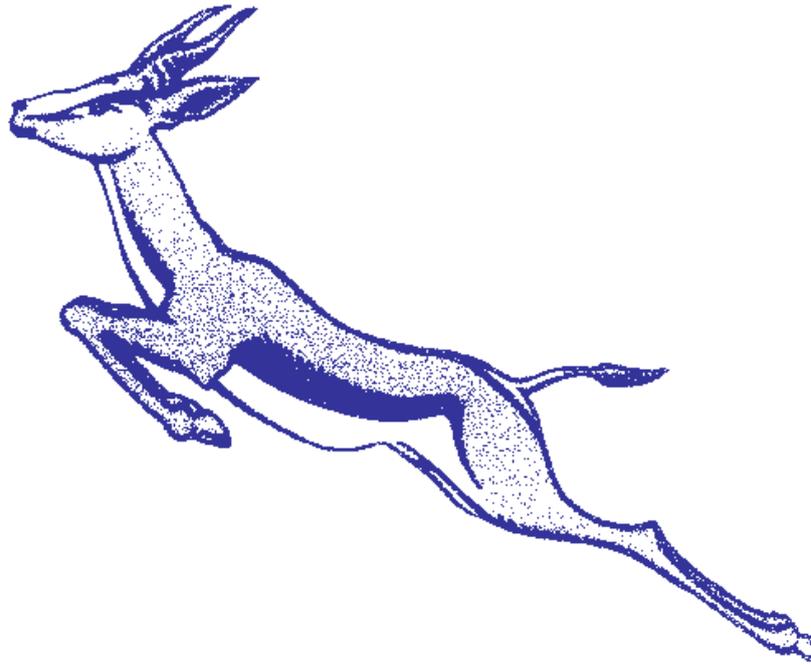


# *THE SPRINGBOK*



**SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY**

**Vol. 58**

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**Jan/Mar 2010**



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# The Springbok

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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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## Events for your Diary 2010

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

20th Feb.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Maritime Mail
24-27th Feb	<b><u>SACS display at Stampex</u></b>	
27th Mar	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Victorian & Edwardian SA 1860-1910
29th May	SACS London meeting	Subject: Hyphenated Pictorial high values [6d +]
5th Jun.	SACS Leicester meeting	Subject: Open meeting
7th Aug.	SACS Salisbury meeting	Subject: All day open meeting
*Sep.	SACS Carlisle meeting	Subject: Abel Trophy competition
25th Sep. .	SACS London meeting	Subject: SA in WW II
27th Nov.	SACS London meeting	Subject: Open meeting

\* Date still to be confirmed

**12-14th Nov. Southern African Societies Convention Falstaff Hotel Leamington Spa**

### Other Events for 2010

24-27th Feb.	Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London.
25-27th Feb.	Spring Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
5-6th May	Philatex Extra, Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Sq. London
8-15th May	<b>London 2010</b> , Islington
12th June	Swinpex in Swindon
22-25th July	British Philatelic Congress at Kenilworth, Warks.
16-19th Sep.	Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London
27-31st Oct.	Jo'burg 2010 in Sandton, Johannesburg
4-6th 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

First of all let me wish you all a prosperous philatelic start to the new year. The start of this year has been quite eventful. By the time you read this our display at Stampex will have come and gone. Report and feed back in the next issue. You will also have noticed that the last Springbok for 2009 was very late. We had a slight mishap as the issue was printed and ready for distribution just before Christmas but in the confusion of me going away for a short break with the family which was basically forced on me, (more about this later) and the adverse weather conditions, the boxes with the Springboks disappeared in the despatch area of our warehouse. At the same time a collection was made for shredding old documentation as well as long term storage for documentation. To make a long story short, the Springboks were either shredded, or they have been put in safe long term storage. Despite my best efforts I was not able to track them down. In the meantime I was in and out of hospital with treatment for bladder cancer which set me back quite a bit. Your editor is shortly due for the last operation and then a course of chemo therapy and then hopefully it will be over and I will be on the road to recovery. It is inevitable that the Springboks will be delayed but I am hoping that I can catch up again shortly.

I am in need of articles as the in tray is empty! I might not have the energy and time to do articles myself and as I have mentioned before, my interests are fairly narrow and I will bore you with what I collect and might not be to every ones cup of tea!. You have been warned!

As you might know, there is also an International Exhibition in Jhb. in October. If there is enough interest we might be able to arrange a meeting in Johannesburg. So if you intend going, please let me know. I will also go pending my health holding up.

**Eddie Bridges**

As promised in the last issue, Otto Peetoom has put some information together about the 10/- with inverted centre from his perspective and archive of information. This is the last word on this item! (famous last words!)

## **South Africa– Major Varieties** **1927 10/- Table Mountain with centre inverted SG 39a** **by Otto Peetoom**

The variety is more than likely Printer's waste that left Bradbury via the back door and came into the possession of the famous London dealer Charles Nissen.

Stanley Gibbons bought the "Nissen Stock" in October 1977 for £861,000 and amongst this holding was found a block of four and a single of the 10/- Table Mountain each with an inverted centre.



From the known examples it appears that most of the vertical perforations were split, thus it was practical to create two vertical pairs.

There is also a single example with a wide margin that is detached from the stamp and has been rejoined.

During the late 1970's and early eighties, Stanley Gibbons initially attempted to market the variety in South Africa. I believe it may have been offered in one of SG's early South African auctions, but there were no takers.

Collecting stamps with inverted images is very popular in America, thus the 10/- inverted Table Mountain found ready buyers on the US market.

The top marginal pair featured in the Feldman 11-14 November 1986 sale as lot 50765, estimated at SF 50,000 with a start price of 30,000 and sold for 42,000 Franks.

This vertical pair featured in an article in an Australian stamp magazine called "The Stamp Collector". In their December-January 1993 issue on pages 12 & 13 there was a two page article titled "The Union of South Africa- The Kings Head and Pictorials by Morgan Juhl, FRPSL. He described the variety as "*The Jewel of the Unions Stamps*" and provided an illustration.

Ivy Shreve Mader in their 9-10 March 1992 New York sale offered the single example as lot 959. Their description stated that it has a 1979 BPA certificate that notes "Uncertain status"

During the San Francisco International in 1997, this single was for sale on an American dealers stand. Alan MacGregor and I shared a stand at this show and we jointly purchased the variety. It was sold to a wealthy collector in South Africa and as far as I am aware, he still owns it.

The former owner of the corner marginal pair, sold in June 2009, belonged to the late Mr. Robert Cunliffe. I met him during the late 1990's at the Rare stamp show in London (think it was 1999) where we had a chat about the upside down variety. Given its sale price of \$50,000 I feel certain that it was more than likely that the buyer is another collector of inverts rather than a Union Collector.



### The controversial listing of SG 39a by Stanley Gibbons

In the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, their policy is to list and price South African bilingual stamps as pairs. Varieties such as missing colours are only listed as singles whenever the Country name is missing. For instance the frame omitted on a 1d Ship, 3d Groote Schuur and 1/- Gnu - SG 43b, 45f, 56b & 62a. So why price SG 39a as a single when two bilingual pairs exist? It appears that this was done as a 'Marketing Policy' in order to make allowance for the single example. My thoughts are that it would not go amiss if SG was to add a footnote to this variety.

---

## 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

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For those with other interests, we have separate lists for The Rhodesias including

# Cape & Natal Study Circle

THE BRITISH  
POSTAL  
MUSEUM  
& ARCHIVE

## Open meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May during LONDON 2010

A meeting will take place at the Phoenix Centre, adjacent to the British Postal Museum and Archive (Freeling House, Phoenix Place WC1X 0DL) on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Three prominent members of the Cape & Natal Study Circle will each give a PowerPoint briefing about their London 2010 exhibits.

Johnny Barth	Cape of Good Hope – the prephilatelic period Large Gold at Stampex 2009
Emil Buhrmann	Cape of Good Hope 1864 – 1901 Large Gold at Korea 2009
Keith Klugman	Classic Victorian Natal 1836 – 1879 Grand Award APS Mega Event, New York, 2008

**These presentations will start promptly at 10 a.m.**

This is an opportunity to hear at first hand from three important visiting specialist collectors; it is rarely possible for overseas speakers with such prestigious collections to speak at our meetings.

London 2010 will be attended by many overseas members of our society and some of these would like to take the opportunity of this meeting to learn something about the Royal Mail Archives. It has therefore been arranged that a member of the British Postal Museum and Archive staff will present

**"A Brief Introduction to the Archives" at 9.30 a.m. ahead of the above meeting.**

The meeting is open to members and non-members alike. There is no charge but those aiming to attend are asked to contact the Hon. Secretary as early as possible and not later than 25<sup>th</sup> April. Please indicate whether you wish to attend the Archive presentation at 9.30 as well as the 10 o'clock meeting. If possible, please provide an email address for further communications.

John Dickson. Hon. Sec.

Email: johndickson@nzsc.demon.co.uk

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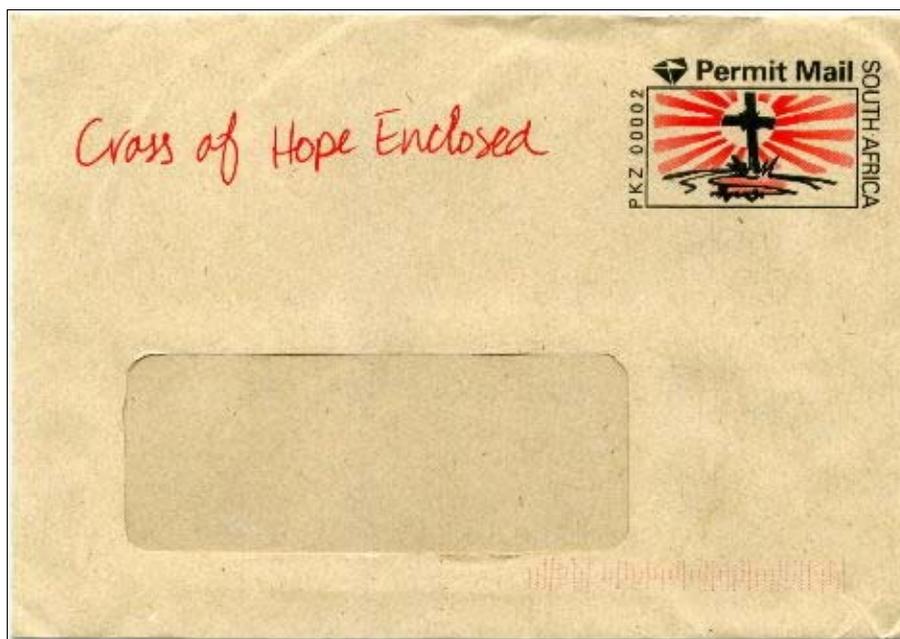


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## Query Spot



David Page sent in this cover with the question: What is it and does anyone know what organisation issued these. Maybe one of our South African members can help?

## 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 manuscript WALVIS BAY 5/7/09 in black pen, to Swakopmund, with very neat arrival postmark 12.7.09.

Similar material on our regular postal auctions. Auction Catalogues viewable on the internet at: [www.philatelicroads.com](http://www.philatelicroads.com) or printed catalogues available on request.

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## Membership Matters

by Chris Oliver

### New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Robin Coates of Crowborough East Sussex	No. 1137
M.D. Molineaux of Telford, Shropshire	No. 1138
David Gottesmann of Halstead, Essex	No. 1139
Dr. Peter Pannall of Lockleys, South Australia	No. 1140
R.W.T. Rabbetts of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire	No. 1141

### Rejoining Members

We welcome back the following members who have rejoined:

Maurice.C. Flack of Rochester, Kent	No. 1059
Roy W. Ross of Barrow in Furness, Cumbria	No. 993

Regretfully, we have also been advised of the sad passing of Leo Crandel FRPSL. He passed away on the 22nd December and his funeral took place in his hometown of Heemskerk in the Netherlands. He was an ardent supporter of South African Philately and was well known for his research into the Transvaal issues and published extensively.

---

## The 'Diamond Dies'

by David Page

I must first apologise to the Editor for promising to do something and then taking an absolute age to do it – another thing that went onto my round-tuit pile that has only just resurfaced!

At a London meeting on the subject of Republican Air Letters in the autumn of 2008 the cover pictured here was displayed with the query raised by those present of, 'what was this funny diamond-shaped mark, never seen one like it before, don't recognise it as a South African cancel'. . . to which, surprisingly, as the amateur amongst all those experts attending I could answer, 'It's not a South African mark, it's a UK census mark'.

The 'Diamond dies', usually just the diamond but occasionally with a slogan attached, were used by the GPO to help with the annual census of postal traffic. Mail coming into sorting offices from post boxes could be counted by the franking machines as these had automatic counting devices attached but mail forwarded to offices for delivery or onwards transmission required a different system to determine the volume of traffic. This was done by sending the received (already franked) mail through the franking machines again but using a special 'diamond die'. Mail was usually so franked on the backs of the covers or near the lower edge of the front (ref: CRH Parsons and GRPearson, Slogan Postmarks of the UK – an illustrated reference catalogue, 1965.)

The census was usually in October (sometimes late in September) and as it was to account for all traffic then mail from abroad received similar treatment – hence the diamond on the Republican Air Letter.

Why was an annual census taken and over what period of time? These questions I can't answer as the BPMA Archive is surprisingly silent on the matter. I have census examples in my collection from the 1920s through to the 1970s and I suspect (maybe someone out there can enlighten me) that the GPO had to make an annual return to the Postmaster General. When the GPO became a Public Corporation rather than a Department of State then the need for a census vanished along with the PMG's post.

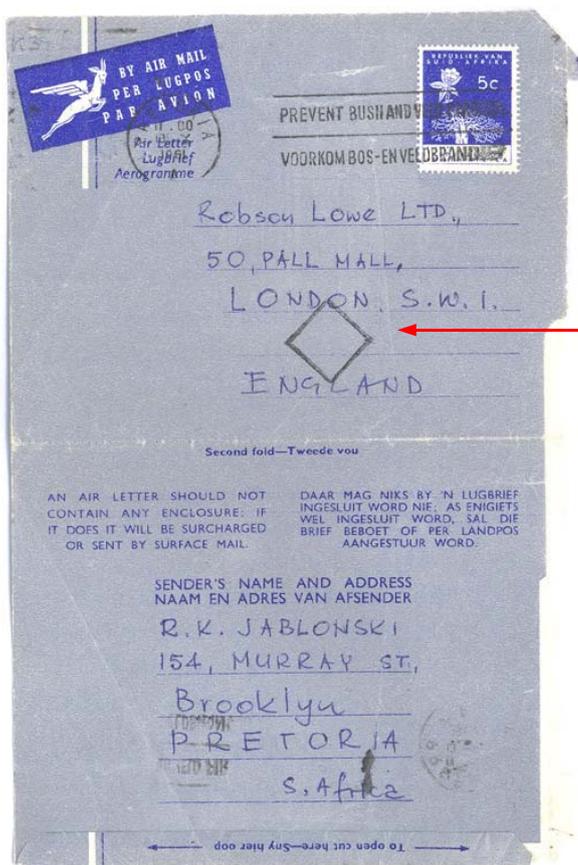
Incidentally, the record in the BPMA's glossary:

**Census Marking:** A diamond-shaped mark applied by machine to all mail posted in Britain during the annual mail census. (*sic*)

Is not totally correct. Some mail could not, for obvious reasons, go through franking machines and of that that did, mail that went through only one sorting office between collection and delivery had only the routine machine cancel across the stamp – no refranking with a diamond die.

And to end with a query, 'Was there a similar census in South Africa and, if so, were any markings applied?'

**See illustration on next page..Ed**



**Diamond marking on a Republican Aerogramme**

## AUCTION REPORT - July - December 2009

by Tony Howgrave-Graham

I'm going to start again with the Leamington auction. There were a few comments that it didn't contain quite as much good material as the previous year. I think this was probably true but I can only offer what you send in and the list of new vendors grows very slowly! I don't think some of you have caught on to just what a good place it is for you to sell better items, or sections of your collection when you want to raise cash for another section. With the large auction houses charging ever increasing buyers' premiums on top of already large vendors', tending to lose interest in lots under 4-figures and certainly in lots under £100 and leaving their clientele to spot the specialist gems, I would maintain you should now be looking at Leamington first. The results are now speaking for themselves. Over the last 3 years we have sold virtually 100% of lots for an ex-member who'd given up collecting, and then two estate lots of complete collections. In the case of the latter at the last auction it was at an average of 24% above the reserve prices.

The quality of the last sale, as mentioned, may not have been quite as good, but the figures for the sale were actually better. 80% of the auction sold in terms of the number of lots. £7,000 was raised, which equalled the total of the reserve prices for the whole auction. Of particular interest was the ½d booklet pair with sideways watermark, which made £1100. A collection of Darmstadts (with many examples showing creasing) still made a 50% over reserve £320. The war efforts showed a real resurgence of interest. The complete sheet of the large 3d made £220, the 4d £190. All the bantams sold with the sheets of ½d (Issue 3A) making £46, 1d (Issue 4) £50 and 2d (Issue 5) also £50. The 1½d with slogans partly printed on the stamps reached £90 and the scarce 2d Issue 4 control £76. When looking through the unsold material I have to say that in most cases (and apologies to any vendors!) I wasn't too surprised at their fate. Good material, sensibly reserved, does sell.

In the last auction report I complained that it was getting increasingly difficult to spot the good material amongst the colossal amount of unmitigated rubbish on ebay. This is still true but I think more people are managing it as better items are beginning to attract more bids and getting better prices. When talking of better items I wasn't referring to great rarities, so imagine my surprise when a pair of 1931 1/- officials with the 22 mm spacing (Fig. 1) appeared from a seller in Canada.

Hagger claims there are only 3 pairs known and Ian Matheson shows 2 of them in his collection. Either this pair was the 3<sup>rd</sup> or there are more than 3. It is Gibbon's O10b and was, at the time, gloriously undercatalogued at £350. It opened at a reserve of £20 odd and quickly attracted multiple bids but stalled at about ½ catalogue. I waited until the last few seconds before bidding the \$ equivalent of £500, only to find myself still the underbidder! Serves me right, really, as I was looking for a bargain and although I note Gibbons has increased its price to £750, I think it really should be very comfortably in 4 figures.

Argyll Etkin were the next with a decent sale. They always seem to manage to get hold of interesting African material, albeit with the emphasis being on the earlier material. One of the items here was a commercial cover franked a single silver jubilee 1d cancelled 28 April 1935, ie 8 days before its official release. The date was confirmed by back stamps but it failed to sell at £160-200. What did sell well, however, was the occupational period South West Africa. A Paul Bocian 1d letter card cancelled the Post Neuheuis handstamp with manuscript date made £142 and a Busch ½d pc with the Klein Windhuk rubber cancel (albeit with another cover with it again as a receiving stamp), an amazing £178. Even the stampless rainfall reports (there was a glut of these a few years ago and they became difficult) sold. Two with Ondonga (B1) and Okasise Rail (B2) made £89 and one with the Franzfontein Rubber made £154.

Harmers had a sale on 5 November which shows that, despite my comments at the start of this report, the big auction houses do, sometimes, achieve some amazingly high realisations. A truly horrible 1911 Kenilworth-Muizenberg 1<sup>st</sup> flight card, creased and heavily foxed and really only fit for the bin, made £145! Then a 1913 10/-, Imm, made £97, the £1 green & red, mm, £266 and £1 pale olive-green & red, mm, £314. Finally a fu block of four 1927, perf 14, 10/- made £169 (*Fig.2*). Remarkable realisation aside I noticed that it was cancelled Fox Street. I've seen several blocks, including one of 8, similarly cancelled. Fox Street had been Hollard Street until 1931 and several of the rare used £1 pale olive-green & red examples that I've seen were also cancelled there. Does anyone know if this office dealt with a lot of high value diamond parcels? or, as I rather suspect, are we collecting telegraphic cancels as postal?

Grosvenor had some good material offered on 10 December. The King's head 10/-, used, with watermark inverted made £932, the £1 green & red heavily mm, £215 and the pale olive-green the same, but it had toned gum & a minor corner crease. The 1925 9d air imperf at left made £383 for a horizontal pair, the 1930 ½d tête-bêche pair also fetched £383 but had a gum crease. Looking at the bantam war efforts again the 1d with roulettes omitted made £263 and the 2d £347. The 1½d official with diaeresis (SGO33a) made £311 and the 2/6 with diaeresis on "A" stamp (O19b), £598. There was also a fair bit of South West Africa with much selling. The better items seemed, fairly uniformly, to make about half catalogue.

Gibbons joined the Christmas rush with a sale on 16<sup>th</sup>. One remarkable realisation was a used 1931 2d B4 with the "balloon" flaw which made £78! – the same price as a mint imperf pair of 1d from Issue 11. This really doesn't seem to have increased much in value over the years. The 1921 3/- booklet made £228 and the 1935 2/6 booklet £168. The bantam war effort 1½d with missing roulette, um, made £216.

That just leaves Spink in Christmas mode with a sale on 8 December. I've left this until last as it provides some useful reference pricing. The sale was of the Pierron collection of modern missing colours and included a fair bit of South Africa. First up was the 1959 Academy with dark blue missing (*Fig.3*). This comes from the top of a single sheet where just the top row was affected, so there are 6 copies existing. It made £3,400. The 1961-3 12½c protea with missing yellow (1 stamp in a strip of 4) made £861 and with missing red (3 and a bit stamps in a folded strip of 20 from the top row), £3,400. This had made just over £2000 at Welz in August 2005 (*see that auction report*). The 1963 Red Cross 12½c (*Fig.4*) fetched £1475 (about 12 mint & 2 used are said to exist) and the 1963 Transkei 2½c missing light green (*Fig.5*) made £1600 (15 copies should exist plus 10 with it partially missing). Next the 1964 2c pouring gold in a strip of 3 with one "missing gold" made £640 (markedly less than the £1230 it achieved at Welz in Aug 2006 (*see that auction report*)). The 1969 2c with missing "gold" (*Fig.6*) made £738. The 1964 12½c Nursing with missing gold made £1353 and my favourite, the 1972-4 1R strelizia with orange omitted (*Fig.7*) made £1722. This comes from the bottom row of one sheet, so 10 copies exist. The row above has the orange largely missing, too. Finally, I'll mention again the nice strip of 5x1974 broadcasting anniversary 4c with missing black affecting 2 stamps, the "R" of a 3<sup>rd</sup> and the cylinder number (*see auction report for Jan-June 2007*). This made 23,000R then (about £1650). At Spink it fetched £4800! Not a bad investment!

So – happy hunting in 2010, but keep something back for Leamington, which has some good material already promised. We need more lots though, and it would be nice to see some new vendors. How about some of our dealer friends generating a bit of cash flow? – auction reserve prices though, please! Remember, I need lots by the middle of August, so start looking them out now.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6



Fig.7

## 1964. 07.10 - 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALVIN'S DEATH

Designer: Unknown

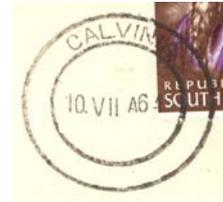
A commemorative stamp was issued to celebrate the fourth centenary of Calvin's death on 27 May 1564. Two datestamps exist, one measuring 21mm and the other 31mm. He was born in Noyon, France on 10 July 1509 and was originally named Jean Chauvin. Calvinia in the Cape Province, founded in 1851, was named after him.



SACC 247



21 mm



31 mm

He received formal instruction for the priesthood at the Collège de la Marche and the Collège de Montaigne, branches of the University of Paris. Encouraged by his father to study law instead of theology, he also attended universities at Orléans and Bourges. In 1532 he published a commentary on Seneca's *De Clementia*, proving his skills as a humanist scholar. His association with Nicholas Cop, newly elected rector of the University of Paris, forced both to flee when Cop announced his support in 1535 of Martin Luther. Calvin underwent a personal religious experience about this time.

In 1536 he published the first edition of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. During the same year, Calvin visited Geneva on his way to Strasbourg and was asked by Guillaume Farel to assist in the city's reformation movement. He remained in Geneva with Farel until 1538, when the town voted against Farel and asked both men to leave. Calvin completed his interrupted journey to Strasbourg and participated in that community's religious life until September 1541. At Strasbourg, Calvin published the first of his many commentaries on books of the Bible in 1539. While in Strasbourg, Calvin married Idelette de Bure, a widow. The couple had one child, who died in infancy.

In 1541 Genevans asked Calvin to return and lead them again in reforming the Church. He remained in that city for the rest of his life, except for brief journeys in the interest of Church reform. His wife died in 1549, and he did not remarry.

Calvin drafted the new ordinances that the government modified and adopted as a constitution for Geneva governing both secular and sacred matters. He also supported development of a municipal school system for all children, with a Geneva Academy as the centre of instruction for the very best students. In 1559 the Academy was established, with Theodore Beza as rector of what soon became a full university.

Calvin sought to improve the life of the city's citizens in many ways. He supported good hospitals, a proper sewage system, protective rails on upper story's to keep children from falling from tall buildings, special care for the poor and infirm, and he introduction of new industries.

Calvin elevated the doctrine of grace and predestination as the basis of his creed, but its real significance lay in its attitude to government. The Calvinist Church was the state. It was organised on a democratic basis, each church being governed by an elected body of lay elders and deacons. But it enforced discipline among its members and it was utterly intolerant.

He was a strict Protestant and believed that God had already ordained the future and that only those chosen by God would be saved. Calvinism, with its intolerance and its discipline, was carried to many countries where it produced a closely organized and often persecuted minority in society. The refusal of the Calvinists to accept compromise made them unwanted elements in the body of the state, while their admirable organisation and single-minded fanaticism enabled them to survive persecution more effectively than any other Protestant sect.

Calvin's health was never robust; his illnesses included chronic asthma, indigestion and catarrh. He became very frail with the onslaught of quartan fever in 1558 and died on May 27, 1564. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Geneva.

The Calvinist church was founded in the Netherlands in 1566, two years after the death of John Calvin.

The printing was done on RSA watermark paper on the Albert machine in a four pane format, 5 rows of 20 stamps per pane, and perforated gauge 14 on the Grover two row appliance.

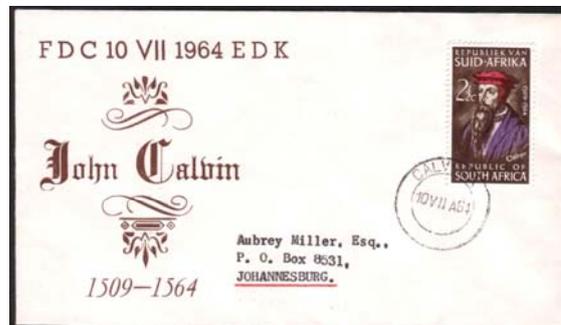
**Varieties common to all four panes, twice on each pane**

R2/1 and R2/11	Prominent brown vertical line above cap
R2/10 and R2/2	Small brown dots on lower limb of K of Afrika
R3/1 and R3/11	Prominent brown blob on white aspect of Calvin's beard
R3/0 and R3/19	Broken U of Republiek
R4/10 and R4/20	Tiny purple dot on left aspect of white shirt
R5/10 and R5/20	Prominent brown dot below Calvin's left eye

**Other varieties**

<b>Pane A</b>	R1/1 R1/6 R1/7	Small brown dot in left margin opposite S of Suid Two tiny white dots on upper left of R of Republic Tiny brown dot on S of Suid
<b>Pane B</b>	R1/7 R3/4 R4/11 R4/12	Tiny brown dot in margin, left of large 12 of value Tiny brown dot in left margin, opposite S of Suid Small white dot below U of Suid Three prominent purple dots on Calvin's left shoulder
<b>Pane C</b>	R2/13	Small brown dot on lower aspect of Calvin's left cheek
<b>Pane D</b>	R1/5 R2/15 R3/13	Prominent purple dot below collar on lower aspect of shirt Prominent purple dot on lapel of jacket above bl of Republic Prominent white dot below AF of Africa

**Envelopes seen at the meeting:**



**Source:**

The Special & Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets & Covers of South Africa 1892-1975 – Hasso O Reisener, p.90  
 Philatelic Bulletin No 48, June 1964  
 The Concise History Encyclopedia, Kingfisher Publications, 2001  
 History – Mankind and his Story, New Educational Library, 1948

## 1964.10.12 – 50th ANNIVERSARY OF SA NURSING ASSOCIATION

Designer: Unknown

The SA Nursing Association celebrated its 50th Anniversary by holding a Golden Jubilee Congress in Cape Town from 26 to 30 October 1964. A temporary post office was opened at the Congress, for which a special datestamp was made.

Two commemorative stamps were also issued on 12 October 1964, which coincided with the Pretoria Philatelic Exhibition.



SACC 248



SACC 249



Nursing is a profession focused on assisting individuals, families and communities in attaining, maintaining and recovering optimal health and functioning.

Nursing has existed in various forms in every culture. The oldest sense of the word in the English language: a woman employed to suckle and generally care for a younger child. The former being known as a wet nurse and the latter as a dry nurse.

Prior to the foundation of modern nursing, nuns and the military often provided nursing-like services. During time of war a significant development in nursing history arose when Florence Nightingale, working to improve conditions of soldiers in the Crimean War, laid the foundation stone of professional nursing with the principles summarized in the book *Notes on Nursing*. Linda Richards was officially America's first trained nurse, graduating in 1873 from the *New England Hospital for Women and Children* in Boston.

On Wikipedia it is claimed that New Zealand was the first country to regulate nurses nationally, with the adoption of the Nurses Registration Act on 12 September 1901 with Ellen Dougherty as the first registered nurse. However, South Africa already registered nurses in 1891 (See SACC 750 dated 15 August 1991).

One of the best known hospitals in South Africa is the Kimberley Hospital, established in 1882 by the amalgamation of the Diggers and Carnarvon hospitals. Its matron was Henrietta Stockdale, who in 1879 established the first training school for nurses and midwives in the country, and in 1891 was responsible for the first registry of nurses in the world. (See SACC 750 – 15.08.1991)

### The Stamps

The 2½c value required two printings. One printing was done from cylinders S15 and S3, which was replaced by cylinders S14 and S7 on account of breaking. Cylinders 14 and 7 may be usually distinguished from Cylinders 15 and 3 by the deeper shade of its gold background and the presence of an almost consistent white line around the lamp. The printing was done in horizontal sheet format, Panes A and B of 5 rows of 20 stamps on RSA water-marked paper, the mark facing right. An eleven row perforated was used for both printings.

There is a tiny blue line at the base of OF in Rows R5/5 and R15/5, common to Panes A and B.

On an order for 500 000 sheets of 100 stamps per sheet a first delivery of 47 100 sheets was made on 25.8.64, and by the final date of delivery 373 160 sheets were delivered. The first set of cylinders, S3 and S15, produced 120 190 sheets of which 65 430 were of Pane A and 54 760 were of Pane B. The second set, cylinders S7, S14, produced 252 970 sheets of which 127 200 were of Pane A and 125 770 were of Pane B.

The 12½c stamp was printed on paper with RSA watermark, upright in double format of 20 rows of 5 stamps per pane, on the Goebel 830 from Cylinders S16 and S17, the perforation by an eleven row appliance. Three shades of gold may be noticed in this printing, "old", "light" and "off", due to the use of old and new stocks of gold powder and the attempt to bring the new into line of shade with the old.

### Multipositive Flaws

<b>Pane A</b>	R1/5 and R11/5 R7/5 and R17/5	Small blue dot on left of nurse's chest Tiny blue dot in I of Republiek
<b>Pane B</b>	R1/5 and R11/5	Prominent blue dot below 5 of 50

### Cylinder Flaws

<b>Pane A</b>	R1/2 R1/5 R12/3 R13/2 R14/4 R20/5	Small blue mark on top of 1 of 12 Tiny blue dot on nurse's forehead Small blue dot above flame of lamp Tiny blue dot above flame of lamp Prominent blue dot on nurse's veil Tiny blue dot on lower portion of 2 of 12
<b>Pane B</b>	R1/2 R1/3 R4/4 R10/5	Prominent white smudge above 1 of 12 Small horizontal blue line left of flame Prominent blue dot on nurse's veil Prominent blue smudge above lamp

On an order for 15 000 sheets of 100 stamps per sheet, a first and final delivery of 15 598 sheets was made on 20.8.64.

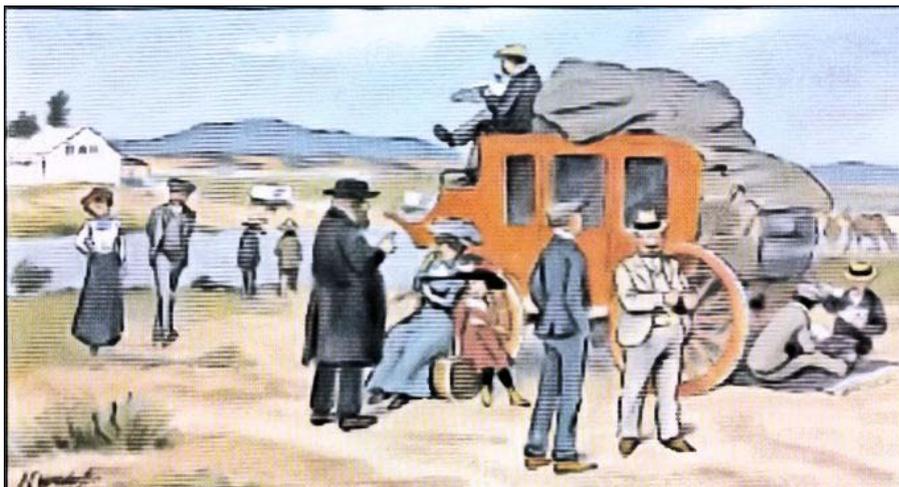
**Source:**

The Special & Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets & Covers of South Africa 1892-1975 – Hasso O Reisener, p.91  
SA Philatelist, September 1964, p.165

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## Union parcel posts: a brief introduction to parcel post labels and parcel cancellations.

by Bas Payne

Parcel post was an important part of life in South Africa in Union times – a way for people in rural areas to get a wide range of goods, and an important way for friends and families to stay in touch with each other by exchanging gifts. Table 1 shows the scale of use of parcel posts in South Africa in the 1930's: at that time the post offices were handling over 7 million parcels a year out of a total of 345 million postal items.

	Letters	Post-cards	Newspapers and printed matter	Parcels: ordinary	Parcels: agricultural	Official mail	Total items handled
Internal	187 m	10 m	66 m	5.6 m	0.9 m	30 m	300 m
Out to other countries	14 m	0.6 m	4 m	0.2 m	-	0.2 m	19 m
In from other countries	16 m	1.0 m	9 m	0.6 m	-	0.2 m	27 m
<b>Total</b>	<b>217 m</b>	<b>12 m</b>	<b>79 m</b>	<b>6.4 m</b>	<b>0.9 m</b>	<b>30 m</b>	<b>345 m</b>

Table 1. Numbers of postal articles handled in 1935, in millions (from the PMG's Annual Report, numbers rounded.)

Despite this, parcel posts have received little attention from students of postal history. Parcel cancellations and parcel labels are poorly represented in collections, probably mainly because relatively few have survived.

The purpose of this article is to give a brief introduction to parcel labels and to parcel cancellations, to bring them to the attention of other collectors. The generalisations offered here are based on the limited material that I have seen, and are put forward with some hesitation, simply as a starting point; **information from other collectors would be very welcome.** It is a clear indication of how much remains to be recorded that I found eleven unrecorded parcel postmarks in a fairly random group of about forty that I was working through yesterday.

### Parcel post labels

Table 1 distinguishes between ordinary internal parcels and agricultural parcels. (Agricultural parcel rates were much cheaper: in 1949, for instance, an ordinary parcel cost 6d per lb, while an agricultural parcel of up to 3 lb cost 6d.) Different official labels were issued for each, and also for parcels going to other countries. These labels carry reference codes which indicate the year of printing, the printing order reference, and the number of labels printed, often giving a good indication of likely date. Senders were required to write their name and address on parcel labels, and to describe the contents of a parcel, sometimes giving a vivid insight into life at the time.

Fig. 1 shows an agricultural parcel post label from a parcel sent in the early 1930's from CF Oettle of Smithfield to Mrs CF Oettle in Cape Town, containing between 3 and 6 lb. of dried sausage, which cost only 8d to send. The reference code on the label (4941 - 11/6/29 – 1,000,000 – S) shows that it is from a printing of one million labels ordered in 1929. As this illustrates, ordinary postmarks were often used for parcels, presumably when parcel cancellers were not available.

Fig. 2 shows an ordinary internal parcel post label from a parcel sent in the late 1940's from AH Smith in Johannesburg, to JF Smith in Stellenbosch, containing pencils (*potlode*). In this case the reference code (G.P.-S. 4546 – xxxx – 5,000,000. S.) shows that it is from a printing of 5 million labels ordered in 1945/6.

Fig. 3 shows a foreign parcel post label from a parcel sent probably in the early 1920's from Johannesburg to Canterbury, containing a pair of velvet shoes or slippers. Their value is declared as £1 10s; the parcel cost 2s 3d to send. The reference code is rather battered, but appears to show that it is from a printing of 250,000 labels ordered in April 1919.



Fig.1 Agricultural parcel post label, Smithfield, ca. 1930-35. (Bill Bean)

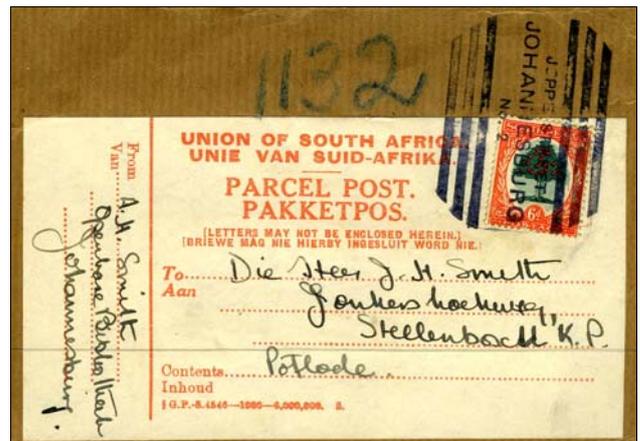


Fig.2 Parcel post label, Jeppe Street, Johannesburg No. 2, ca. 1940-1945.

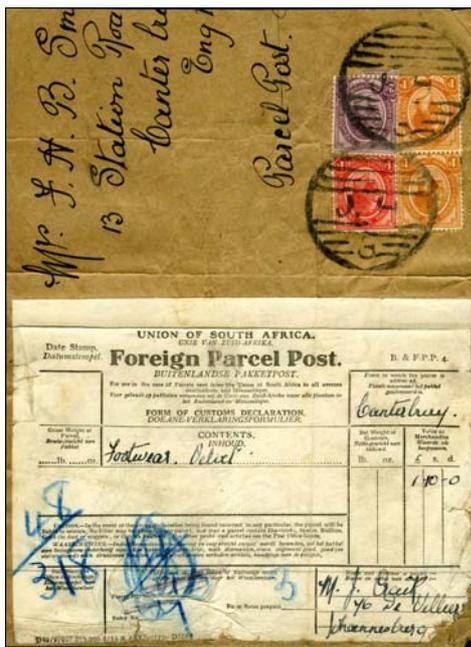


Fig.3 Foreign parcel post label, Johannesburg (J.H.3), ca. 1920-25.

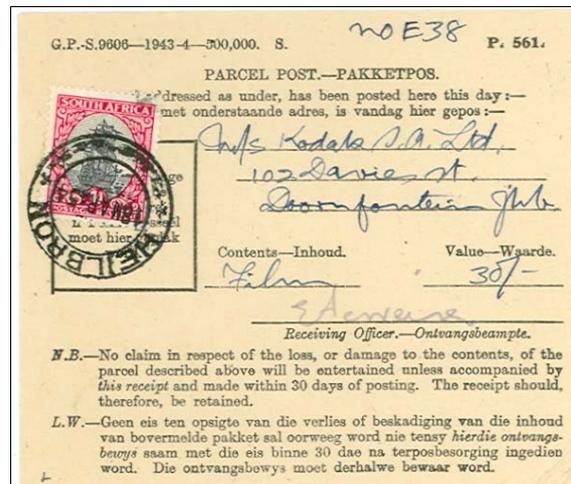


Fig.4 Parcel post receipt, 18 MAR A 54. (Bill Bean)

The figures in Table 1 suggest that ordinary internal parcel post labels are commoner than the other types, and the examples seen so far confirm this; agricultural parcel post labels seem to be particularly scarce.

### Parcel receipts

Receipts showing that a parcel had been posted were available from the post office; the fee for this was paid for by a 1d stamp.

Fig. 4 shows a receipt for a packet containing film sent in 1954 from Heilbron to Kodak in Johannesburg. In this case the reference code suggests that the label was printed about ten years earlier (G.P.-S. 9606 - 1943-4 - 500,000 S.).

### Parcel cancellations

Most Union parcel cancellations fall into a limited number of broad types, most originating before Union. In rough chronological order:

#### A: Circular datestamps:

**A1:** The earliest South African parcel cancellations were single-ring circular datestamps. Fig. 5 shows one from Cape Town, where they first appeared in 1882 when the inland parcel post service was established in the Cape (Goldblatt 1984). Other single-ring datestamps are known from other cities and large towns (e.g. East London, Port Elizabeth, and Johannesburg in the ZAR) during the period before Union.

**A2:** New double-ring circular datestamps continued to appear well into the Union period, distinguished from other datestamps by the word "PARCELS" or the letters "PO" or "P". They are always black. They were presumably made of steel, and were probably relatively long-lived.

Fig. 6 shows examples from Krugersdorp and from Onderstepoort (interestingly in this case used on a postcard).

#### B: Cork obliterations:

**B1: Geometric:** Small cancellations, usually in the form of a circle or an oval divided into four or more parts, are quite often seen found on stamps of the Cape of Good Hope dating from the 1880's and 1890's, and less often on stamps of the same period from the Transvaal. Again they are always black. Fig. 7 shows typical examples. As they are often found on stamps of higher denominations, it is likely that they were mainly used on parcels. The cancellers are thought to have been made locally from corks, possibly because steel handstamps often cut into the wrappings of parcels. It would be interesting to know where they were used, but there is usually no clue. A wide variety of cancellations of this type are found, and individual cancellers were probably short-lived.

**B2: Letter(s) in circle:** Cancellations of similar size but with one to three letters in a circle indicating where they were used (e.g. C, DN, PR, and JH), are frequently found on stamps of Edward VII, and occasionally found on early Union stamps, as in Fig. 8. They are always black. Again they are often found on stamps of higher denomination or on multiples.

#### C: Undated hand-roller cancellations:

Continuous roller cancellations first appear in Cape Town around 1899 (Goldblatt 1984), and soon after in other cities and towns in the Cape Colony (e.g. East London, Grahamstown, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown, Sydenham). As Fig. 9 shows, the cancellations are typically 27-29 mm across, with a number of continuous lines and the name of the office in capitals usually in two rows. The repeat length seems typically to be around 47-48 or 95 mm, suggesting rollers either about 15 mm or about 30 mm in diameter (the shortage of long sharp impressions makes it hard, in the case of apparently short repeats, to see whether the name is repeated twice in one turn of the cylinder, or whether the cylinder really was as small as the measurements suggest). They are always black; from the sharpness of earlier examples and lack of deformation in later ones, it looks as if they were steel rather than rubber.

They continued in use at larger offices in the Cape until the 1930's, and at Cape Town and Port Elizabeth as late as the late 1940's.

Very similar cancellations are found from Pretoria, Durban and Bloemfontein on Union stamps of George V, showing that they were used at a few places in other provinces after Union. Similar but smaller roller cancellations also appear at about the same date for Durban; Fig. 10 shows that these are only about 17 mm across, with fewer lines and only one row of repeated "DURBAN".



Fig.5 Type A1, Single-ring circular datestamp:  
Cape Town (Robert Johnson) AU 24 89.



Fig.6a Type A2, Double-ring circular datestamp:  
Krugersdorp (Robert Johnson) 29 JAN. 14.



Fig.6b Type A2, Double-ring circular datestamp:  
Onderstepoort 14 JUN C 47.



Fig.7 Type B1, Geometric cork obliteration, Cape, ca. 1890-1900.



Fig.8a Type B2, Letter in circle cork obliteration:  
Pretoria (P.R), ca. 1905-1910.



Fig.8b Type B2, Letter in circle cork obliteration:  
Durban (D.N), ca. 1910-1915.



F0009 Type C: Continuous  
hand-roller: Kimberley: ca.  
1920-25.



Fig.10 Type C: Continuous hand-roller: Durban, ca. 1915-1920.

**D: Six-bar cancellations:**

Cancellations with the name of the office in capitals with two or three parallel bars below and above, the whole making an approximate circle or short oval usually ca. 25-30 x 25 mm, start appearing on Edward VII stamps of the Transvaal. They are normally purple. Fig. 11 shows examples from Standerton and Fordsburg.

In the early Union period similar cancellations start to appear for many smaller offices in all four provinces. By the 1930's and 1940's they tend, as Fig. 12 shows, to be larger – up to ca. 80 x 40 mm, and black ink is used as often as purple ink. When examples from the same office are found on stamps that differ in date, they are often clearly from different cancellers, indicating that the cancellers were probably relatively short-lived, and probably rubber rather than metal.

These are by far the most widespread of Union parcel cancellations – they have been described from well over a hundred offices, and it seems likely that most offices of any size had them. They continued in use into the 1950's.

**E: Undated circular cancellations:**

**E1:** Small undated circular cancellations with the name of the office inside a single circle, usually also with some parallel lines, are known on early Union stamps from a few offices (e.g. Johannesburg, Vryheid, Aliwal North, and Pietermaritzburg (abbreviated as PMB)). Examples are illustrated in Fig. 13; they are always black.

**E2:** A little later – probably around 1920 – large circular cancellations appear with two sets of 4 parallel narrow lines inside the circle, the name of the office usually abbreviated as two or three capital letter, and, below it, a number whose use is unknown. Fig. 14 shows an early examples, which tend to be around 34 mm in diameter, mainly from Johannesburg (JH) and Durban (DN), with numbers whose significance is unknown.

They then spread to other cities, including Bloemfontein (BFN) and Pietermaritzburg (PMB). Later examples, as shown in Fig. 15, tend to be larger (around 40 mm), and the external circle is often double. Sometimes the office name is spelled out fully. Purple ink is commonly used, but black is also used, especially in early examples.

It is clear from the large number of minor variants, and frequent examples of cancellations with irregular bulges especially of the outer circle, as shown in Fig. 16, that the cancellers were made of rubber which perished easily, and they were probably short-lived. They disappear by around 1940.

The only similar cancellation seen from Cape Town is shown in Fig. 17; the letter R in the centre suggests that it was used for registered letters and parcels.

**F: Steel hand roller cancellations with circular datestamps:**

These first appear in the 1930's; they have circular datestamps at intervals and sets of parallel wavy lines. As Fig. 18 shows, unlike machine cancellations of the same period the date is at right angles to the wavy lines, not parallel to them. They are relatively scarce before WW2, but rapidly replace other kinds of parcel cancellations from 1950 onwards; they are always black.



Fig.11a Type D: Six-bar cancellation: Standerton, ca. 1905-10.



Fig.11b Type D: Six-bar cancellation: Fordsburg, Johannesburg, ca. 1905-1910.



Fig.12a Type D: Six-bar cancellation: Pine Street, Durban, ca. 1940-45.



Fig.12b Type D: Six-bar cancellation: Clocolan, ca. 1940-45.



Fig.13 Type E1: Small undated circular: Vryheid and Johannesburg, ca. 1915-25.



Fig.14 Type E2: Larger single ring undated: Johannesburg (J.H.1), ca. 1925-30.



Fig.15 Type E3: Larger double ring undated: Fox Street, Johannesburg, ca. 1930-35.



Fig.16 Type E2: Larger double ring undated, with perished rubber: Port Elizabeth (P.E. 2), ca. 1925-30



Fig.17 Type E3: Larger double ring undated: Capetown, registered: Cape Town, ca. 1940-45



Fig.18 Type F: Steel hand-roller with circular datestamp: Capetown, ?8.39.

**Summary:**

A brief tabular overview is given in Table 2; this is based on available information, rather simplified, and will certainly need to be revised in the light of further information.

		1880's	1890's	1900's	1910's	1920's	1930's	1940's	1950's	1960's
A: Circular cancellations with dates:	few places; mainly larger cities	Cape and Tvl, single-ring, black			Double-ring, all Provinces, black					
B1: Geometric	unknown	Cape and Tvl black								
B2: Letters in circle	few places; mainly larger cities			Cape Ntl, Tvl black						
C: Undated hand-roller cancellations	few places mainly larger cities Cape			Cape black	also in other provinces, black					
D: Six-bar cancellations	Many places			Tvl, purple	also in all other provinces, getting larger, black and purple					
E1: Small undated circular cancellations	Few places				Cape, Ntl, Tvl black					
E2: Larger undated circular cancellations	Few places, mainly larger					All provinces, getting larger, black and purple				
F: Steel hand roller cancellations with circular datestamps:	Many places					All provinces, black				

Table 2. Overview of use of main types of parcel cancellers.

**References:**

Goldblatt, R. 1984. *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*. Reijger Publishers, Cape Town.

**Thanks:**

Especial thanks to Alex Visser and David Allison, who were helpful as ever, to Bill Bean and Richard Johnson for kindly providing scans, to Nick Lindstrom for the welcome gift of an interesting example, to Paul van Zeyl and Simon Peetoom as the sources of interesting material, and to Eddie Bridges for explaining what potlode are.

## Notice Board

### Portishead Convention 14-15th August 2010

SACS will not have a meeting at Portishead this year as a Regional meeting has been arranged at Salisbury on the 7th August. (see below) However, if members are interested the dates for Portishead are published here. This should be a good event to attend with many dealers present.

### Meeting of the South Western Group at Salisbury 7th August, 2010

There will be a meeting in the Scout hut, Harnham, Salisbury which will be an all day event starting about 11:00. A lunch will be arranged at a local pub, after which an invited display will be given. Members are welcome to bring items of interest along as well. For more information and if you are intending to attend, please let Nick Arrow know. He may be contacted on his mobile tel. 07973 253951 or by e-mail: [nicholasarrow@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholasarrow@btinternet.com)

We gather that the Scout Hut is well known in the philatelic circles in the area as an excellent meeting place. Members in the SW of England should note this date in their diaries. More details to follow in forthcoming issues of *The Springbok*.

### Programme Cards

These are distributed together with this issue of *The Springbok*

## CAN YOU HELP PLEASE

---oOo---

### CENSORSHIP OF SOUTH AFRICAN MAIL DURING WWII

The two published works on this subject are by JH Harvey Pirie in 1953 and John Little in 2000. Before his death, Chris Miller was, with the agreement of John Little, working on a new Study on this subject that would include a lot of new material. He was working closely with Tom Mullins who lived in South Africa but who has, unfortunately, also passed away.

A questionnaire based on Chris and Tom's papers is being prepared and the purpose of this notice in the Bulletin is to ask for help please from anyone who has any covers censored by the South African authorities, or who has a general interest in this subject.

If you will contact me at –

davidlee8@btinternet.com or telephone 01273 589 455  
or 18 Rosemary Close, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8BY

Once it is available, I will send you the questionnaire for completion and return. Although it will be several pages, hopefully it will not be an onerous task to complete it. And the end result – if we can get enough responses – should bring our knowledge of this subject right up to date and make collecting the covers more interesting.

Thank you and please help if you can.



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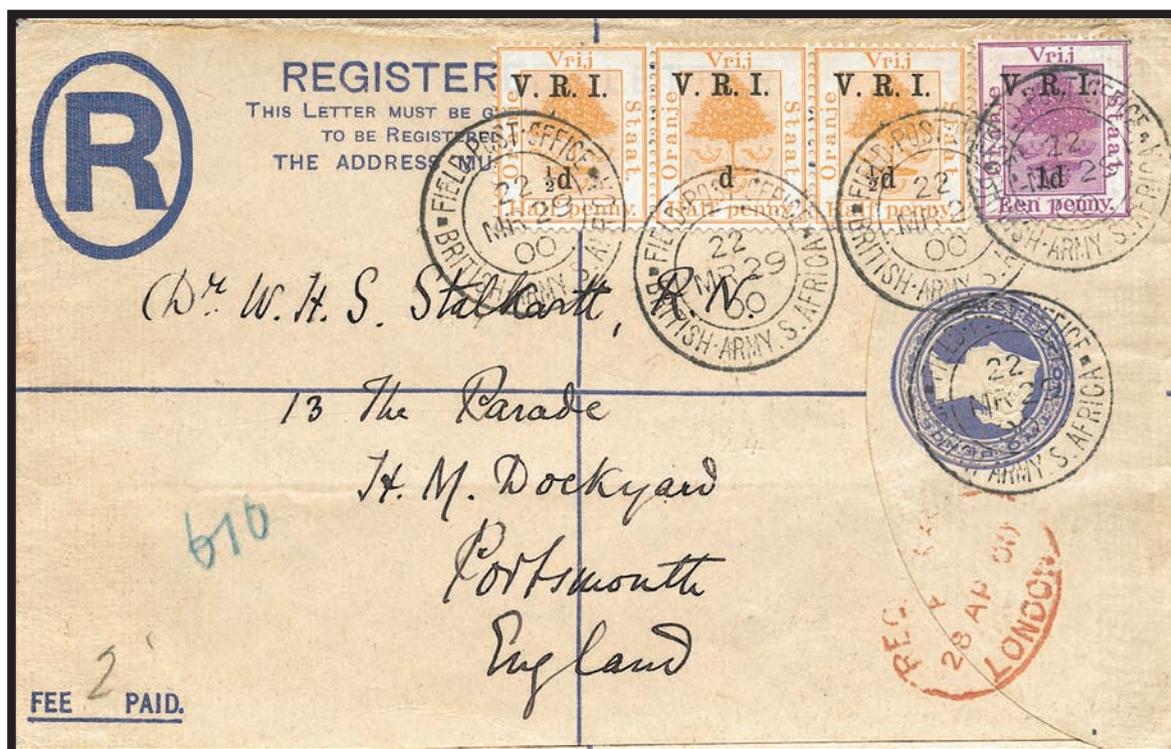
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