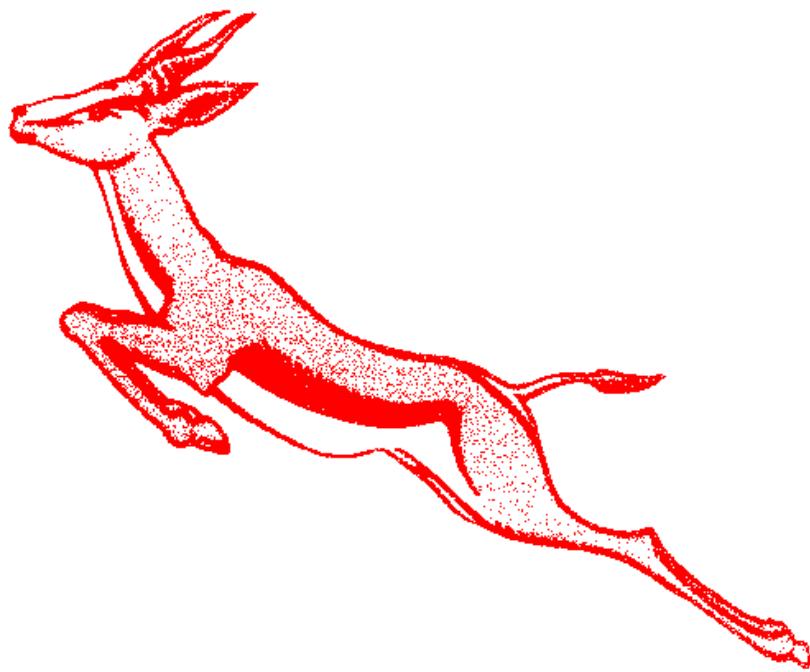


THE SPRINGBOK



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY**

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No. 4

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Max Whitlock, Eddie Bridges.

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

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

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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.	SACS Leicester meeting	Subject: Open meeting
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

We have come to the end of another year. It has been quite an eventful year with some interesting meetings and events arranged by your Officers Chris Oliver in the South and David Haig in the North. Once more a successful Conference was held despite many of the regulars who did not attend due to the Conference clashing with the Rhodesian Study Circle's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Cape Town. (Reports indicate that a good time was had by all in Cape Town!) Regional meetings were held, one successful and one not.

The Society membership is in a slow decline (our older members are closing their albums and we are not managing to recruit enough new members to keep the numbers steady) This is worrying despite our Society being one of the stronger specialist Societies. We all need to make an effort to attract more members. I know that I have laboured this point before, but we need to ensure there are collectors who will carry on where we leave off. Who will be interested in our stamps when we decide to stop?

The AGM was held in Leamington again and more will be reported in the next issue. Suffice to say, not much has changed. The committee has agreed to continue for another year and similar rumblings from the floor about the way our accounts are presented (this was raised last year as well). I must hasten to add that our finances are quite healthy.

One pleasing item was the members proposing that both Max Whitlock and myself be made Hon. Life members which was unanimously supported by all. Both Max and I are greatly honoured by your gesture.

This issue is rather late as December just disappeared and before I realised, it was almost Christmas. This reminds me to wish all our members a merry Christmas and a successful and fruitful search for those illusive items for your collection in the new year, despite the credit crunch!

Eddie Bridges

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 albums closed:

I have been advised of the death of Ralph Dickson [1121].

He had not been a member of the Society for very long (almost two years)

Members Resigned:

James Lucas [No.859] has advised that he has disposed of his South African philatelic material and will not, therefore, be renewing his membership in January 2009.

He thanks us all for help and assistance over the years.

New Members:

We welcome the following new members.

Douglas Wade of Caversham, Reading No. 1132

Anthony [Tony] Johnson of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire No. 1133

Subscriptions for 2009:

Your subscription renewal notice is included with this *Springbok*. Please remit to Chris Oliver.

At the A.G.M. on Saturday last it was agreed that Eddie Bridges and Max Whitlock should be made Honorary Members of the Society. My congratulations to them both.

New address

Simon Peetoom has advised that he now has a Post Box number which is as follows:

AfricaStamps, PO Box 740, Altrincham, WA15 5DG. UK.

See his advert below. He welcomes correspondence and your wants list if you are not connected to the web.



AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

Lutz Heffermann

(Publisher of the South African Stamp Colour Catalogue)

It was reported from several sources of the untimely death of Lutz Hefferman. Although not a member, he played an important part in South African Philately through publishing the South African Colour Catalogue. (SACC as it was abbreviated) This has been a shock to Southern African Philatelists world wide.

A summary of the details of his death was extracted from the report published in the Star newspaper in Johannesburg on 7/11/08.

Heffermann (67) was an Austrian Citizen who had come to South Africa decades ago. He ran a successful stamp shop and auction house and had a special interest in the Cape of Good Hope stamps-a series dating back to the mid 19th Century.

He was also the publisher of the South African Colour Catalogue, an internationally accredited guide to the regions stamps and was also in the process of writing a new handbook.

On Saturday, Heffermann had left his shop at around 1 pm and went home. It appears that he was ambushed in the garage of his house and shot dead. His body was discovered after nightfall by security guards. The garage door had been left ajar and his briefcase, cell phone and firearm had been taken.

Condolences were expressed for his wife and two daughters by Uli Bantz, President of the SWA Stamp Study Group. Acknowledgment to the editor of the SWA Stamp Study Group Newsletter from which the above was taken.

It would also be a sad loss if no one is found to continue publishing the SACC.

A further article on the life of Lutz was written by Wolfgang Meiss, a South African dealer and published in the South African Philatelist of Dec. 2008. I will not reproduce this here as most members get this journal.

Eddie Bridges

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Chairman awarded the W E Lee Cup

It is with great pleasure and pride that we can announce that our Chairman, John Shaw FRPSL, has been awarded the W E Lee Cup for his service to South African Philately. This award was announced at the 2008 Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and the presentation was made at the Royal Philatelic Society in December.

The citation in the South African Philatelist reads:

- **W E Lee Cup:** *John L Shaw MBE, for his service to South African Philately through the medium of the Springbok journal, (published in the UK) where he has served on the editorial team for 25 years.*

On behalf of the Society and its officers I would like to congratulate John on this well deserved award and recognition for his contribution to our society and the journal.



The photo on the right shows John receiving a replica of the cup from John Sacher, President of the Royal Philatelic Society.

Eddie Bridges

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.philatellicfriends.com

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Caslon Typeface

by Eddie Bridges

Many Union collectors will recall that most of the early typeface used for the overprinting of Union stamps was sourced from a Typeface supplier based in London namely William Caslon and Co. This well known company supplied the Union Government printer (possibly the Transvaal Government Printer from which the Union Government Printer was formed) with the type face for the overprinting of stamps for South West Africa, Officials for both the Union and SWA, and all the earlier stamps overprinted for revenue use such as Assize, Customs and entertainment Duty to name a few.

I went looking for a bit of background information on the company and found the following on the internet. I publish this here in the hope that other collectors will find it of some interest.

William Caslon was born in Cradley, Worcestershire in 1692. He was an engraver of firearms and a toolmaker trained in London where he set up business in 1716, and later became a punch-cutter supplying tools for the book-binding trade. Caslon was not only a superbly skilled craftsman and a talented artist, but also an excellent businessman. The fusion of these skills in the same man created the basis for his own professional success and the cornerstone for English type-founding.

William Caslon had a great marketing sense and in 1720 set up his own type foundry **adjacent** to the foundry at Oxford University Press. His business had been financed by two English printers - William Bowyer, Sr., and John Watts. In a decade Caslon became a leading type founder in London, and in 1734 he issued his first type specimen sheets. It displayed 38 fonts which included Titlings (7) from 16 to 60 pt., Roman and Italic (14) from 5 to 48 pt., Saxon (2), Black (2), Armenian, Coptic, Gothic, Samaritan (one of each), Syriac (1), Arabic (1), Hebrew (3), Greek (4), Flowers (7 designs). 35 of the 38 fonts were cut by Caslon himself. An amazing creative production from a superb artist-craftsman.

Caslon created type that was easy to read and masterfully simple in design. His typefaces were very popular both in Europe and the United States, and the Caslon Foundry became a major supplier to most of the leading printers on both continents. The American Declaration of Independence was printed in 1776 using Caslon type. Caslon created a tradition of artistic and functional excellence in type design that survives to this day, and it comes alive each time his classic characters are resurrected from the shelves of history. William Caslon died in 1766.

While the popularity of the classic Caslon face fluctuates with the times and tastes in fashion, it is most unlikely that they will ever be displaced because the Caslon designs *really work* and that provides them with historical staying power. It would be extremely difficult for even the most talented type designer in the world to improve on Caslon's natural flow of classical lines.

Reference: William Caslon, the cornerstone of English type design by Nicholas Fabian



William Caslon 1692-1766



Examples of overprints made using Caslon Type Face



Report on the Carlisle Meeting September 2008

by Malcolm Ridsdale

Meeting held at the County Hotel, Carlisle on Saturday 20th September 2008

Attendees – 16 Members (list with Malcolm Ridsdale)

Apologies – Jim Grasson, Chris Oliver and Eddie Bridges

David Haig opened the meeting in the Chair and welcomed everybody to the 33rd meeting.

Items through the Chair

DH reminded members that the next Carlisle meeting was booked for the 28th March 2009. The topic for the meeting would be Open House.

The second meeting of the year would be held on the 26th September 2009. The topic at that meeting would be South African sports and pastimes.

Other Officer Reports

Bill Branney

Reported that no packets had gone astray during this last year. However, as always he was still requiring more material for the packets and the auctions.

After general discussion it was agreed that SWA material would be included in the packets. Although BB felt it was always difficult to please everyone he would try to put a little of everything in the packets and this could include SWA, Homelands and States.

Malcolm Ridsdale

Reported that there was some interest in the library contents and some members old and new had contacted MR to borrow or to get copies of information.

Copies of recently advertised books in The Springbok were to be added to the library together with the new book on SA Airmails written by Nick Arrow.

Max Whitlock

MW reported that the cover packets were in general successfully making their rounds with one or two delays because of holidays.

Around the Table

Eric Hammond

Was visiting South Africa over Christmas/New Year and would be happy to look for postal items if members contacted him.

Ray Glanville – Jones

RGJ had news of later covers from the Cape Town Exhibition as well as covers dated before the February published start date.

Godfrey Mellor

Commented that Fred Clark's collection was planned for auction in November but was delayed due to probate of FC's will.

Made the point that the Leamington Spa meeting was well worth the trip and the auction within it had some good items.

John Hair

Had been welcomed as a new member and shared that his particular interests were George VI, provincials and unissued printings.

Wendy Chandler

Also welcomed to her first meeting and her interest in flowers on stamps gave her a link into South African philately through the Protea definitives. WC wished it to be put on record how much she appreciated the valuable advice of society members.

Giovanni Palazzo

Commented that an auction item sent to him by BB had taken an additional eight weeks to get to him because of a 3p underpayment!

John Ahmad

Still beavering away with WW2 philately and especially POW mail.

Max Whitlock

Is able to offer unused GB stamps at 85% face value in £10 lots.

Abel Trophy

There were three entrants

Giovanni Palazzo

His display was Revenues used in Natal which traced the history of registry of deeds using Cape Colony cut outs endorsed with characteristic writing during the 1860's period.

Wendy Chandler

Displayed Protea definitives including imperf pairs, differing perforations, shades, printings and missing colours.

Bill Branney

Displayed a range of issues from Group 2 of the first definitives.

After careful consideration the members present voted that Giovanni should be awarded the Trophy.

Displays

David Haig

Displayed unmounted mint across all the Homelands issues

Wendy Chandler

Displayed more of her Proteas including flaws, errors, varieties represented in blocks, strips, pairs as well as flaws in the coils issues

John Leddington

Displayed SWA including early German Issues on covers, railway postmarks, censor marks, POW camp covers and WW2 censor covers.

Bill Branney

Displayed the 2nd Republic "fish and chips" definitives including corner blocks, strips, mis – perforations, smudging of ink, part sheets and missing date / plate numbers.

Godfrey Mellor

Displayed 60 years of flight 1934 to 1994, including covers with SA airport cancels and overseas cancels where SAA fly to.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.00pm

SACS Study Collections

Our South African representative, Cedric Roche has advised that if any of our South African members are interested in acquiring some of these copies, they should let him know (e-mail address the inside front cover) and he will make up a bulk order to save on shipping/postage costs. These can then be paid for in local currency at the going exchange rate to Cedric.

Currently, there are 15 of these study collections available. (see The Springbok Issues 1 and 2 of 2008)
Further copies are in preparation and hopefully we will be able to offer these in 2009.

All other orders to the Editor please.

Proceeds are to be used towards funding of the Centenary Exhibition to be staged by SACS in London 2010.
See advert on next page.

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.

Report on the London Meeting December 2008

by Chris Oliver

The date for the meeting had been changed as the Swedish Church could not accommodate us now on 6th December. All members had been advised of this by e-mail or telephone. (*I should have added a note to Issue 3 but forgot this. My apologies. Ed.*)

The meeting started promptly at 13.30hrs as two of our number needed to make an early departure. The open theme for the afternoon was " Anything including South Africa" This had been modified at the request of some members who felt that S.A.C.S. meetings should be used for displays of South African material. Seven members were present.

Our Chairman, John Shaw, arrived a little late but was applauded, in his absence, upon his award of the W E Lee Cup by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, for lifetime services to South African Philately. This award is rarely awarded to non-residents of South Africa and, indeed, the heavy cup does not leave the country. Alan Drysdall, RDP brought a replica cup from South Africa and this was presented to John by the President of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 27th November 2008. A photograph of the presentation by John Sacher, CBE appears elsewhere in this magazine.

It was agreed that the Society would have a table at Midpex 2009.

Chris Oliver had purchased 20 medals for the Abell Trophy which were similar but larger than those already awarded. The Springbok may look more like Thompson's gazelle!!

Tony Howgrave-Graham showed some fine examples of Interprovincial use of Revenue stamps. These were, mainly, those kept in the day book by the Sheriff of Natal.

Brian Trotter displayed some postal history of Basutoland during the Gun Wars, when, for a short period, the territory was under the control of Cape Colony. An unsuccessful attempt was made to disarm the Basutos' who eventually were allowed to retain their weapons providing that these were registered.

Simon Peetoom tabled some examples of skeleton postmarks from smaller post offices in South Africa circa 1946/8. He had an extensive accumulation of these and intended to research the use of these marks.

Eric Day displayed the B.S.A.C. period stamps of Rhodesia including some scarce printings of the Admiral heads. Eric had recently visited Cape Town for the Rhodesian Study Circle 60th anniversary celebration. He brought a copy of the well produced handbook issued for the event for us to see.

Chris Oliver tabled some pages of Angola border military mail. Much of this was not written-up as research of the censor and postal markings is difficult, particularly in the later years of the conflict.

John Shaw displayed his study of the 5/- Ox wagon Pictorial issue for those who had not seen this at Leamington Spa. He then gave a display of the 1948 La Paz and Sports issues of Bolivia including a number of miniature sheets, some with errors.

The Secretary thanked those who had attended the meeting and particularly John Shaw who, as usual, provided some excellent sandwiches. John does not often get thanked for this as he writes the report, on most occasions.

Response to the query from Richard Barnett

Member John Ahmed has responded as follows:

The letters are in fact 'PBC', the initials standing for 'Passed by Censor'. This was most likely applied by the censor at Bloemfontein.

I have looked at the cover carefully, bearing in mind it is only a scan, but the suspected "C" looks like an "O" to me. Any other members have anything similar? Further comments would be welcome. Ed.



New Book and the Union Aerogrammes Overprinted for Bechuanaland

By Peter Thy

Eddie Bridges and the South African Collectors Society have published a specialized study of the Union aerogrammes. It treats the stampless air letter cards, including British cards used by South African troops, the honour cards, South African produced stampless cards, the Jewish New Year air letter cards, the stampless Christmas cards, Korean airmail letter cards, and the Springbok cards. Included is an extensive specialist treatment of the military 3d active service and airmail letter cards. A similar treatment is given to the various 6d civilian letter cards issued from 1944 to 1961 as well as the inland cards issued from 1948.

Of special interest to collectors of Bechuanaland postal stationery are the various air letter cards that were overprinted and used in Bechuanaland Protectorate during World War II. These are among the most complex Union aerogrammes since they were printed using several dies, printing plates, papers, gum applications, and cutting knives. To make things even more complicated, many of the aerogrammes have serial numbers. Bridges does a very good job of sorting the basic features out, but still manage to leaves us with unanswered questions.

The Union 3d active and airmail letter cards were released without overprint in the Protectorate during the late 1941 for use to soldiers on active service in the Middle East. These envelopes are very rarely seen used in the Protectorate to the Middle East with only a hand-full known. The Union 3d military air letter cards overprinted for Bechuanaland were released in 1944 with the same general purpose and likewise are very rare with only one example known addressed to the Middle East. The majority was used after the war, either uprated to the oversea 6d civilian rate or used to South Africa for which the sheets overpaid the postwar airmail rates (philatelic and cancelled to order cards are abundant). The civilian 6d sheets were overprinted the same year and are much more common than the genuine used military cards.

Bridges' book offers an opportunity to evaluate which of the Union cards that were either used in or overprinted for Bechuanaland. The only card without overprint that with certainty is known to have originated in the Protectorate was used 1944 in Serowe and addressed to a soldier serving with the Central Mediterranean Forces (the remaining was probably obtained in the Union and forwarded to the Protectorate under cover for forwarding, see Thy, 2002) (see discussion above). The card type was of the last Active Service Letter Cards issued in the Union during the early 1944 (MAL 9). It is plausible that earlier three issues (1941-43) were also made available in the Protectorate since first authorized on November 12, 1941. The fact that the last Union issue is known to have been used suggests that the need for these cards must have been substantial enough to require the requisition of additional cards, at least in Serowe. It would be interesting to know whether both the English and the Afrikaans versions were available in the Protectorate.

The overprinting of the cards were done on both Union printings (1943-45) identifiable by paper and as pointed out by Thy and Inglefield-Watson (2004) also by cutting knife. The cards issued in the Protectorate included both the English and the Afrikaans versions. An interesting point made by Bridges is that the English version was issued in the Union before the Afrikaans version.

The civilian 6d cards were overprinted and released in the Protectorate on October 3, 1944. Only 10,800 overprinted cards were prepared from the first Union card issued the same date. Bridges points out that the printings of these cards were done with two printing plates of each six cards. It is thus possible to distinguish 12 different cards using the position of the imprinted stamps relatively to the stamp area box. This plating remains to be done for the Bechuanaland cards. It is possible that these, because of the low numbers of overprinted cards, were prepared from cards produced from only one of the plates and even from only a subset of the possible plate positions.

The cards according to Bridges were produced using the Goebels 830 printing machine at the Government Printing Works in Pretoria. The appearance of 5-digits cyclometer numbers on many of the cards, identifies the printing press as being the Goebels machine. We have previously discussed (Thy and Inglefield-Watson, 2003) the appearance of serial numbers on the Bechuanaland cards and had concluded that these were unrelated to the printing. This conclusion may, however, not survive consideration of the whole sample of Union cards as well as consideration of the printing press. The layout of the six sheets on the printing cylinder is still not known, specifically with respect to the two language settings. Also the appearance of the serial numbers and many features of the printing knife (or cutting die) still offer several unaccounted questions for future research. Bridges graciously leaves many of these detailed questions with future researchers.

The Union Aerogramme book by Eddie Bridges offers an excellent summary of the existing knowledge of the subject using existing sources. It provides the basic knowledge and outlines future research. As such it belongs in the library of the collectors of southern African stationery as well as general aerogramme collectors. The author and the South African Collectors Society should be congratulated with writing and publishing this book.

continued on next page....

References:

- Bridges, E., 2004. The Aerogrammes of the Union of South Africa, 1942-1961. South African Collectors Society.
- Thy, P., 2002. South African active service letter cards used in Bechuanaland. Runner Post 55, 1336-1337.
- Thy, P., and Inglefield-Watson, J., 2003. The serial numbers on Bechuanaland air letter sheets. Runner Post 57, 1398-1403.

The articles from the Runner Post are available from <http://www.kronestamps.dk/corrections/>.

A further Postal History query from Richard Barnett



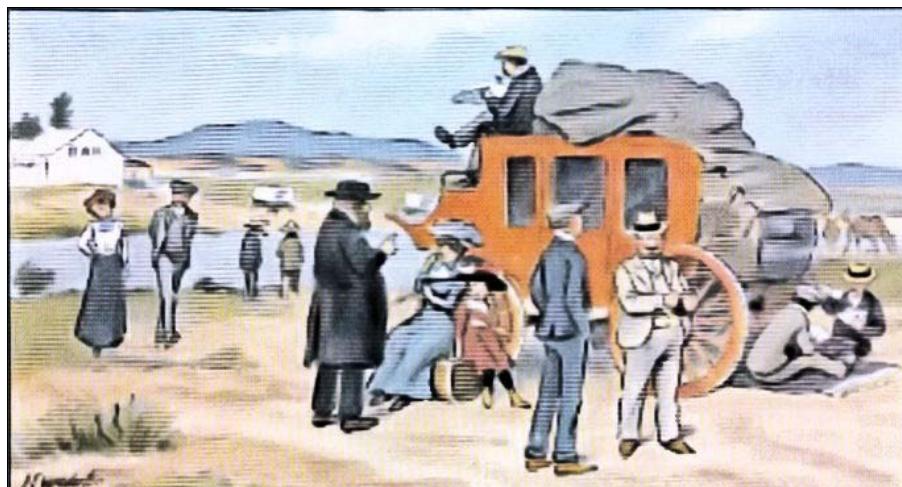
This surcharged cover posted on 14 August 1918 at Wakkerstroom which bears a 1d KGV impressed stamp, the correct rate for internal mail. Does anyone know why, I presume, the stamp was not accepted as valid?

If any member can help out, please contact the editor and Richard please.

Richard's e-mail address is richdiane@uwclub.net

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Union Active Service Letter Card Used 1944 in Serowe

By Peter Thy

The Union of South African 3d Air Mail Letter Cards were authorized for use in Bechuanaland (without overprinting) as postage for mailing to (and only to) 'members of the Forces in East and North Africa.' The official note was dated 12th November 1941 and is illustrated in Figure 1. Although not specified in the official notice, it must be assumed that this authorization also included the Active Service Letter Cards (1941-43) as well as the later Air Mail Letter Cards (1943-45). It must also be assumed that their area of use expanded as the war theatres evolved (as far as is known, Bechuanaland soldiers never served in East Africa). The first overprinted military letter cards intended for the same usage was issued in Bechuanaland on October 3, 1944, and replaced the Union cards.

In an article in the Runner Post (55, p. 1356-7, 2002), we surveyed the genuine usage of these various cards to military addresses from the Protectorate. We were able to report three examples all judged to be philatelic and not to have been purchased in Bechuanaland. They all originated in South Africa and were addressed to a Union soldier served in the Middle East Forces and were mailed to the Postmaster of Francistown for forwarding.

The Active Service Letter Card illustrated in Figure 2 is the only known example genuinely used in Bechuanaland and addressed to a Bechuanaland soldier serving with the African Pioneer Corps of the Central Mediterranean Forces. The card was mailed in Serowe on 20 September 1944 and addressed to 8004 Morake Keitseope, 1969 (Bechuana) Coy., A.P.C., C.M.F. The address was corrected to 1981 Coy (1961 Coy did not exist) and got a FIELD POSTOFFICE 385 receiving mark of October 15, 1944, on the reverse (Figure 3). The card thus took about 27 days to reach the soldier in the field. F.P.O. 385 is known to have been located in Italy from early 1944 to the end of the war. The card contains a short typewritten message (Figure 4) dated September 18, 1944, and signed by Tshekedi Khama, acting chief of the Ngwato (1926-50). The message reads in approximate English translation: 'I am letting you know that I received the money you sent me. It is £10.5/- and I have saved it as you asked, I am ...' (thanks to Peter Lodoen for the translation).

Bechuana 1981 was one of two companies (the other was 1980) that in October, 1943, was transferred to Italy to provide continued support for the Eighth Army's offensive. Coy 1981 was engaged during August, 1944, in dock work at Ancona and the nearby railhead at Jesi on the Adriatic Sea coast. Later, the company moved forward to Rimini for rail support and mule tending. The letter card thus likely was received somewhere in Northern Italy. The primary source for the troop movements is based on Bent (1952). Two recent scholarly studies on the Bechuanaland pioneers by Jackson (1999) and Schmitt (2006) also contain a wealth of information on the background and history of the African Pioneers that is of interest to the postal historians.

This is indeed a very rare aerogramme despite the less than perfect appearance. It is at this point the only known example of the South African letter cards genuinely used in Bechuanaland the way they were intended to be used. This type of card should be included in the next edition of the stationery book.

References:

- Bent, R.A.R., 1952. Ten Thousand Men of Africa. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.
Jackson, A., 1999. Botswana 1939-1945. An African Country at War. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
Schmitt, D.A., 2006. The Bechuanaland Pioneers and Gunners. Praeger, Westport, Connecticut.
Thy, P., 2002. South African Active Service Letter Cards used in Bechuanaland. Runner Post 55, 1356-1357.

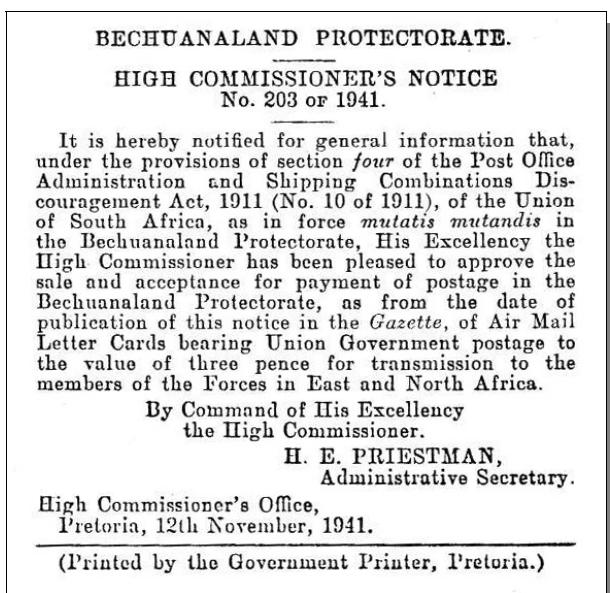


Figure 1. Official Notice 203 of 1941.



Figure 2. SA Active Service Letter Card used in Bechuanaland.

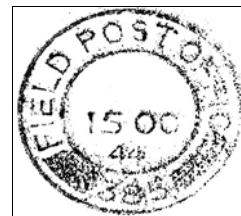


Figure 3. F.P.O. 385.

Postal Stationery with UPU Markings

Mike Smith has sent this short note on the above for which we are grateful. It fills in some further details as to the background of these items as reported in Vol. 56/3

"I am sure that these are from the UPU archive in Berne.

Alan Huggins acquired the wrappers from the holding some time ago, I think from Stanley Gibbons who had acquired all of the material. I acquired the ORC wrappers and the annotations are similar to those on your items.

Help wanted

Member Mike Robinson, (mike@nwbirds.co.uk) has missed a few modern RSA issues and wonders if anyone can help with the following:

SACC 1533-1537 Setenant strip of 5 flowers and SACC 1840-1845 vertical strip of 5 Union Castle Line Ships.
If anyone has some spare please contact Mike at the e-mail address above.

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contact

John-Peter Wharton-Hood

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Fax: +27 (0)11 478 2458

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Union of South Africa: The Pictorial Definitives of 1926-54

How to distinguish the Major Printings

Eddie Bridges

Part 8

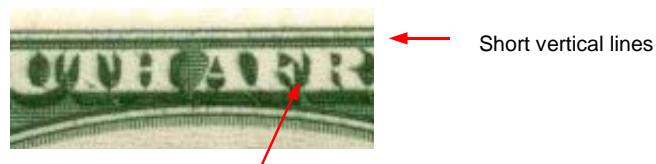
The Five Shilling Ox wagon outspanned



1927

Recess printing by Bradbury Wilkinson
Colour: Black and Green. The green background is filled with horizontal lines. Between the country name and the upper border there are, however, a lot of very short, nearly vertical lines. The left side of the vertical leg in the 'R' of 'AFRICA' is uneven and slopes somewhat. 'SUIDAFRIKA' is not hyphenated.

Design details



1933 - 1948

Printed by Rotogravure at the Government Printer in Pretoria. (size reduced to 27x21.75 mm)
Colour: Grey-black and myrtle-green (1933) with shades of green, Blue-green (1944) through to grey-green for the last printings.
There are no near-vertical lines between the country name and the border.
Horizontal lines are coarser and cruder.
The left side of the vertical leg in the 'R' in 'AFRICA' is smooth and vertical. 'SUID-AFRIKA' is hyphenated.

Design details





1949

Printing Screened Rotogravure at the Government Printer in Pretoria.

Colour: Black and Pale Blue-green. Printed from new cylinders with design in fully screened rotogravure. Design is composed of very small squares of colour arranged in straight diagonal lines.

Design details



Screened printing with small squares in the design



1954

Printing Rotogravure by the Government Printer in Pretoria.

Colour: Black and Deep Yellow-green. Redesigned 'U' in "SOUTH" in which the projections are lost. the 'U' in 'SUID', however remained unchanged. Furthermore the colour of the frame is distinctly different.

This was issued in January 1954 but replaced by the new animal design in October of the same year.

Design details



"U" in South now changed and rounded without the small projections.

"U" in South with small projection as in previous printings

Summary of the 5/- Issues

There are also many shades of the various printings as they appeared. Sheet numbers in the right margins also assist in identifying printings as these appeared in various forms. 4 figure black, blue and red. As far as known, no 5 figure black serial numbers appeared in the margins of the 5/- sheets. If any member has seen or has any, please let the author know.

		UHB #	Issue	Plate/cylinder numbers	Date
Bradbury Recess printed 14	Perf. Group I	31	1	(1) and (1x)	1927
Bradbury Recess printed 14x13½	Perf. Group II	31A	1	(1) and (1x)	1927
Bradbury Recess printed 14x13½	Perf. Group III	31B	1	(1) and (1x)	1927
Hyphenated Rotogravure Printing		52	1	6929 & 41	1933
Hyphenated Rotogravure Printing		52A	2	36 & 6925	1949
Hyphenated Rotogravure Printing		52B	3	8 & 72	1954

Notes:

The first Hyphenated Rotogravure issues had the watermark inverted and the later issues with frames in green, blue-green and grey green, the watermark was upright.

Issue 3 was on sale for a comparatively short time as the Animal definitives were introduced in October 1954.

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:

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World War II: Prisoner of War and Internment Camps in South Africa

by Chris Oliver

I was pleased to read, in the Springbok, the articles on the above subject serialising the contents of the excellent book, written by Jim Findlay and Rory Ryan, which is rapidly becoming a bible on the subject to those who are interested in this material. The Philatelic Federation of South Africa published the book. Messrs. Findlay and Ryan emphasise that their study, as published, is by no means complete, so I have a few queries, which I would wish to address to the writers:

An item, in my collection, has an Andalusia Camp cachet type 5 [as illustration 6] but without the crown. (Fig. 1)

Italian P.O.W. 9, pre-printed postal stationery exists in two types of letter sheet, unlisted,

Type 4a / CT / black / 11.42 / 500M / Taglia qui (Fig. 2)

Type 9 / GP / black / 1942-3 / 720,000 / -- (Fig. 3)

and two P.O.W.10 cards,

Type 1a / GP / 1941-2 / 500,000 / 140 x 90mm. / Italian (Fig. 4)

Type 4 / GP / 1942-3 / 750,000 / 136 x 85mm. / Italian (Fig. 5)

Five line censor cachets on these postal stationery items also occur boxed, in upper case lettering on letter sheets only (Fig. 6), and in lower case on both letters and cards (Figs. 7 & 8). The five line trilingual cachet with a "Y" also appears on a postal stationery card type 6 (Fig. 9).

Type 7 P.O.W. letter sheet is, as stated, very difficult to find.

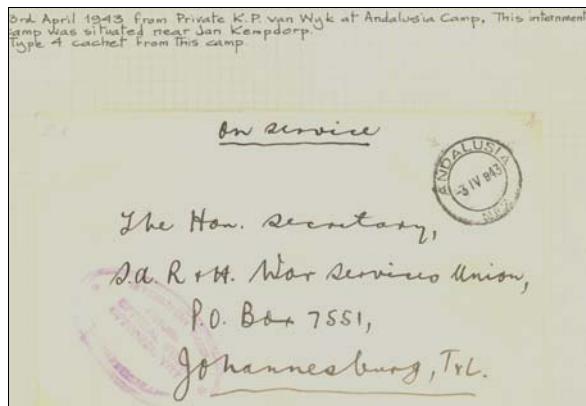


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

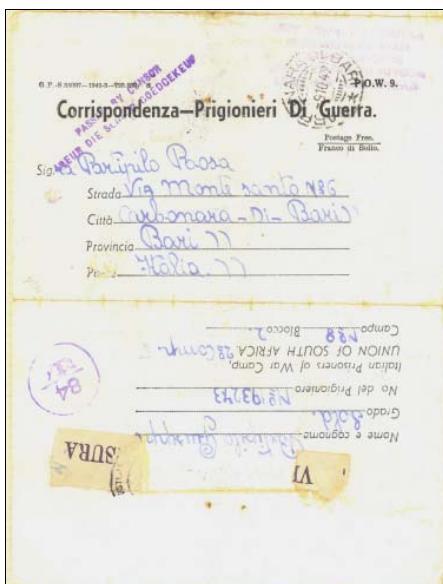


Fig. 3

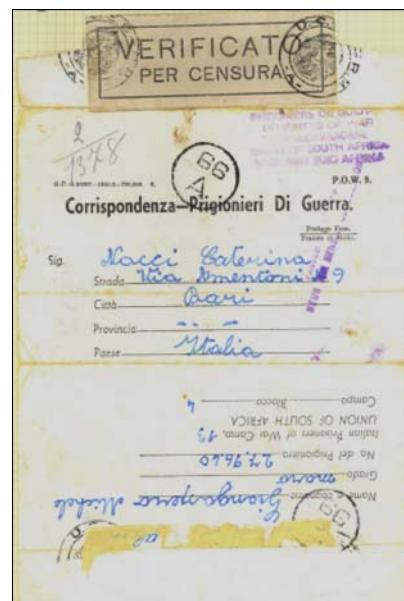




Fig. 4 Front

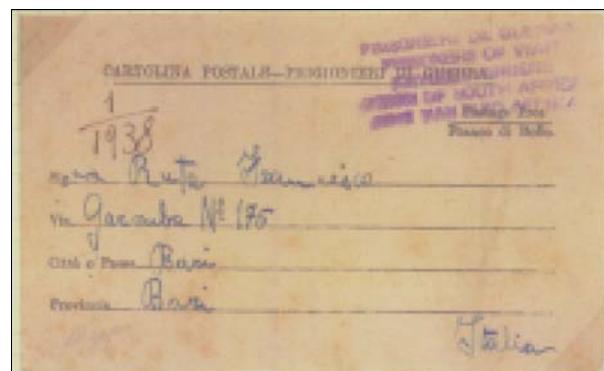


Fig. 4 Reverse

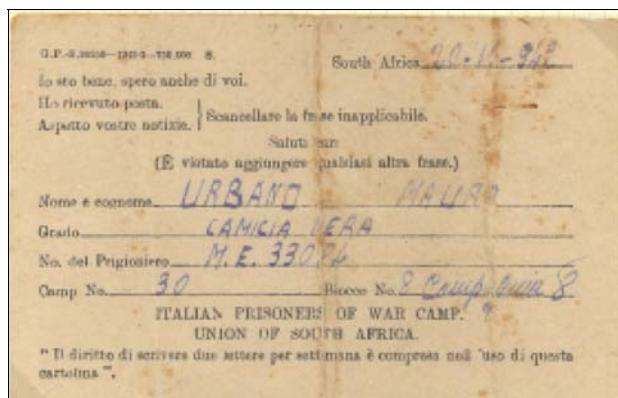


Fig. 5 Front

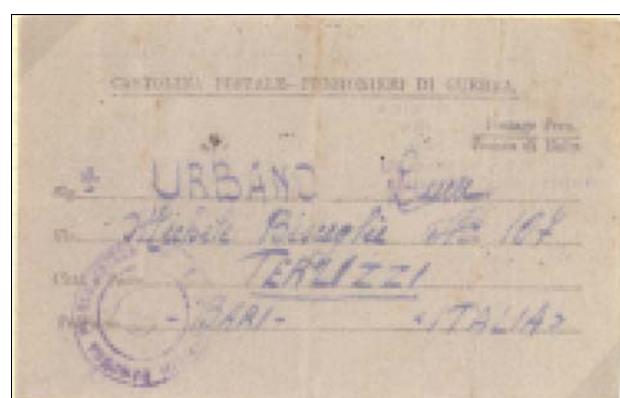


Fig. 5 Reverse

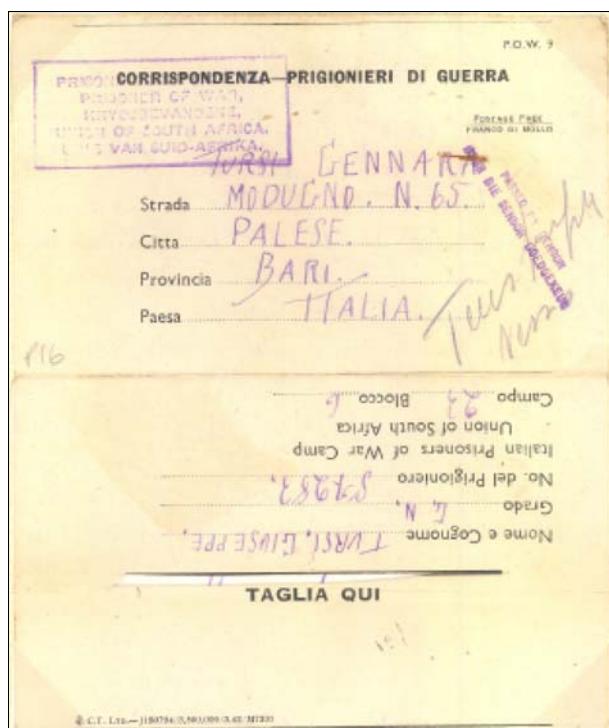


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

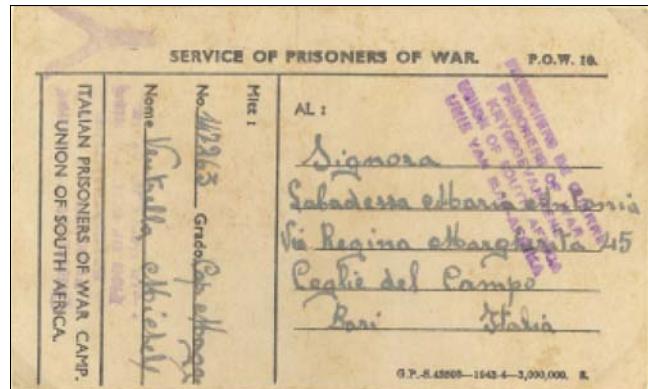


Fig. 9

The 25th Anniversary Issue publication of the R.S.A. Stamp Study Group.

Edited by Theo Swart and issued in December 2007 to mark the silver anniversary of the Group.

At 202 pages this paperback volume measures 25 x 17.8 cm. Well illustrated with good colour reproduction and excellent detail, the publication is an admirable achievement and a good read for all those interested in the philately of the Republic of South Africa.

The prime design in which this publication succeeds is the promotion of philately as a hobby and shows the diligence of the Study Group. In the article concerning the history of the Study Group, the author is quite open about their achievements and their failings over the twenty-five years of existence. There are articles by many contributors, which helps in emphasising the fact that Study Group co-operates well both as a group, with the Postal Services and with other Societies devoted to the hobby. This was the case when Herman Steyn was created Director of the Postal Services and has continued since.

The Study Group is noted for its organised and detailed research into the stamps & postal stationery of South Africa. The publication reflects this organised style by dividing the publication into sections, on the groups' history; an insight into the errors of the definitive issues; a description of the postal rate changes; overviews of the commemorative stamp issues; details of various postal stationery items and concludes with two pages on postal markings.

It has no index but does not need one. The copy, which I have, was priced at R300. A valuable edition to the library and a commendable effort by the R.S.A. Study Group for which the S.A.C.S. congratulates them and wishes them well for the next 25 years.

Chris Oliver

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.

We are also planning a publication to coincide with our in 2010 and need some articles on the history of the Society, background to the history of the Union of South Africa, the printing of its stamps etc.

Proposals and volunteers sought!!!

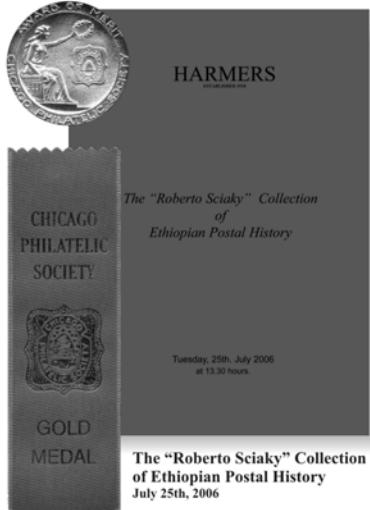
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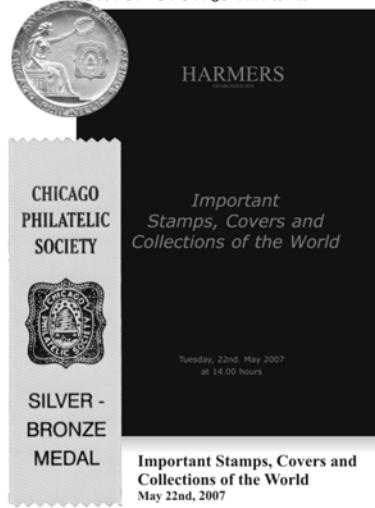
Vermeil Award



Silver Award



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Southern African Philatelic Conference 2008

Report by Chris Board and Chris Oliver

Some 30 members of one or more philatelic societies devoted to Southern Africa assembled at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa between 7 and 9 November. A now familiar format of longer displays occupied us on Saturday, shorter mostly one or two frame displays came on Sunday morning. The auction of some 400 lots handled by Tony Howgrave-Graham assisted by Susan Oliver followed lunch and was both animated and friendly.

Brian Trotter, who had organised the programme welcomed regular attendees and new faces, which included a member of SACS from Oslo, Norway. Three dealers helped us to part with our spare cash.

The programme was once again varied in terms of types of material and geographical coverage. Eddie Bridges showed us Basutoland from missionary mail, through the Cape and Union administration and stamps to its own issues. The puzzle of a possible British Army establishment there during the Boer War was raised, as was the absence of information on postal stationery in recent listings. Michael Smith displayed a comprehensive collection of postal stationery of the Orange River Colony 1900-1910. He was followed by John Sussex¹'s display of South West Africa from the German period to the use and overprinting of the Union's stamps followed up by its stationery, postage due and official stamps all overprinted for SWA. South African airmails from early experimental flights to routine mail services were reviewed by Nick Arrow with some fascinating examples of services affected by the effects of bad weather or war, Tony Howgrave-Graham treated us to the numerous sets of Official overprints on Union pictorials. Were errors deliberate or accidental e.g. in the case of the diaresis. Finally Sebastian Payne presented a Powerpoint typology of Union parcel cancellations. Their natural wastage and unpopularity make them unusual and rare. The South Afrtican Collectors¹ Society held its AGM just before an annual dinner at which Michael Smith was awarded the Tony Chilton Trophy for the best display in the day. Rumour had it that the hotel's supply of our special Château Trottoir wine had run out before the end of the evening.

Sunday meeting at the Southern African Societies Conference 9.11.2008.

On Sunday morning, soon after 9.30, general displays by attendees commenced with John Shaw's study of the 5/- Ox wagon Pictorial issue from the Bradbury Wilkinson recess printing to the stereo processed overprinted Official of 1954. The display comprised the scarce inverted watermark and many varieties including all of those listed by Hagger.

Tony Howgrave-Graham produced some rare early S.W.A. cancels which included, with others, an Otabe manuscript and some perished rubber marks from Otjiwarongo, Otavifontein and a temporary Brakwaser rail cancellation. Tony concluded with a cover from a P.O.W. officer in Albrecht's Camp.

Routes and rates on Cape mail were brought to life by Robert Johnson who had divided the destination mail into distinct groups, domestic, clerical, political, military and trade / commerce. He showed, with other items, missionary mail from Finns and Germans and American whalers from Massachusetts.

Republican P.O. bulletins and official photographs of the early commemorative stamps and first definitive issue, circa 1961/3, formed the basis Godfrey Mellor's display, augmented by the actual stamps.

Brian Hurst showed Bechuanaland ½d, 1d and 2½d stamps of 1903 including plates and overprint varieties.

The Boer invasion of North Natal was the subject of Richard Stock's presentation.

Chris Board postulated that the Union ½d pictorial postal card, which had a ½d adhesive stamp added before circulation, was issued in 1931 prior to the 1d pictorial postal card which was issued later that year. Chris also showed how 24 of the 36 tourism publicity photographs which were produced by S.A. Railways for the Wembley exhibition, were used for the later ½d pictorial postal cards of 1934. This accounted for the non-sequential numbering, in black, on the reverse of the card.

Otto Peetoom displayed (almost) 100 years of Rhodesian postage due stamps and marks, from B.S.A.Co. to 1979. Alan Harley showed some examples of Z.A.R. mail interrupted because of the Boer war.

Chris Board then led us for the Armistice Sunday, two minutes silence.

An interesting display on the 1910 Cape Town pageant, from Otto Peetoom, started the next session.

Paul van Zeyl then changed the emphasis by displaying surcharged and overprinted French postal stationery used in their post offices in Zanzibar.

Chris Oliver showed some letters written by Flight Lieutenant Cyril Boxhall to his wife. He was an Education Officer of the R.A.F. Education Service based in South Africa during the war years. A prodigious writer, he is known to have written 29 letters to his wife in South London between 1942 and 1944.

Special printings of the G.B. Victorian ½d orange stamp overprinted for use in the Bechuanaland Protectorate in 1888/9, were displayed by Tony Stanford, including two tones of black ink used.

Sebastian Payne displayed the short lived, 4½d; 1/3 and 1/6 stamps, issued as an addendum to the pictorials issue in 1953 to meet the needs of postal rate changes.

He posed the question that there could have been two printings of these stamps, particularly the small value as perforations varied. Sebastian appealed for information on the dates of use of all of these three stamps. The last display of the morning, and of the weekend, was given by Francis Kiddie. Francis showed a miscellany of Cinderella material from Boer war stamps produced in the U.K., railway stamps and numerous labels. After an adjournment for lunch, the auction commenced. This was, again, very successful and Tony Howgrave – Graham was thanked, warmly, for his efforts. Brian Trotter and Eddie Bridges were thanked for their efforts in producing another outstanding weekend.

Photo Gallery



Mike Smith



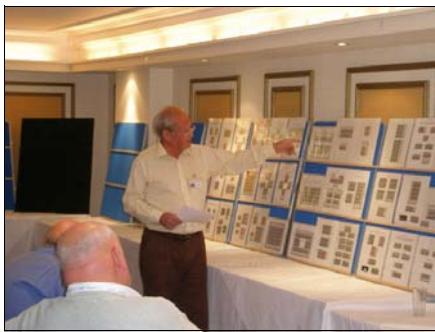
Part of the audience



John Sussex



Nick Arrow



Tony Howgrave-Graham



John Shaw



Chris Oliver



Richard Stock



Otto Petoom



Chris Oliver



Tony Stanford



Frances Kiddle

During dinner on the Saturday evening the votes were counted for the best invited display of the day, and the vote went to Mike Smith of the OFS Study Circle. Congratulations to Mike on a superb display of the Orange Free State Postal Stationery.



Mike Smith receiving the Tony Chiltern Memorial Trophy from John Shaw, Chairman of the South African Collectors Society, who sponsored the trophy.

The dates for next years conference has been booked and will take place on the weekend of 15 & 16 November 2009. Put this date in your diary now! It is really a good weekend, not to be missed!

Eddie Bridges

SACS awards 2009

Abel Trophy

As reported in the last issue, the Abel Trophy went to Giovanni Palazzo. Photo in Issue 3.

Wicks Medal

After some deliberation, the editorial panel and the Hon Secretary voted to award the medal to Tony Howgrave-Graham for his article The Unhyphenated Roto 1/- Issue 1 which was published in Vol. 55/1 of 2007. Congratulations to Tony.



Tony receiving the Wicks Medal from Chairman John Shaw

Hon. Life Members

At the AGM in Leamington, the unusual step was taken to appoint two Hon. Life members. These were Max Whitlock and Eddie Bridges. The members of the Society are thanked for this honour.



On the left, Max Whitlock pictured with the SACS Chairman John Shaw (centre) and Eddie Bridges

If you would like to advertise in this Journal, please contact the Editor.

Contact details on inside front cover.

Stop Press!

I have just been informed by Max, that he has copies of the parts of Fred Clark's collection that will be auctioned by Cavendish at the end of January. He will add these pages to this issue of *The Springbok*

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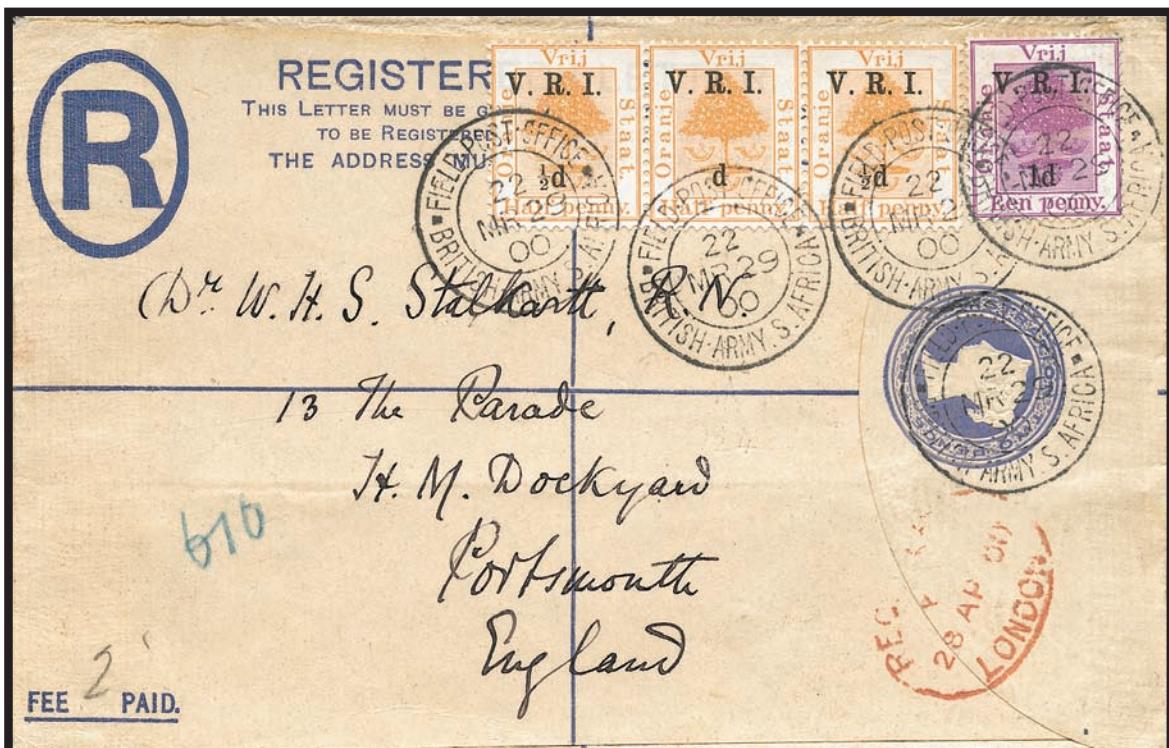
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Missing '½' in strip of three

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