Now some items that will help the Editor save time and keep the quality of the content at an acceptable standard. If at all possible send me the articles on a disk, CD, USB memory stick or by e-mail. Short items on paper or in a letter I can still type out but long articles neatly typed on several pages, takes me ages to retype. Mistakes can also creep in as I might miss a sentence or a paragraph. It takes on average up to 40 hours to put one issue of the journal together. I enjoy doing this, but sometimes work pressure does not allow me to spend this sort of time on the journal.

Another problem area is pictures or illustrations. Please try and make good colour copies or better, scan the items and send as mentioned above. Black and white copies are difficult to reproduce in good quality. Colour I can change to black and white and still maintain good resolution. Poor copies cannot be reproduced. Remember the journal is completely digitised. I do not cut and paste as I then have to copy the journal which is more expensive. Digital printing is much easier and more economical. Your help in these matters would be appreciated. Put finger to keyboard and send me some articles!!

Eddie Bridges

Report on the March meeting in Carlisle

by Malcolm Ridsdale

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 25th March 2006

Attendees – 13 Members and 1 visitor (list with Godfrey Mellor)

Apologies – P. Williams, C. Oliver, F.A. Clark and V. Stone

Meeting opened with Godfrey Mellor in the Chair who welcomed everybody. GM asked the members present to stand and observe a few moments of silence in memory of the death of the SACS President, Reg Allen, who had passed away in his 99th year since our last meeting.

On resumption of the meeting GM advised that the position of President was to remain vacant for a year as a mark of respect.

Items through the Chair

GM advised members that since the last Carlisle meeting (excluding the London meetings) there had been two occasions that the SACS had been involved in.

On the 4th to the 6th November 2005 the 3rd UK Congress of Southern African Philatelic Societies had taken place at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa. A full report appeared in the Oct / Nov Springbok. This excellent event will be run again this year on the 3rd to the 5th November at the same venue. All those interested in attending should contact Eddie Bridges or Brian Trotter. Costs will be in the region of £110 which includes evening meals and breakfast. The usual pattern is likely to be repeated with the Mathews memorial Lecture on the Friday night, excellent invited displays on the Saturday followed by the SACS AGM late afternoon, members' displays on Sunday and the auction to bring proceedings to an end.

GM reported that the third joint bi-annual event had taken place with the Rhodesia Study Circle. It had been held on the 26th November 2005 in Manchester. GM expressed disappointment that in spite of notices of the meeting in The Springbok and 33 invitations being sent out to northern and Scottish SACS members only 4 members had actually attended. Those that attended were treated to excellent displays (report in the previous Springbok).

The next Carlisle meeting has been arranged for the 16th September 2006 and as usual will be held at the County Hotel in Carlisle. The subject for displays will be the first 10 years of the RSA and the Abell Trophy competition will take place at this meeting.

The 2007 Carlisle meetings will take place on the 24th March and the 15th September. The topics for displays will be decided at this year's September meeting.

Further discussion took place regarding the joint meetings with the Rhodesia Study Circle. The next meeting is due in 2007 and Colin Hoffman from the RSC has kindly offered to host the meeting at his Manchester venue. It was agreed that Manchester was a good meeting venue for some but perhaps not the more northern and Scottish members and the timing in November clashed with pre Christmas arrangements. GM agreed to discuss with the RSC the possibility of different dates and also venues alternating between for example Carlisle when it was the SACS who were hosting, and Manchester when it was the RSC.

Other Officer Reports

Chris Oliver

Although CO had sent apologies for his non attendance at the meeting he had sent details that SACS membership now stands at 169 although within these numbers are (at the time of the meeting) 18 non paid up "members". CO knows that some of these are regular late payers but still feels that the SACS might lose some of these.

CO also reported that the Natal and Zululand Study Circle is to include the Cape of Good Hope in its listings. The Bechuanaland and Botswana Society is also to extend its "interests" into other associated areas etc. He felt that these moves, particularly by the Natal and Zululand Study Circle, could affect our membership numbers. CO advised that the ABPS cards would be out with the next edition of The Springbok but as Eddie Bridges had been out of the country on business the distribution of this was delayed a little.

Bill Branney

Reported that one of his packets had gone astray and he was in the process of making a compensation claim with the Post Office and our insurers.

The recent auction had gone OK and a list of the winning bids had been inserted in The Springbok. The main auction account was now at a healthy £1200.

BB was as always requesting material and Malcolm Ridsdale asked if there would be any interest in putting together club books of modern RSA. BB felt sure that there would and encouraged members who had such material to make it available to him.

Brian Carter

BC reported that his new e mail address was brian@carterhouse.org and asked this be included in officer information in The Springbok.

Max Whitlock

MW reported that he had a problem with the cover packets. He has three packets on the circuit and these included packets lost, replaced and then lost again. It was very difficult to see what was happening but MW suspected that members were not passing the packets on but claiming it had gone missing. It was proving to be very frustrating. A suggestion from the meeting was that the phone ahead arrangement should prevail on the cover packet circuit and this was agreed. MW is therefore looking at re-writing the rules and these should be available by the November convention.

New cover packets to be distributed shortly would include covers from Don Todd's estate.

MW added finally that as always he was looking for material for the packets.

Around the Table

Eric Hammond

Since the last meeting EH had made two trips to South Africa. He reported that he had prepared detail of his attendance at one of the stamp exhibitions which would be appearing in The Springbok. EH advised that local dealers appeared to do good trade whilst the bigger dealers attending these exhibitions seemed not to do as much business. Dealers were buying at about 25% of catalogue value and were particularly interested in quality material.

EH had visited the Cape Town Philatelic Bureau but had found very little commemorative material available for sale.

Roy Ross

RR showed to the meeting a handbook that he has recently had printed covering the philatelic items associated with the 1936 Empire Exhibition. It covers post cards, philatelic covers, first and last day cancelled items, missing mine dump shadings on cover etc. This extensive piece of work is available from RR for £15 including postage and looks an impressive reference document.

Displays

In the afternoon two of the attending members put up Republic revenues displays.

Godfrey Mellor displayed stamps from within the three sets starting in 1961 up to approximately 2000. Members were able to see the dates of issue and secret marks identifying the various issues. GM displayed the basic set from 1.5 cents to R200 although as a working collection there were some gaps. There were revenue stamps used postally as well as on official documentation. There were multiple strips on legal documents up to R200 including Penalty overprints.

Giovanni Palazzo also displayed revenue stamps from 1961 onwards. The first set used the Union colours with RSA watermark. Although date of issue was 31/05/1961, some RSA revenue stamps were used before this date. GP displayed single examples of the first set as well as on documents and Penalty overprints and reduced size 2c. GP then moved to the 1968 second series again showing used singles and on documents. He included various types of revenues including Customs and Excise and Department of Bantu Administration as well as National Savings Stamps.

The third part of the display covered 1978 to 2000. 16 values shown up to R200 and the different designs in this period. Many single values displayed plus revenues on documents and revenue stamps used postally as well as postage stamps used fiscally. There were also Penalty with the words written when overprinted stamps had been unavailable. Later revenue stamps had been printed using different plates, in 1991 different paper and in 1997 elliptical perforations were seen but not continued. GP also had revenue stamps with marked perforation shifts.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.00pm

The 1925 Air Mail Stamps-The Union's first Air Mail Stamps

The stamps and the identification of the existing forgeries

by

Eddie Bridges and John Shaw

Introduction

This set of Air Mail stamps, issued on the 26 th February, 1925, were only valid for pre-payment of the air mail portion of the postage. These stamps were introduced for the experimental Air Mail Service between Cape Town and Durban, which commenced on the 2nd March 1925. The stamps were sold at Post Offices in the areas served by the new air mail service as well as at the General Post Offices in Johannesburg, Pretoria and also at the High Commissioners Office in London.

Cover flown on the 13th March 1925 showing the additional 3d Air Mail stamp to pay the air mail portion of the postage.



The Stamps

The set consisted of four values, 1d, 3d, 6d and 9d, each in a different single colour with the same design of an airborne bi-plane and inscribed bilingually in English and Afrikaans.

The basic design was done by an official of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and drawn by Arthur Cooper of the Cape Times Ltd. of Cape Town. He was a former employee of Waterlow & Sons in London. The stamps were printed by the Cape Times on a soft wove un-watermarked paper using a photo-lithographic offset process. The sheets consisted of an upper and lower pane of 60 stamps each. (6 rows x 10) These were separated by a horizontal gutter, 15 mm wide. The sheets were perforated 12 by a single line Treadle Perforator. There were no control numbers or arrows in the margins but instead a value tablet (a circle with the value inscribed) was printed at the centre of the top and bottom margins and in the right hand margin of each pane.

The use of these stamps was discontinued at the end of June of the same year, but they were reportedly still on sale in Pretoria till the end of October. Numbers sold according to The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Vol. II by Robson Lowe are as follows:

1d: 65390, 3d: 75621, 6d: 53536, 9d: 27763



The four values in right marginal control blocks

Continued on next page.....

Imperforate Stamps

Apart from a few sheets where the left marginal copies had the left side of the stamp imperforate due to the single line perforator missing them, a piece of paper showing the impressions of 12 of the 1d stamps, have also appeared on the market. This was reportedly purchased by a Cape Town Stamp dealer from a boy who claimed that he had found it in some waste. This block was cut up into single stamps and copies were sold separately as imperfs. The condition of these stamps were in poor condition, as might be expected bearing in mind their origin.



One of the 12 existing imperforate examples
of the original sheet of 12.

The Forgeries

It is of no surprise that forgeries of these stamps appeared in about 1953, as the simplicity of the design made them easy to reproduce. These were apparently made in France for packet makers of stamps. These air mail stamps were relatively inexpensive at the time and it is not clear what the forgers could have gained from them. However, these became sought after by collectors, with the result that they often sell at higher prices than the genuine stamps! This has encouraged the forgers and as a result several variations of these forged stamps have appeared on the market. It is not known if all of these were done by one or several forgers. These forgeries have been reported in the South African Philatelist, in the Newsletter of the South African Stamp Study Circle and in this Journal over the years. These have appeared as follows:

1. The South African Philatelist of November 1953 ran a report on the emergence of these forgeries which was submitted by Francis J. Field of Sutton Coldfield in the UK. He reported finding a set of forgeries and provided some details on the features that identified them. These are briefly listed below:
 - a) The forgeries were perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 12.
 - b) The design was about 0.25 mm narrower in width and 0.75 mm shorter in height than the genuine stamp.
 - c) The horizontal lines in the frame surrounding the aeroplane are finer with varying thickness and spacing when compared to the original design. The ends of these lines were also uneven compared to the genuine which had them in a straight perpendicular line.
 - d) The colours were darker or lighter than the originals.
 - e) A feature of these forgeries was the spacing of the 2nd and 3rd horizontal lines under the word "AFRIKA" On each value they are drawn fairly close together whereas on the genuine stamps they are evenly spaced.
2. It was not until March 1968 that any further information appeared in The South African Philatelist, when Mr. A. Leslie Leon reported obtaining some of these stamps and after careful examination came to the conclusion that two different sets of these forgeries existed. He separated them as follows:
 - a) The first set had the perforation at $13\frac{1}{2}$ and the stamp size at 22 x 28 mm. Colours of 1d. Carmine, 3d. as bright blue, 6d. as mauve and 9d. as bright green.
 - b) The second set had the perforation at $11\frac{1}{2}$ and the stamp size as 23 x 28.5 mm and colours, 1d. much lighter shade, 3d. much darker and more like the ultramarine of the genuine, 6d. the same and 9d. dull green. In the second set, the two lines of shading below the words "AIR POST" are thicker than the remaining lines of shading as is the case in the genuine stamps. He also noticed differences in the fluorescence of the papers used.
3. In the Newsletter of the South African Stamp Study Circle in July 1968 Mr. S.P. Naylor, after reading about the additional forgery as reported by A. Leslie Leon, and being encouraged by Jack Hagger who made his material of the forgeries available for study, he wrote a detailed report confirming the existence of the second forgery. He also discovered that further subdivisions needed to be made as various papers and perforations also existed. He now separated the forgeries into Plate 1 and Plate 2. The summary of the differences he made are listed below.

Plate 1

- a) Below KA of SUIDAFRIKA-The second and third lines of shading are close together. On the genuine stamps the spacing is even.

Continued on next page...

The 1925 Air Mail Stamps continued....

- b) The lines of shading around the aircraft are thinner, not evenly spaced and the ends are irregular compared to the lines which end in a straight vertical line on the genuine stamp.
- c) The first two lines of shading under the words "AIR POST" are not thickened as in the genuine stamps.
- d) The left end of the lower wing is different. The genuine stamp has short lines of shading projecting to the left from the top and bottom edges of this wing.

Plate 2.

- a) Below KA of SUIDAFRIKA-The first and second lines of shading are very slightly closer together. This is not a very good point of difference.
- b) As for Plate 1 forgeries, but the differences are not so marked-also the following clear point: Below the last A of AFRICA the first of the longer lines of fine shading sticks out to the right.
- c) First two lines of shading under the words "AIR POST" are thickened as in genuine.
- d) Left end of lower wing is similar to the genuine.

He further states that the perforations are different. That of the genuine stamp is 12 (actually 11.9) while Plate 1 forgeries are known with gauges 11½ and 13, and Plate 2 forgeries with gauge 11. He states that Mr. Leon mentioned that his Plate 2 forgeries were perforated 11½. (This was significant as will be seen later)

The differences known to this point are summarised in the table below.

	Genuine stamp	Plate 1 A	Plate 1 B	Plate 2
Perforation	12	13	11½	11
Width & height of design	22.5 x 28.5	22.5 x 28	22.5 x 28	23 x 28.5
Overall size (perf to perf)	26 x 32	27 x 32.5	26 x 31 to 32	26.5 x 32.5
Paper	slightly toned	whiter	1d & 9d toned 3d & 6d whiter	whiter than genuine
Gum	crazed by many small cracks	smooth & clear	1d & 9d cracked 3d & 6d smooth & clear	smooth & clear
Ultra violet reaction	no fluorescence	paper fluoresces white	1d & 9d dull 3d & 6d paper fluoresces white	1d 7 9d dull with fluorescent dots 3d & 6d fluoresces white

- 4. In the December 1969 issue of the South African Stamp Study Circle newsletter, Mr. Jack Hagger mentions that he had obtained some extra copies of the forgeries and when he compared them to the listing given he had found another perforation variety for Plate 2. This was in fact the perforation that Mr. Leon mentioned as 11½. in the previous summary and was thought to be an erroneous reading for the perf. 11 on Plate 2 forgeries! Jack Hagger then summarised the four different forged types as follows:
 - a) Plate 1 perf. 11½. easily identified by the top two lines under "AIR POST" not being thickened.
 - b) Plate 1 perf. 13 with feature as in a).
 - c) Plate 2 perf. 11 and distinguished by the top line under "AIR POST" being extended at its right end.
 - d) Plate 2 perf. 11½. with feature as in c).
- 5. In the Jan/Feb issue of *The Springbok* of 1976 an enquiry was received on how to distinguish the forgeries of these Air Mail stamps from the genuine ones. A short article appeared with some illustrations and a summary of the information mentioned here. The table provided erroneously attributed the extra perforation variety to Plate 1 instead of plate 2. One additional piece of distinguishing information for Plate 2 was given. The sketches were fairly crude and were prone to misunderstanding. (scanning technology and the advent of desk top publishing was not available to the Editor then!)

Continued on next page...

6. In 1999 John Shaw had corresponded with the late Franz Heymann, the editor of *The Springbok* at the time. An even further type of forgery had been discovered by John Shaw. This was listed as Plate 3. Details were sent to Jack Hagger in South Africa for publication in the South African Philatelist, but I have not seen it published anywhere. The identification features of this, the 5th set to be identified to date were summarised as follows:
- a) A short projection above "I" of SUIDAFRIKA on the **6d value only**.
 - b) The fact that although, around the bottom right value tablet, the symmetry of the horizontal lines to the top left of the circle is better, the forgers have still not got it right, and comparison with a genuine stamp will show that, for the latter, the ends of the lines are nicely chamfered to give an almost perfect arc, in the forgeries they are still sufficiently ragged to give the game away.

An updated table is given below:

	Genuine stamp	Plate 1 A	Plate 1 B	Plate 2 A	Plate 2 B	Plate 3
Perforation	12	13	11½	11	11½	11¼
Width & height of design	22.5 x 28.5	22.5 x 28	22.5 x 28	23 x 28.5	23 x 28.5	23 x 28.2
Overall size (perf to perf)	26 x 32	27 x 32.5	26 x 31 to 32	26.5 x 32.5	26.5 x 32.5	26 x 31
Paper	slightly toned	whiter	1d & 9d toned 3d & 6d whiter	whiter than genuine	whiter than genuine	White
Gum	crazed by many small cracks	smooth & clear	1d & 9d cracked 3d & 6d smooth & clear	smooth & clear	smooth & clear	smooth & clear
Ultra violet reaction	no fluorescence	paper fluoresces white	1d & 9d dull 3d & 6d paper fluoresces white	1d 7 9d dull with fluorescent dots 3d & 6d fluoresces white	1d 7 9d dull with fluorescent dots 3d & 6d fluoresces white	not tested

On the following pages the stamps from each plate have been enlarged with the identification features added in around the sides instead of showing sketches. Hopefully this will make identification of the forgeries easier in future. If there are any more constant distinguishing features, please let us know to enable us to add to this listing.

Continued on next page...

The Societies Copies of Collections

If you have an award winning collection, display or if you do not exhibit but have a comprehensive holding of a particular issue or series, please make a colour copy of it and send to the Editor. Do not bind as we will do this with proper covers in a uniform style and a copy kept in the Library. Copy costs will be reimbursed. This is to ensure that we keep a record of information and the research that has gone into many of these holdings. This will be invaluable if the huge task of updating the Union Handbook needs to be undertaken. This might be something the Society might want to take on as a project in the next few years as we have a fair amount of good collections in this country to be able to illustrate varieties in more detail than the current handbook. Please consider this as the research information in the write ups normally get lost if the collections are auctioned off one day.

Eddie Bridges

The Genuine Stamp

Perforated 10.9 or 11 depending on the accuracy of your perforation gauge.



The first two lines under AIR POST are slightly thickened or darker.



There are two short lines of shading to the left of the upper and lower edge of the bottom left wing.



The lines around the oval are evenly spaced and form a straight vertical line at the left and right sides.

The bar joining the wheels is solid



The first two lines below KA are evenly spaced and of similar thickness

Plate 1 Forgeries

Two different perforations exist for Plate 1.

- A. Perforated 13
- B. B. Perforated 11½



The first two lines under AIR POST are slightly thickened but not as regularly spaced as in the genuine,



The left bottom wing is different. The wing is more solidly shaded and the short lines on the left end are thicker than in the genuine stamp.



The lines around the oval are thinner and unevenly spaced and do not form a straight vertical line at the left and right sides.

The bar joining the wheels is solid



The second line is thinner and the lines are irregularly spaced

Plate 2 Forgeries

Two different perforations exist for Plate 2:

- A. Perforated 11
- B. Perforated 11½



The two lines of shading to the left similar to the genuine stamp but printing and screening is poorer making it easy to distinguish from the genuine.

The first two lines not so pronounced as in the genuine and the shading is poor and broken. The descriptions in the original findings do not quite match.



First line in frame area extends to the right at the junction between the longer and shorter thicker bars.



The lines around the oval are thinner and unevenly spaced and do not form a straight vertical line at the left and right sides.

The bar joining the wheels is now made up of two lines



The first two lines below KA closer to each other with the second line now thicker

Plate 3 Forgery

This forgery has a perforation gauge of $11\frac{3}{4}$ which is as close as I can measure it. It is certainly more than $11\frac{1}{2}$, but not quite 12.

John Shaw states that these forgeries are very good with the colours matching very well and most of the previous identification features now corrected.



Broken "U" of SUIDAFRIKA. This appears on the 6d value. Insufficient material available to ascertain if any more values have this flaw.

Small projection upwards above "I" of SUIDAFRIKA on the **6d value only**.

Lines around the top left of value tablet not quite as well chamfered as on the original.

The 1925 Air Mail Stamps continued....

The following pages show some of the groups of forgeries to provide an idea of the colour variations. It is difficult to reproduce the colours exactly with out incurring professional assistance.(at a cost!) The originals are shown for comparison.

The Genuine Stamps



Plate 1



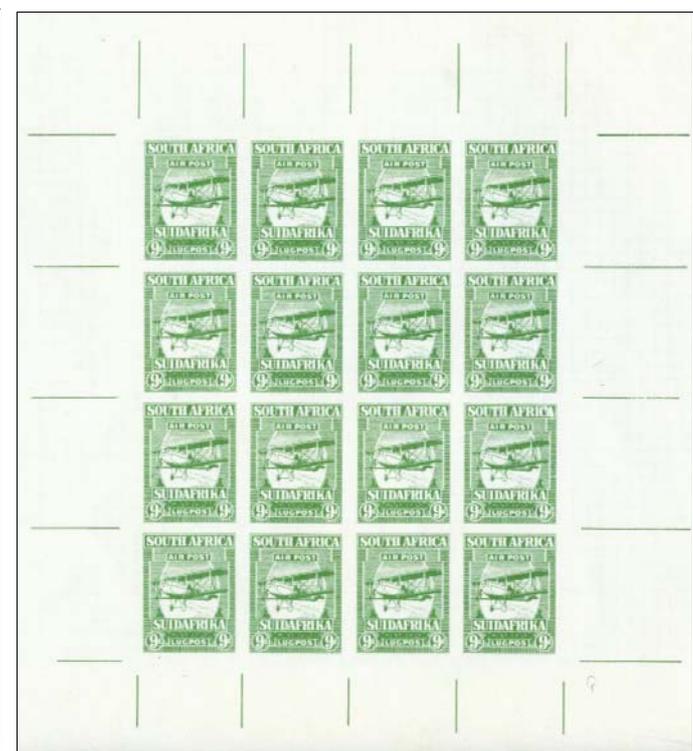
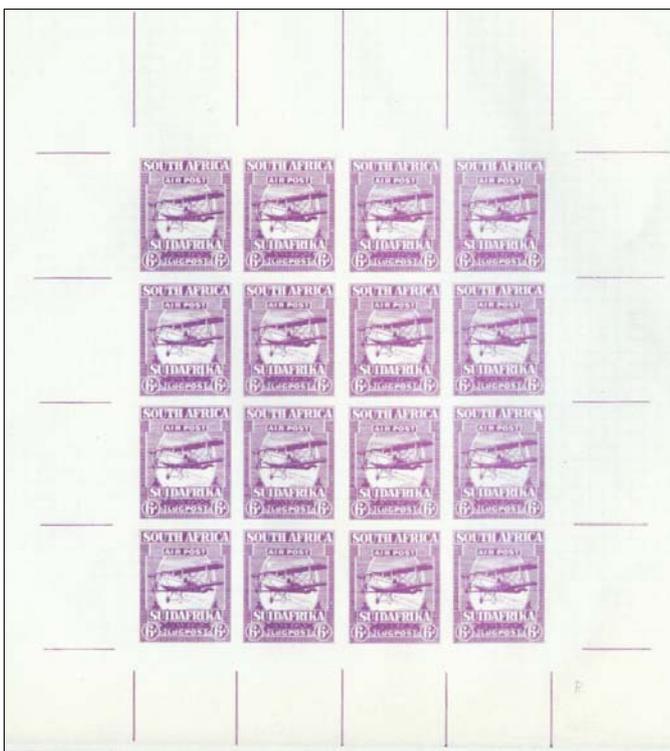
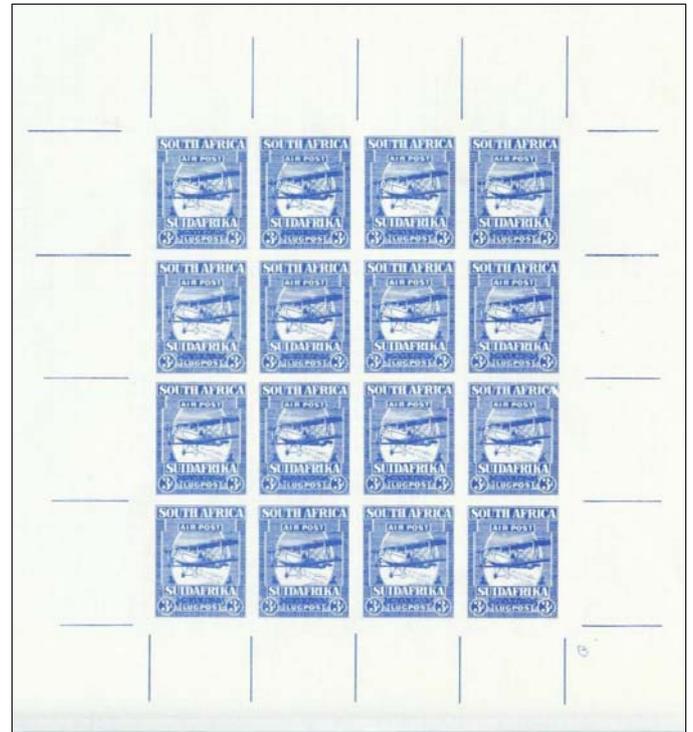
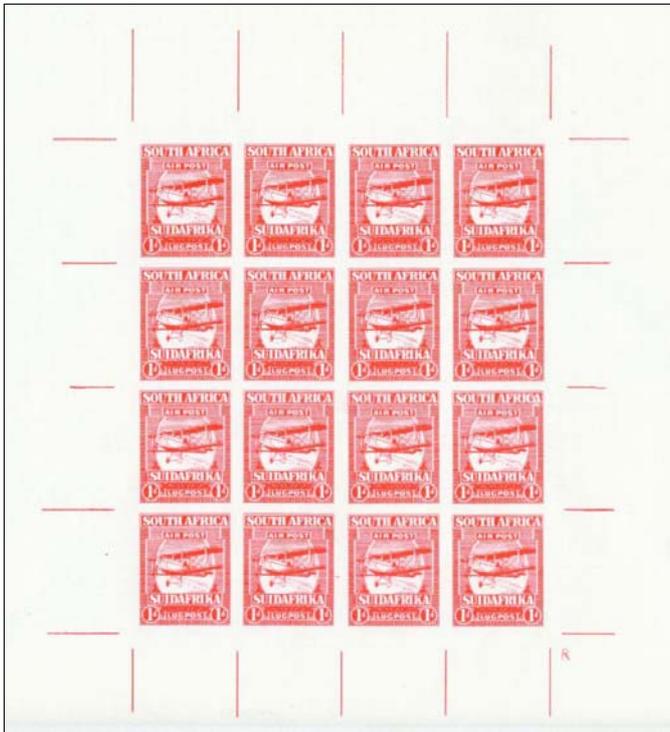
Plate 2



Plate 3

The following are imperforate sheetlets of the Plate 3 forgeries. Note that these are printed in panes of 16 (4 x 4). Note, the letters denoting the colour in the bottom right corner. These have not been seen before and are possibly unique. Please advise the Editor if any of the readers have seen any further samples. These are pretty good forgeries and in their perforated form could easily be mistaken for the genuine stamp. The 6d sheetlet exhibits the protruding line above "I" in SUIDAFRIKA on every stamp. These sheets have been cropped a bit as they were printed on paper almost A4 size with large borders around the lines surrounding the stamps.

Courtesy John Shaw collection





Protrusion above "l" on every stamp

6d Block of 6 from Plate 3 forgery.

We hope this information is of use. If you have anything to add, please let the Editor know.

Reminder

Southern African Societies Convention-Leamington Spa 3-5th November 2006

If you have not already done so, please note this in your diary. It is a well worthwhile event to attend. The displays are usually superb and the friendly atmosphere second to none.

Please let me know if you are intending to go so we can reserve a hotel room for you. We have block booked a number of rooms in the meantime.

The programme will be distributed in due course.

Auction

I will not be the auctioneer this year, due to work commitments, but Tony Howgrave-Graham has stepped in to fill this role. He has also appealed to members to dig out that unwanted and duplicate material and let him know what you have. Remember from experience it is the better material, realistically priced that sells. Common bulk material rarely finds a buyer.

Tony can be contacted on 01725 510067 or on e-mail at ajbmhg@btinternet.com

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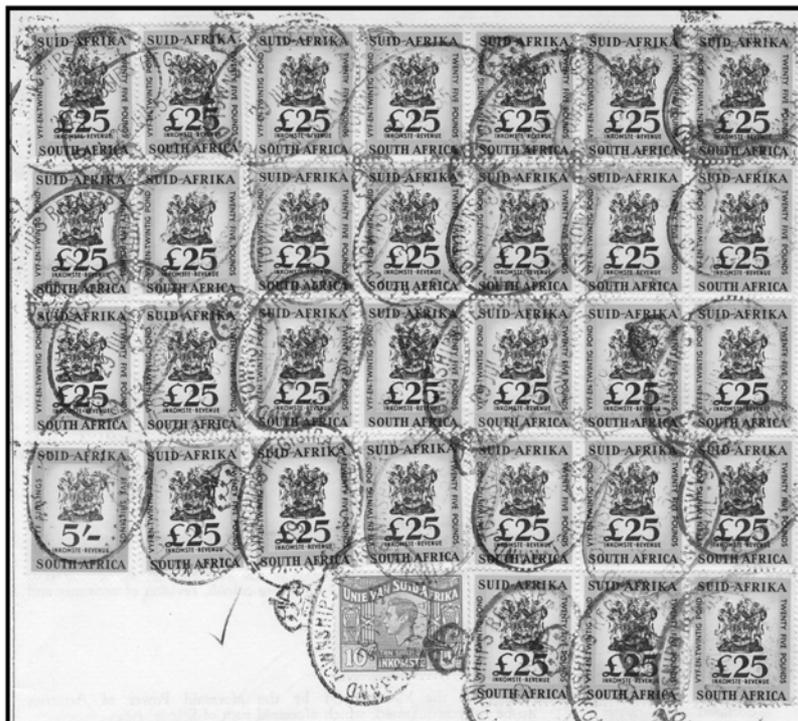
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