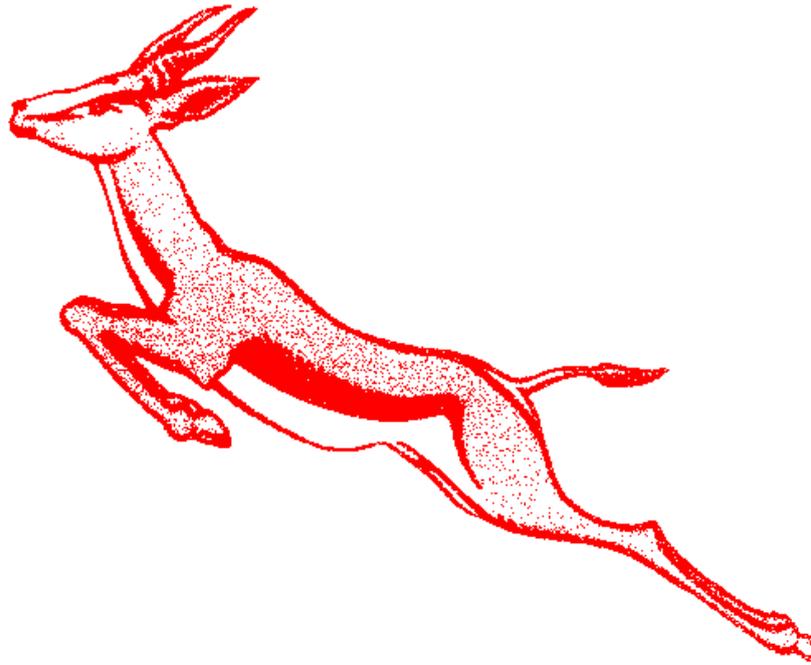


# *THE SPRINGBOK*



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY**

**Vol. 56**

**No. 2**

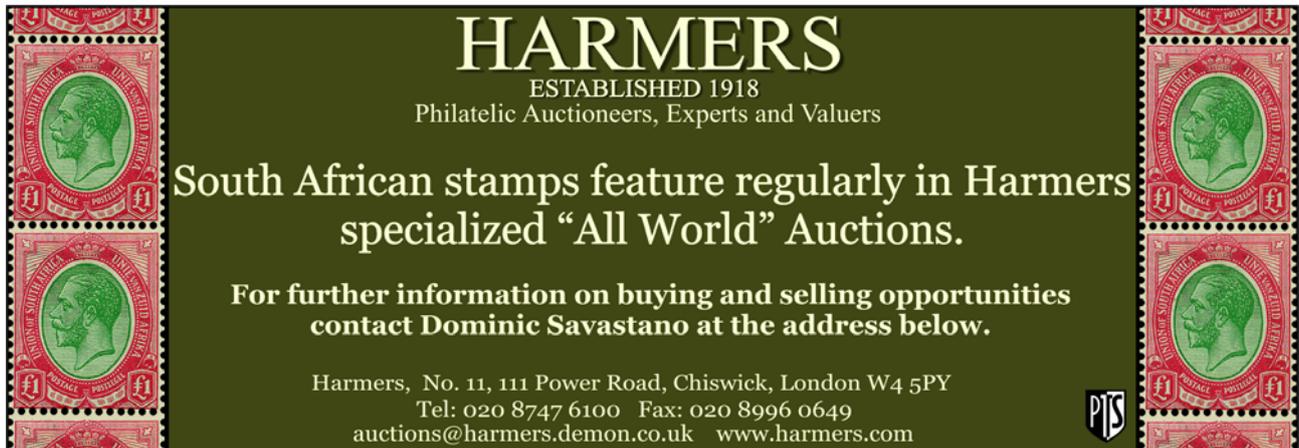
**Apr/Jun 2008**

**HARMERS**  
ESTABLISHED 1918  
Philatelic Auctioneers, Experts and Valuers

South African stamps feature regularly in Harmers specialized "All World" Auctions.

For further information on buying and selling opportunities contact Dominic Savastano at the address below.

Harmers, No. 11, 111 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5PY  
Tel: 020 8747 6100 Fax: 020 8996 0649  
auctions@harmers.demon.co.uk www.harmers.com



## SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

### Hon. Life Members (since inception in 1947)

Eric Sherwood†, Reg Allent†, Jack Hagger†, Bill Branney, John Shaw, Fred Clark†

### President

Vacant

### Hon. Chairman

Sqn. Ldr. J.L. Shaw  
17 Balcaskie Rd.,  
London SE9 1SQ

Tel: (020) 8378 1671  
e-mail: [john.shaw@PGEN.net](mailto:john.shaw@PGEN.net)

### Hon. Secretary

C. Oliver  
46 Woodville Road,  
Ham, Richmond  
Surrey, TW10 7QN

Tel: (020) 8940 9833  
e-mail: [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net)  
(note dot after olivers)

### Hon Treasurer

D.J. Osborn  
77 Stuart Road, Southend-on-Sea  
Essex, SS2 5JS

Tel: (01702) 611 337

### Hon. Editor

E. Bridges  
2 Short Lane  
Thorpe Malsor  
Northamptonshire NN14 1JT

Tel: (01536) 515200  
e-mail: [aebridges@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:aebridges@ukonline.co.uk)  
or [e.bridges@krohne.com](mailto:e.bridges@krohne.com)  
(for large files)

### Hon Assistant Editor and Covers Exchange Superintendent

M. Whitlock  
215 High Street  
Marske by the Sea  
Cleveland TS11 7LN

Tel: (01642) 482 877  
e-mail: [max.whitlock@ntlworld.com](mailto:max.whitlock@ntlworld.com)  
(note dot after "x!")

### Hon Postal Auctioneer and Packets exchange Superintendent

W.J. Branney  
19 The Lilacs  
Orgill, Egremont  
Cumbria CA22 2HU

Tel: (01946) 823 083  
e-mail: [w.branney@btinternet.com](mailto:w.branney@btinternet.com)

### Hon Librarian

P.M. Ridsdale  
41 Woodlands Drive  
Thelwall  
Warrington  
Cheshire WA4 7JL

Tel: (01925) 262 447  
e-mail: [ridsdales@ntlworld.com](mailto:ridsdales@ntlworld.com)

### Hon Membership Secretary

C. Oliver  
46 Woodville Road,  
Ham, Richmond  
Surrey, TW10 7QN

Tel: (020) 8940 9833  
e-mail: [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net)  
(note dot after olivers)

### Hon Independent examiner of accounts

Eric Day

### Representative for USA

Morgan Farrell

e-mail: [mtf3@usfamily.net](mailto:mtf3@usfamily.net)

### Representative for South Africa

Cedric Roche

e-mail: [croche@mweb.co.za](mailto:croche@mweb.co.za)

### SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE

1. Cash Except subscriptions, auction and exchange packets
2. Editorial
3. Exchange packets and auctions
4. Exchange packet Covers
5. Membership (including subscriptions and change of address)
6. Library
7. Everything else

D.J. Osborn  
E. Bridges  
W.J. Branney  
M. Whitlock  
C. Oliver  
P.M. Ridsdale  
C. Oliver

(Addresses as above)

Please enclose a prepaid envelope or international reply coupon with all correspondence requiring a reply.  
Postage will be charged on auction lots returned to vendors and to purchasers of small lots.  
When returning books to the Librarian, please make cheques, etc. for postage incurred,  
to HIM and not to the Society.



# The Springbok

© South African Collectors Society, 2008

ISSN: 0955-6753

Vol. 56 No. 2 Whole No. 302

Founded 1947

Member:

Association of British Philatelic Societies

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

We are also a sponsor of the Stamps in Schools Project

Web Site: [http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/Societies/sites\\_we\\_host/SAfrica.html](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/Societies/sites_we_host/SAfrica.html)

## Contents

*The Springbok* is published quarterly for the benefit of Members of the South African Collectors' Society. It is not available to non-members.

Contributions in the form of letters, notes, reports of SA related activities, articles, etc., are always welcome and should be sent to the Hon. Editor.

All correspondence including SAE will be acknowledged.

### Editor

Eddie Bridges  
The Laurels  
2 Short Lane  
Thorpe Malsor  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 1JT  
U.K.

### Editorial Panel

E. Bridges  
C. Oliver  
J.L. Shaw

### Articles

	Page
Obituary Fred Clark	John Shaw 35
A Tribute to Fred Clark	Jane Page 36
A short tribute to Terry Gentle	Bob Hill 37
The "Callard" 6d Proofs	Mike Tonking 40
Midnight Motor Mail	Nick Arrow 43
eBay Prices 1926-54 Pictorials	Sebastian Payne 44
Report on London Meeting April 08	Chris Oliver 45
Query raised at Feb. London meeting 1954 10/- Animals	Tony Howgrave-Graham 47
Van Riebeeck Photographic Essay	Dickon Pollard 49
The ½d Springbok Re-issue of 1948	Eddie Bridges 50
1957 Private Christmas Seals	Godfrey Mellor 55
Covers with mixed SA/American Franking	Nick Arrow 59
50th Anniversary of first SA Flight 01.12.1961	RSA Study Series 60
WW2: POW and Internment Camps Part 3	JBR Findlay & Rory Ryan 61
SACS at Harrogate	Eddie Bridges 65

### Regular Features

Events for your Diary-2008	34
From the Editors desk	34
Membership Matters	39
Letters to the Editor	53

### Advertisers

Harmers	FP	JP Wharton-Hood	49
David Loffstadt	38	Otto Peetoom	54
Philatelic Friends	38	Harmers	66
Africa Stamps.co.uk	39	Argyll Etkin	IBP
Paul van Zeyl t/a as Rand Stamps	41	Stephan Welz/Sotheby's	BP

## Events for your Diary 2008

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

23rd Feb.	SACS London meeting	Subject: The Animal Definitives of 1954
5th April	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Union Coils & Booklets
26th April	SACS London meeting	Subject: Republican Booklets
17th May.	<b>SACS Leicester meeting</b>	<b>Subject: Open meeting</b>
6th Sep.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Republican Airletters
20th Sep.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Republican Definitives & Abel Trophy Competition
6th Dec.	SACS London meeting	Other Philatelic collecting interests

**7-9th Nov. Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa**

### Other Events for 2008

18-19th Jan.	York Stamp and Coin Fair
27th Feb-1st Mar.	Spring Stampex, Islington, London.
21-23rd Feb.	Spring Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
2-3rd May	A.B.P.S. Show at Harrogate
14th June	Swinpex in Swindon
24-26th July	Philatelic Congress at Stratford on Avon
17-20th Sep.	Autumn Stampex, Islington, London
18th Oct.	Hampex
25th Oct	Middlesex Federation Stamp Day at Amersham
30 Oct.-1 Nov	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

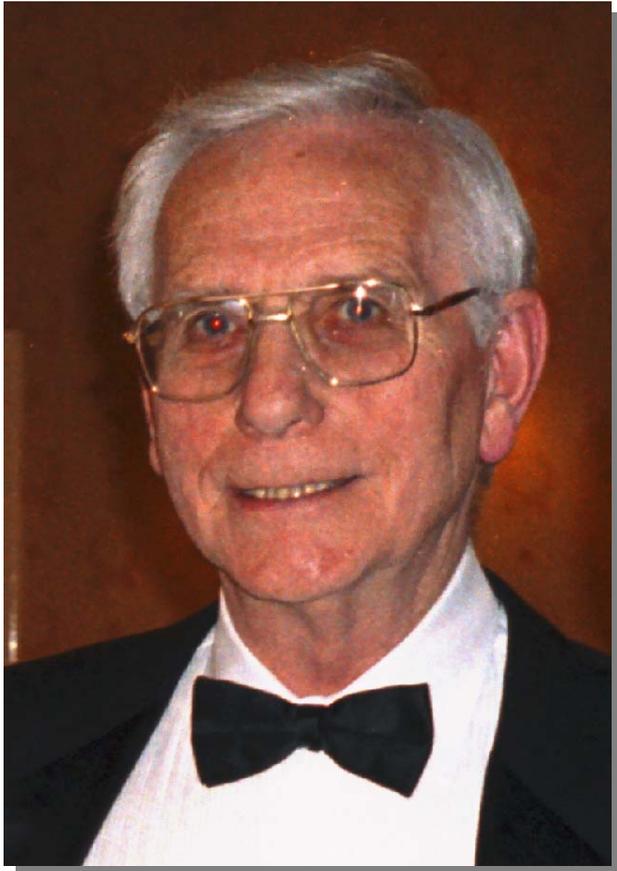
It is always sad to start my editorial with news of a member and in this case two members who have closed their albums. Terry Gentle who was a member for many years passed away in March and a short tribute by member Bob Hill appears on page 37. The second member to pass away was Fred Clark, one of our Honorary Life members and a stalwart of the Society. He will be missed by all in both the London and Carlisle groups.

Personally, I have lost a travelling companion as we travelled together to London for most of the London meetings over the last 9 years or so. The discussions on South African Philately we had on the train was always stimulating and his knowledge on all matters South African was vast. On the odd occasion when we drove up to Carlisle together was very stimulating as we spoke non stop the whole way! He was also a constant contributor to **The Springbok** which I will sorely miss. Our condolences to his family.

The time has flown in the last months and it is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the year. I did mention in the last issue that I will finish the Cumulative index for The Springbok, but regrettably I have not been able to finish this. I have underestimated the job of getting the search engine to work in the index to make it easier to find articles with a certain subject. Together with this we will publish a CD with all The Springboks scanned to date. Due to the never ending demands on my time at work and a heavy travelling schedule, I have not been able to spend as much time on this as I would have liked. Maybe by the next issue we will have something!

Please keep the articles coming. It will also help if you send the articles with the images separate in a Tiff or Jpeg format. It is cumbersome to extract embedded pictures from word documents. It takes hours to optimise this to make the digital version easy to print.

**Eddie Bridges**



## FRED CLARK 1926-2008

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Fred Clark, who died peacefully on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008 from asbestos-related cancer. Fred worked for British Rail, and its predecessors, most of his working life and was a Derbyshire man through and through. He loved his county and his city, especially its history and its wonderful walks. Inquisitive by nature, Fred was a born researcher, both in the philatelic and social senses. Few of us in the society knew it, but he was just as active in local historical research as in the stamps and postal history of South Africa. A lifelong collector, his daughters relate how he would take them to Geoffrey Manton's shop in Derby on Saturdays, always on the look out for something new; that was a long time ago, since I first met Geoffrey at least 40 years ago by which time the shop was long gone and he had founded the still flourishing Cavendish Auctions.

Fred never sat back on his laurels, frequently writing articles for the Springbok, mainly querying some remote aspect of our hobby. He attended most of our London meetings and was a willing contributor to displays, frequently leading the display. His recent displays of pioneer airmails, World War Two postal history and postage dues are just some that I remember with affection; the pamphlet he produced on the latter occasion, which involved much research on the UPU postage due systems is a work I treasure as part of my own collection of this material.

He was always willing to share knowledge, to help others and loan material to others for research. In some ways he had taken over from the late Jack Hagger as the fountain of knowledge for Union material and Fred was always first port of call if Bill Branney had queries.

In local history research, Fred wrote a book on the Freemen of Derby, and he was also granted the honour of freedom of that city, although he never boasted about this, such was his modest gentlemanly nature. I last met him in November at a London auction when we were both after the same cover but came to a gentleman's agreement, which came to nought since neither of us got it; he looked his usual well-groomed and well turned-out self and gave only a little hint of what was to come, still positive about the development of his collection, and what he could contribute to our society exhibition in 2010, the centenary of the Union. We often met in London, for meetings or for auctions; we had very similar interests, and thus much to talk about, especially the early pictorial stamps, Fred often mischievously reminding me that he had the eight-perforation hole 2d gutter block which I was lacking. At meetings we often indulged his slight deafness, this sometimes resulting in hilarious misunderstandings with Fred and others talking at cross-purposes. We remember him with real affection.

Fred loved his stamps and, after his wife died, stamps and a loving family proved a great therapy. Fred was president of the Derby Philatelic Society on several occasions and worked tirelessly for our society, strangely without ever holding formal office; however, such was the regard in which the society held him, that in 2006 he was elected an honorary life member of the society; it was a richly deserved honour which he accepted with his characteristic modesty.

In his last days, Fred was cared for by his married daughters, Jane and Susan; his son David, sister Mavis, and brother-in-law Dennis were also with him to the end. Our condolences go out to all of them and we, in the society, shall miss him greatly. May he rest in peace.

**John Shaw**

## FREDERICK ALAN CLARK 1926-2008

(The tribute read at Fred's funeral, kindly supplied by his eldest Daughter Jane Page.)

Frederick Alan Clark, "Fred", or Alan as he was known to his sisters, died peacefully on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008 from asbestos-related cancer. Fred was married to Iris, who unexpectedly passed away some 13 years ago. Fred leaves behind:

- his son David and wife Janet and their children, Laura and Alexander,
- his eldest daughter Jane and her husband Ian,
- his youngest daughter Susan and her husband Chris and their children, John and Nerissa,
- his older sister "Francie" and younger sister Mavis
- his wife's brother, Dennis.

Fred was a very independent man, who did not leave you in any doubts as to his opinions, he had a shrewd nature, preferring to do what interested him rather than doing dull tasks such as housework. He could be surprisingly secretive – the onus was on us to find out what he had been up to, where and with whom!!

When Fred was a child, money in the family was short. He left school at 14 - his mother had arranged an interview for him at "the railway". Fred worked for British Rail, and its predecessors, for all of his working life, starting off with an apprenticeship and continuing his education at night school. He was always keen to learn more himself and also, for his own children and grandchildren to further themselves where possible. He enjoyed explaining how things worked, particularly on days out with his grandchildren, who loved to listen to what Grandad had to say.

It was a sad loss for all of the family when Iris passed away, particularly for Fred. Learning how to manage the household was new to Fred – however he attended the cookery course which his daughters had organised for him, and managed his new skills so well, that he put on weight and had to go on a diet!

Fred was a Derbyshire man through and through. He loved his county and his city, especially its history and its wonderful walks. He took us on many a ramble as children, often catching the train to our start point.

Fred advanced from his apprenticeship to eventually being an inspector of new equipment for the Chief Mechanical Engineer, particularly locomotives, carriages, cranes and snow blowers. During his career his travels took him around the country, and also to Rumania and Germany.

Without a doubt, Fred's primary hobby was philately, which he pursued for most of his life – his daughters remember being taken to the "stamp shop" every Saturday morning – they found the pet shop a hundred yards away much more interesting! Fred was an active and enthusiastic member of Derby Philatelic Society for over 40 years and was president on 3 separate occasions. His speciality was South African philately and he devoted much time to expanding his already extensive knowledge on the topic. Such was the regard in which the society held him, that in 2006 he was elected an honorary life member of the society - it was a richly deserved honour which he accepted with his characteristic modesty. He gave many displays to the South African Collectors Society in London, and also to the Derby Philatelic Society and various other societies across the Midlands. His displays were always welcomed and he won several awards for them over the years. Fred was also a regular contributor to the South African Collectors Society magazine, the "Springbok". He was always willing to share his knowledge, to help others and loan material to others for research.

Fred suffered from hearing problems, which apparently caused many a hilarious misunderstanding in his dealings at the philatelic societies. It was only after many years of hard persuasion (also known as nagging) that Dad finally parted with some of his cash to buy the latest digital hearing aids! What a difference that made!! Even Dad agreed in the end.

Inquisitive by nature, Fred was a born researcher, in every sense of the word. He had extensively researched his own family history – managing to trace it back as far as the mid-1700s, uncovering all sorts of interesting facts. He also assisted others in researching their own family histories, helping to track down information from the local register offices for them – in particular, he spent a lot of time researching Spendlove family history and attended Spendlove Society events, with Iris.

Railway history was also of great interest to Fred, particularly that of the Midland Railway and its locomotives. With his knowledge and reference material, he has contributed to several authoritative books on the Midland Railway.

Fred was a Freeman of the Borough of Derby – a title inherited from his father. He took an active role as a Freeman and was Chairman of the Committee for many years. Fred was well known at the local studies library, and one of the fruits of his research was the completion of the first book on the Freeman of Derby. As a sign of gratitude for his contribution, a leather bound copy of the book was presented to him by the Mayor of the City.

Fred and Iris enjoyed travelling together in Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia and Turkey on specialist tours - eager to learn more about the archaeology of those regions. Fred as ever, researched the history in advance and was always on the look-out for new books to enhance his extensive library.

Fred and Iris also were rather "nifty" on the dance floor, having taken many classes together, to hone their steps.

Surprisingly, amongst all his other hobbies, Fred dearly loved his garden, and no doubt his neighbours will miss the colourful displays of flowers that always brightened up his garden.

From the many recent messages and conversations which the family have had with Fred's wide circle of friends and family, it is clear that he will be sadly missed, but remembered with real affection.

During his illness, Fred never really complained, maintaining his humour throughout, and ever keen on his philatelic interests and of course the latest football results. Dad was always distracted if we visited him when the football was on – even if he appeared to be asleep, he somehow always knew the score! The nursing care which Fred received over the last few months, both at home and in hospital was excellent. In his last days, Fred was nursed in the Macmillan Unit, supported by his daughters Jane and Susan, his son David, and their families, and also his sister Mavis, and brother-in-law Dennis.

**Jane Page**



**A picture from the past. Chester meeting in 2002 with Fred seated in the centre.**

### **Terry Gentle**

I wish to inform you of the sad death on 4th March 2008 of Terry Gentle.

Terry as you know was an ardent South African collector for many years and covered all aspects of South African Philately (particularly airmails, slogans, stamps and postcards).

In November last year Terry and I represented the SACS in an all day presentation and seminar on South Africa to the North Herts Stamp Club. Terry as usual was excellent both in presentation and material which was very well received. Terry also displayed at Cambridge on a regular basis. His last display to my knowledge was at Christmas to the Hitchin Stamp Club of which he was a member for over 60 years.

He will be missed by the members of the South African Collectors Society.

Our condolences to his family.

**Bob Hill**

## BRITISH EMPIRE SPECIALISTS QV-KGVI INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA

**Sets, Single items, Postmarks, Varieties, Revenues,  
Postal History, Postal Stationery.**

**If you have a wants list please contact us**

**We publish a buy/bid catalogue of British Colonial  
issues and a Postal Auction Catalogue which covers  
the whole world, these catalogues are produced three times a year,  
if you would like copies please contact:**

### DAVID LOFFSTADT

**P O Box 107 Bromley, Kent BR2 8ZA  
Tel: 020 8462 7185 Fax: 020 8462 7387  
E:mail davidloffstadt@yahoo.co.uk  
Member of PTS for over 30 years.**

## LOOKING FOR THE UNUSUAL (OR THE USUAL)



**1892-4 Cape of Good Hope 1/4d slate/white Postal Stationery Envelope with addit. 1d KEVII red tied by manu-  
script 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](http://www.philatelicroads.com) or printed catalogues available on request.

Email us at: [info@philatelicroads.com](mailto:info@philatelicroads.com)  
P.O. Box 26456 Hout Bay 7872 South Africa



**PHILATELIC FRIENDS**  
STAMP AUCTIONEERS & DEALERS • HOUT BAY • SOUTH AFRICA



## Membership Matters

by Chris Oliver

### New e-mail addresses:

Please note that several office bearers e-mail addresses have changed. These changes have been made on the relevant page. These are Bill Branney, Eddie Bridges and our representative in the USA, Morgan Farrell.

### Members resigned:

The following members have resigned.

Prof. Charles Stirton of Bath No. 1095

Peter Kettlewell of Knutsford, Cheshire No. 584

### Members Deceased:

It is with sadness that we note the passing of two of our members:

Terry Gentle No.1076 and Honorary Life Member Fred Clark No. 456 whose obituaries are printed elsewhere in this magazine.

### New Members:

We welcome Mrs. Wendy Chandler from Kendal - No. 1127

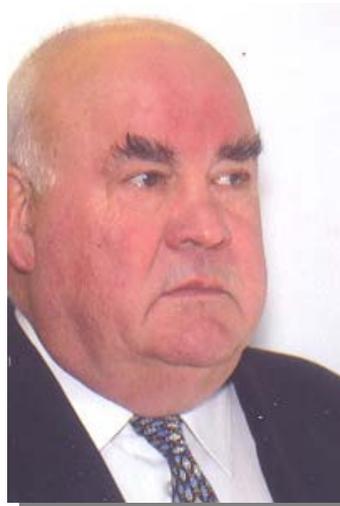
We also welcome two members who have re-joined the society.

Collin Touzell of Southampton No. 1007

Russell Boezak of Harlow No. 1092

### Robert Johnson:

We congratulate Robert Johnson who has been awarded the Philatelic Congress Medal and will be presented with the award at the 90th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain which is to be held at Stratford on Avon on 24th to 27th July 2008



Robert Johnson

---



# AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: [info@AfricaStamps.co.uk](mailto:info@AfricaStamps.co.uk)

# The "CALLARD" 6d Proofs

by Mike Tonking

The recent reference in the Jan/March 2008 Springbok by Tony Howgrave-Graham to the 12 August 2007 Welz auction in which lot 290 described as ' a 1929 registered cover franking pair 6d. grey and orange-red plate proofs cancelled 24 JAN 29 d.c'. induced me to revisit the background to this stamp.

In 1927 the original Waterlow typograph plates used for printing the 1/2d., 1d., and 6d. values were again used by the Government Printing Works in Pretoria and known as the Pretoria Typographs. Prior to commencing the print runs as series of imperforate plate proofs were made of each value as well as a colour trial of the 6d. value which was made on watermarked and perforated paper. The colour was a distinct grey and orange-red compared with the green and orange of the issued stamp. As in the case of the issued stamp the colour trial was perforated 14,5 x 14 and printed in a sheet of 240 stamps (20 x 12).

Pairs are known both mint and used on piece and on cover. The only cancellation dates that I have seen are :

A bottom right corner marginal pair cancelled 28 January 1928 (Int. Phil. Auction 20.3.99)

A horizontal pair cancelled 24 January 1928 ( Welz auction 19.2.81)

A vertical pair cancelled 28 January 1928 ( Benmore sale 1.3.81)

A registered cover cancelled 24 January 1929 ( Welz auction 14.8.07)

A pair cancelled 28 January 1929 (Author's collection)

A registered cover cancelled 29 January 1929 (Author's collection)

In every case, including those on piece, all were registered in Johannesburg.

The cancellation dates are significant as will become evident later.

The story begins on 26 August 1931 when the trial of Philip Thomas Callard, formerly in charge of the postage stamp printing department as the Government Printer commenced in the Pretoria Magistrates Court. He was charged with, amongst other things, with selling or dealing in spurious stamps to which he pleaded guilty. Prior to the trial had had made a statement on 10 July 1931 in which he said

" In November 1929 I was notified by the head of the Government Printing Works that my services would be dispensed with in three months time, upon reorganization. As I had always understood that I could serve until 65 years of age, this dismissal raised a feeling of resentment of unjust treatment in my mind. Haunted by the fear of possibly having to be in a position of want in my old age, I took a waste sheet of sixpenny postage stamps and replaced it with a sheet of sixpenny stamps which I bought at the Post Office, to make my stock correct, my intention being to keep this sheet for some years in case I was hard up, and then to dispose of it to collectors."

Here we have the first anomaly. Callard states that only after November 1929 did he remove the 'waste sheet' however the first group of cancellation dates were in January 1928 almost two years prior to the date he gave at his trial ! This would suggest that he committed perjury and had the court sight of the 1928 cancellations he would have been found out.

We now need to try to ascertain whether Callard was telling the truth when he said he took a single sheet and to do this I refer to a letter written by the late Robson Lowe to a collector on 3 May 1963 which is in the author's collection .

The letter reads " These are known as the "Callard' and have a most interesting history. Callard was the manager of the stamp printing department at Pretoria around 1928. He noticed the sheet of colour trials ( it exists imperforate on unwatermarked paper as well as in the finished state) and he abstracted them from the office archives, replacing them with sheets of the issued stamps so that at any casual inspection it would appear that all records were correct and intact.

He then passed one or two pairs through the post , two being addressed to his brother in law, who was a partner in the transaction together with a stamp dealer Bronks. The latter came to England and brought the almost complete sheet which had already been mentioned in Stamp Collecting as an error of colour. It was offered to me for around 1000 pounds and Mr. Bronks further gave me an affidavit that it was a genuine error of colour and that the used stamps had done postal duty. For some reason I was suspicious and went to the High Commissioner in London and asked his advice. He suggested sending a cable in his name to the manager of the Stamp Printing department at Pretoria which he did and in reply we had an assuring cable that all was well and they were genuine errors. Therefore I bought them but about six months later it turned out that the very man to whom the High Commissioner had sent the cable was Callard, who had unlawfully abstracted them from the records and put them on the market. In the subsequent prosecution he was convicted and sent to jail.

I had to return all the unsold portion of the sheet to the South African Post Office but some 15 pairs were retained by collectors in this country as well as one cover. The latter was in the Hind collection and I bought it for my own collection as a souvenir."

Two things are of interest here, firstly Robson Lowe refers to the replacement of the colour trials with **SHEETS** of the issued stamps which would suggest that Callard, despite his evidence, removed more than a single sheet. Secondly he states that Callard himself passed one or two pairs through the post which must have been those cancelled in 1928 and 1929 for the first sales he made to a certain Schneider were around Christmas 1930.

Robson Lowe further states that the stamp dealer Bronks sold him an "almost complete sheet". From the trial records we know that in the first instance Schneider was given a few of the stamps – let us assume say 12 and in the second transaction was given " 19 or 20 blocks of 6d. stamps each block containing 4 stamps" say 80 stamps whilst Callard himself must have used at least 12 stamps on the covers. Thus we can account for about 104 stamps or getting on for half a sheet. For Robson Lowe to have bought "an almost complete sheet" it would suggest that Callard must have abstracted at least two sheets of the colour trials and not a single sheet as he stated at his trial.

Robson Lowe must have returned about an estimated 100 pairs from his almost complete sheet to the South African Post office i.e. about 6 pairs used by Callard and 15 pairs sold by himself. Assuming that two sheets were indeed stolen at least one sheet of 120 pairs and about 20 pairs entered the philatelic market.

At the end of the story the evidence leads one to conclude :

1. Callard was less than truthful at his trial.
2. The pairs of colour trials sent through the post in 1928 and 1929 must have been sent by Callard. (He only met Bronks in 1931)
3. The number of colour trials posted and traded suggest that at least two sheets were stolen.
4. Approximately 140 pairs must have been sold to collectors by Robson Lowe and Bronks.

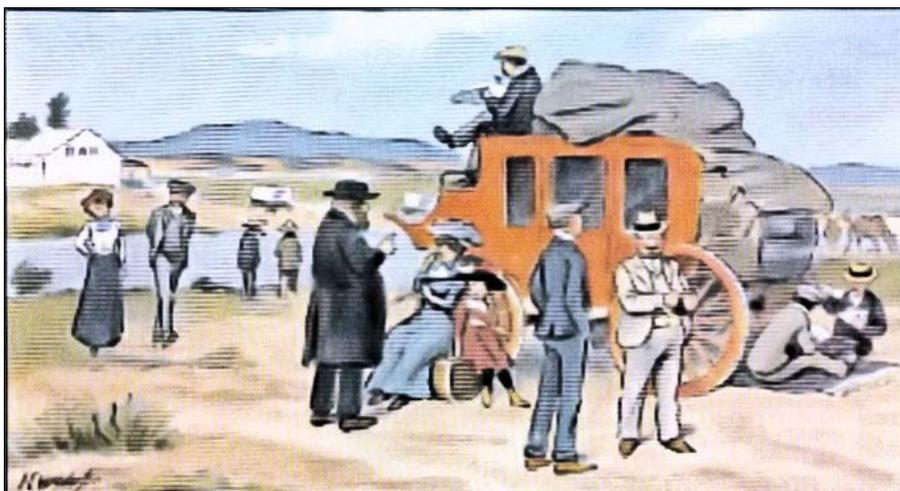
#### **Postscript**

Philip Thomas Callard was found guilty of being in possession of 240 'faked' sixpenny stamps and was sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour.

Continued on next page:

## **SPOT A WINNING DEALER! ...IN JUST TWO QUICK STEPS**

1. Identify **PAUL VAN ZEYL t/a RAND STAMP AUCTIONS** in this picture



2. Contact him to discuss how we can help each other, to get a "win-win"  
(auction or direct sale) result at:  
e-mail: paulvz@mweb.co.za; Tel +27 (0)12 329 2464; Fax +27 (0)12 329 3157

**References**

- Pretoria News reports 1931
- Daily Dispatch report 1931
- Robson Lowe letter 1963
- The Overprinted Stamps of South West Africa to 1930 – N. Becker 1990
- Welz Auction Catalogues 19.2.81, 14.8.07
- International Philatelic Service Auction 20.3.99
- Benmore Auction 1.3.81

**Illustrations of the issues below:**

6d. Plate Proof Colour Trials

Issued Stamp  
Green and orange



Colour Trial  
Grey and orange-red



Registered Johannesburg 28 January 1929



Registered Johannesburg 24 January 1929



# Midnight Motor Mail

by Nick Arrow

I raised a query in the Springbok, 2005/4, concerning the "Midnight Motor Mail". Before I did, I had asked one or two far more knowledgeable than myself for information about this, with no success at all. I raised the query in the SAP and fortunately have had a reply, which I would like to share with those members who are not contributors to the SAP. I am very much indebted to Mr David Allison, whose preliminary letter really answered the question that I had basically asked.

The "Midnight Motor Mail" resulted from the introduction in the 1930 period of very late night collections from post boxes in "the Cape Peninsular and further afield", which resulted in the mail which had been posted very late at night, being collected in time for delivery by the first post the following morning.

As Mr Allison points out, the mail posted in (in this case) Strand would usually have been sorted and postmarked there, being sent overland to Cape Town (or wherever) for delivery. However, under this very late collection scheme, the postboxes were emptied and the letters taken directly to the GPO in Cape Town, where they were sorted. The mail would thus have received a Cape Town postmark.

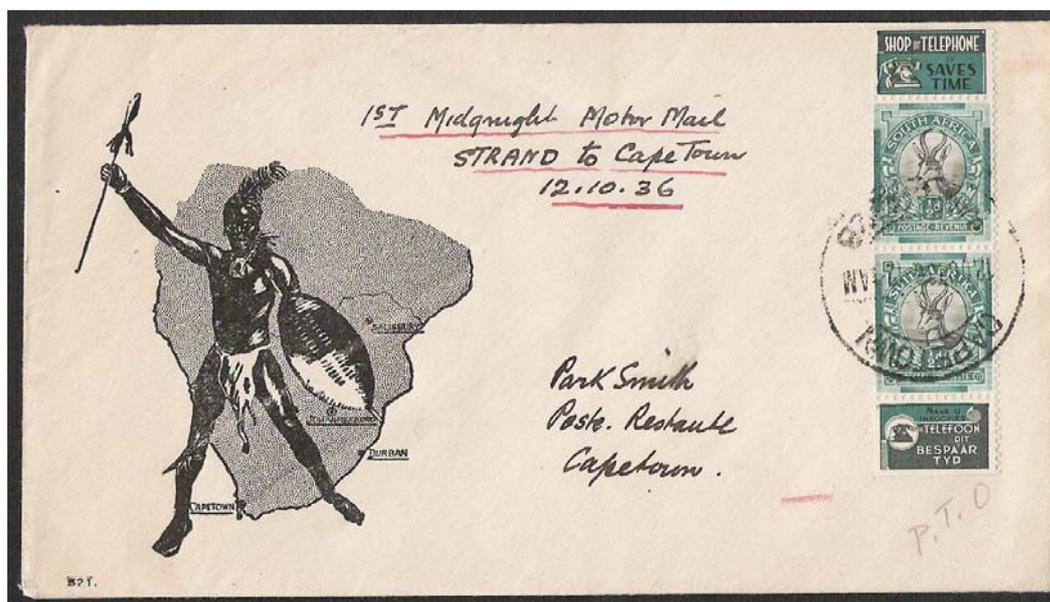
It appears from Mr Allison's letter that there is not a great deal known about the dates when this particular scheme came into effect, in the various areas where it operated – his letter is not clear if this scheme was operated only in Cape Town, or in and around other large cities, although the general tenor of his letter is that this scheme was only operated in the Cape Town area, and was not used elsewhere. His letter indicates that my cover "provides one of the very few dates we know concerning this service".

Mr Allison's letter refers to an article in a 1974 South Africa Postmark Society Newsletter, which was reproduced in the SAP in August 2006. This article provides an interesting report (albeit with not a great deal of philatelic information) of a trip made in 1936 with one such van, which collected the "Night Mail", starting north of Cape Town at Huguenot Station (which I cannot find on the map), then retracing its steps through Paarl, before swinging east via Stellenbosch, Somerset West and Strand to Belville and finally the Cape Town GPO.

Thanks to the Night Mail, it was possible to post letters much later than before the system was instituted – the article refers to mail having to be posted either in outside Post Boxes by 2.50pm, or in the central Post Offices by 5pm, to be assured of delivery the next day – 21 vans being involved in the collection, with 14 or 16 (depending on the time of collection) being involved in bringing the mail to the CT sorting office. Only 4 vans, each taking about 2½ hours, were involved in the Night Mail collection, which indicates that those involved in this particular part of the Post Office service had a very busy time of it!

My cover has a CT postmark of the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1936, and is timed at "12 – 1am". It may be that research of members covers of the 1936 period may show CT postmarks which have a very late time of posting which are examples of mail collected through this Night Mail service.

I am pleased that, at least in the Springbok, I have answered my own question!



# eBay prices: 1926-1954 Pictorials

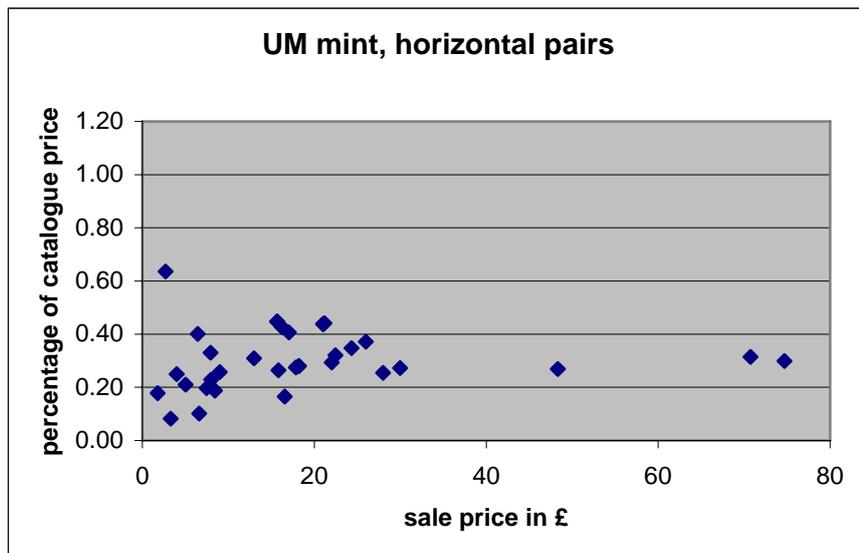
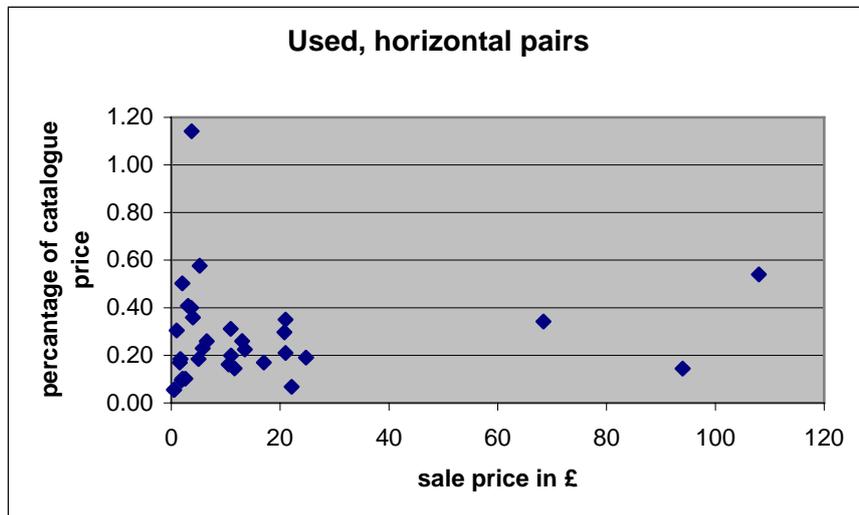
by Sebastian Payne

I have been noting eBay prices for some time as another guide to market price of the South Africa 1926-54 bilingual pictorials, especially for items that are too small to make a mainstream auction lot.

The attached page shows the prices at which used and UM mint horizontal pairs have sold over the past 3 months (Jan-March 2007) as a percentage of catalogue price. UM seem generally to run at 30% +/- 10% of SG; mounted mint average about 15%, about half UM. Used average a bit more than MM - around 20%, with wider variation (the plot includes g, f and vf; variation is smaller but numbers smaller if I eliminate g and f); used vertical pairs sometimes sell surprisingly well but very variably - I don't really have a large enough sample yet to be clear about averages. What I find interesting about this is that it's a bit different from what dealers appear to believe - UM prices are substantially below what dealers expect to get, while used prices - especially good vf - are probably higher than dealers appear to think!

*It would be interesting to hear what members are experiencing with prices as well. General stamps don't seem to fetch good prices but better items seem to go for catalogue or higher sometimes.*

*Any comments to the **Editor**, please.*



# Report on the London meeting held on 26<sup>TH</sup> April 2008

by Chris Oliver

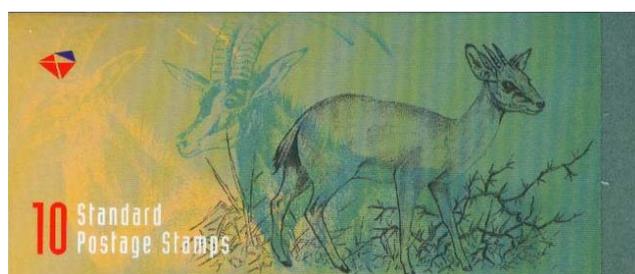
Eight members attended. There were apologies from John Shaw, Tony Howgrave-Graham, Brian Trotter and David Osborn. All stood in silence in memory of Hon. Life Member, Fred Clark and of Terry Gentle, who had passed away recently.

We briefly discussed the arrangements, which have been made for A.B.P.S. Harrogate 2008 where our table is No. 56. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the National P.S. are holding a day meeting at the Harrogate show to which all are invited, N.P.S. members and non-members alike. At 14.45hrs Michael Sefi will be giving a talk on the Royal Collection, as part of the N.P.S. day. On the afternoon of Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Stock is giving a display of South African Campaign Mail for the Great Britain Philatelic Society.

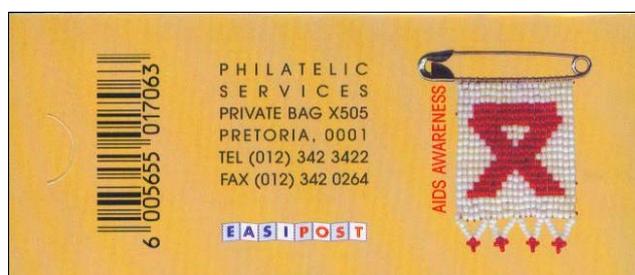
The forthcoming meeting, to be held in Leicester on 17<sup>th</sup> May, was also discussed. We are also conscious that 2010 is going to be a busy year, philatelically, with our Society exhibition at Spring Stampex, the International Exhibition at the Building Design Centre in May, the ongoing Festival of Stamps in the U.K. and an International show in Sandton, South Africa in October. Some of us are hoping to go to South Africa for the latter show. Also mentioned was Swinpex on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008 where the Transvaal Study Circle have arranged a joint Southern African Societies meeting.

The theme for this meeting was Republican booklets. Chris Oliver showed a selection of these, with the exception of the Flood Relief booklets and the Prestige booklets. It was agreed by all, that variations and printings of the rhino booklets and the big five booklets proved a minefield for collectors as many variations had not been recognised. Tony Chilton had commenced preparation of a list, prior to his death. This was published in the Springbok up to 2000 but has not been continued by others. Eddie Bridges had brought a copy of van Rensburg's book which lists republican booklets. That book only covered a similar period due to the author's recent demise. Eddie and Simon Peetoom then showed material, which filled in some, but not all, of the gaps in the former display. One particular example was the green, antelope booklet cover with aids awareness propaganda on the reverse and which is not listed by Gibbons.

After, refreshments and a general discussion, the meeting concluded at 16.50hrs.



The front of the booklets are identical

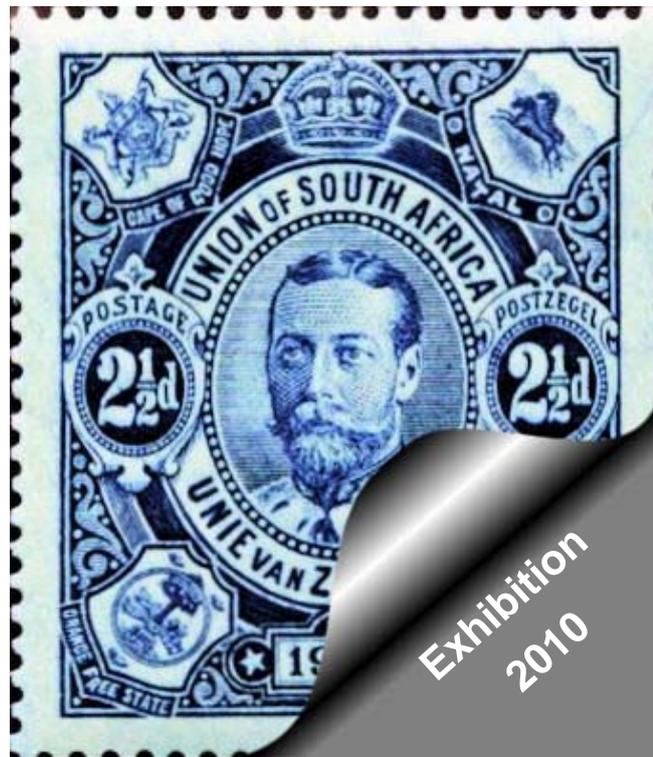


The rear of the booklet has an Aids Awareness logo instead of the Kruger National Park logo which was on the original booklet.

# **South African Collectors' Society Exhibition**

**Spring Stampex**

**24-27 February 2010**



The South African Collectors' Society will be staging an exhibition to commemorate the Centenary of the establishment of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910.

This is an exhibit that should not be missed by Union collectors. We hope to be able to exhibit a selection of material that covers the Union period as comprehensively as possible.

This will include stamps of the Interprovincial period, definitives, commemoratives, postal history, airmails, postal stationary and much more.

In addition, we hope this exhibition will attract local as well as overseas collectors and will inspire dealers to bring along good material to cater to the interests of South African collectors.

In addition, a meeting of the South African Collectors Society will take place during the event and it is hoped to attract a renowned collector to do a talk on some aspect of Union Philately.

An exhibition catalogue will be available and members of the Society will have an information stand to assist collectors and potential collectors of the Union and Republic of South Africa.

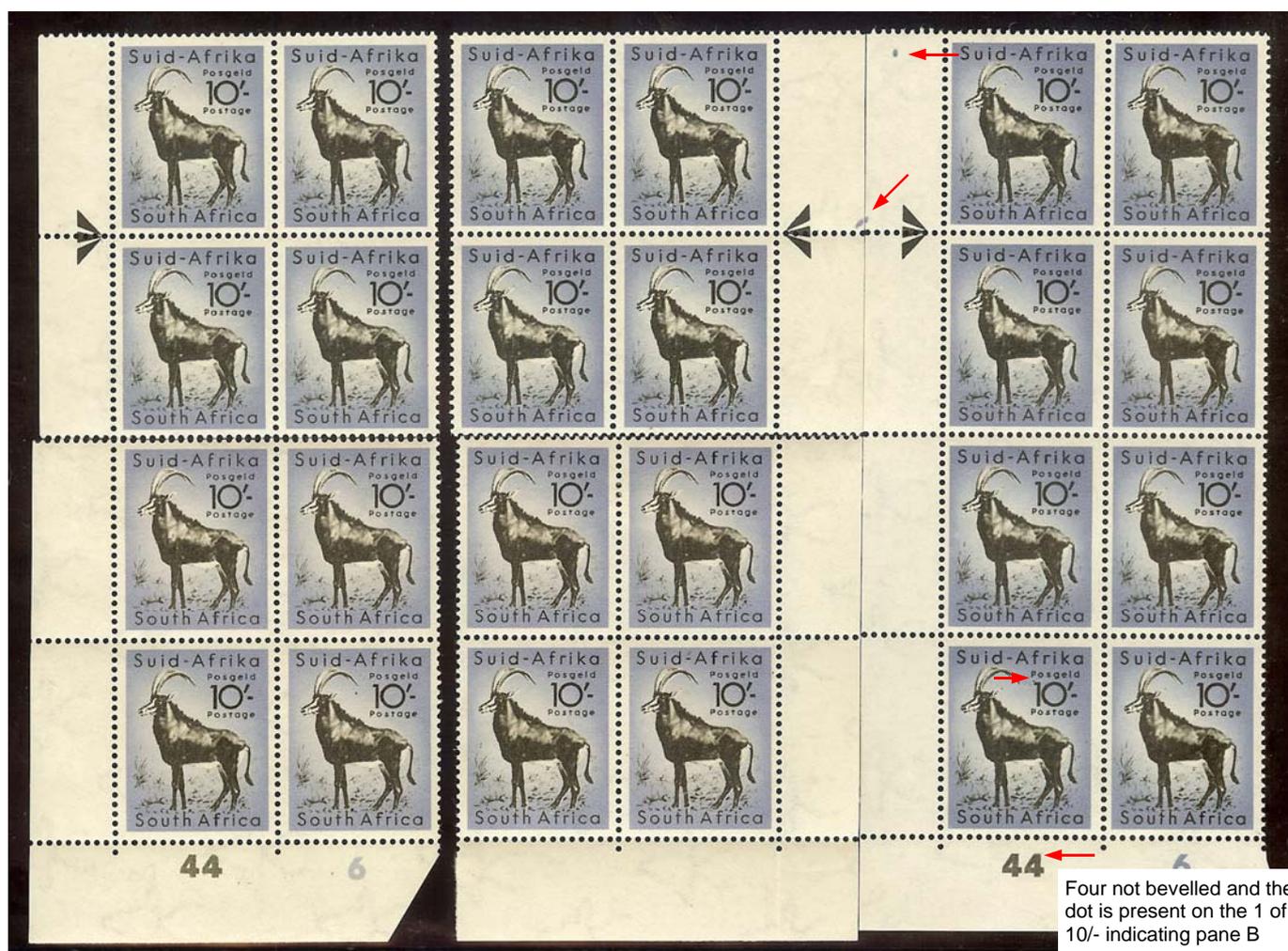
## A query raised at the February London Meeting

The London meeting in February was devoted to The Animal definitives of 1954. A good selection of material was shown and the following query was raised by Tony Howgrave-Graham:

Attached is a scan of the 10/-s. I've been trying to get my head around transpositions. With the scarce 5/- transposition (description in '86 Hagger is incomprehensible but it's clearer in '79 h/b) there is more interest because the interior cylinder only was transposed so that it's varieties appeared with external cylinder varieties of the opposite pane. This isn't the case with the 10/-, but it does look as if both cylinders were transposed so that A appeared on the left. I don't think I buy John Shaw's explanation that the handbook has got the pane characteristics the wrong way round, though it's possible. With all other values the pale figure appears on pane A.

The key feature on the illustration is the blue spot low in the left margin by R3/1 of pane B. John Archer had a similar block tied to the pane B cyl blk with virtually the whole of the blob showing + the blue spot high in the same margin. So what we need people to look at is their arrow blocks. With the pane A right arrow block there's a dot under the curve of the horns on R3/19.

**Scans of the arrow blocks in question would be welcome. Ed.**



Pane A is normally on the right hand side and pane B on the left. The identification for Pane A (according to the published literature) is a dot below the tip of the horn on R6/2 and the second 4 of the cylinder number is bevelled. Pane B has the fours without this bevelled tip but has a dot just above the slope of the top of the 1 in the value 10/- on R6/1. See illustrations on the next page.

**B Pane**



Second four of cylinder number not deformed  
Dot above 1 of 10/- value

**A Pane**



Dot just below tip of horn R6/2  
Second four of cylinder number bevelled at the top  
Paler 6 of cylinder number

If any collector out there has large marginal pieces similar to those on the previous page, please let the editor know.

## **Southern African Societies Conference: Leamington Spa**

**The annual conference takes place on the weekend of 7-9th November 2008.**

This promises again to be a good weekend with invited displays on the Saturday, dinner and time together discussing stamps with fellow collectors, an Auction, bring and show/tell on the Sunday and of course our AGM on the Saturday evening.

We have block booked rooms at the Falstaff Hotel as before. If you would like to join us, please send me an e-mail, letter or call to reserve a room. Costs are approx £60 a night including Breakfast and the dinner on the Friday and Saturday evenings. Costs will be confirmed in the next issue.

We hope to be able to provide you with a preliminary programme in the next issue.

Remember if you have items for the auction, please contact Tony Howgrave-Graham. (see next page)

### **Wanted**

A book that was published by R.D. Allen on the 2d Union Buildings Definitive stamp.

This book has 219 pages and contains all the articles published on the subject by various specialists over the years and edited by RDA. If you have a copy you want to dispose of or lend me so I can copy it as it is out of print and nobody seems to have any left.

**Contact the Editor.**

## Van Riebeeck Photographic Essay

Dickon Pollard from Murray Payne sent this illustration of a van Riebeeck photographic proof/essay which he had not seen before. As your Editor also has not seen it before, it is published here in the hope that someone might shed a little more information on this.

Was this possibly an unaccepted design for the 1952 Tercentenary of the landing of Van Riebeeck at the Cape?

The issued 1/- value is in a horizontal format depicting the landing party.

Photographic Essay of the unaccepted design?



## Leamington Auction 2008

It is early, but Tony Howgrave-Graham has asked that members are reminded to prepare and send on to Tony any material they wish to put on the Auction in November. Tony will be away in the month preceding the meeting in Leamington and would like to prepare the auction before his departure.

So ferret around and send on the material to Tony in good time (latest end July), to ensure we have another successful auction.

Tony can be contacted by phone: 01725 510067 or by e-mail at [ajbmg@btinternet.com](mailto:ajbmg@btinternet.com) or send material directly to:

The Cottage  
Barford Lane  
Downton  
Wiltshire  
SP5 3QA



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

**contact**

**John-Peter Wharton-Hood**

Tel: +27 (0)11 478 2457  
Fax: +27 (0)11 478 2458  
e-mail: [johnpwh@iafrica.com](mailto:johnpwh@iafrica.com)

1 Collins Street  
Windsor Glen  
Randburg  
2194 South Africa



# The ½d Springbok Re-issue of 1948

by Eddie Bridges

**Catalogue Numbers: Union HB 33A, SACC 125, SG 126.**

Towards the middle of 1948 reports started trickling in of these ½d Springbok stamps appearing at smaller Post Offices. The first of these reports appeared in the South African Philatelist of August 1948. (page 129). It was recorded here that the stamps were of the design similar to those of the Pretoria Issue 2 Typograph printings. This was verified by comparing the marginal jubilee lines with those of the Pretoria Issue 2 printings from Head Plate 2 and Frame plate 2. The 1948 stamps were issued in an olive green and grey on a poor quality wove paper and differed in colour from the Pretoria Issue 2 printings which were green and black on wove paper.

The reason for these reprints was due to a shortage of paper at the time and it was decided to use up a quantity of cut paper which was suitable for the Typographical (flat plate) process. The Union Government printer was using the Goebels machine at the time which was a Rotogravure process (using rotary cylinders) which required large rolls of paper. This was in short supply after the war.

Approximately 11000 sheets of these stamps were distributed to smaller Post Offices in the Cape, Transvaal and Orange Free State. This was confirmed by the Controller of stores at the time after enquiries to the Government Printer about this issue was made. (SAP Sep. 1948 page 145)

Sheets of these stamps were examined at the time and no real varieties were found. Features were the same as those printed some 20 years earlier.

One key feature was that they were perforated from the opposite side to the sheets from the earlier Typograph printings, i.e. the right margins were perforated through in the 1948 issue where the left margins were perforated through on the Pretoria Issue 2 printings. One sheet has been reported with a reverse perforation where the opposite was true. The author has not seen any samples from this sheet yet.

## Identification Features:

- 1948 Issue in olive green and grey compared to green and black of the Pretoria Issue 2 issue
- 1948 Issue left margin imperforate and right margin perforated, Pretoria Issue 2 left margin perforated and right margin imperforate.
- 1948 Issue top and bottom margins perforated, Pretoria Issue 2 top margin perforated and bottom margin imperforate.

## Colour differences



**Pretoria Issue 2**



**1948 Re-issue**



The four corner blocks of the 1948 re-issue  
 Top and bottom margins perforated through  
 Left margin imperforate and right margin perforated through



The four corner blocks of the Pretoria Typo Issue 2  
 Top margin perforated through and bottom margin imperforate  
 Left margin perforated through and right margin imperforate



The four central marginal positional blocks illustrating the jubilee lines and marginal arrows for comparison with the Pretoria Typo Issue 2 printing below.



## Letters to the Editor

### Mike Tonking writes:

The letter from Mr. Rudolf Lasar which appeared in the July/September 2007 Springbok cannot go unchallenged with regard to research on Union Issues.

Can it be said that there is no more to discover? The answer must be no.

For example recent research on Union Officials has added to our knowledge of this subject whilst over the past years there are numerous examples of research that have added to our knowledge and solved some of the mysteries of Union philately.

If nothing else, new research gives the philatelist the pleasure of enhancing his own knowledge and the in-depth articles often lead us to re-examine our own collections.

Personally I have given up collecting RSA for all the reasons so often given by other collectors.

### Sebastian Payne writes:

I have just been looking at a batch of the October 1953 bilingual pictorials, and have noticed two unexpected things. First, the use dates of the 4½d run right on into the early 1960's - not what I would have expected as they were replaced quite quickly by the animals issue. Second, both the 4½d and the 1/3d exist with small and with large perforation holes - not reported, as far as I know. Any comments would be helpful.

**Go and have a look at your stamps and let the editor know what you find! Ed.**

### Gawie van Eeden writes in response to a query in the last issue:

The signature on the Compliments slip illustrated on page 29 of issue 1 2008 is that of F.J. (Frans) Theron.

He retired somewhere in the eighties and was then appointed Chairman of the Cable Commission. He died in 1994.

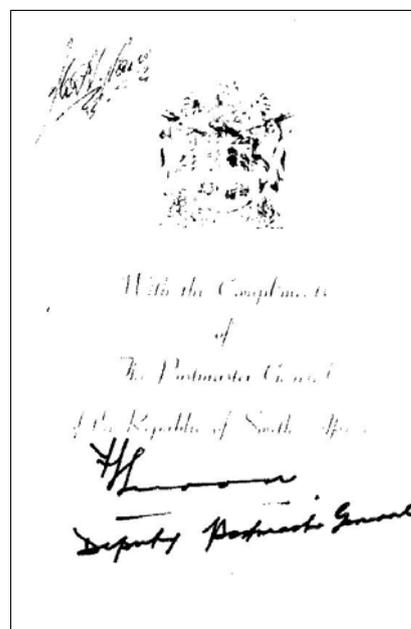
L.J. Rive was the Postmaster General at the time, also since deceased.

**The Late Fred Clark** wrote some time ago (Sep. 2007) and the item was held over for space reasons but is published here for interest and feedback:

### Postmaster Durban Postmarks

Putzel in his book "The Postmarks of South Africa" Vol 2 lists several postmarks under the heading Durban, his nos. 321a-322b and 338 with the bilingual wording POSTMASTER/ POSMEESTER or vice versa, some with the additional word DURBAN. I have

however come across stamps with postmarks of this wording which are quite different from those listed above.



English only with wording in rectangular frame 44½ x 22 mm, POSTMASTER at top, DURBAN at bottom with date 5 Dec. 1917 at centre. On pair 4d Kings Head stamps.



English only wording in large double oval frame 50 x 30 mm, POSTMASTER at top, DURBAN at bottom and date at centre, with asterisk at each side 43 mm centre to centre. On 1d, 2d, 6d, 1/- and 2/6 Kings Head stamps and 1d, 6d, 3d, 4d triangular, 4d, 1/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps of the 1926-1927 typo and recess printed series with dates ranging from Jul 1921 to Apr 1930.

He has not seen these Postmarks before or seen any of them on cover. As they seem to be previously unrecorded it would be interesting to know the purpose and usage of these postmarks, particularly on the wide range of values and apparent short time of use.

**Feedback to the editor please. Ed.**

**John Philpot has a query on Officials:**

Ian Matheson's Officials Part 2.

I read with much interest of his new Set 20A and in particular, the 2/6. Enclosed is a photocopy of a B 9 2/6 with (only) the NW stamp having (both) smaller founts. It is dated 0 Feb 48 (looks suspicious!)

The spacings are: Column 1 19 mm, Col. 2 19-19.5 mm, Col. 3 19.5-20 mm. i.e. apparently not set 21-text specifies Col. 1 19-19.5 mm rest 20 mm. If it were a pre-dated (fiddled) Set 22 (6.48), it would be 16/1 to 17/3 according to his chart for the 2d and 1/-.

Can it be 20A? There is no mention of smaller founts in Ian Matheson's book. Incidentally, I have B4 set 19 1½d's sheet number 4463 as in Ian Matheson's book. I cannot remember where I obtained it.



# South Africa South West Africa

Fully illustrated lists available for the above countries. Two lists available for South Africa, one featuring better single items, sets and varieties and the second, Postal History. If you would like a copy, please contact:

## OTTO PEETOOM

ORMSKIRK STAMPS

Rectory Road, Roos, Near HULL, East Yorkshire, HU12 0LD England

TEL: 01964 670239

INTERNATIONAL +44 1964 670239

FAX: 01964 671204

+44 1964 671204

Website: [www.rhodesianstamps.net](http://www.rhodesianstamps.net)

For those with other interests, we have separate lists for The Rhodesias including Nyasaland; Basutoland, Bechuanaland & Swaziland, East Africa, Tanganyika, Zanzibar & K.U.T. and Nyasaland Field Force.

# 1957 Christmas seals of Bloemfontein

by Godfrey Mellor

At the last Carlisle meeting Godfrey handed your Editor some copies of Christmas seals he had not seen before. He also pointed me to an article in the SAP of August 1993 which I reproduce here with due acknowledgement. (saves me typing it all out!) These Cinderella's have a keen following amongst Union of South Africa Collectors.

## Private Christmas seals of 1957

HOWARD COOK Philatelic Society of Natal

THERE APPEARED in the August 1984 issue of *The SA Philatelist*, p 240, a short note regarding the "Forerunner of SA Xmas stamps".

It was believed that the Bloemfontein TB Association had issued the red and green 1d seals in 1923. Another suggestion I had subsequently heard of, was that the seal had been issued in 1958 following the complaints and subsequent withdrawal of the official "Madonna and Child" seal.

In an exciting find, an accumulation in the November 1990 Stephan Welz sale contained a complete booklet of these Bloemfontein seals. The front and back covers of the booklet are pale blue-green in colour, and there are two panes of six seals (rouletted) with advertisements on the interleaves.

There is no direct reference to the year of issue but "7-57" is printed on the back cover. This could indicate July 1957. However, a better clue is the fact that one of the advertisements is for

"the new Austin A 55".

I have established that these motor cars were first assembled in this country (in the Cape) during the latter part of 1956, and that they were then marketed in early 1957. This is not conclusive proof, but a very good indication of the year of issue of these particular seals. Therefore, it was possibly 1956 or 1958 but in all probability 1957, and definitely NOT 1923 as originally believed.

There are also a few other questions which need to be answered. Firstly, was this the only year the Bloemfontein TB Association issued their own seals? Secondly, why did a local association decide to produce their own seals when a successful national campaign had been in existence for many years? Perhaps someone can help with more information.

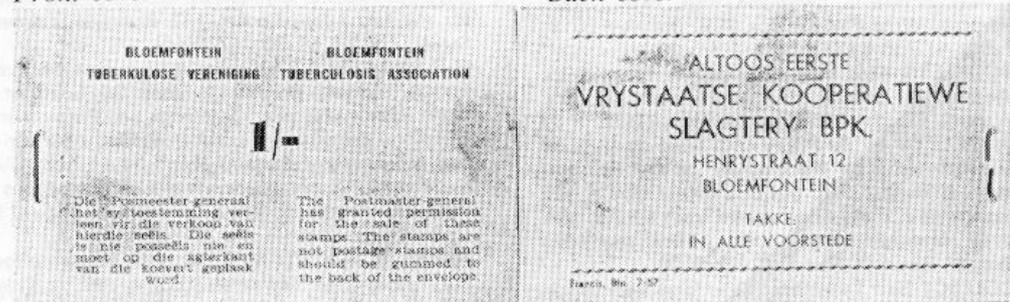
(My sincere thanks go to Henk de Lange for providing me with the details and photocopy of the booklet.)

*Inside front cover*



*Front cover*

*Back cover*



SOUTH AFRICA.

1957 CHRISTMAS SEALS - OF BLOEMFONTEIN. 1/- BOOKLET.

ALTOOS EERSTE  
VRYSTAATSE KOOPERATIEWE  
SLAGTERY BPK.  
HENRYSTRAAT 12  
BLOEMFONTEIN

TAKKE  
IN ALLE VOORSTED

BLOEMFONTEIN  
TUBERKULOSE VERENIGING

BLOEMFONTEIN  
TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

1/-

Die Posmeester-generaal het sy toestemming verleen vir die verkoop van hierdie seëls. Die seëls is nie postseëls nie en moet op die agterkant van die koefert geplak word.

The Postmaster-general has granted permission for the sale of these stamps. The stamps are not postage stamps and should be gummed to the back of the envelope.

Fransis, Bln. 7-57

BACK COVER

FRONT OF BOOKLET



DOUBLE PAGE OF SIX STAMPS.

INDIEN U U DROOGSKOONMAAK  
PROBLEEM WIL OPLOS, BESOEK  
**GOLD MEDAL DROOGSKOONMAKERS**  
2de Laan 49 G  
of  
Aliwalstraat 20  
of  
SKAKEL 83039

FRONT OF INTERLEAF.

DRINK  
**- Sparletta -**  
VRUGTE DRANKIES  
DIS SUIWER SOOS SONLIG.  
VERWAARDIG DEUR:  
S.A. BOTTLING COY. (PTY.) LTD.  
P.O. BOX 455,  
BLOEMFONTEIN.

REVERSE OF INTERLEAF

Sleek  
The New **AUSTIN** A. 55  
See it at  
**John Roderick & Botha Ltd.**  
69 EAST BURGER STREET  
BLOEMFONTEIN  
BRANCHES AT: WELKOM and ZASTRON

O.F.S. BAKERY CO.  
(PROP. S.A. MILLING CO. LTD.)  
FOR CAKE & BREAD OF THE FINEST QUALITY  
TRY OUR FAMOUS WHOLEWHEAT BREAD  
O.V.S. BAKKERY MPY.  
(EEN. S.A. MILLING CO. LTD.)  
VIR KOEK EN BROOD VAN DIE BESTE KWALITEIT  
Probeer ons Smaaklike Volkoringbrood

INSIDE OF FRONT COVER

INSIDE BACK COVER

PHOTO-COPIES OF "EXPLODED BOOKLET"

SOUTH AFRICA.

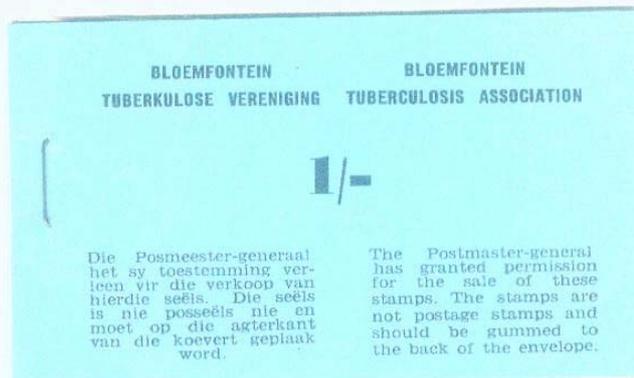
1957 CHRISTMAS SEALS OF BLOEMFONTEIN.



SINGLE STAMP



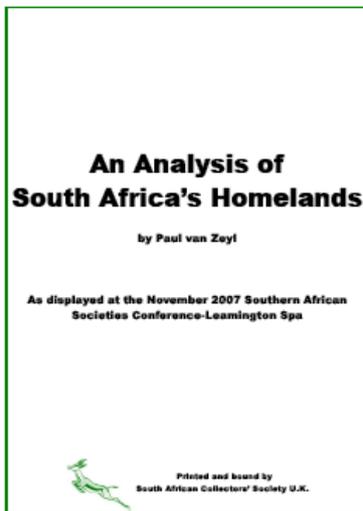
PANE OF SIX.



COMPLETE BOOKLET

## Additions to the SACS Study Collections

The following have been added to the list published in the last issue:  
Orders to the Editor at address in the front pages of this journal.

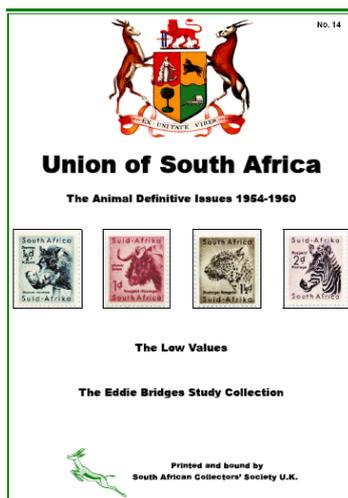


### SACS Study Collection # 13

An interesting Social History display of the development of the so called Homelands and the printing of stamps and postal stationery by the South African Government Printer for their postal systems.

Full colour copy-60 pages

Price: £12



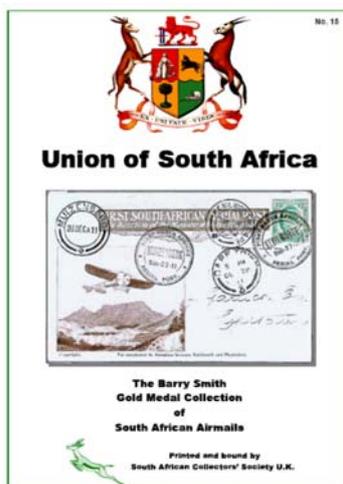
### SACS Study Collection # 14

A comprehensive listing of all the low value printings of the Animal Definitives of 1954.

As shown at a study meeting in London in Feb. 2008.

Full colour copy-120 pages

Price: £15



The Gold medal exhibit the Airmails of South Africa in the Union period with a few later crash covers.

Excellent reference for the early period which is now very difficult to put together.

Full colour copy-120 pages

Price £15

## Covers with mixed South African/American franking

by Nick Arrow

At Leamington Spa, I gave a short display of material related to the 4d triangular Union Stamp. The last item of that display was a cover (below) which appeared to have been sent from the district of Pony, Rustenberg near Pretoria.



I stated when introducing the display that the cover was carried by air in America under the scheme whereby mails from outside America could be accelerated for delivery within the USA, provided that the appropriate air fee was prepaid in American stamps, which were made available in the various countries by special arrangement. That part of what I said was accurate. I went on to say that, up until I had acquired my item, only 2 covers had been recorded, and whether

this was the second or possibly the third, I was not certain. That part of what I said is inaccurate.

After I had given the display, a member suggested that "PONY" did not refer to the district of Rustenberg at all, but in fact meant "Posted Overseas New York". What I should have done was to turn the cover over. What I actually did was to panic about it!

I wrote to the editor of the AAMC, who said that he had never heard of "PONY" being applied in America, and that the origin of the postmark was foreign to America. However, another mixed franking cover came up for sale, which seemed to have a distinct dot between the PO and the NY – see the copy of the extract of the reverse of the cover below.



It is intriguing that the date slugs in both of the Pony postmarks is totally illegible.

However, I then did what I should have done after Leamington Spa, and that was to look at the back of the first cover, which has a very clear Rustenberg postmark! By way of excuse, I can only say that Cheryl and I departed on holiday for 12 days in South Africa almost immediately after the Leamington Spa meeting, so my idiocy in not checking can perhaps be excused.

The “dot” between the PO and the NY of the second cover turned out to be what I suspected it to be when I bought it, namely a paper fault. The postmark cancelling the 4d triangular stamp in the second cover seems almost certainly to be Rustenberg – most of the top of the postmark “missed” the cover altogether, but the “R” is clear.

**So the following points are clear:**

- The original claim that there were only 2 recorded items with mixed SA/US stamps is wrong.
- It may be that there are only 2 commercial such covers (I have seen one of them, which was obviously commercial and, interestingly, had the US stamp cancelled in Cape Town, whence the cover emanated.
- Both my covers are clearly philatelic. As two have come comparatively easily into my possession, there surely must be some more out there.
- The total time from South Africa to New York was about 30 days. The delivery in the USA was extremely quick thanks to their Air Mail service – the items both reached Cleveland on the day that they arrived in New York.

The first cover was wrongly franked 10c – the air mail rate had been reduced to 5c on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1928. The second cover was correctly franked 5c. According to the most helpful editor of the AAMC “[t]he U.S. airmail stamp is from a Lindbergh booklet pane of 3, not often seen used this early” (which may mean much more to a collector of US philatelica than it does to me!).

However, the greatest mystery is why on earth Mr Meszaros arranged to have two covers sent to him with mixed SA/US franking? And why pick on someone in Pony to send him the covers, as clearly he must have done? Did he feel uncomfortable by the illegible nature of the Pony postmark on the first cover and hoped that the second would be better? Did he worry about the first cover being 5c overfranked on the American end – surely not as both covers are overfranked 1d the South African end as the rate to the USA was 3d, not 4d.

I cannot believe that he wanted these covers to extend a thematic collection of horses!

**RSA Study series on the Commemoratives**

The RSA Stamp Study Group is running a series where the commemoratives are revisited to see if anything new has surfaced. I will try and reproduce these short articles in *The Springbok*. This is done with due acknowledgement to the RSA Study Group who have given us permission to use material from their Newsletters.

**50th Anniversary of first SA Flight 01.12.1961**

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first occasion on which mail was conveyed by air in South Africa, namely 27 December 1911. The stamp portrays two types of aircraft, the old Bleriot monoplane used on that occasion and the latest Boeing 707, as used by South African Airways.

Pane layout: Horizontal sheet format 5 rows of 20 stamps

Control: Screened cylinder numbers inscribed at the bottom of the sheet’s left margin, opposite Row 5, stamp 1. The control block consists of four stamps.

Designer: Kobus Esterhuysen

<b>Printing:</b>	<b>CB/Plate nos.:</b>	<b>Watermark:</b>	<b>Paper:</b>
First	104/58	Coat of Arms	Thin
Second	104/58	Coat of Arms	Thick

**Varieties:**

- R1/11 Red dot above first 1 of 1961
- R1/14 White dot above 3 of 3c
- R2/12 Blue dot below 3c
- R4/7 Blue dot in cloud below R of Africa
- R5/6 Blue dot right of PO of Post



# WORLD WAR II: PRISONER OF WAR AND INTERNMENT CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR MAIL

J.B.R. Findlay and Rory Ryan  
Part 3

## POW Hospitals

POW hospitals were located at Clairwood, Far East Rand, George, Johannesburg, Loskop, Pietermaritzburg, Premier Mine, Wynberg (160 Military Hospital), Worcester and Zonderwater. There were possibly others. In addition to the above camps and their medical facilities, there was an **Aliens Hospital** at Krugersdorp, where POWs were treated. This might have been attached to the Krugersdorp Mental Hospital. On 14 October 1944, 10 Italian POWs from Durban Road Camp, Pietermaritzburg, were taken to this hospital. Scarcity rating: 10

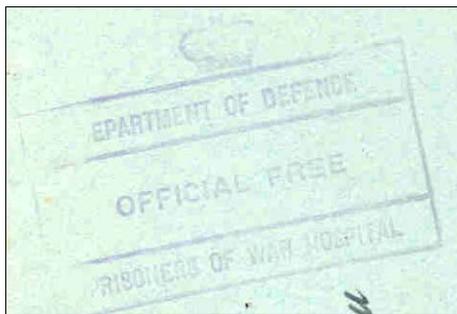


Illustration 73. POW Hospital, type 2

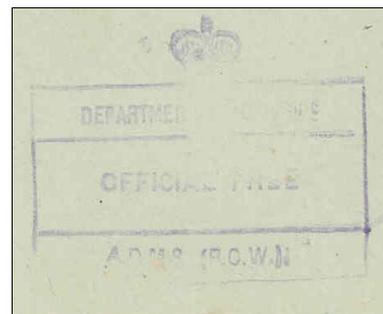


Illustration 74. A.D.M.S. (P.O.W.), type 2

## Outside Labour Camps

There were many construction projects on which the Italian POWs worked, such as buildings, roads and irrigation works. Many of these buildings are now preserved as national monuments. Some of the other works undertaken by Italian POWs -- which did not appear to have a formal POW or internment camp -- were as follows:

**Military Units:** POWs were utilized as cooks, waiters, gardeners and general labourers at 61 Air School (George), and it is likely that these POWs were administered from Worcester Camp. Similarly, POWs from Zonderwater were utilized in camps at Potchefstroom, such as OC Troops Officer's Mess, 1 Armoured Brigade Officer's Mess, Signals Training Centre, Youth Training Brigade and the Y.M.C.A. Other units and locations using POWs from Zonderwater include OFS Garrison messes (Tempe, Bloemfontein), 110 Military Hospital (Voortrekkerhoogte), 130 Military Hospital (Baragwanath), 8 Battalion Reserve Brigade (Ganspan), Prinshof Camp (Pretoria), HQ Mobile Field Force (Ermelo), Railways & Harbours Brigade (Mapleton Camp). POWs from Kroonstad were supplied to 6 Armoured Brigade in that town. An application for POW labour was received from the Anti-Aircraft Depot at Ottery, Wynberg, which was rejected as this was a prohibited area for POWs.

**Camp No. 121:** An outside labour camp near Worcester (SANDF Archives).

**Ceres:** A number of Italian POWs were employed in a fruit-exporting factory (see Gazzani, 1987).

**Greytown Camp:** This camp was situated 75 km north of Pietermaritzburg. The POWs probably constructed an irrigation scheme at Rietvlei on the Umvoti River. There is no record of POW numbers. Eight Vichy French officers were housed in the Plough Hotel in Greytown from June to September 1942, after which they were transferred to Koffiefontein Internment Camp.

**Mfuli River Dam, Nkwaleni:** Italian POWs are known to have built the dam on the Mfuli River, a tributary of the Uhlutuzi River, and the irrigation canal in the Nkwaleni Valley, Zululand. It is still functional at the time of writing.

**Mountain Park Hotel, Bulwer:** Italian POWs are known to have built this hotel, starting in 1942 (or 1943) and finishing it in 1945. Due to the war, there was a shortage of building material and the POWs did a fair amount of improvising. The Bulwer jail was converted into a fort during the 1906 Bambatha Rebellion; the Italian POWs were housed in the jail and in tents in the grounds while they were building the hotel.

## St. Elmo's Mission, Umzimbi:

Italian POWs were employed here.

It is interesting to note that, according to Rev. Junod (14 September 1945), 38 Italian POWs managed to escape. This relatively small number can be explained by the fact that after the capitulation of Italy, the Italian POWs in South Africa received better treatment and a greater degree of freedom, thereby making escape a less attractive option.

## Vichy French Detainees

On 23 April 1942 the Union of South Africa severed diplomatic and consular relations with Vichy France and, from that time, Switzerland represented the interests of French nationals in South Africa. Various French ships, for example, "Cap Padaram", "Cap Tourone", "Bangkok", "Compiegne", "Marechal Gallieni" and "Commandant Dorise", were impounded in South African ports towards the end of 1941 and early 1942. By 29 December 1941, there were 5,315 French detained of whom 2,154 had been repatriated. These French nationals were regarded as detainees rather than internees or POWs, and had a reasonable degree of freedom. There were many nationalities and affiliations among these French-speaking detainees, such as Free French, Vichy French, Indo-Chinese, Arabs, Malagasies, Martiniques and Senegalese. These were also classified as 'European' and 'non-European', according to the prevailing system of racial classification at the time. The majority was detained in the port cities. Port Elizabeth used the Air Force Station (which was not ideal) and all detainees were subsequently moved to East London, where they were accommodated at the Show Grounds. In Durban, detainees were held at Clairwood Camp and many were moved to the Durban Road Camp in Pietermaritzburg, which held 1,699 Vichy French on 18 December 1942. Many were held in a camp at Bethlehem and the French officers were generally accommodated in hotels in the Karoo such as at Cradock, Middelburg and Graaff-Reinet. Those Vichy French who were regarded as being pro-Nazi were moved to one of the internment camps. There was a plan to move all Vichy French to Iraq and Persia but this proved to be a problem, and Madagascar became the chosen destination. In June 1943, 1,614 French detainees were transferred to Madagascar and by 8 September 1944 all the Indo-Chinese (Annamites) had been transferred there. There were up to 78 French Foreign Legionnaires detained, initially in Andalusia and Bavianspoort camps (2 were in Jagersfontein and 8 in Koffiefontein camps) and in April 1946 there were 49 in Bavianspoort and 1 in Koffiefontein. It appears that the last Vichy French and the Legionnaires were repatriated in mid-1946.

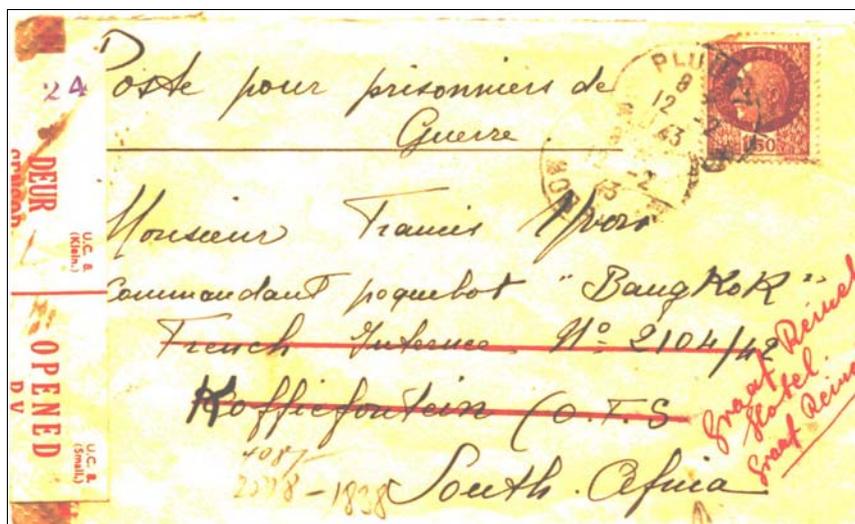


Illustration 75. Cover sent to the French Captain of the 'Bangkok'. Note that the cover is re-addressed to Graaf-Reinet, where he was kept under surveillance until repatriated. (Cover and information, Mullins) Also, see illustration 19.

## Mail Items From Prisoner of War and Internment Camps

On 27 August 1943, the South African High Commission in London, U.K., agreed to two conventions with the German and Italian governments regarding POWs. The conventions were the "**Special Agreement with the German Government arising out of the POW and Sick & Wounded Conventions**" and the "**Special Agreement with the Italian Government arising out of the POW and Sick & Wounded Conventions**".

Article 36 of these conventions stated that German generals were permitted to write and post 5 letters and 5 postcards per month; other officers were entitled to write 3 letters and 4 postcards per month and German other ranks were allowed 2 letters and 4 postcards per month. Letters were a maximum of 24 lines and postcards a maximum of 7 lines long.

The same article in the Italian convention allowed for officers and other ranks to write and post one letter and one postcard a week, a letter being defined as 24 lines and a postcard 10 lines. British, Dominion and Colonial POWs in German or Italian POW camps were entitled to "exactly similar" mail.

In addition, Articles 36 and 38 of both agreements state "Italian [German] Postal Authorities agreed to convey free of charge between Italy [Germany] and Lisbon letters and postcards to and from British POWs in return for free conveyance by British air service between the United Kingdom and Lisbon letters and postcards to and from Italian [German] POWs". Both services would be at "no charge". However, an additional clause stated, "POWs from British Dominions and Colonies and India in Italy [Germany] are permitted to prepay correspondence for transmission by air". The same conditions applied to Italian and German POWs in POW camps in the Dominions, the Colonies and India.

Letters to and from POWs and internees in South Africa were postage free for surface mail and 9d (3d plus 6d stamps only) for airmail, the postage rate at the time. Parcels also required prepayment.

Mail from POWs in camps in South Africa was not permitted to indicate geographical location in any way. This explains why there are very few POW mail items with a South African postal date stamp. In addition, it was prohibited for postcards and letters to be numbered in any way. No registered mail and no picture postcards were permitted to be sent to or by POWs. Two registered covers, one into Andalusia and one out of Andalusia (illustrated) are anomalous in this regard. The outgoing cover may have been from a member of the guard force. Censorship of the text in letters or postcards had to be done by means of ink or a similar substance, and not by means of cutting the words out.

Under the Prisoners of War Censorship Regulations of 1941, there was no restriction placed on the number of letters that a POW could receive. However, only "short" letters were permitted and the sender's name and address had to be clearly legible. There was a provision that postage stamps could be removed from mail. There were 200 examiners appointed in the Union, each with his or her own stamp and/or number; a list of the name and address of the sender and addressee of each censored letter was kept and a weekly report was required from each examiner. Any suspicious entries in letters had to be referred to the chief censor. The examiner was not permitted to write any remarks on the envelope and letter.

Article 9 of the Sick & Wounded Convention allowed for "protected personnel to write twice as many letters and postcards as POWs". Protected personnel included doctors, orderlies, nurses and chaplains. (Captured female army nurses were to be repatriated at the earliest possible convenience).

The UDF staff at the POW postal section at Zonderwater consisted of 1 x Lt or Capt, 1 x WO II, 1 x S/Sgt, 2 x Sgt, 1 x Cpl and a WAAS secretary, assisted by a number of POWs.

Post Office Circular 1173 refers to the handling of mail from Ganspan but not Jagersfontein and it is assumed that Ganspan serviced mail to and from Jagersfontein in view of the manuscript censor marks. Mail to and from Andalusia, Koffiefontein and Ganspan camps was censored in Bloemfontein. Similarly mail from Baviaanspoort Camp and Leeukop Camp was censored in Pretoria.

Air mail to and from POWs went through the office of the postal censor, POW Section, at the main post office in Cape Town (Room 616). An inventory of all letters received and dispatched was kept both at the POW camp and at the censor's office. It is likely that all mail to POWs went to the POW administrative headquarters at Zonderwater before being distributed.

A 5-line boxed cachet with "Prisonnier de Guerre / Prisoner of War / Krygsgevangene / Union of South Africa / Unie van Suid-Afrika" was applied to mail from POWs to overseas destinations (see illustration of POW post card, type 1, below). This 5-line cachet is also recorded without a box frame. The unboxed 5-line cachet is also recorded as having a 27mm "Y" at the right side with a manuscript "P19" (Dickson). It appears that these cachets were not applied to local mail or to postage free mail from non-POWs at the various camps.

A 4-line boxed cachet with "PRIONNIER DE GUERRE / PRISONER OF WAR / KRYGSGEVANGENE / BAVIAANSPOORT, PRETORIA" or "LEEUKOP, RIVONIA" and a similar 4-line, but unboxed cachet for Andalusia and Koffiefontein are known. The Ganspan and Jagersfontein internment camps do not appear to have had similar cachets.

Continued on next page....

POW cachets bearing the words "Prisoners of War Camp" and the name of the camp have been recorded from the following camps on mail items:

**Aliwal North**  
**Bultfontein**  
**Carolina Convalescent Depot**  
**Cookhouse**  
**Durban** (? Clairwood)  
**Du Toit's Kloof, Hugenoot, Paarl**  
**George/Montagu Pass**  
**Jessievale**  
**Kroonstad**  
**Pietermaritzburg**  
**Premier Mine** (=Zonderwater)  
**Roberts Heights**  
**Senekal**  
**Standerton**  
**Warmbaths**  
**Weza**  
**Worcester** (Office of the Paymaster)  
**Zonderwater** (Italian Postal Section)

Other POW mail items with a Department of Defence cachet have been recorded from "A.D.M.S. (P.O. W.)" (Assistant Directorate of Medical Services for POWs at Zonderwater), "Apostolic Delegation (P.O.W.)", "Durban", "Office, Outside Employment Officer, Premier Mine", "Prisoners of War Hospital", and "Zonderwater Premier Camp".

Dumb POW camp cachets, bearing the words "POW Camp" but not the name of the camp, have been recorded on mail with datestamps from Harding, Kroonstad and Zonderwater.

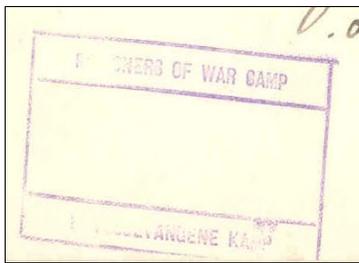


Illustration 76. Dumb POW Camp cachet, type 1

The "Department of the Interior" cachet is recorded on mail from Andalusia Internment Camp. The administration of internment camps was under this government department from 14 August to 22 September 1940. This cachet is recorded on items in the collections of Findlay, Dickson, Ryan and others.

**To be continued.....**

Part 4 will cover the pre-printed POW stationery

### Articles needed

The basket of articles is now empty. The next issue will be very thin if members do not put pen to paper and write a few short articles, items of interest etc.

*Desperate Editor!*

## SACS at Harrogate

by Eddie Bridges

SACS had a table at Harrogate with some back issues of The Springbok, past monographs as well as some collectors copies for sale to try and attract some new members. The table was manned by several members which attended the exhibition. Our thanks to them for putting in the time. Regrettably, we were unable to recruit new members. I was unfortunately not able to spend much time with the members due to judging commitments.

The exhibition was well organised and a fantastic array of material was on display.

Displays with a Southern African connection were those of:

Brian Hurst	British Bechuanaland	(1 Frame)	Gold
Keith Hanman	Natal Postal Stationery	(5 Frames)	Large Silver
Richard Solly*	Postal orders and postal notes in South Africa	(5 Frames)	Gold
Wendy Chandler*	RSA The Protea Definitives 1977-82	(5 Frames)	Silver-bronze
Alan Drysdall	Imperial Military Railways & Railway Pioneer Regiment	(5 Frames)	Gold

\* Members of SACS

Our congratulations to all especially our members who exhibited.

We also had a two visitors from South Africa who came by to say hallo. These were Harry Birkhead (Hon. Life Member of the Philatelic Federation of SA) and Joh Groenewald a well known and respected philatelist and co-author of many books on the Anglo Boer War. The took a keen interest in the activities of SACS.

### Table at Harrogate



Roy Ross who did the bulk of the time at the table together with his son.



From left to right: Eddie Bridges, Chris Oliver, Roy Ross, Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald (facing away)



# Argyll Etkin Limited

For

## **FINE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD**

Specialised material from most Countries - Artists' drawings, Essays,  
Proofs, Specimens, Postal Stationery, Stamp Boxes.

Items of Historical Interest  
including  
Royalty - both British and Foreign

\* \* \* \* \*

We have always had a particular interest in Southern African territories,  
and can usually offer an interesting range of material from those areas.

\* \* \* \* \*

We also undertake valuations of Philatelic & Historical material for all purposes,  
including insurance & probate.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **AUCTIONS**

We hold at least two major auctions per year, offering substantial collections and material  
which is relatively new to the market.

We are situated 100 yards from Piccadilly Circus - and welcome visitors  
Mondays to Fridays 9 - 5

**27 Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus,  
(Entrance in Jermyn St)  
London SW1Y 4UA, United Kingdom**

**Tel: 020 7437 7800      Fax: 020 7434 1060**

**E-mail: [philatelists@argyll-etkin.com](mailto:philatelists@argyll-etkin.com)**

**Website: [www.argyll-etkin.com](http://www.argyll-etkin.com)**



# Stephan Welz & Co.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

# Sotheby's

EST. 1744



## Postage Stamp and Postal History sales



SG 206a



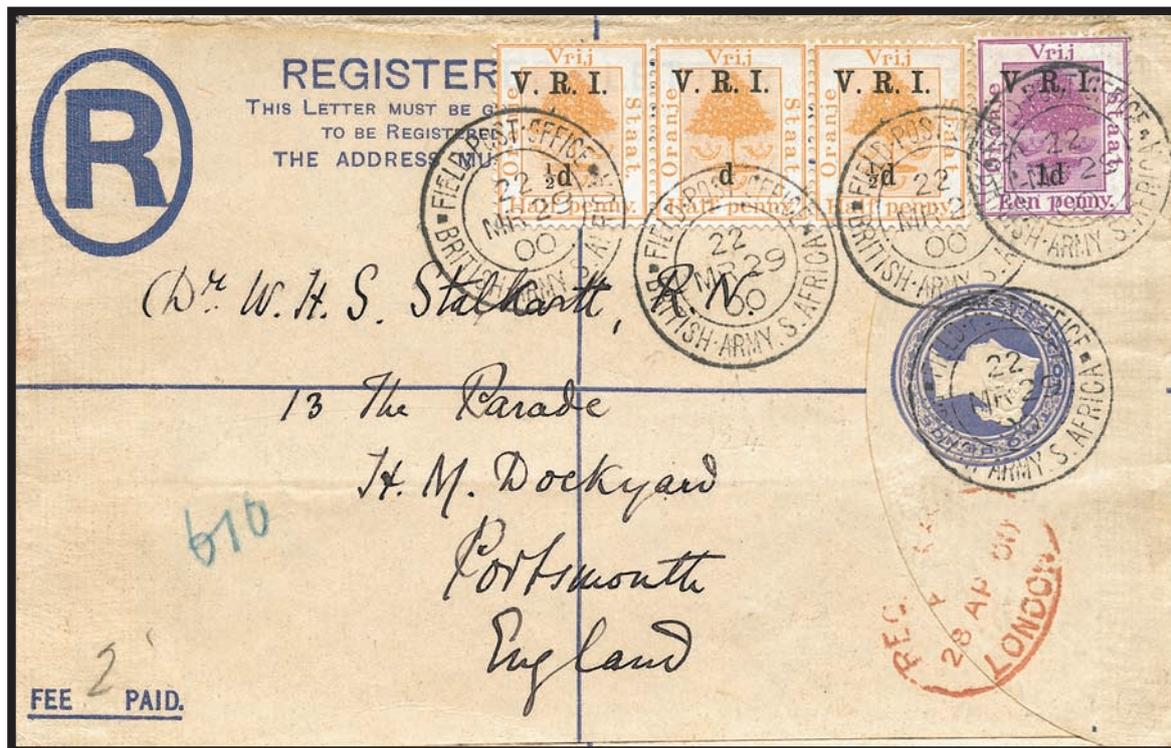
£1 Perf 15



5/- used in S.W.A.



Shifted overprint



Missing '1/2' in strip of three

ENQUIRIES: HOWARD GREEN, DANNY SWART OR MORNÈ DE LA GUERRE

Tel: (011) 880-3125/9 Fax: (011) 880-2656

E-Mail: [jhb@sothebys.co.za](mailto:jhb@sothebys.co.za)  
Stephan Welz & Co. (Pty) Ltd.  
(Reg. No. 68/14585/07)

13 Biermann Avenue, off Oxford Road, Rosebank, 2196  
P.O. Box 52431, Saxonwold 2132, South Africa.