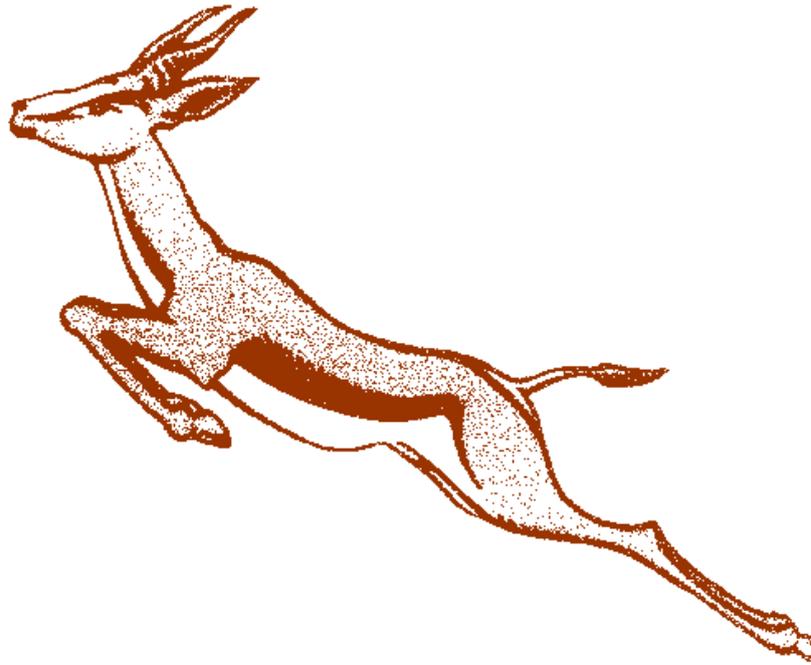


THE SPRINGBOK



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

Vol. 55

No. 2

Apr/Jun 2007

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All correspondence including SAE will be acknowledged.

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Events for your Diary 2007

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

24th Feb.	SACS London meeting	Subject: World War Mail (not stamps)
24h Mar.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Open Meeting
12th May	SACS Cambridge meeting	Subject: Open Meeting
26th May.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Early Union Postcards
15th Sep.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Gold Mining
29th Sep.	SACS London meeting	Subject: More Union Officials & Abel Trophy Competition
1st Dec.	SACS London meeting	Other Philatelic collecting interests

9-11th Nov. Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa

Other Events for 2007

19-20th Jan.	York Stamp and Coin Fair
28th Feb-4th Mar.	Spring Stampex, Islington, London.
1-3rd Mar.	Spring Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
9th June	Swinpex in Swindon
30th June	Midpex in Coventry
19-23rd Sep.	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
26-28th Oct.	Dundee Philatelic Conference
1-3rd Nov.	Autumn Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London.
24-26th Nov.	A.B.P.S. Congress and Show, Croydon

**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 of *The Springbok* contains a mixed bag of articles. This is in part due to the support from the members and an accumulation of short articles that have built up in my in tray. Please keep them coming as they are very useful. We do however lack in depth research articles on the Union or Republic period. Please put pen to paper as I now have nothing for the next few issues. My current work load precludes me from spending too much time putting articles together for you.

On another note, the debacle in South Africa with respect to the Stamp Issuing Programme for 2007 will most likely accelerate the demise of a few more Republic Collectors. This will really be sad as I get the impression fewer members are now collecting RSA. I for one have stopped at the end of 2005 and closed my account at Philatelic Services. This has mostly been due to the poor service, coupled with a large volume of issues which I felt was just becoming too much. Please read the article on page 59 by Dr. Alan Rose. This was his editorial in the SAP of June. I have reprinted with acknowledgement. Let me know if you have any comments.

The date for the Southern African Societies Conference is approaching fast. If you have auction material, please let Tony Howgrave-Graham have it. (see page 44 for details)

The SACS exhibition at STAMPEX 2010 needs some support in the form of volunteers for organising and help on the day. If you feel, you can help in some way, please let me know. A list of exhibits that we have so far will be published next month or the last issue of this year.

This reminds me, as mentioned in the last issue, we will be celebrating the 300th Issue at the end of this year. To celebrate this milestone, I would like to produce a bumper issue with some really good articles. This can be about anything to do with SA Philately and the history of the society. Your help would be appreciated. Enjoy this issue.

Eddie Bridges

S.A. Officials, Margins & Sheet Numbers

by Bob Hisey

The sheet number and margin conditions are most helpful in separating and identifying separate printings of the Overprints. This depends upon the correctness of a number of basic assumptions:

1. Each printing order of the basic stamp was done in one run, so the sheet numbers are constant in their placement throughout the run and basically characteristic of the run. The margin sizes and conditions will be constant in a given run, with one exception. If a roll change is needed, the left margin size may change if the roll is of a different width. This has been discussed in my previous article. (See *The Springbok* Vol. 52/3 of Jul/Sep 2004 page 68. **Ed**)
2. The print run of each overprint was 1 ream, or 500 sheets/half sheets, of which one was retained in the daily record book, the remaining 499 (less any waste) was issued. This seems to be generally accepted and is referred to in *The Handbook*. (Hagger 1986)
3. Each ream taken for overprinting came from just one basic run, and was sequential sheet numbers. This comes about due to basic security measures. This requires some elaboration.

Security Printing and Distribution

Security printing is that branch of printing that transforms almost worthless bits of paper into valuable securities, such as postage stamps, revenue stamps, currency, stocks, bonds, etc.

As such, extreme care must be taken to prevent pilferage. In the 1930's, a pressman would probably earn about £5 per week. A sheet of 120 postage stamps of 10/- would be worth £60, or 3 months pay. A sheet of £25 revenues would be thousands of pounds, a relative fortune. Each sheet of 6d stamps would be a weeks wages.

The only record I have found as to the exact security measures taken at the GPW (Government Printing Works) is the testimony in the 1930 trial of a press foreman as related in Natie Becker's book "The Overprinted Stamps of South West Africa to 1930". The works manager of the GPW testified:

"Explaining the procedure followed in printing postage stamps, witness said that the paper was issued to the foreman of the printing department after it had been doubly checked. After printing it was handed over to the clerical staff, when the output was checked. A certificate was issued for the number of sheets delivered to the accused, specifying good sheets, spoils and waste. If a sheet was spoiled, it was destroyed by the clerical staff. Accused had to account for every sheet issued to him and also for all clipped or short sheets".

This was the 1930 procedure at the time before gravure was introduced, but would represent the expected normal procedures.

We have some knowledge of the procedures followed by the Cape Colony and the Oranje Vry Staat when overprinting postage stamps.

In the O.V.S., the postage stamps were delivered by the printer, De La Rue, to an official in the Treasury called the Stamp Keeper. They would be stored in the Treasury vaults. De La Rue delivered them in sealed crates, divided into reams (by a blank slip sheet) and marked every 100 sheets. Each sheet was individually counted, and often the pencil notation of counting can be found on a margin.

He would then dole them out to the P.O. as needed. Since absolutely correct amounts must be kept of each sheet in each shipment, the amounts doled out were almost certainly in multiples of reams or 100 sheets. The stamp Keeper would of course have been audited, and had to account for each sheet by receipts from the PO, reconciled to the De La Rue shipments. Thus it was in his best interest to keep the reams and 100's intact. He would never take a few from pile A and some from piles B & C. When doling out, both he and the PO would separately count the sheets and agree on the amounts delivered.

In the case of overprints of new values, the PO would notify the Stamp Keeper who would deliver an agreed number of sheets, most certainly a multiple of 100 or of reams, to the printer. Again, both sides would have to count and agree in writing. The printer then had to return the exact number of sheets, including any claimed spoilage or waste. Again a double count for the receipt.

In the case of the Cape Colony, the overprinting procedure was similar. The treasury each morning would deliver a set number of double counted sheets to the printer, and at the end of the day the printer had to return the same

number, including good, spoiled and unprocessed. Again a double count.

It is a safe bet that the Union Treasury would not leave hundreds of thousands of pounds face value of postage stamps and revenue stamps in the hands of the GPW, nor the GPO. So after printing, all stamps would be delivered to the Treasury after both sides agreed on the exact count.. It is also a good bet that the stamps were divided into 100's and reams by either slip sheets or flags.

So all stocks from which to draw stamps for the Official overprint were held in the Treasury vaults, along with the revenue stamps, currency and other valuables. All watched over by a very fastidious clerks who would be controlled and audited by even more fastidious staff. It is clear that they must have operated on a "first-in, first-out" basis, or else one might have 1934 stamps showing up in 1961! Thus all of one press run of a would be exhausted before beginning to distribute a later run. This also simplified record keeping by holding the number of runs unsealed to one.

Thus the only time the Treasury would issue a lot of one value containing stamps from two runs would be when the request was for so many sheets that it exhausted the last of the run. This was not likely to happen for the Officials, since those requests were only for one ream and the piles were divided into reams.

My conclusion is that for our purposes, each printing order for the Officials was one ream, all in order and from one stamp printing run.

The following tables are based on these factors. The tables are rather preliminary, and only represent my best efforts with the data I have. However, it does clearly reveal many more over-printings than listed or mentioned in the SAHB.

This article has been in my pending tray for some time now. I have decided to publish it now for two reasons. One, I did not have the software version of the text and tables and is very time consuming to recreate it all and secondly and more importantly, Bob has teamed up with Ian Matheson in South Africa to unravel the sets of the official overprints. Ian has exhibited the first two sections of his collection over the last few years with the third and last section to come. Bob has done a lot of research on these issues and he also has an extensive collection of Officials. Many of the statements made above will most likely be challenged, but this should be in the interests of putting a definitive set of notes together for these issues. It is hoped that the results of this collaboration will result in a publication on the Officials. Hopefully this can be part of the Union Handbook update series currently being discussed by SACS and the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa. Ed.

LOOKING FOR THE UNUSUAL (OR THE USUAL)



1892-4 Cape of Good Hope ½d 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.

Similar material on our regular postal auctions. Auction Catalogues viewable on the internet at: www.philatelicroads.com or printed catalogues available on request.

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Margins Sheet #s, placement Official Stereo Sets

Notes: Side margins measured in mm from center of perfs
 Sheet #s measured from center of perfs to center of first digit
 SAHC S# are under lined, RWH S#s and in bold. OP runs assumed 1 ream, 500 sheets

1/2d, Set 26, Issue 21, 2 or 3 prints

Set/UHBC #/ spacing	Margin	Sheet #s		Notes
26-139 15	15.5, 16,	<u>6752</u> , 6473, 6305 , 6670, 6752, 63xx	R4,15/ +10.5	Brighter. 1 mm VVL scum. Brush strokes RM through S# at R4
26-139a		<u>3865</u> , 3844, 3985,		darker
		1487mjht, (27-144?)		

1/2d, Set 27. Issue 21

27-144 15	15.5	<u>1202</u> , 1354, 1357, 1361, 1284, 1422 , 1525	R2,17/ +8	
27-145 12.5, 15	15.5	<u>7370</u> , 6325,		Two prints, diff L margins, unless new roll put in?

1/2d, Set 29, Issue 22

29-151 13.5, 15	17.5 17.5	<u>3171</u> , 3190, 2857, 2865, 2859, 2873 , 2xxx,3121, 3098 , 3171	R7,18/ +1	
30-158 ?	14	<u>8994</u> , 8962, 8979, 8984, 9245, 8959 , 9276	R7, 18/ +3	
30-158a 12.5	14	<u>0166</u> , 0509, 0163, 0170, 016x* , 0248* , 0257* , 0263*	R7,18/ +3	L margins of 12.5, 15.5, 17.5, so 3 rolls of paper! for 2 prints. No cyl no. 31 on all 2nd print per SAHC, plus brighter frames. Brighter than 158, SAHC.

1d, Group A, unscreened, vague horizon

24-127 15.5	15.5	6838, 6697, 6931, 6863, 6838, 7006	R5,16/ +12.5	VI-med red scm, RM 12mm
-------------	------	--	-----------------	-------------------------

1d, Group B, screened, vague horizon

25-133 15	15	<u>6104</u> , 7103	R7,18/ +14	
25-133a 15	15	2060, 2080, 2165, 2157, 2177, 21xx	R7,18/ +17	Less deep red
26-140 16 16.5	16, 15, 15, 16.5	4047, 3922, 3719 , 3951 ,6520,		

Margins Sheet #s, placement Official Stereo Sets

Notes: Side margins measured in mm from center of perfs
 Sheet #s measured from center of perfs to center of first digit
 SAHC S# are under lined, RWH S#s and in bold. OP runs assumed 1 ream, 500 sheets

**1d, Group C, Screened, hard horizon, smaller stamp print, 17.5 mm. Issue 25
 Set 27, 3 left margins found, 14.5, 16 and 18 mm. But which is which?**

Set/ UHBC #	TM	BM	Sheet #s	Position	Notes
26					SACC 'a few sheets' of issue 25 printed in set 26, along with Issue 24
27-146	16	16.5	1640,1595, 7642, 7726		SAHC olive grey and Rose or Rose Carmine'
27-147	16	16, 17	<u>3011</u> 5768,		Darker print, earlier than 147a. Broken C at 3/2 Is this the one with 14.5LM?
27-147a	18		<u>8725</u>		Repaired C at 3/2, lighter vignette than 147
28-148	17	22	<u>6072</u> , 6077, 5765, 6073, 6066 , 6066	R4,15/ +0	RM v1-1 red scum 11 mm. Sharp L arrow.
29-152	17	14	8990, 8993, 8809 , 8837 , 8892	R6,17/ +6	Both Margs. 11.5 mm red scum
1 d, Issue 26, CB54/56					
30-159	14	16,16	<u>1536</u> , 159x, 155x, 1362, 1737, 175x, 1662, 1524 , 1745	R4,15/ +10	Grey-black/carmine red, weak L arrows
-159a		16	4810, 4733	R4,15/ +10	Darker frame and ship
30-160	16.5	13	<u>9795</u> , 9701	R5,16 +10	Deep olive-gray/bright rose
-160a			0334	R5,16 +10	

Southern African Societies Conference Leamington Spa

9-11 November 2007 at the Falstaff Hotel

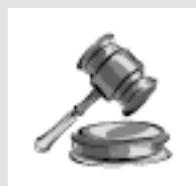
If you have not booked your room yet, please let Eddie Bridges or Brian Trotter know. This year promises to be another interesting conference with invited displays on the Saturday and bring and show on the Sunday. The SACS AGM will also be held on the Saturday late afternoon.

Tony Howgrave-Graham will again be running the auction. He needs material!!

Following on from the success of last years auction, Tony Howgrave-Graham is requesting that you start looking for those duplicated items that you would like to turn into cash. Better material sells best but there will always be room for some bulk lots.

Start looking and let Tony have that material as soon as possible. November sounds a long way off but it is always better to be early which will give Tony the time to lot and describe better. Please describe what you send him with reserves you require. Send lots to:

**Tony Howgrave-Graham
 The Cottage
 Barford Lane
 Downton
 Wiltshire
 SP5 3QA**



Margins Sheet #s, placement Official Stereo Sets

1½d					
Set/ UHBC #	TM	BM	Sheet #s	Position	Notes
25 -	16 (top)	16 Bottom	<u>1197</u> , 1194, 1261, 1266	C15, +20.5	V smudged margins
26 -141	14	15.3	<u>7424</u> , 7444, 7759	C17, +5	Clean margins
26 -141a	14	A5.3	5875, 6094, 5914	C17, +5	Clean margins
2d					
24 -128	18.5	15.5	<u>2169</u> , 2428, 2470, 2267	C?/+15	
-128a		16	<u>5134</u> , 5139	C?/+14.5	
-128b		15.5	7017	C?/ +16	
25 -135	16	14.5	3329, 3270	C?/ +3	Vivid purple, VL scum 10 mm
-135a			<u>4483</u>		Vivid purple, scum
26					SACC 'colors so similar to set 25 so ... not listed'. One of above
-135b		14	6430	C5,16/ +3	Vivid purple, VL purple lin 8 mm out
29-153	13.5,14.5	14.5	<u>3190</u> , 3480, 3430, 3443	C4, 15/ +7	
-153a		14.5	5485	C? / +7	Darker than 153
1/-					
24 -130		16	<u>2957</u> , <u>3168</u> , 3312		Clean, moderate smudge
			1971,		MJHT, could fit in set 28? Or 30?
25 -137	14.5	18	3212, 3392		RM clean, but CB shows some red from counter. Cyl# 6935 completely smudged
26 -143	18.5	20			RM almost clean, but VVL scum 10 mm. LM has VL sepia scum 13 mm
28 -150	?	13.5	<u>1916</u> , 1796 , 1962	R5,16/ +22	Very narrow R margin. RM has red stutter mark and a ghost arrow
-150a	16	22	<u>3510</u> , 3210, 3507		RM clean, LM scum 12 mm. Print darker vignette than 150 per SAHC
29-155		20	<u>50362</u> , 50395, 50395, 50347, 50358 , 50380 , 50398	R6,17/ +18	5 digit black-Goebel 840. Weak '5' on one example
30-162	16	16.5	1884, 2005, 183x , xx26	R3,14/ +6	Clean both margins. Set 6 vs Set 5 for rest

SACS new web site

Chris Oliver has kindly arranged a new web site to tide us over till we get our web site updated. To do this we need the passwords to access the web site from the ex librarian. As soon as we have this, we will update and advise when it is ready. In the mean time go to:

Web Site: http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/Societies/sites_we_host/SAfrica.html

Margins Sheet #s, placement Official Stereo Sets					
Set/ UHBC	LM	RM	Sheet #s	Position	
2/6d					
24 -131	12		x343xhg		24,25,26 similar colors, so hg # may be any of these. LM 10.5 mm scum
25 or 26	14.5	20	xxx0	R?/ +9.5	Darker OP than 24. LM and RM both 12 mm brown scum
26 29 -156	14	16	<u>9043</u> , 8734		SAHC 'Darker OP' Both margins clean
30 -163	16	15	<u>8324</u> , xx50, 8415, 84xx, 8439 , xx01		LM 11 mm green scum, RM clean
5/-					
25 -138	14.5	13	3341, 3376	R5,16/ +19.5	
26		13	6001	R?/ +4	Same color as 25, darker OP per SAHC
26?			5884	R19/ +2	Very light S# print. Dark OP. Must be 26? R18 and R20 show traces of the same number. So paper was flopping in the breeze. So this placement is slightly less than positive.
27, 28?		12	7950	R16/ +5	Dark OP
29 -157	14	16.5	<u>1056</u> , 1306, xxx4 1626, 164x	R?/ +9.5	Not sure since partial S#
30 -164	15	17	0618, xxx2		
10/-					
24 -132	15	17	1159		
26					SAHC Darker OP

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the RSA Stamp Study Group Newsletter

The RSA Stamp Study Group originated during the early eighties of the previous century from an informal group of philatelists who were keen to study and research new Republic of South Africa Issues. Interest in the activities of the group increased to such an extent that during December 1982 the first edition of the group's newsletter was published.

The committee has decided to publish a special edition of the newsletter during December of this year to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Study Group and the first edition of the newsletter.

I have been approached by the Chairman Theo Swart to publicise this event and invite members of SACS to contribute articles and opinions in the newsletter. Anything is welcome on the Stamps of the RSA from one or two paragraphs to say two pages in length.

*One of the suggested articles or sections could be "**Views from across the Ocean**"*

If any of our members feel they would like to contribute, please send this through to your editor who will forward this on. If you are a member of this group, you can obviously send it direct as well.

Eddie Bridges

Auction Report Jan-Jun 2007

by Tony Howgrave-Graham

What a quiet 6 months! One had to wait until March to find any significant South Africa on offer.

Harmers led the way on 6 March with 28 lots of SA and 14 lots of SWA. It was also the first time they tried to emulate Spink by having "on-line bidding". I was interested in lot 1431 (*Fig.1*) described as a fu pair 1927 recess printed 4d with wmk inverted. I've not seen it used before and am surprised that Gibbons don't list it as scarcer than mint. Anyway the sale started at 10.30am and as I had pre-registered, got my limit and was intrigued, I signed in. It was quite exciting! You have a photo, the lot number, the current realisation and a "bid button". Also you hear what's going on. I watched and listened with some amusement. It was clearly all a bit much for the auctioneer with beeps and buzzes, room and book and telephone bids. Things progressed slowly with a ponderous "on ze book" being interrupted by the ever present organised lady with a "no, no, the buzzer is an on-line bid". My wife who passed the room several times was highly amused and for the first time ever, showed interest in a stamp auction! After each lot there was a prolonged huddle and the odd angry comment from the floor asking what was going on. I left the computer as my interest waned and just checked infrequently. By about 4pm I thought SA might be coming up. I was somewhat horrified to find they had only just started the GB. Out of boredom and an irresistible urge to press my "bid button" I bought two very pretty but ridiculously expensive 2d blues. I would warn everyone that this sort of indiscipline is the main risk of attending any auction, whether in person, or on-line! I checked again shortly after 5pm only to find that the computer had crashed! This appears to be another risk for on-line bidders! I frantically signed out, logged in again and re-registered with Harmers. They were disappointingly still way short of getting to the SA and irritatingly, although the screen came up, a voice arrived saying "We are trying to connect you to sound – please hold". This continued for the best part of the next 2 hours. They were clearly now getting the hang of things, though, for the lots were whizzing along. Still, it was nearly 7pm by the time lot 1431 (*Fig.1*) arrived. Up it popped – away it went again – no sound telling me what was happening – no chance to bid! Now that my fury has subsided somewhat I realise that I had only myself to blame. It's difficult, from an indifferent photo, to tell if a stamp is recess printed or roto, but – a little test for you – How should I have known immediately that the lot was misdescribed? (*answer at end of report*)

So – do I recommend on-line bidding? Strangely, after the above, I'd say "yes". It has the in room advantage of being able to balance budget and buys without the hassle of a long trip and the boredom of sitting through hundreds of lots you're not interested in. There are a few negatives, however. I did press my "bid" button once with no reaction and there are the risks of connection failure if you're particularly interested in a lot.

Harmers do need to sharpen up their SA describing, however. Not only was lot 1431 described as recess printed when it was, in fact, the common 1st roto., but I bought an unhyphenated roto set used and a "1930-47 2/6 blue & brown official, used block of 12". In the first both 2/6s were blue & brown and the latter was green & brown, thus largely devoid of interest as the described stamps have the mixed fount.

So – at last! – for some prices. The roto "unsplit" 1d booklet panes, thus containing a tête-bêche pair in the middle (*Fig.2*) made £823. Up until a year or two ago all tête-bêche pairs on the market derived from unissued sheets. Recently many, or most, seem to be from unseparated booklet panes with stitch holes in the side margins. Does anyone know the reason for this?

Staying with the 1930 1d, a vertical strip of 5 with the middle 3 missing frames (*Fig.3*) made a surprising £1294. The scarce unhyphenated 2d blue & violet made £376 for an um blk.4. Finally the 1944-50 1½d official with overprint horizontal (*Fig.4*) made £494. This is a highly controversial stamp but shows that those at Leamington last year missed out in that one was on offer as a "late lot" for £350 but didn't sell. Bad news for SWA collectors – of the 14 lots on offer only 1 sold, though they were mostly rather undesirable duplicated lots and/or overpriced.

Murray Payne (getting a 1st mention in this column) held their second postal auction on 30 March. This contained some good SA. The 1938 unhyphenated 2d blue & violet this time made £200 for an um pair. The SWE missing roulettes, um, made £140 for the 1½d & £450 for the 2d. There were some good officials. The 1937 6d with "falling ladder" variety in a blk.4 (top pair Imm & 1 short perf, variety pair fine um) made £650 whilst a mm pair (*Fig.5*) fetched an amazing £500 against an estimate of £200!

The 1940 5/- & 10/- with official at left, both um, fetched £475. The most interesting lot was a top left corner block of the 1944 official 1½d (*Fig.6*). This is from the "with diæresis" printing and contains 3 of the 4 pairs in the half sheets issued where there is a combination of with and without diæresis overprints – um but with a "dry spot on gum" it made £1,500. The 1950 2d, SGO35 (also controversial), um, made £1,700 and the 1947 2d with diæresis affecting both stamps in the pair, um, made £275. In the SWA the 1943 SWE inverted ovpts, um, made £500 for the 4d and £275 for the 1/-.

The Stephan Welz sale took place on 3 April. Again, by their standards, a little disappointing on the "Union" front it, of course, still provided much of interest. The rand was, as it is at the time of writing, about 14 to £1. The 1925 9d airmail in a gutter blk.4 (*Fig.7*), the top pair imperf at the bottom (og, with some splitting) made 32,300R. A 1926 typo set of ½d – 6d opt the script "Specimen" (inverted on 6d) of Rhodesia (*Fig.8*) made 7,130R. A gutter blk.4 of the 1927 recess printed 2d with a pair of 3d made 1265R and the 1927 Pretoria 1d plate proofs (actually probably printers samples) in bl-grn & carmine (pair) and bl-grn & orange (B4 & pr) made 2,645R. The Pretoria ½d in a blk.6 with a glorious "intrusion" across the frames, og (*Fig.9*), made 6,900R whilst the next lot (*Fig.10*) showing a similar intrusion affecting the centres made 1955R as a vertical pair.

Of the unhyphenated roto a tête-bêche across gutter strip of 4x½d fetched 5,750R and a similar strip of 5x1d without margin, 6,900R. The rare tête-bêche 2d in a strip of 3, toned and with perf reinforcement of the key pair, made 10,925R.

A nice double vertical row of the 1938-9 1d, Issue 13 or 14 (rows 7&8 by an mp flaw) with the bottom B4 entirely missing frames, fetched 13,225R. B4's of the imperf 3d hyphenated, og, made 3,220 & 2,875R (the latter having rather more of the usual creasing) and an um pair made 1380R. A nice pen & wash, 149x260mm, Konya essay of the Maria de la Quellerie 1d (*Fig.11*), made double estimate at 4,830R. It's interesting to note the differences from the final design. A strip of 5x1961 2½c prime ministers with the top 2 stamps very fuzzy due to dry printing, made 3,910R.

Of the RSA, a corner control blk.4 of the 1972 Cape Castle 10c with the classic corner misperf due to foldover, made a surprising 2,300R against an admittedly low 800-1000R estimate. A nice strip of 5x1974 broadcasting anniversary 4c (*Fig.12*), one stamp missing "R" and the next 2 missing the black completely, including the cylinder number, og, made a whopping 23,000R but still less than the 1977 1R corner control pair (*Fig.13*) with missing "RSA" which made 25,300R! The unissued 1987 40c bible stamp continues to sell well despite a recent glut on the market. A top marginal single, og, made 3,680R, an um + a cto copy 6,670R, an um corner blk.4 14,950R and a control blk.6, um, 26,450R.

A selection of 1927-8 postage due frame plate proofs (*Fig.14*) with a pair in green, a single, pair & B4 in rose, and a pair in slate, made 6,325R. A vertical pair of the 1935 ½d official with ovpt doubled vertically (*Fig.15*) made 4,600R and the 1947 2/6 with diæresis on 2nd E, on E stamp, 10,925R for an um pair (not far off full SG cat and over SACC's, and the explanation for why it's still absent from my collection!). A collection of 119 Assize stamps, 1923-56 (*Fig.16*), did well. I know they're rare but they're not very beautiful, and at 32,200R?! There was some merriment at last year's Leamington sale over a large stock of X-mas booklets. They can be worth something! An admittedly scarce group of 1943 2/-, 5/- & 10/- & 1945 6d, 1/-, 3/- & 5/- made an over estimate 1495R.

For SWA collectors a Busch pc cancelled the "Okasise PO" negative seal made a well over estimate 3,680R. The 3d blue King's head, with 1d on piece, used in SWA, made 862R. For modern collectors the unpriced 1976 castles on phosphorised paper (SG287v, SACC296a, *Fig.17*) made 7,475R and the 1977 Namib Desert 4c with 2 missing colours (*Fig.18*), 6,900R.

I might just mention Bonhams 4 April sale. They had a Scottish member's fine and highly specialised collection in 10 albums, 1910-82, as a single lot. Absolutely packed with goodies it realised £5,787 and was worth more. In the same sale some "real" photos from, and a booklet relating to, the 1947-8 royal visit along with a couple of covers (one Swaziland), made £50 and a rather good, but eclectic, mix of covers, leaflets & documents relating to WW1 fetched £217.

That just leaves the answer to the quiz regarding Fig.1. Assuming the pair was recess printed it would clearly be perf.14. The watermark inverted only appears in the group 3 printing (perf.14x13½, up). This would show clearly in the middle of the top where there'd be a perf and a half gap!



Fig.1



Fig.4



Fig.2



Fig.8



Fig.5



Fig.7



Fig.3



Fig.6



Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.13

PI 097



Fig.17



Fig.15



Fig.11



Fig.14



Fig.16



Fig.18



Fig.12



For the Elusive and Unusual in Southern African Philately

contact

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Report on the meeting held in Carlisle

by Malcolm Ridsdale

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 24^h March 2007

Attendees – 14 Members (list with David Haig)

Apologies – Eddie Bridges, Albert Moffat, Patrick Williams and Giovanni Palazzo

David Haig opened his first meeting in the Chair and welcomed everybody to the 30th meeting.

Items through the Chair

DH reminded members that the next Carlisle meeting was booked for the 15th September 2007. The topic for the meeting would be Gold Mining in South Africa.

General discussion took place regarding the dates and the topics for the 2008 Carlisle meeting. It was agreed that they would be held on Saturday 5th April, topic coils and booklets and Saturday 20th September with the topic being Republic / Homelands definitives from the second definitives onwards.

Other Officer Reports

Bill Branney

Still requires more material for the packets. Made a plea for members not to keep the packet so long and to pass it on immediately when they have seen it.

Malcolm Ridsdale

Has taken possession of the library contents from Brian Carter. Will be undertaking a full review of the Society's possessions, as at first glance there are one or two missing books which may be out with members, if not still in BC's loft. MR commented that the library appeared to be underused which may be for a number of reasons. It would be helpful for all members if a detailed list of books, magazines and articles could be prepared for circulation but this had the makings of a significant task which might be better tackled after retirement from the day job which is a few years off yet.

Chris Oliver

At the time of the meeting seventeen members had still not yet paid their subscriptions but on the positive side one new member had joined that week.

CO has been trying to contact BC regarding the website administration password as Eddie Bridge's daughter has volunteered to update it. To bring the website more into the public domain it is hoped to link it to the ABPS website.

CO commented on the difficulties he had been having with the SA Philatelist regarding pricing and how had had to re-contact members for additional money.

Max Whitlock

MW reported the next Springbok would be out shortly which would include an index of the 2006 articles.

MW commented that he had a number of past Springbok magazines which he would donate to the library.

MW had taken two members off the cover packet list as they consistently did not follow the process required of them.

Three new packets were about to set off on their journeys and packet 119 which had set off in 2005 had nearly completed its round – hooray!!

As always more material would be appreciated.

Around the Table

Eric Hammond

EH had visited SA in December and had noted that dealer prices for "scarcer" items were full catalogue prices

Roy Ross

RR brought to the meeting copies additional pages for his JIPEX book which were distributed to members present and are available to other members who have purchased his book if they contact him.

John Ahmed

Made reference to an article in a recent SA Philatelist of a SA Field PO 24 article which includes detail of a cover in his possession. He further commented that anyone has any mail postmarked SAPO 25 they should keep them secure as they are like "gold dust".

Jim Grassom

Commented that in spite of no longer subscribing to the SA Philatelic Bureau he still receives SETEMPE and even got two of the latest edition.

Fred Clark

Had attended a recent Cavendish auction in Derby and noted that a SA forces mail item had sold for £1400 against an estimate of approx £150. He also commented that east Africa campaign mail items would seem to be very desirable currently.

Colin Moore

He is currently seeking information on the King's Heads issue particularly regarding "Jubilee" lines and control blocks. It was suggested to him that Tony Howgrave – Graham could be of particular help.

Displays

In the afternoon members put up displays on an open theme.

Godfrey Mellor displayed some of his collection of Easter seals as against the Christmas seals that he had shown at previous meetings. Seals were shown covering the period from 1944 to 1961 including blocks and one-shilling booklet arrangements which were issued up to decimalisation. GM commented that his collection is very much work in progress with writing up and more work on contents still to be done.

Fred Clark initially showed a 1987/88 Stamp Programme book of the SA Philatelic Agency. This book included philatelic material from SA, SWA and the Homelands in the form of stamp proofs, FDC's, colour and black and white copies of the stamps, stamp transition process, photographic transfers, postmarks and the paper used for the stamps. This book had been created to give publicity on the stamp issues to publishing journals.

He showed two UPU presentation packs which included unmounted / mounted mint stamps of SA and SWA for presentation at the Stamp Congress in Paris.

Finally he showed a SA cover that had been sent to the Rhineland in Germany which included two German air mail marks which FC had never seen before and a Zeppelin mark on the cover which he would like some help with if fellow members have knowledge of.

David Haig showed overprints of SA's neighbouring countries of Basutoland and Swaziland as they were embarking on independence and undertaking the transition of stamp monetary value from sterling to Rands / Cents.

Ray Glanville–Jones showed normal Voortrekker commemoration envelopes with two further envelopes that had been sent early, one of which had a hand coloured cover design.

Chris Oliver displayed mint stamps from the second definitive series. He included blocks of four and six, differing dates for the first, second and third printings and different cylinder numbers for each printing.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.00pm

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.

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Members Feedback

Mike Tonking from South Africa reports:

With reference to Tony Howgrave-Graham's interesting auction report in the Jan/Mar Springbok I would comment on the 2d. item with the missing frames shown as Fig.10.

He is correct in supposing it is from the 2d. Unhyphenated Issue 1 and as far as I am aware only a single sheet was found showing this excellent example of an interrupted printing.

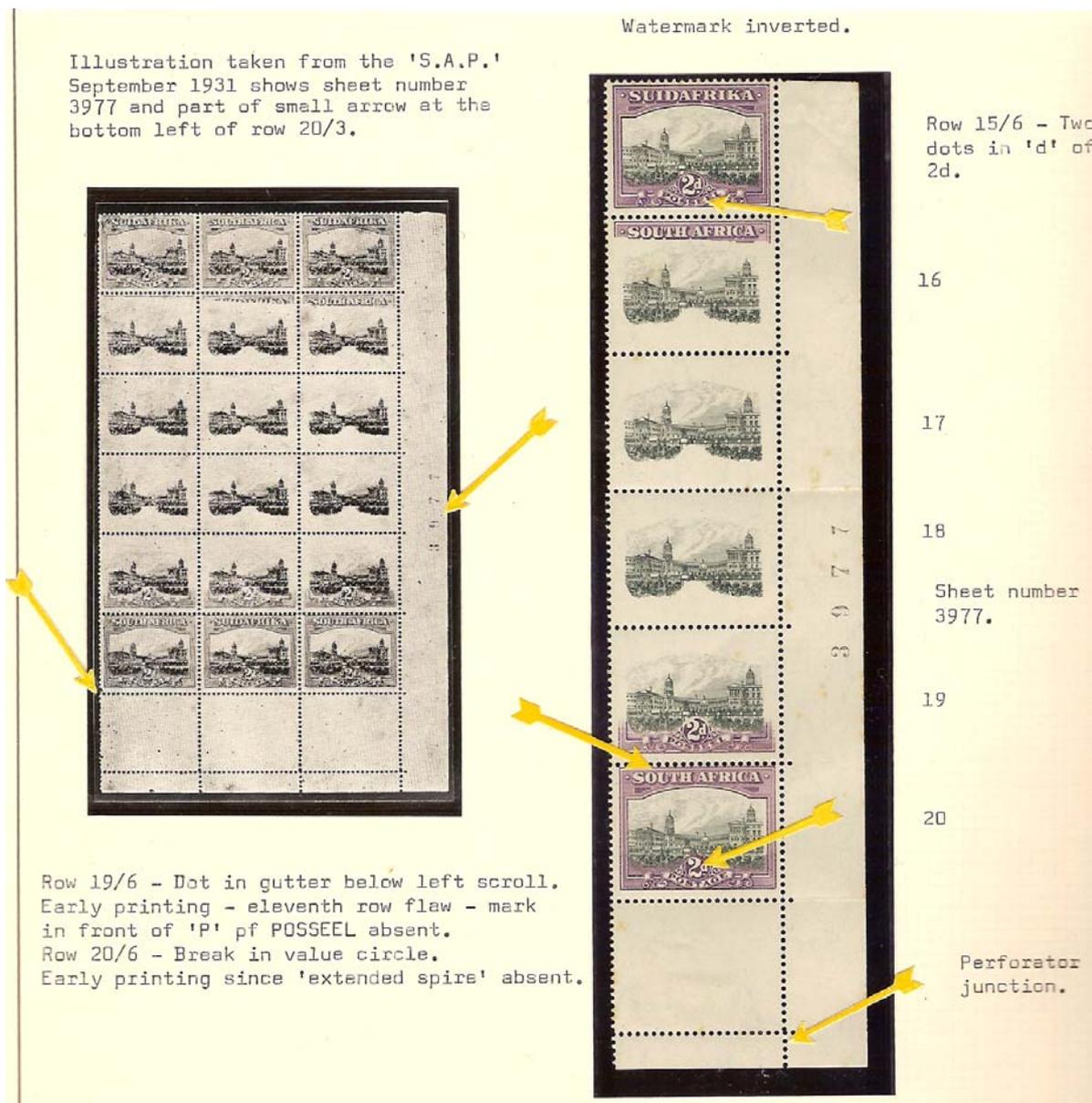
It was recorded in the September 1931 edition of the South African Philatelist which included an illustration showing rows 8 - 10, the sheet number 3977 and part of the small bottom arrow proving Issue 1.

As a matter of interest the other interrupted printing on the 2d. Unhyphenated Issue 3 was also found on a single sheet number 0157 and extended from rows 13 - 17 across the full width of the sheet.

In the case of the 2d. Unhyphenated Issue 2 examples are known of an interrupted frame printing which occurs at either the top of row 1 or the bottom of row 20. It is a partial interruption and I have not seen an example of Issue 2 where the complete frame is missing.

The complete pane of the 1927 2d. London Pictorials with watermark inverted offered in the November Welz sale made R80500 including buyer's premium or say R2683/pair which is probably a bargain compared with catalogue value.

With reference to Tony Howgrave-Graham's article on the 1/- Unhyphenated roto Issue 1 I can report a joined paper also occurs through row 5.



Chris Miller's article on the Arms G Sensor mark has elicited a surprising number of responses.

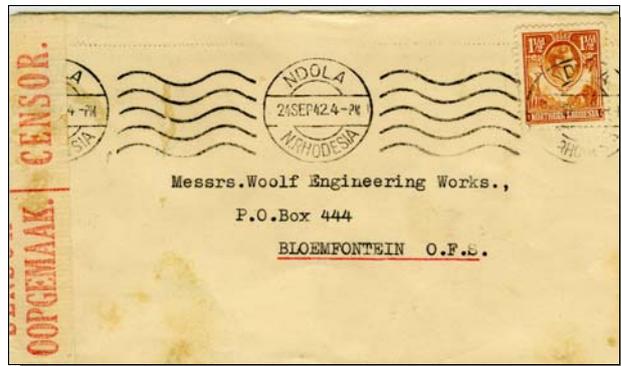
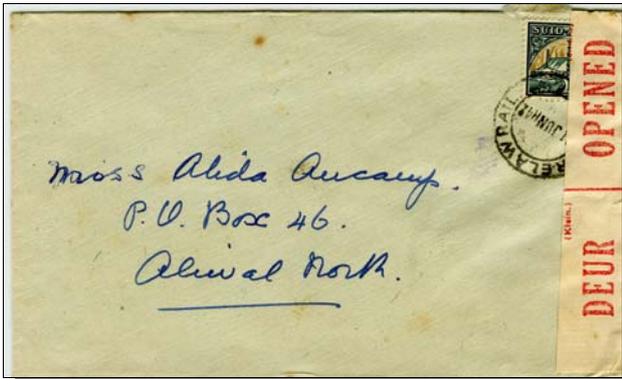
Leo Crandel from The Netherlands reports as follows:

I have an incoming letter from Germany with a Code G (enclosed a copy of the letter, front and back). An other incoming letter from Germany has a Code E.

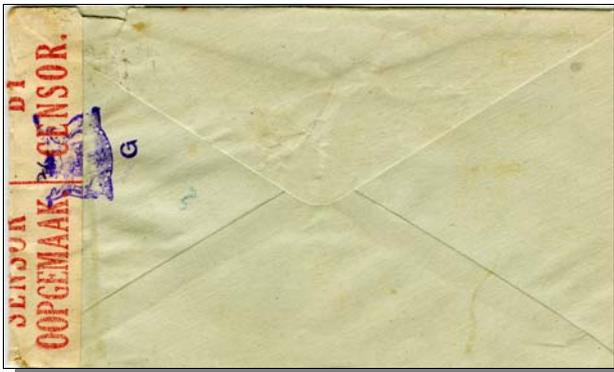


Sebastian Payne also sent some scans of covers:

Here are scans of a couple of covers with Arms code G hand-stamps. Both are normal civilian mail. One is internal, from Kerelaw Rail (Free State) to Aliwal North (Cape); part of the date is hidden by the label, but I think it is 1 JUN 42 (the bit in front of the 1 appears, when you look at the cover against the light, to be the corner of a block, and not a number); there doesn't seem to be a number or initials. The other is from Ndola in Northern Rhodesia to Bloemfontein, dated 24 SEP 42; it has "12" pencilled on the label.



Front



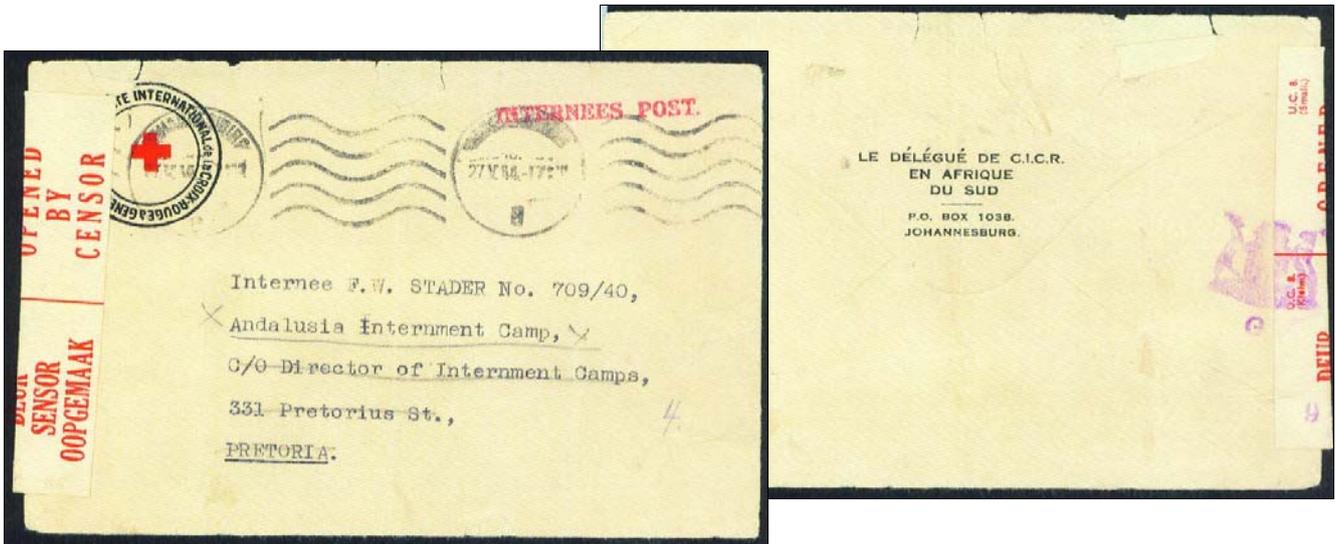
Back

Sebastian Payne has responded to Bran Stokoe's request for info on Germiston Station postmark:

According to Putzel's Encyclopedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies, Germiston Station post office was open from 1907 (as a BO), and as a PO from 1910-1914; it then re-opened in 1925 and is still open. "Germiston Post Office (at station 1913)" is illustrated (Vol. 2, p.40) - a fairly small low building, presumably on a station platform, with a large notice "POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE".

John Dickson has sent the following:

Further to page 19 in the recent issue of *The Springbok* (55/1), I attach photocopies of two covers address to persons interned at Andalusia Camp. These covers show the "Arms G" referred to in the above. Not all covers into Andalusia have the "Arms G". Note that both covers date from 1944.



Front

Back



Front

Back

Fred Clark has sent the following items to add to the excellent article on the Royal Visit by David Osborn. These items illustrate additional information on the post marks used.



The post marks in violet in the top left and bottom right read "Royal Visit Bloemfontein" Dated Mar. 7-8-9 1947.

Examples of the cancellations and stationery used on the 1947 Royal Tour



Tom Mullins

I regret to have to inform you that the Hon. Judge Tom Mullins passed away on Sunday 11th March. He has been ill for some time but had a fall and never fully recovered. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Pat and seven children.

Always willing to help with philatelic research, he will be sadly missed by all.

Neville Polakow

Although not a member of this Society, Tom Mullins was known to members and your Editor. Tom was a contributor to the WW2 Study Group and also assisted me with various queries on the early Union Active Service Letter Cards during the writing of my book on the "Aerogrammes of the Union of South Africa"Ed.

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Regional Meeting at Arbury, Cambridge on 12 th May 2007

by Chris Oliver

Four members attended together with a potential new member. There were apologies from John Archer, John Shaw and Eddie Bridges. Chris Oliver opened the afternoon with some pages on the 1947 Royal Visit to S.A. David Osborn then gave a similar display which also depicted the progress of the royal group through Southern Africa. He also explained his sources and reference books used in compiling this information. Bob Hill then displayed some of his excellent postmarks of the Cape and South Africa, including cork cancels and late usages of some marks. Terry Gentle gave a display of S.A.A.F. commemorative covers and asked if members knew over what period these had been produced and how many were in existence. David also had queries regarding the 3rd R.S.A. definitive issue. Chris then concluded with a presentation of the 2nd R.S.A. definitive issue. He wondered if any members would be at Midpex at Tile Hill on 30th June where the S.A.C.S. has a stand, and the A.B.P.S., A.G.M. would be held.



Membership Matters by Chris Oliver

New Members:

We welcome the following members to the Society. May their stay be long and fruitful.

No. 1117	W.M. Oliver	Slough, Berkshire
No. 1118	Stephan Welz	Jhb. South Africa
No. 1119	Col. Mike Moody, (A.M.T. Moody)	Salisbury, Wilts.

Resignations:

No 1065	Carlo Sonni	Italy
---------	-------------	-------

More than a dozen members have failed to renew their subscription. Our membership is dropping which is not a good sign. Membership of the Society is, we feel, still good value. We need, not only to recruit new members, but to keep the ones we have. If anyone has ideas on ways to improve our record, please let us know.

Les Elmore

We were sad to learn of the passing of Les Elmore, a staunch member and supporter of the meetings in Carlisle. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family.

Andre van Niekerk

It is with regret and sadness that we have learnt of the passing of Andre van Niekerk (member no. 1065) at the

We have had the sad news that John Archer's wife passed away in June. John is a strong supporter of the London Meetings and the occasional meetings in Cambridge. His wife invariably made cakes for him to bring and encouraged his collecting. Our condolences go out to John and his family.

Chaos in RSA. The debacle surrounding the 2007 Issuing programme

The following is reprinted from the editors notes (SAP June 2007 Vol 83 No. 3) with due acknowledgement. This editorial says it all without any further clarification. The general trend amongst SACS members has been to slowly withdraw from collecting the RSA issues. Let the editor know if you have an opinion on this.

The philatelic world here in South Africa is slowly coming to the realization that there may not be a stamp issuing programme in 2007. Rather, there is evidence that there is a programme, but that it may not be issued or completed. Enquiries to Philatelic Services as to when it will be published are politely evaded. Indeed, the January/March issue of its publication, Setempe, contained the paragraph "We are unfortunately not able to provide you with our 2007 stamp programme yet. We would like to apologise sincerely for this and will publish it as soon as it is possible.

The rumour-mill has it that the 2007 and 2008 stamp programmes are still awaiting approval from the Minister of Posts and Telecommunication. If the rumours are to be believed, and there is no reason to doubt them, then we urgently need an explanation from the minister for the two year delay. The Post Office called for proposals for the 2007 programme way back in October 2004, and the Stamp Advisory committee (SAC) met to formulate the 2007 programme, which was submitted to the Minister for approval in late February 2005. The perceived neglect of ministerial duties in not addressing this matter is unacceptable and clearly yet another huge embarrassment for the country as a whole.

The situation has a number of serious implications for philately. First, Philatelic Services have repeatedly made it known that a two year lead is needed if they are to produce stamps of quality. Thus, the longer the Minister delays granting approval, the shorter the time will be for the design and production of the final product, and the end result will be stamps of poor design and quality simply because the production has become a rush job. As the Post Office department responsible, Philatelic Services will get the flack.

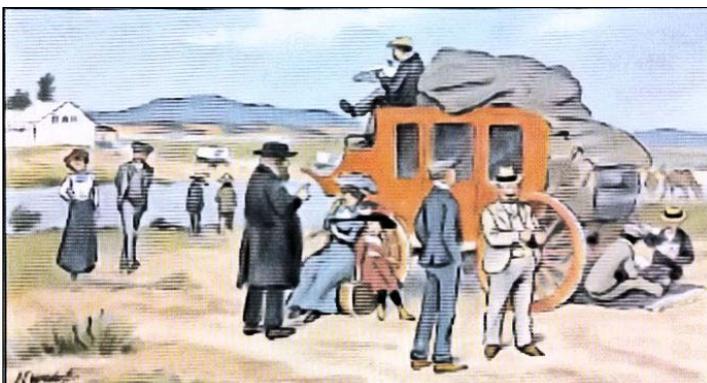
Secondly, stamp stocks country-wide must be starting to dwindle as it has been six months or more since any commemorative stamps were issued. The simple lack of sales to collectors at home and abroad must be costing the Post Office millions of rands in lost revenue. Who will be called on to explain the shortfall in income-Philatelic Services.

In the same vein, we understand that the long awaited new definitive issue proposed for later this year is still awaiting the go-ahead by the minister. The question arises as to whether there are sufficient stocks of the present definitive issue available until such time as the new issue is ready. A visit to any post office counter sees clerks already unable to supply a simple overseas letter-rate stamp and making up the required value with multiples of small denominations. It seems evident that the necessary co-ordination between the run down of existing stocks and the availability of the new issue has broken down already, and could lead to a shortage of stamps for general use. No doubt Philatelic Services will again be held responsible.

Thirdly, the whole situation casts a shadow over the legitimacy of the SAC. As we understand it, this Committee has the responsibility to formulate the stamp programme but no authority to give the Post Office the go-ahead. This, understandably, must come from the Minister. The current two year delay in receiving ministerial approval suggests a serious lack of confidence in the deliberations and recommendations of her own appointees.

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As collectors, and also members of the public who need a postal service, can we ask that the Post Office and the Minister fulfil their appropriate roles and provide the level of service that is vital for the functioning of the country.

Dr. Alan Rose

Comments to your editor please.

London Meeting – 26 May 2007 – Postcards

by John Shaw

With two of our regulars, Tony Howgrave-Graham and Brian Trotter, being unavoidably absent, we again had a creditable attendance of eight. Last meeting's "new faces", Nicholas Lindstrom and Len Barnes were there again, as were John Archer, Eddie Bridges, Chris Oliver, David Paige, myself, and the evergreen Fred Clark. Aside from the routine business matters, Eddie Bridges produced a booklet showing Part One of Mike Tonking's study of the recess 2d Union Buildings stamps (Part Two was actually produced first!) and this is available from Eddie at £10 per copy.

The topic for this meeting was "Postcards", by Dr Chris Board who focussed on the early Union postcards, starting with the ½d provincial cards, produced initially by De La Rue, then by the Government Printer using the De la Rue plates. It was concluded that the Government Printer's cards from Orange River Colony and Natal, printed after formation of the Union, have legitimate claim to be classed as Union emissions, in the same way as some of the Transvaal K Ed VII Plates, but that the jury was still out on the status of the Transvaal postcard. The Government Printer emissions can be identified since they are slightly larger, and less consistent in size, than those of De la Rue and are also generally on rougher stock.

Next came the KG V head postcards, using almost the same design as the postage stamps and, again, printed initially by De la Rue then by the Government Printer. Chris pointed out the differences in the long and short inscriptions on the cards, the latter introduced in 1920, which also coincided with an increase in postage rates, the 1d red postcard being preceded by the ill-fated "ONE PENNY" surcharge on the ½d card. One major item shown was the surcharged card, used, and also overprinted "SWA", philatelic, but the only used that one Chris – and the rest of us – had ever seen.

The ½d Springbok, 1d ship and 1½ ship cards, some with views on the reverse, and some just plain postcards, came next, and it was nice to see the matched pairs of the same views in slightly different formats, mostly in their complete sets, for the different issues and, with two dies of the 1d, making the postcards almost as complicated a study as the adhesive stamps. Chris explained that from 1927 until c1950, the cards were usually made up of four packs of six cards, making 24 views in all but in some cases there were not 24 different views. Nice errors shown were the 1d with the red printing partly and also completely missing. Also, Chris pointed out an error in the literature for a series to publicise the 1924-25 British Empire Exhibition which is listed as being issued in 1934, with dated used examples to prove that for once even the venerable late Jack Hagger could make mistakes. The PC17 cards also prompted some discussion since no used examples had been seen without the addition of an extra ½d adhesive, and all those unused examples seen without the adhesive bore signs of the stamps having been removed; therefore the conclusion was that the cards were issued thus, with the extra ½d stamp affixed.

In 1935 the ½d card changed from Black & Green to all Green, and the 1d from Black & Red to all Red in 1943; the ½d was shown with a wonderful array of the coloured scenes, ranging from Sepia, Turquoise-green and Purple, to Purple-brown. The 1922 series was shown as two sets of 17 scenes, which lead to the conclusion that to make up a 24 scene set, some of the designs must indeed have been duplicated. The postcard inscriptions – English first, then Afrikaans first – and the different language order of the impressed stamps, again rendered this a complex topic. Notable was an error where the cards were printed across a join, not too difficult to find in the adhesive stamps themselves, but most unusual in stationery. The "Drakensburg" inscription error was also highlighted and it was also nice to see the complete set of 16 different views in Sepia, alongside their smaller "framed" effect counterparts produced for the South African Railways. Fred Clark summed it up when he said it was nice to see such an array when normally one has only two or three different. Chris said he had not seen the all Green cards overprinted SWA but did show several of the PC22 type thus overprinted. Finally came three of the four sets each of eight all red 1d stamp cards with specimen overprint, and with un-issued views, which are proofs for the subsequent issues. The overprint is similar to that on the KG V 1920-26 stamps and some considered it so neatly placed as to be machine applied, but I did not think so, and feel that measuring the angle on the "engine" at the Royal would prove they were applied by hand.

Chris gave us a superb and most comprehensive display, which he has put together painstakingly and, as with his 2½d Union commemorative, displaying admirable scholarship in researching this topic, once a byway of Union philately but is now becoming much more popular and, deservedly, more significant. John Shaw thanked Chris for giving the membership such a fine and interesting display.

Members Queries

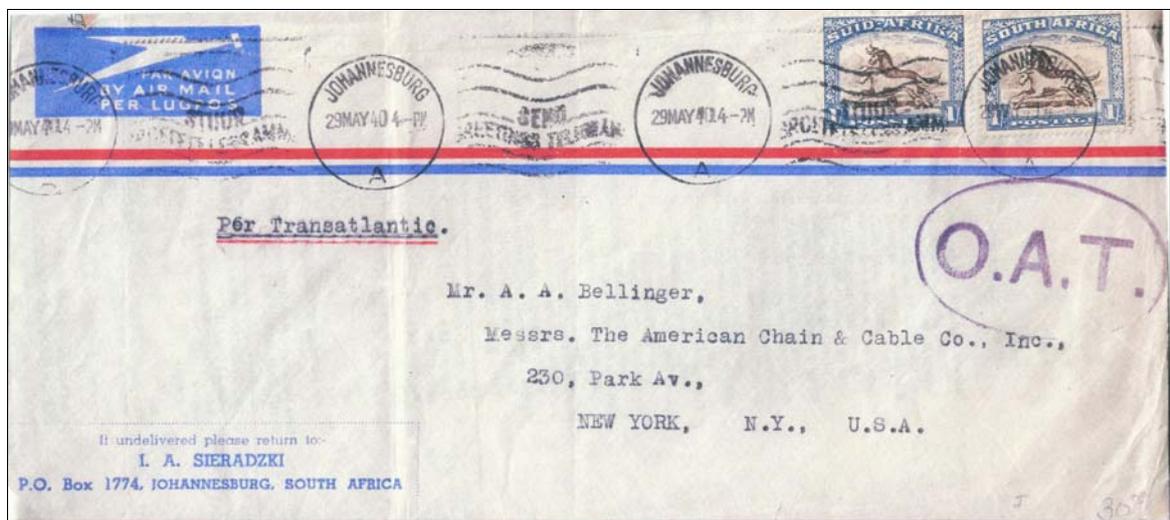
Brooke Bussell from Canada has the following:

I enclose a copy of a cover I recently acquired – purchased for the historical fact that it had been carried on the last Imperial Airways flight out of Cape Town prior to South African Airways taking over the responsibility for a regular link between Cape Town and Germiston to connect with the Imperial Airways departure from this city.

Whilst philatelically contrived, I wonder whether Mr. Davis was aware that the P.O. atop Table Mountain was unable to register his missive. On the other hand, I am intrigued by the P.O.O.C. No. 722 endorsement, as I am only familiar with the cachet “Posted out of course” without any other action. In this case, I would be interested to learn, firstly, the nature of the P.O.O.C.#722, and secondly, why the receiving PO in Watford should apply a registration label #1923, as I assume there would have been no revenue for this British PO. Any comments appreciated.



On a further note Brooke has also sent a cover which I reproduce here with a nice OAT oval handstamp. I am also happy to report that the missing article that Brooke has enquired about in the last issue has been forwarded by a member. This will be copied in due course and forwarded to Brooke. The same member has also loaned me a book OAT and AV2 Markings (second edition) by Murray Heifetz and published by the American Airmail Society. I will look through this and see if we can put an article together on these markings with reference to their usage in South Africa.



Chris Oliver has sent in this interesting cover:

He has titled this Yo-Yo Mail. His analysis of the route is described below. It would seem that the postal authorities were looking for a town of Victoria, which fitted the address. Ambas Bay is not shown on any maps! Any further comments from members would be welcome.

Yo-Yo Mail From Colwyn Bay to Victoria, Ambas Bay, (S) West Africa

Bight of Biafra was probably added later as Ambas Bay was not known. The cover is franked with a 2½d stamp.

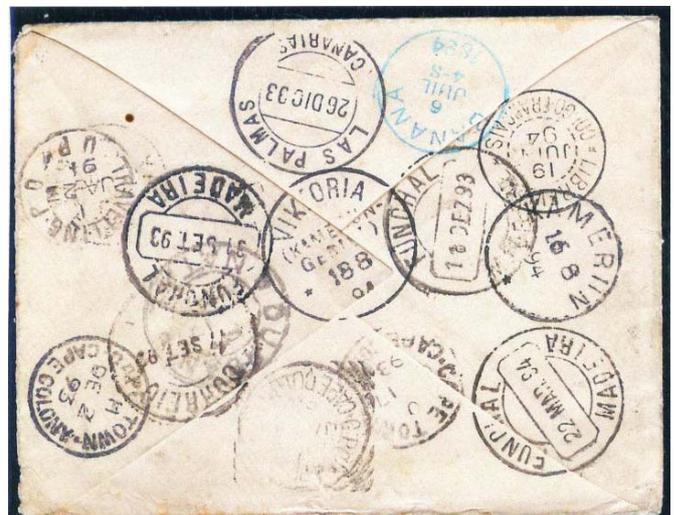
Postmarked Colwyn Bay	12th September 1893
Receives a Portuguese Postmark?	17th September 1893
Arrives Funchal Madiera	31st September 1893
Arrives Cape Town	2nd December 1893
Leaves Cape Town	17th December 1893
Back in Funchal Madiera	18th December 1893 (<i>this is impossible! Ed</i>)
Arrives Las Palmas Canaries	26th December 1893
Back in Cape Town	6th January 1894
TPO Up mark	23rd January 1894
Arrives Walfish Bay (Cape Colony)	13th February 1894
Back in Funchal Madiera	22nd March 1894
Arrives Libreville French Congo	19th June 1894
Arrives Banana Belgian Congo	6th July 1894
Arrives Camerun	16th August 1894
Arrives Viktoria Kamerun	18th August 1894

There is also a Durban Postmark, dated 8th and another mark obliterated by the TPO.

The question is why should the TPO be marked UP?

Was the unclear dated Durban mark 8th January 1894 and the UP mark applied on its journey to Walfish Bay via Cape Town. Cape Town would, surely, have been the usual UP destination for Cape Railways at that time.

The S of South West Africa was probably obliterated upon reaching Walfish Bay.



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The missing Gold in SWA 2½c Calvin Issue of 1964

By Brooke Bussell

In the mid 70's I was transferred from Johannesburg to London where I spent a number of years working in the forwarding industry. From the early stages of my life, I had been interested in stamp collecting as a hobby, collecting the Commonwealth in General, and during my life in South Africa had accumulated a general collection of SA without any specialization.

During my time in the City of London, I used to walk around the city occasionally and one Friday happened upon a stamp dealer close to St. Paul's, and in the window was a collection of South African stamps, for if I recollect correctly some five hundred pounds. I went into the dealer and had a look, and unbelievably, he suggested I take it home for the weekend and go through it at my leisure. On the Monday, I returned and paid the gentleman for my "find". Recognising from my accent that I was not local, he asked if I was aware that there was a Collectors Society in London. He put me in touch with Reg Allen and all those other wonderful people that attended meetings in those days and taught me a great deal about SA philately. I acquired Reg's GV collection, and based on these two purchases, I ultimately created a GV exhibit, with which I won a Large Silver several years ago—even though several dealers in SA told me I was on a "Fools Errand" as it would be impossible to put 60 pages together.

Having developed my interest in South African stamps through SACS, I used to frequent the City of London Philatelic Auctions, which were right around the corner from my office, opposite Liverpool Street Station. I bought many lots from this company and in fact since I travelled back to SA several times a year, sold a number of items to dealers in the Republic.

On one particular visit to this auctioneer, I was reviewing a box of dealer stock covering modern material from both SA and SWA. There was a large quantity of insignificant stamps. However, in the SWA section, when I arrived at the Calvin Issue, there were two envelopes of the 2½ and 15 cent stamps including the cylinder blocks of both. When studying the smaller denomination, I was quite sure the colour was incorrect, and could not wait to get home to confirm the fact! Having confirmed that I was right, I spent two anxious days awaiting the Friday lunchtime sale and the purchase of the lot! When it was eventually put up, there were several bids from dealers in the room but when I entered the fray, I had one persistent opponent who eventually quit at GBP110.00. The lot was mine! Over the weekend I went through my purchase and in particular the 2½c Calvin. I had the cylinder block, the two flaws on the head and another 25 single items. I visited SA a couple of weeks later and took 10 singles with me and sold them to Benny at Robemark for R200 each—all of which money, I lost the following morning, when I left my wallet in my hotel room and when I returned within the hour—it was gone!

My transfer, from South Africa, back to Canada, took a couple of years, during which time I decided to stop collecting SWA and disposed of my GV to a Swiss dealer returning to Switzerland. Prior to my departure, I visited Stanley Gibbons in Rosebank Johannesburg and told David about my missing colour Calvin cylinder block. He suggested that he put it up for auction at a price of R10000, for which it sold.!

At the time I took the first singles to Robemark, there was a great deal of scepticism that these stamps were not genuine and they tried all sorts of chemical treatments to change the maroon and gold—without success. Ultimately, this error was included in the SACC, but more recently was removed. My purpose for writing this article, is firstly to give the background information regarding the origin of these stamps and secondly to express my belief that these stamps are 100% genuine and that any one who bought this item should not be disappointed.

I am convinced that whoever the dealer was that submitted the lot to City of London Philatelic Auctions had received probably a sheet of each denomination from Philatelic Services in Pretoria, and that by accident a sheet of a colour trial was included by mistake. In talking to top dealers, it would appear the Post Office keeps no record of colour trials—so there is no way to confirm this fact. On the other hand—had the dealer found some way of altering the colour, I am convinced he would have had a large advertisement in a philatelic journal offering this unique piece, but since this was not the case and I believe that he was not even aware that he had an exception, that these are genuine supply from the GPO. It would not be the first time they had issued a stamp with a missing colour.

Has any collectors out there a copy of this stamp. If so, please let the editor know. A scan would also be useful.

License for a Native Medical Practitioner.

By Giovanni Palazzo

When I started collecting South African revenue stamps, in the late 1980's, often I use to purchase large mixed lots in the hope to find as many as possible values in order to reduce my very long wants list. Any items on piece were filed away for later possible addition to the pertaining collection. Sometime ago while I was going again through one of these files, my attention was immediately drawn to some large cut outs of Natal. As few of them are parts of Licence for Native Medical Practitioner and having also noticed that the Law No.19, 1891 is still visible, just below the licence's heading, it was therefore very helpful to find out a little bit more about this skilled native profession. The green Natal Queen Victoria £1 (B94) revenue stamp of the 1885 Colonial Key-type issue was used mostly in strips of three to collect the annual fee when a licence was requested (Fig.1). The set to which this revenue stamp belongs was printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., with two different dies and both are now recorded used on these licences. Law to legalise the Code of Native Law was laid before the Legislative Council according to the provisions of Law No. 44, 1887 – Chapter XIV – Medicine Men and Herbalists. Medicine men, women and herbalists were allowed to practice for gain and they were known, in the Zulu language, either as "inzinyanga zo kwe lapa", meaning those skilled in healing or "inzinyanga zemeti", meaning "herbalists". Interestingly nowadays the wording "nyanga" is commonly used to indicate a person as witch doctor. To prescribe their potions or "muti" a fee known as "ulugxa" ranging from 2/6d to 10/- was chargeable. Should a cure result a further payment claimable, but failure to cure was not followed by any payment beyond the call fee. Bad results, blunders or negligence could result to an action for civil damages, beside any criminal charges that may lie against them. Native Medical Practitioners can get a licence to practice as such, provide that the application is approved initially by the applicant's Chief or by the Chief in whose tribe he or she wishes to reside or practise. Unless licensed by an Administrator of Native Law no one could legally be a medicine man, women or herbalist. Interestingly enough it seems that later in the early 1900's also Magistrates were now involved in issuing Licences for a Native Medical Practitioner. Often the revenue stamps were signed with the Magistrate's signature or initials and as well with the issuing date after crossing out the wording "Administrator of Native Law". The usual large purple oval "MAGISTRATE/UMSINGA DIVISION" cancellation was used to legalise a licence but it was also used occasionally over the revenue stamps, which were already signed. (Fig. 2). Unlicensed Natives were liable to punishment by fine, or imprisonment and as well anyone offering for sale love philtres, or charms. These articles were confiscated and destroyed beside any criminal liability attached to such Native. The annual fee that they had to pay was £3 per year for the privilege – that was an enormous sum in those days for a Zulu – and the holder could practice throughout the Colony. Interestingly midwives or medicine-women do not require to be licensed to practice as such. Although from 1891 to 1904 licences could be issued after paying a fee of £3, so far all the items viewed are dated between 1902 and 1904. As these skilled natives lived in a rather primitive way, I suppose that it will be very hard to find a complete licence in good condition.

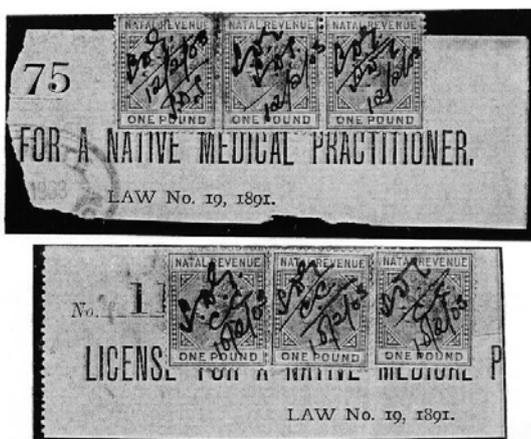


Figure 1



Figure 2

Union of South Africa – Petrol restrictions

by Giovanni Palazzo

During World War II, many countries imposed various restrictions on a variety of goods. South Africa for example, in order to conserve stock of paper, issued in 1942 a set of postage and as well revenue stamps to miniature size. Both sets are known as “War Effort Issue” or “Bantams”.

Due to fuel shortage, petrol rationing was also introduced between 1942 and 1946. The Post Office and Inland Revenue Department issued a variety of products in order to regulate the petrol rationing during this period. Single bilingual Petrol Ration Stamps (Fig 1), for the value of two gallons were distributed to private and as well to commercial drivers. Two stamps, so far are recorded, each one for 2 gallons ration. The vignette of the first value was printed in dark pink, while the value in a blue-green colour. The second one has the vignette in blue-green with the value in a maroon colour. Both were printed on un-watermarked paper and perforated in line 14,5 x 14. All specimens, seen to date, are unused and without gum. It is interesting to note that this design was used again, but enlarged and with the addition of a security background, to issue in 1968, the second Republican revenue issue.

Monthly Petrol Coupons of 5 gallons were also distributed (Fig 2). It seems that they were issued by Post Offices who after viewing the Motor Vehicle Licence or Registration Certificate, were endorsed with the registration number and then validated with an ordinary postmark. They were bilingually printed but only from one side, in blue and orange on un-watermarked paper. The imperforate size of these non-transferable coupons is 8,3 cm x 6,3 cm. Motor Vehicle Licences were valid only for one year and despite each Province issuing its own particular type, basically all were rather similar.

A monthly supply of ten gallons per car was the normal ration. When the ration was requested, usually a levy of 3d in postage or revenue stamps was charged and collected by Post Offices. These revenue or postage stamps were affixed, each month, at the back of the licence and then tied with an ordinary date stamp.

Between 1942 and 1945 the ordinary date-stamps were replaced, for security measures, with the “P.O.-P.K.” numeral cancellations. These scarce postmarks have the usual date line or slug placed in the central part but with the names of the towns now removed and its space inked. As these partially dumb cancellations were numbered, I can only presume that each Post Office had its own allotted one and therefore the possibility to identify these to which towns they were assigned, possibly could be found somewhere in the Post Office Archives.

This Licence from Natal, issued by the Department of Commerce and Industries of Pietermaritzburg, shows three different PO-PK numbers: 74, 76, 77, dated 1944 and 1945. Here the latest recorded P.O.-P.K numbers: 105, 106, 107, 108, 117, 139 and 146 (Fig 3&4).

Finally the document, a “Certificate of Revenue Received and Accounted for” (Fig 5), reference number G.P.-S.1959-1940-300-100. S., was issued in Port Elisabeth (Cape Province) on the 21st of April 1942, to replace a motor vehicle licence. The Receiver of Revenue charged a levy of 2/6d for the replacement as can be seen clearly printed on the certificate itself.

All these documents are always found folded and in rather poor condition. This was due to the fact that they were constantly handled and carried in pockets by drivers.

This interesting aspect still hasn't been fully researched and any additional information will provide a more complete picture of those harsh days.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3 Bantam revenues for petrol rationing with the P.O.—P.K. numerical postmarks



Fig. 4 Larger format revenues used for Petrol rationing with P.O.—P.K. numerical postmarks

G.P.-S.1959-1940-300-100. 8. Revenue Inkomste 161.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTEMENT VAN BINNELANDSE INKOMSTE.—DEPARTMENT OF INLAND REVENUE.

(Twee shillings en ses pennis.) 2/6 (Two shillings and sixpence.)

Sertifikaat van Inkomste Ontvang en Verantwoord. Certificate of Revenue Received and Accounted for.

Verwysingsnommer Reference number. Datumstempel Date Stamp.

BESONDERHEDE VAN OORSPOORLIKKE KWITANSIE UITGEREIK :— DETAILS OF ORIGINAL RECEIPT ISSUED :—

Aan wie uitgereik { Naam Name, Adres Address } To whom issued.

Bedrag betaal { Pounds, Shillings, Pennies } Amount paid.

Kwitansie uitgereik { No., Datum Date } Receipt issued.

Aard van Inkomste en besonderhede van aanspreeklikheid waaraan deur kwitansie voldoen is. Class of Revenue and particulars of liability discharged by receipt.

Ek sertifiseer hierby dat bogenoemde die geposifiseerde bedrag betaal is, t waarvoor die kwitansie hierbo uiteengesit op die vermeldte datum uitgereik is. I hereby certify that the above-named paid the amount specified for which the receipt described was issued on the date stated.

Ontvanger van Inkomste.—Receiver of Revenue.

Fig. 5

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Great Britain: 1967-68. Windsor Castle £1 black.
Estimate: £2,500
Realised: £5,015



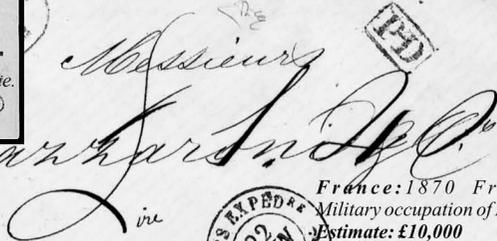
Danish West Indies: 1855 white gum 3c.
carmine, a horizontal strip of three.
Estimate: £10,000
Realised: £25,875



Falkland Islands: 1933, Centenary of
British Administration hand painted
Essays by George Roberts.
Estimate: £12,000
Realised: £19,125



Rhodesia: 1909-12 £5 deep blue.
Estimate: £5,000
Realised: £7,313



France: 1870 French
Military occupation of Rome.
Estimate: £10,000
Realised: £22,500



Malta: 1919 watermark crown ca "Shipwreck of St. Paul" 10/- Black, the stunning unmounted mint block of twelve. Estimate: £30,000 - Realised: £54,000

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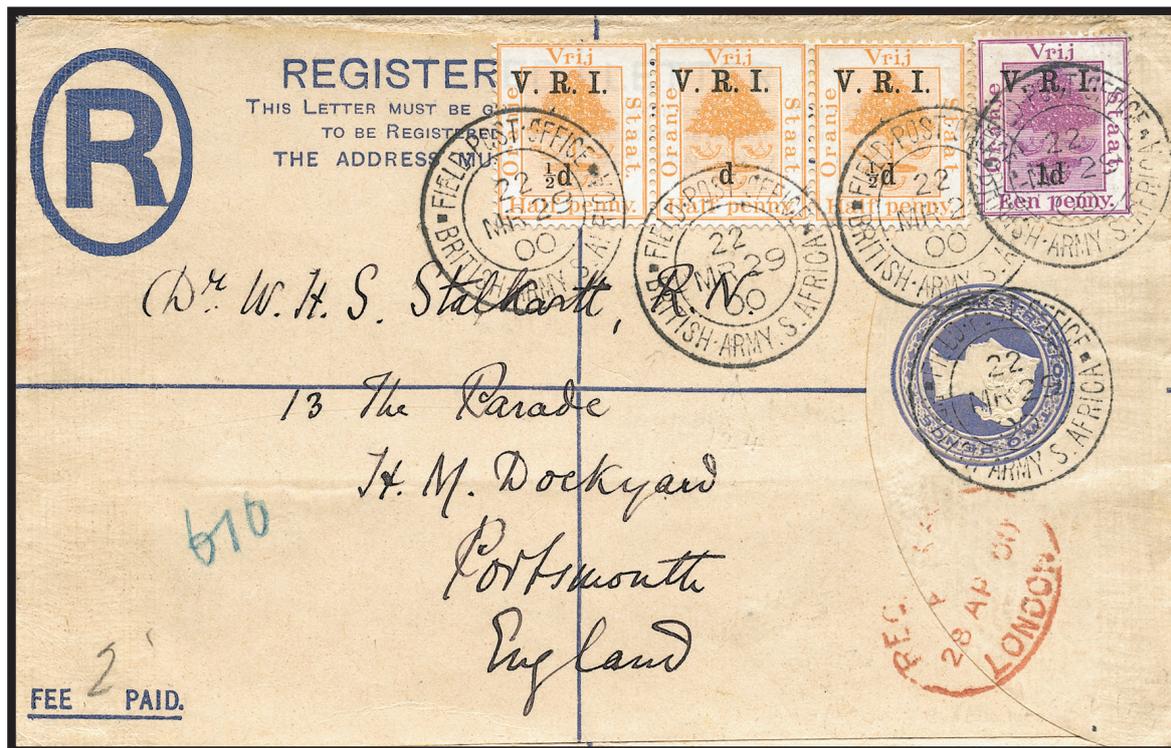
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5/- used in S.W.A.



Shifted overprint



Missing '½' in strip of three

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