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******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

Affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

Volume XXXVI, Number 1, Whole Number 105

January-April 2023

*Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa
& Rhodesian Study Circle
at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, May 2023*



Honey Bee on 2010 set of stamps issued by Botswana Post

Highlights

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show
Southern African Symposium
Southern Africa Exhibits Title Pages
Interprovincial South Africa

Welcome to New Secretary and Treasurer!

Publications of the PSGSA

POSTE RESTANTE AT THE CAPE AND OTHER ESSAYS

POSTAL OFFICIALS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

by Franco Frescura

Available from Amazon.com

BECHUANALAND AND BOTSWANA REGISTRATION LABELS

by Gordon Smith

Available as a free download from the Society website

THE "OFFICIALS" OF SOUTH AFRICA

by Bob Hisey and Ian Matheson

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BARRED OVAL NUMERICAL CANCELLERS

OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE FROM 1863 - 1963

by David Mordant

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Philately of the Orange Free State

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Vol. 2. THE TELEGRAPHS

Vol. 1. THE POSTAGE STAMPS

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ACCORDING TO RALPH PUTZEL

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by R. Taylor

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Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporations issued a set of four stamps on April 2, 2012, featuring locust and grasshoppers. The D valued stamp shows a red locust. Printed by Joh Enschede each in sheets of 50.

Front Illustration:

Botswana Post issued a set of four stamps in March 25, 2010, showing honey bees. They were printed in sheets each of 50 stamps by Joh Enschede Security Printers of Holland.

*****FORERUNNERS**

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Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Vermeil at INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION Cape Town 2022; Gold at GREAT AMERICAN STAMPSHOW Sacramento 2022; Large Silver at LONDON 2022; Large Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2020; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW Richmond, VA 2017; Large Silver at WORLD STAMP SHOW NEW YORK 2016; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2015; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2014; Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JO'BURG, 2010; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2010, Richmond; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2009; Silver at STAMPSHOW 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006; Vermeils in 2005 at STAMPSHOW and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at ESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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Editorial Notes

When this issue is being prepared, we are getting ready for our upcoming Convention at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver, Colorado. We convene together with the Rhodesian Study Circle and are preparing for a Southern African Symposium that will be broadcast via Zoom in order to reach everybody that will not be able to attend in person. We are also organizing a large array of exhibits on the same subject. So far we have been committed exhibits, but may be able to accept more if you act fast by contacting the exhibit chair. Hope to see many members in Denver in May. This issue contains the schedule and subject for the symposium and a list of exhibits with their title pages. The Zoom information is also included, but expect to get reminders in the email as we get closer to the date.

The last issue may have left many with a clear doomsday prediction for our Society with the retirement of our treasurer and secretary. It did not get as bad as we predicted. In the last minute a Guardian Angle appeared and offered to take over the duties. So please welcome John McFarlane (piperjohn165@gmail.com) and remember that David McNamee is no longer the person to go to when you have problems with receiving Forerunners or paying your dues (but feel free to contact him to give your thanks for his long-lasting services to our society).

The change in guard has caused some issues with our collection of dues for 2022 and 2023. Therefore, it was decided to extend all memberships as current to the new cycle in 2024 where we hopefully will have a solution to how to handle it to everybody's satisfaction.

Peter Thy

Reduction in Ad Rate Schedule

A substantial reduction in the commercial ad rate schedule has been introduced. It is hoped that it will entice members and dealers more often to consider the Forerunners.

The deadline for the next issue will be August 15, 2023. Please let the Editor have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

Changes of address or email should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer John McFarlane at piperjohn165@gmail.com.



Collapse of the Postal System as We Know it

Our postal collection receptacles reveal a lot of how we view our postal services. Just look at a couple I found at main downtown street corners in a large Danish town. Or a couple of boxes at the entrance to a main convention center in downtown Stockholm. For purely patriotic reasons, I will not show an American box, but I am sure that you have all seen examples that you could contribute.



Society Affairs

Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods January-April, May-August, and September-December. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). The basic membership fee is US\$20 for the electronic version of the journal. The print version can be obtained by adding \$5 for USA mailing addresses, \$10 for Canada addresses, and \$15 for the rest of the world. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals are due by January 1st each year. A sample copy of Forerunners can be downloaded at no cost together with application form from www.psgsa.org. Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at piperjohn165@gmail.com. All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent directly to the Editor. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a CD and similar. MS Word files are preferred. Tables in Excel or text format are preferred; avoid complex Word tables. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in pdf, tiff, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should ideally not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editor if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or hand written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are still most welcome.

President's Corner

Dear Fellow members and interested parties of PSGSA,

"I hope this is not my last President's column, but we will need to think about where the Society is going and its future." That was the closing line of my last column and some of you may be sad that the prediction did NOT come true. Just kidding. I am happy to say that many of the concerns voiced in the column in issue 104 have providentially been resolved. The departing of David McNamee who will be sorely missed brought about someone in my own back yard who contacted me and accepted the position (even though he reminded me that there is no such thing in the by-laws as Secretary-Treasurer!). John McFarlane, who lives just about 10 miles away, and I have met and talked at great length about the Society and what we can do to solve some of the issues that face us. For the start, we have located a printer that will do our journal for a substantially less amount of money and while that doesn't lessen the costs of mailing. The only thing that will really help is if more of us acquire our copy via the internet. But for the time being, the paper version of Forerunners will as usual be mailed to those who requested it. Before I leave David, by proclamation, the Board has endowed him with lifetime honorary membership, just to remind him of the legacy he left for us.

The low retention rate of paid membership can also be dealt with due to our very comfortable bank account, which by the way has been successfully transferred to a bank here in the Metro area (no not SVB). We are trying to ascertain the path from for the present year 2023 membership. Those of you who have paid for 2023, will receive you issues as you have selected; those who did not renew for 2022, will receive this years issues if you renew for the 2023 year. The board has not yet come up with the final answers, but those who are current will be compensated for 2024. Renewal for 2023 will make sure you will get each issue. The next issue will be a special RMSS 2023 edition to be distributed in Denver over Memorial Day weekend and anyone attending that is a new member of the Society will receive a free membership for the year.

Speaking of the upcoming show and the Southern African Symposium: look for information in this journal on page 6 about the live Zoom meeting that will be broadcast from the show over three days on the website www.rockymountainstampshow.com. We are hoping to be able to record them and maybe with a lot of help making them also available on our website along with editions of all the Forerunners, excluding that last year or two. If you are attending you will also get to see teen exhibits ranging from the Boer War, to the Orange Free State, South African Republic, Botswana, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Rhodesia/Nyasaland (page 7). The title pages of each will be in this issue of Forerunners (pages 8-17).

I would finally like to announce that the winner of the Best Article for 2022 issues is Gordon Smith for his article in Issue 103 titled *Post-Independence Industrial Development of Botswana as Illustrated through Meter Marks: Large Companies*. This article was rewarded for its fresh approach to pointing to the peripheral subjects to our hobby. I first met Gordon while judging many years ago when he was exhibiting Botswana official stationery and cachets if my ageing brain remembers correctly. I so enjoyed

looking at new faces in the frames and I encouraged him to keep up the good work. Sometimes people actually listen to me!! Congratulations Gordon and hope to see more of your work in the journal and in the frames coming to a show near you.

We will be contacting all of you soon regarding more news of memberships and other happenings of the Society and what to expect in our now brighter future!

Tim Bartshe

Honorary Life Member: David McNamee



The Board has by proclamation endowed lifetime honorary membership to David McNamee in recognition of his many contributions to our society. He has for many years expertly managed our finances and membership contact and now leaves the post to his replacement with the books in perfect order.

Unpaid Dues for 2022 and 2023

We had an unusual number of members that for 2022 did not renew their membership and suspect that the reason was that we did not as usual aggressively pursued collection because of the treasury transition. It has been decided to extend all memberships through 2023 and to prepare for adjustment for 2024.

Closed Album: Brian Fenemore (1944-2022)

It is with sadness that we learn about the death of Brian Fenemore. Brian was always the person I would go to if I had problems understanding the early postal history of the Bechuanalands. He always had a copy of an important document he had found in the Cape Archives that would solve my problems. His findings often appeared in the Runnerpost - but because of his generosity, not always under his own name. His collecting interest was the Bechuanalands, overprints on British stamps and stationery, the Anglo-Boer war, and the South Africa Standard Bank and he formed several award winning exhibits. Last time I heard from him, he was working on a book about Bechuanaland postcards.



He was a founding member of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society and the Overprint Society. His main activities was, however, related to the Royal Society of Cape Town where he served president and most recently as their librarian. Recently his Bechuanaland collection was featured in a monograph published by Peninsula Publishers.

Brian came to South Africa with his parents in 1966. He worked in banking and later in retail until he retired in 2000 to focus on his hobbies of which philately was only a part. Our hard felt condolences goes to his family and wife Glenda. Philately has lost another prominent member. *Peter Thy*

Mark Your Calendar

Boston 2026 World Stamp Exposition is already in preparation and scheduled for 2026. Go to <https://boston2026.org> for information.



Great American Stampshow 2023. Cleveland, OH, August 10-13. Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland.



SAVPEX 2023. South African Virtual Stamp Exhibition is accepting one-frame exhibits on any subject with a deadline of 31st of May. This is the eighth show organized by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society as an international show with all exhibits being displayed on the website of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.



Wanted

Union Pictorials 1926-1929. 1/2d, 1d, and 6d Control Blocks. Scott 20-22. SG 30-32. Wanted by specialist collector. Please contact Moody Tidwell at rudolph912@gmail.com.

PSGSA Website

The Society website has been updated to a more modern design. Of additions so far are a complete run of Forerunners, with the exception of the recent issues. The webmaster is planning further reorganizations. Please contact him with your suggestions and offer your help with writing and stuff to place on the new site. Contact Clive Levinson, LevinsonClive@gmail.com.

New Member

Welcome to

Ronald Rong

Emmen, The Netherlands
Cape Postmarks, Revenues, Boer War, VRI/ERI,
and ZAR

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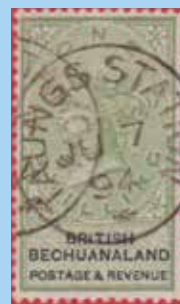


Table Mountain seen from Cape Town, February 10, 2023, Curtesy Robin Pelteret

Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

by Ron Lampo, Show Chairman

The 72nd Rocky Mountain Stamp Show take place May 26-28, 2023, at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in Aurora, CO. On behalf of our dedicated committee, I'd like to welcome you to our website where you will be able to learn about our exhibits, dealers, activities, and so much more. This year we are expecting to fill the 400 available frames with world class exhibits from our convening societies and the participants in the AAPE-sponsored George Brett Cup Competition. Our bourse floor will accommodate 42 dealer booths and 13 society and activity booths. The 2023 show theme is 'The Birds of Colorado;' accordingly, our friends at Denver Audubon will have a presence at our show to answer your Colorado bird questions and share their knowledge. We will have our popular *What's in Your Attic?* booth where you can learn about an inherited accumulation or rekindle your interest in a long-neglected collection. The Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club will have youth activities, including Stamp Collecting Merit Badge classes, scheduled throughout the show. Our show wouldn't be complete without the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Silent Auction, a major fund raiser for this important volunteer-run philatelic community resource. We are looking forward to hosting the largest show in our region for a second year at the 'new' venue. It truly has some strong advantages over the 'old' venue (better lighting, more space, less noise, better food choices on site) and right across the hall will be the Denver Postcard and Paper Show. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



The Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and the Rhodesian Study Circle are Jointly convening at the RMSS and welcome their members and anybody with an interest in southern African philately and postal history



The **Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa** (PSGSA) is a small U.S. based group of collectors interested in wide areas of southern African. This includes the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State, the Rhodesians, the British South Africa Company, British Central Africa, Union and Republic of South Africa, the British protectorates of Bechuanaland, Swaziland, and Basutoland and their modern equivalents. The society issues three times a year the journal *Forerunners* with news and small and large articles containing new discoveries and review and research articles often written by the members. The members stay in contact via email, internet meetings, and occasional conventions, like this time at RMSS or at other national shows. More details about the society can be found on our website www.psgsa.org or by writing to the secretary John McFarlane at piperjohn165@gmail.com

The **Rhodesian Study Circle** (RSC) is a UK based philatelic and postal history society devoted to the British domain of southern Africa including British South Africa Company, the Rhodesians, British Central Africa, Nyasaland, and their modern equivalents of Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The society has a world-wide active membership base and is the largest specialist society focusing on British southern Africa. They maintain a well organized website and a regular journal issued at least four times a year (the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal). In addition, they offer an extensive program of well researched monographs reaching now a total of 30. Their journal and many of the monographs are available in electronic format. The society further organizes regional in person and internet meetings, an annual conference meeting, and a postal auction. Visit www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk for more information.

Philately of Southern African at Denver Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

May 26th – 28th, 2023

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds - Aurora, Colorado

in association with The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show – an APS World Series exhibition

Friday, May 26th, 2023

- 10:00 "Welcome and introduction to PSGSA and Rhodesia Study Circle"
by Tim Bartshe
- 10:30-11:30 "South Africa Queen Elizabeth II"
by Jamie Smith
- 11:30-12:30 "Looking at Southern African Philately; how we see it"
by Steve Zwillinger
- 2:00-3:00 "Color, Class, & Caste in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe: My Family and other Indians"
by Narendhra Morar
- 3:00-4:00 "Southern Rhodesia King George V Revenues"
by David Spivack
- 4:00-5:00 "The Romance of the posts continues - a brief history of the Rhodesian Study Circle
1948-2023 - 75th anniversary"
by Sean Burke

Saturday, May 27th, 2023

- 10:30-11:30 "Africa - Queen Elizabeth II Rarities"
by Jamie Smith
- 11:30-12:30 "The Nyasaland Field Force in World War"
by Regis Hoffman
- 2:00-3:00 "The Indian Diaspora in East Africa"
by Eruch Nowrojee

Followed by the Judges' Critique and the Awards Dinner

Sunday, May 28th, 2023

- 10:30-11:30 "The Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society in Southern Rhodesia"
by Mark Loomis
- 11:30-12:30 "Essays, Die Proofs and Printers File Proofs of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland"
by Patrick Flanagan
- 1:00-2:00 "The Rhodesian Railway Stamps used in Botswana"
by Peter Thy
- 2:00-3:00 "Nineteenth Century India-Southern Africa Postal History"
by Ravi Vora

RMSS Symposium **zoom** Meeting

The talks at the *Southern African Symposium* will be presented via ZOOM during the three days at the RMSS. You are invited to attend, whether at the show or at home. Use the following link and information to attend. It is also planned to record the presentations and post these on our respective websites.

May 26, 2023 09:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

May 27, 2023 09:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

May 28, 2023 09:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85334584452?pwd=dTFIRUhUd0lidVBzMXp4RkV6RElvZz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3458 4452 Passcode: 630213

Consult the PGSSA website <https://www.pgsa.org> or the RSC website <https://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk> for more information.

Southern African Philatelic and Postal History Exhibits at Denver Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

May 26th – 28th, 2023

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds - Aurora, Colorado

in association with The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show – an APS World Series exhibition

Tim Bartshe: *Registration System of the Orange Free State 1856-1899* (1 Frame)

Tim Bartshe: *Orange Free State Forces: Official-mail, Cachets and Free Franking Labels 1892-1900* (1 Frame)

Tim Bartshe: *Postal Stationery South African Republic 1869-1900* (5 Frames)

Tim Bartshe: *Uses and Postal History of the Second South African Republic 1882-1900* (9 Frames)

Christopher Dahle: *The Philately of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: 1954-1964* (4 Frames)

Rob Hisey: *Zimbabwe Inflation 1980-2009* (5 Frames)

Peter Melz: *British POW Mail During the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902* (1 Frame)

Peter Melz: *Mail Censored at Beaufort West During the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902* (1 Frame)

Peter Thy: *Rhodesian Rail Stamps Used in Botswana* (4 Frames)

Peter Thy: *The Postal Stationery of Madagascar et Dependances* (10 Frames)

The following pages show the title pages of each of these individual exhibits



REGISTRATION SYSTEM OF THE ORANGE FREE STATE 1856-1899

Purpose: To display the registration of mail in the Orange Free State via regulations, rates and markings.

Treatment: This is a postal history exhibit set in three sections to properly develop the main aspects of the registration system, namely the rules and regulations, the three rate periods and the various markings employed.

Importance: As in any postal system, registration was an added safeguard to protect contents or to ensure safe delivery of important mail. With the discovery of diamonds and later on, gold, such a security measure was required.

What is shown: Regulatory accounting aspects of the sending of registered mail is shown via forms used. Representative examples from each of the rate periods are shown along with all recorded cancel and date devices used within the Republican Period of 1856-1900. Examples of the internal 1 shilling rate are unknown. Strangely enough, surviving registered Republican mail is uncommon with around 110 examples recorded, 20 are shown herein.

Rarity Key: Rarity/challenge comments are in separate *italicized bold* text.

PLAN:

1. Regulations and Forms
2. Rates
3. Markings and Cancellations

PART 1: REGULATIONS AND FORMS

Background: Regulations for the new Republican postal system came into operations on 15 July 1856. There were three schedules published applicable to how registered mail would be handled by the various postmasters.

SCHEDULE B:	The postmaster shall issue a receipt for every letter presented to him for registration.
SCHEDULE C:	A list shall be kept by the postmaster of all registered letters.
SCHEDULE D:	A duplicate receipt shall be kept of all registered letters delivered and their destinations.

The registration rate was set at one shilling and remained so until 1877.

SCHEDULE B FORM as registered letter receipt.

As the majority of mail would eventually be handled in the capital of Bloemfontein, town was printed on form. The registered letter noted was sent to Kaapstaad (Cape Town) and dispatched on 13 May 1875.



ORANGE FREE STATE FORCES

OFFICIAL MAIL, CACHETS AND FREE FRANKING LABELS 1892-1900

PURPOSE: This exhibit will develop in a comprehensive way the various postal methods of communication for the police and military forces of the Republic. This includes cachets in lieu of postage on official mail and franks produced for the Police Force's and Commando's use after the War broke out 11 October 1899. This is not a traditional exhibit in that it mixes various franks, stationery and cachets which within the boundaries of the Republic were recognized as payment for delivery, none of which fit into a standard postal type.

BACKGROUND: As the needs to protect the citizenry of this thinly populated country, various forces were created to deal with threats to the citizens. The initial group was the Artillery Corps followed by the Mounted Police. When War broke out an efficient means of free-franking for the males between 16 and 60 that were called up for duty as "Commandos" was devised via the Commando Brief Frank.

PLAN:

1. Orange Vrystaat Artillerie Corps 1854 (franking cachet 1892-4 pages)
2. Oranje Vrystaat Riujdende Dientsmacht (Police) 1862 (first franks 1896-4 pages)
3. Oranje Vrystaat Commandos (1899-1900-6 pages)
4. Epilogue-Abandonment of the Capitol and Military Retreat (2 pages)

Rarity statements are in bold italics.

Historical personal study and research information in bold arial narrow.



After the Great Trek and early settlement of the territory, the British had much say about local politics and foreign policies. 3 February 1848 Sir Harry Smith created the Orange River Sovereignty under British rule. After a failed attempt to remove the British at the Battle of Boomplaats Aug 1848, a fort was built and completed the following year. When the Free State gained its independence in Feb 1854, the old fort became the home base of the OVSAC or **Oranje Vrystaat Artillerie Corps**.

Published by Sallo Epstein & Co, Durban, negative 24049, undivided back ca 1904.

POSTAL STATIONERY

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC 1869-1900

PURPOSE: This exhibit will develop the series of government issued stationery beginning in 1869 with the prepaid envelopes through the final retreat postal cards of the Kruger government at Machadodorp. Included are the registration envelopes, postal cards, regular and reply-paid, and wrappers. Excluded are the privately printed view cards that proliferated in the final years of the Republic printed mainly by Sallo Epstein. Also excluded are the British siege and occupation issues on Republican emissions during the Boer War. They are not part of the subject matter of Republican issued stationery.

TREATMENT: The overall treatment is chronological in nature as shown in the Plan, broken up generally into stationery types as they were issued.

IMPORTANCE: From a backwater and financially troubled Republic that was taken over by the British in 1877 through the discovery of gold in the mid 1880's, the ZAR postal system became more modernized to accommodate the massive influx of fortune-seekers and merchants. The railway system to the Indian Ocean opened the Republic to foreign trade outside of the influence of the British-controlled Cape Colony.

RESEARCH/KNOWLEDGE: The exhibitor has been collecting the material of the South African Republic (Transvaal) for 35 years and in that time has studied this material in detail. The existing references (shown below) are good introductions, particularly Mathews but it lacks some of the details shown herein as original research. The uses selected display a detailed knowledge of the subject. This is shown through the development of the rates and routes and various history aspects of the Republic. ★= Original research.

RARITY/CONDITION: While much of this material, particularly the postal cards of the 90's are commonly seen for sale, the early envelopes are very elusive particularly used as well as the archival material most of which is the only known items in private hands. Uses including special services, auxiliary markings and destinations are chosen for their rarity and broad scope of variety. Important items are boxed. □

BACKGROUND: Stationery was first issued in 1869 in the form of envelopes, the last produced in 1873. After the first Anglo-Boer War in 1881, the Second Republic began modernizing their postal system by issuing cards in 1885 and eventually after joining the UPU in 1893 wrappers, reply-paid cards and registration envelopes. These were issued in varying numbers from few to close to a half million on later postal cards.

PLAN

Envelopes: Provisional and Davis printings 1869-1873

Postal Cards 1885-1900

Vurtheim 1885

NZASM notification cards 1891, 1893

Shaft Issue 1894

Disselboom Issues 1895-96

NZASM notification cards 1896, 1897

Reply-paid Postal Cards 1896

Wrappers 1898

Registration Envelopes 1898

Proclamation/Machadodorp cards 1900

Letter Sheet

Epilogue

REFERENCES: Quik, W.J., and Dr. G.H. Jonkers, 1998, *The Postal Stationery of South Africa, Part 1*, Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika, pub., pg 82-153. *In English and the most up-to-date information.* Higgins and Gage, 1966, *World Postal Stationery Catalog*, section 17, *Classic Philatelics*, 4 pgs. *While readily available, is out of date, incomplete and contains inaccurate information.* Mathews, Maj. Ian B., et al, 1986, *Transvaal Philately*, Reijer Publishers Ltd., Cape Town, pg 127-137. *Good descriptions and fairly complete in general. Probably available at APRI.*

USES AND POSTAL HISTORY: ISSUES OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC (TRANSVAAL) 1882-1900

PURPOSE/SCOPE: To display the many and varied uses of the postal issues produced by the South African Republic (Transvaal) between the end of hostilities of the First Anglo Boer War ending 1881 and the second war in 1900. This time period was a radical evolution in postal efficiency, economic growth and infrastructure development for the young Republic. In all, 57 face different stamps were issued and all are shown, except for a few which are known by only one or two examples. The Bakker Express, a private transportation company, are shown along with the final issues of the government after the fall of the capital in Pretoria known as the Pietersburg issues in the Epilogue.

TREATMENT: As shown in the Plan below, the exhibit is broken into 7 basic chapters. Due to the importance of the Vurtheims and the Shaft and Disselboom issues there will be an appearance of imbalance. This is an artifact due to the former were in use for almost 15 years and the later were issued during the gold boom times of population explosion. The distance from source (Holland) and Pretoria made time delays creating many shortages dealt with locally by provisional surcharges and use of lower makeup values.

IMPORTANCE: 1) These issues illustrate a key period in the history of South Africa as it moves into the late 19th Century, 2) While not "Classics" in the true sense, they are the major image of modernization of a postal system, 3)

After discovery of Gold, the ZAR became an economic engine of global importance, 4) From small farms and mining camps to a metropolitan city of over 150,000 persons, the rapid rise of postal efficiency in just a little over a decade was a marvel, 5) The nearly 2 decade period of the exhibit displays the development of an advanced railway, telegraph/communication system and UPU membership in a comprehensive nature through postal artifacts.

RESEARCH/KNOWLEDGE: The exhibitor has been collecting the issues of the Transvaal for over 40 years. The uses herein display an overall knowledge of the subject via selection choices of various postal history interest as well as details of the rates and routes and history of the Republic. The rates of each cover is shown first followed by use dates and routing. Notes of interest are in *Arial Narrow* in 14. ★ = Original research.

RARITY/CONDITION: The challenge of this material is finding the early uses and rates in the 80s and early 90s. These items rarely come on the market and as such, condition can be variable. Archival material shown is mostly the only known items in private hands. Uses including special services, auxiliary markings and destinations are chosen for their rarity and broad scope of variety. Rarity related and importance information is shown in *Arial Narrow* bold italic in 12.

Philately of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1954 – 1964

PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBIT

This exhibit shows the postage methods used by the Federal government from 1954 to 1964.

SCOPE OF THE EXHIBIT

It includes printer's proofs, stamps of two definitives sets, commemorative stamps, meters, free franks and postage dues. Usages are presented. The exhibit also shows errors, perforation and plate varieties.

HISTORY

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was formed in 1953, from 3 countries that had previously issued their own stamps. These were Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Southern and Northern Rhodesia used joint stamps from 1892 to 1923 under the name British South Africa Company. In 1909 Rhodesia was added to the stamps by overprint. Southern Rhodesia became a self-governing colony of Britain in 1923, and issued stamps. Northern Rhodesia was declared a British Protectorate and its first stamps were printed in 1925. The first stamps of Nyasaland in 1901 used the name British Central Africa Protectorate. In 1908 the name was changed to Nyasaland Protectorate and these stamps were in use at the time of federation.

Highlights of the exhibit are:

1. Plate Proofs from first and second definitives
2. **10/- 1954 definitive** on cover (Frame 2 page 12)
3. **1d color missing error**, 1959 definitives (Frame 2 page 15)
4. **3d printed on gummed side**, 1959 definitives (Frame 2 page 15)
5. Plate proofs of vignette **Victoria Falls Centenary commemorative** (Frame 3 page 9)
6. **Postage Due hand-stamp overprint**, one of 240 (Frame 4 page 7)
7. Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland Postage Dues on cover.
8. Federation Postage Due on cover.

Important items are framed in light magenta.



The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Printer's Plate Proofs: 1954 Definitives
- 1954 Definitive Issue and Usage
- Printer's Plate Proofs: 1959 Definitives
- 1959 Definitive Issue and Usage
- Commemoratives
 - Victoria Falls, 1955
 - Kariba Dam and Hydroelectric Scheme, 1960
 - Mining and Metallurgical Congress, 1961
 - Air Mail Service: London – Rhodesia, 1962
 - World Tobacco Congress, 1963
 - International Red Cross Centenary, 1963
 - World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs, 1963
- Postage due
- Free Franks
- Meters
- After the breakup

The Death of a Postal System Zimbabwean Inflation 1980-2009

Purpose: The purpose of this postal history exhibit is to trace the inflation/hyperinflation of Zimbabwe postal rates that destroyed the Postal System, as well as the schools

Scope: From Mugabe's accession to power in 1980 to the abandonment of Zimbabwe's currency in April 2009. It will cover Rate Steps 1980-2009, also showing the various rate classes, such as Surface, Air, Air Lift, Due, Registered, etc. 10 rate steps towards the end are not shown, as no examples are known to exist.

Organization: Chronological, by the four successive Zimbabwe \$ periods, and then by rate step. Either officially announced or deduced by personal research. The rate on each cover will be expressed in both the currency of the moment and the original Zimbabwe \$A.

The 'Thermometer' on the right is the value of the USD in terms of \$A. Under each rate step is shown the number of days in effect.

Background: Upon taking power, Mugabe proceeded to wreck the economy, resorting to printing money, causing inflation and at the end, hyperinflation with abandonment of the Zim dollar.

4 different Zim dollars, \$A-1 USD, \$B 1-1,000 devaluation, \$C a 1-10 billion, and a final 1-1 trillion devaluation. Total 1-10 Septillion devaluation, that is, 25 zeros.

The PO having no income, all its employees were laid off, except a few favored ones. Airmail service was maintained from the capital in an ad hoc fashion for Aid agencies or a very determined individual.

Difficulty: Difficulty of acquisition rises Asymptotically along with the inflation. From plentiful in the beginning, to difficult in the middle, to extremely difficult to impossible at the end. See Table at right.

In the final 6 months, NO domestic mail is known. Only 1 'normal' airmail is known, from a very determined American. 7 rate steps have mail from an Aid Agency official who is also a philatelist.

I reduced my standard to anything that showed a dated postmark during a rate period. So picked up 1 FDC, 2 from the Philatelic Agency itself, and 4 steps with blocks with Favour cancels.

Leaving 10 rate steps where no material is known. I do not expect to ever have a complete collection of covers.

Final 6 months-25 rate steps

# of Rate steps	Known material
Domestic mail	0
Normal Airmail	1
Foreign Aid Organizatio	7
FDC	1
Philatelic Office	2
Favour Cancel Blocks	4
Not even Postmark known	10

\$A/USD

1 Octill
100 Sept
10 Sept
1 Sept
100 Sext
10 Sext
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1 Quad
100 Trill
10 Trill
1 Trill
100 Bill
10 Bill
1 Bill
100 Mill
10 Mill
1 Mill
100 Thou
10 Thou
1 Thou
100
10
1



Exchange rate, \$A/USD by year, 1980-2009



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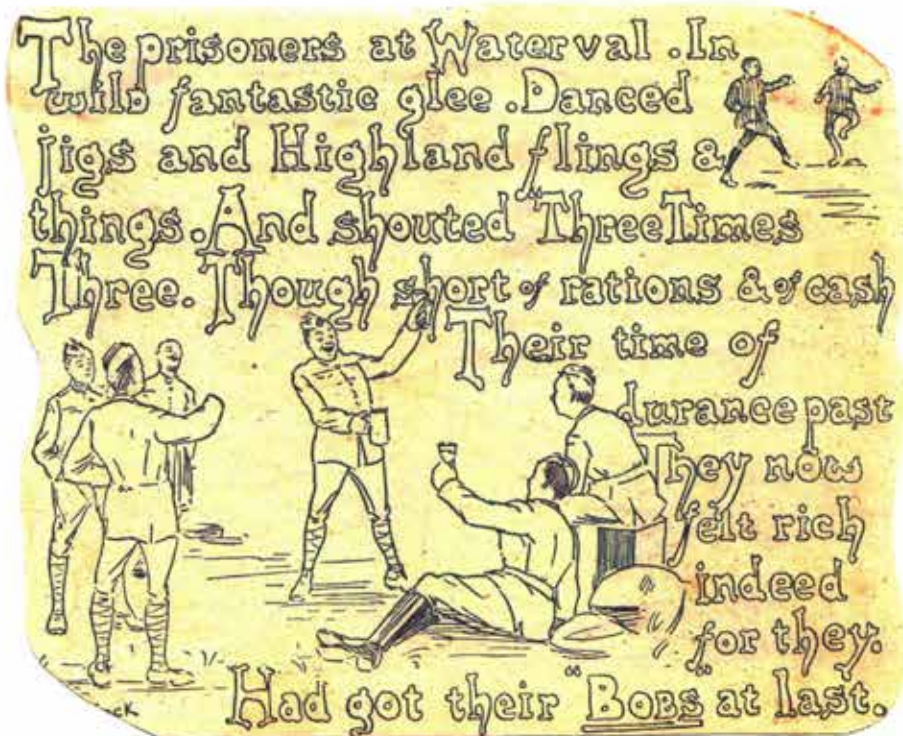
BRITISH POW MAIL DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

In the early part of the Anglo-Boer war, the Boers, as the residents of the Orange Free State and the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal) were known, had some victories which resulted in the capture of some of the British soldiers. These became prisoners of war and were transported back to Pretoria in the ZAR. There the officers were housed in a variety of facilities, while a facility to house the enlisted men was established at Watervaal, a dozen miles distant from Pretoria.

This exhibit shows mail to and from these British POW's at various locations, along with the postal markings for this mail. Although the war was not officially over until May 31, 1902, British soldiers were only held in captivity from November 1899 until September 1900. Philatelic items related to British POW's are relatively scarce. Included in this exhibit, roughly in chronological order, are items related to the officers held in Pretoria, at the Pretoria Goal (jail) and other locations, the Watervaal facility where the enlisted men were housed, and finally a scarce postal card from a prisoner captured late in the war, held at Barberton. Postal markings include initials and cachets indicating censorship, Commandant General control markings, U.S. Consular cachets for passage of mail from the British to the prisoners held by the Boers, and rerouted mail.

Some items are in less than fine condition, but are included for their relative scarcity and specific interest. Items of particular note are backed in red.

While this was a serious war, it was not without a few humorous items:

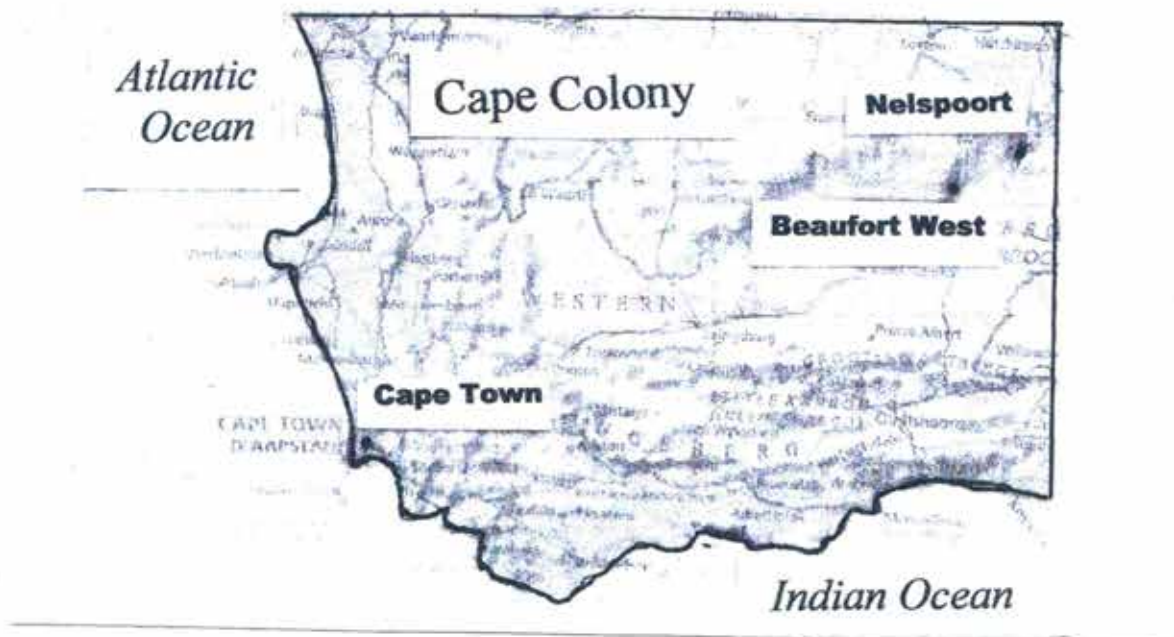


MAIL CENSORED AT BEAUFORT WEST DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902

During the Anglo-Boer War mail was censored using either censor cachets, when the mail was submitted for posting unsealed, or opened and resealed using seals indicating censorship. Evidence of this censorship via censor cachets occurred at a large number of locations. A total of 168 different locations have been identified.. The number of different cachets for each location ranges from a single cachet for many, up to 23 for Bloemfontein. There are 48 types of British Censor Seals, many of which were used at multiple locations..

This exhibit shows mail censored at one location, Beaufort West, in what was then the Cape of Good Hope. Beaufort West is located in the Great Karro region of South Africa, approximately 280 miles west and somewhat north of Cape Town. There is no Beaufort East, rather the town was named Beaufort West to avoid confusion with Fort Beaufort and Port Beaufort.

Censoring was carried out on both incoming and outgoing mail, as well as mail in transit to Cape Town from Nelspoort, a small nearby town. The exhibit shows examples of all five previously recorded Beaufort West censor cachets, as well as a previously unrecorded cachet discovered by the exhibitor. There are also examples of both censor seals, believed by the exhibitor to be used exclusively at Beaufort West, who disputes a single previously recorded use at Cape Town.



The exhibit is in chronologic order to show the evolution of the devices and ink pads used, as well as transitions between and/or simultaneous use of cachets and censor seals.

RHODESIA RAIL STAMPS USED IN BOTSWANA



The 15th class Carratt steam locomotive was the work horse of the Rhodesian Rail from 1963 to 1973. During diesel shortage periods the following years, the Carratt steam engine was temporary reintroduced. Here is locomotive no. 421 captured in 1989 at Plumtree for needed maintenance and water supply before entering into the over 600-kilometer long haul through Botswana. Photo of an oil painting by Peter Lodoen used as a study for the 1997 Botswana Railway Centenary adhesive series (P1 issue).

The railway through Bechuanaland was constructed during 1894-1897, following the Pioneer Column's penetration in 1890 from Bechuanaland into Mashonaland. Its purpose was to provide an easy supply route to Rhodesia, replacing the slow oxen wagons and thus was also part of Cecil Rhodes vision of a rail line to central Africa. The rail through Bechuanaland was operated by the South Africa Railways until 1959, when the Rhodesia Railways took over the operation of the Bulawayo-Malahapye section and in 1966 the complete section to Mafeking. The section between Ramatlabana (the southern border station) and Mafeking reverted to South Africa operation in 1977, when Bophuthatswana gained independence. In addition to the manned stations, several sidings (or whistle stops) were serviced only on demand. Botswana took over the rail in 1989 from now Zimbabwe Rail and discontinued the passenger service in 2009, only to reopen in 2016.

Station specific parcel stamps, inscribed RR, were used by Rhodesia Rail from 1951. In 1961 Bechuanaland (later Botswana) adopted the Rand decimal currency and the decimal rail stamps were likely introduced at the same time. The station specific rail stamps were only issued for the stations on the line to Mahalapye operated by the Rhodesian Railways. The stamps for Shashi (SHH) were for uncertain reasons never used and instead Palapye stamps (PY) manually 'overprinted' SHI were used. When Rhodesia Railways in 1966 also took over the lower part of the rail line to Mafeking, at about the same time as Botswana gained independence, surplus stamps from the upper stations, in addition to a supply of station blank stamps, were overprinted using rubber hand stamps at the new stations.

Soon after the expansion of the rail line serviced by the Rhodesia Railways the use of the parcel stamps and their station codes were chaotic. The use of the parcel stamps was discontinued both in Rhodesia and Botswana on 11. August 1969 due to introduction of a computerized accounting system.

This exhibit traces the use of the RR parcel stamps in Bechuanaland and Botswana from introduced and until withdrawn as well as is possible based on the survived material.

Background Reading

- Brakspear, G., 2013. Rhodesian Railways: railways parcel stamps. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 63 (Whole No. 249), 188-192.
- Hagen, H.S., 1986. The rail letter post in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Runner Post Whole No. 3, 30-34.
- Hagen, H.S. and Naylor, S.P., 1998. Railway Postal History of South Africa. Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Johannesburg.
- Harmer, E.D., 2001. Locomotives of Zimbabwe and Botswana. Stenvalls, Trelleborg, Sweden.
- Russell, H.C., 1988-9. Rhodesia Railways parcels adhesive stamps. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 37-38 (Whole No. 140-141), 154-159, 30-36.

THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF MADAGASCAR ET DEPENDANCES

Madagascar was under early French influence as various forms of occupied territories or protectorates. It formally became a French colony in 1896, following an invasion that finally established French dominance. French influence in the area, however, goes much further back. The three smaller French colonies of *Diégo-Suarez*, *Nossi-Bé*, and *Sainte-Marie*, located close to Madagascar, were all incorporated in 1896 into the new larger colony. Furthermore, the French colonies of the Comoro Islands were in 1908 also consolidated into Madagascar (*Anjouan*, *Grande Comore*, *Mayotte*, and *Mohéli*). Madagascar and Dependencies are thus established as an amalgamation of seven previous autonomous French colonies into the larger colony of Madagascar.

The main postal stationery (and stamps) issued during the period of interest were based on the general French colonial *Allegorical Groupe-Type* keyplate (Navigation and Commerce). The name of the colony was separately printed in black in a rectangular box at the base of the design. Each former colony eventually included in Madagascar were issued identical sets of stationery types and denominations (postal cards, letter cards, and envelopes). Only Mohéli never issued postal stationery. All these different types of stationery became valid in Madagascar, including the former dependencies, and were used until the stock was exhausted or the Groupe-Type stamps were demonetized in 1927.

From the point of view of postal stationery and despite a complex political and postal history of the territories, there are some commonalities that can be explored within the period prior to 1927:

- *French general colonial stationery was used prior to 1896 in Madagascar and some dependencies without overprinting.
- *French stationery was overprinted for use in Diégo-Suarez as well as Madagascar.
- *The first definitive stationery of the French *Allegorical Group-Type* was issued in all territories between 1892 and 1897 and used perhaps as late as 1927.

Stationery imprinted with Madagascar was introduced in 1911 to replace the Groupe-Type stationery. The designs were based on then current adhesive stamps (*Filanzane* and later in 1927 the *Facteur* design). These were sporadically issued and used. An upsurge in stationery was seen in 1931-38 (*Gallieni* and *Buffles* envelopes and *Airplane/Map* aerogramme). The latter was widely used during WW2 often updated. The only stationery released during WW2 as a very attractive postcard (*Betsileo*).

During German occupation of France, the Vichy interzone cards were available for communicating with occupied France. Diégo-Suarez was occupied by British forces during WW2 and airgraphs were in use for a couple of years.

Republique Malagasy became independent in 1958 and ceased to issue stationery until 1992 when various types start to appear. The Comoro Islands obtained independence in 1975 and has since only sporadically issued stationery. Mayotte remained in 1975 a French Overseas Department and still issues stationery envelopes.

Collecting Southern Africa: Interprovincial Usage of Stamps of the Union of South Africa

by Moody Tidwell

At the conclusion of the Anglo-Boer War in 1902 preparations eventually began to create a Union of the colonies of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange Free State and the Transvaal, which on 31 May 1910 resulted in the Union of South Africa. The former Colonies became Provinces of the new nation. After lengthy and sometimes contentious negotiations the four colonial Postmasters agreed upon the design of a single service and a plan to issue a stamp to commemorate the act of Union. H.S. Wilkinson, Distributor of Stamps in Pretoria, designed a 2½d. value, the Empire foreign letter rate at the time, depicting the likeness of King Edward VII. However, his sudden death three weeks before the creation of Union meant a hurried redesign and delay until a design depicting King George V would be available. As a result issuance of the 2½d. commemorative stamp was delayed until 4 November 1910 to coincide with the opening of the first Parliament. Out of necessity, the definitive stamps of the four provinces were approved for temporary use throughout the Union although the public was not officially informed of the fact until it was published in the Government Gazette on 19 August 1910.

The collecting of the so-called 'Interprovincial' stamps is the study of the period from 19 August 1910 until 31 August 1913 the day before issuance of the first Union of South Africa's King's Head definitives on 1 September 1913. In the case of the postage due values of Transvaal, the period can be extended until issue of the relevant Union values in 1914-15. In practice the usage of provincial stamps continued on a limited basis until demonetization on 1 January 1938, although during this period usage became increasingly philatelic and even included stocks of earlier stamps such as the Orange Free State "V.R.I." overprints.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The Interprovincial stamps are listed in the Union Handbook (Note 1) and Stanley Gibbons Catalog. Collecting them can be a rewarding challenge because they can be identified only by their postmarks on which the name and date is legible. Many, if not most examples, are on a cover or on piece because of the need to read the full postmark and are collected with postmarks showing their usage in other provinces during the Interprovincial period.

Mixed franking, consisting of the use of more than one provincial colonial issue on a cover are more difficult to find and thus more valuable than single usage. Figure 1 shows mixed franking of Transvaal and Cape of Good Hope stamps used in Transvaal during the interprovincial period with 1d. (1904), 6d. (1906) and 2/- (1906) Transvaal and 1/- (1902) Cape of Good Hope values tied to a piece by a Johannesburg 6 February 1911 cancellation.

Revenue stamps were also used in the interprovincial period as seen in Figure 2 with mixed franking of £10 and £2 Transvaal (1902) and single 5/- Cape of Good Hope (1903) issues tied on piece by "DEED OF REGISTRY/CAPE TOWN" 10 March 1913 oval date stamps.

Figures 3-5 are 1905 Transvaal values used on 22 March 1913 at Bredasdorp, on 7 July 1913 at Morreesburg, and on 19 August 1912 at Mafeking, all located in the Cape of Good Hope.

Figure 6 is a 5/- (1903) Cape of Good Hope colonial stamp used in the Transvaal at the Johannesburg Telegraph Office on 27 August 1911 and Figure 7 a 2d. (1903) at Jo'burg with a 'Registered' strike of 10 October 1911. Figure 8 is a Cape of Good Hope 1d. (1902) used 3 April 1912 in the Orange Free State at Brandford. Figures 8 and 9 are a ½d. pair and 1/- (1902) colonial issues used in Natal at Durban on 26 September 1911 and 4 February 1911.

Even the government was forced to use colonial issues during the period as seen in Figure 11, a handwritten letter bearing a single 2½d. (1902) Natal issue posted 4 June 1913 in Cape Town to France from the Controller, Union of South Africa Department of Posts and Telegraphs stating,

"Sir, In answer to your application of the 30th March I beg to inform you that the stocks of Natal 2/6d, 5/- and 10/- stamps are exhausted. The sum of 19/5d. is returned by money order and a Natal halfpenny stamp enclosed being the amount of your remittance less money order commission and postage. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, (unintelligible signature), Controller"

With a 'Controller' oval date stamp partially under the value, two CAPE TOWN/S.AFRICA/4 June 13 cds' and two Paris 21 June 1913 receipt handstamp'.



Figure 3



Figure 4



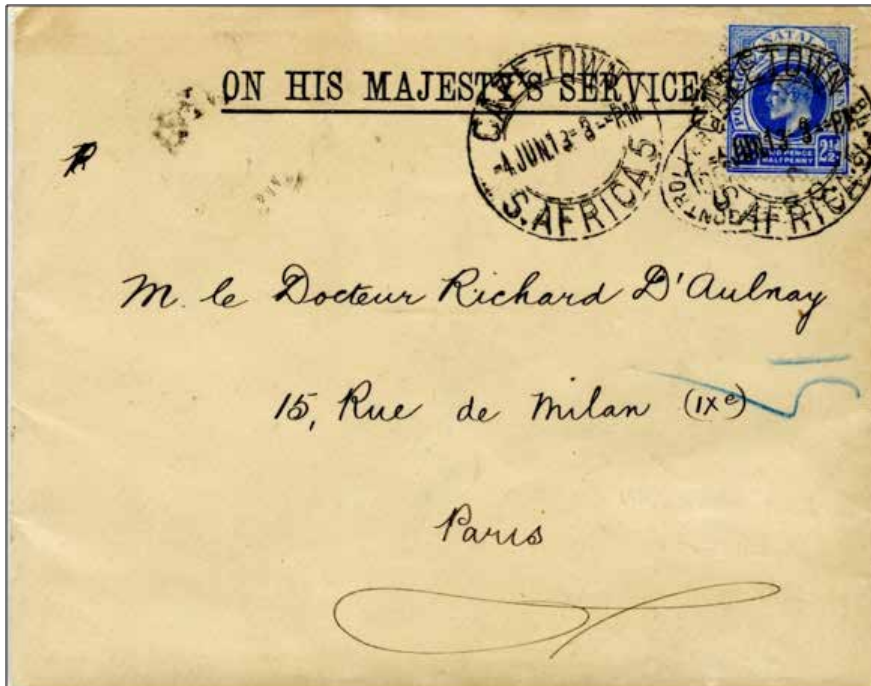
Figure 5



Figures 6-10

Figures 12 and 13 are 1d. (1902) Natal colonial issues used 20 June 1911 at the Premier Mine and 6 July 1911 at East Rand. Figure 14 is a (1908) Natal 5/- used at the Main Street Post Office, Johannesburg, and Figure 15 is a cut square from a 4d Natal colonial registration envelope used at Randfontein 12 April 1912. All used in Transvaal.

Figure 11



in the Transvaal. Figure 18 is a ½d. Orange Free State (1900) 'V.R.I.' overprint used 18 May 1913 at Cape Town.

Most of the lower value colonial stamps used in this period are not expensive but scarcity can be significant in determining value. The Orange River Colony ½d. post card addressed to England, uprated with a



Figure 12-15

Orange Free State colonial values were similarly used in other provinces as in Figure 16 of mixed franking of a 1d. Natal (1903), 2d. Cape of Good Hope (1904) and 3d. Orange Free State (1903) used 5 August 1911 in the Transvaal at Pretoria. Figure 17 shows two 6d. Orange Free State (1903) and a 3d. Cape of Good Hope (1903) values struck with several 16 October 1911 Railway cancels at Bloemhof



Figures 16-17

½d. Transvaal (1905) colonial issue in Figure 19 was used 30 August 1912 at Ixopo (Natal) and is rated by Putzel at 40/200.

The 2½d. Parliamentary commemorative was also used during the interprovincial period in conjunction with colonial stamps but such usage is rare. Figure 20 shows a 1d. (1902) Natal colonial issue used with a pair of 1910 commemorative stamps on 3 July 1911 at Pretoria. Figure 21 is with a 1d. (1905) Transvaal value used 18 September 1912 at Cape Town.

Figure 22 shows a dark blue and white (SG1) and blue and white (SG2) pair of the 1910 2½d. commemorative stamp used with a 2d. Transvaal stamp on a registered letter to Canada pre-pay the 2½d. Empire Foreign letter fee plus 4d. cost of registration.

Collecting the Interprovincial stamps of the Union of South Africa does not require in-depth knowledge of the geography of the country. All that is needed is Robert Hisey's complete database of Ralph Putzel's award winning 'Postal Office Names of Southern Africa' that is available in spreadsheet (Excel) and database (Access) from the Philatelic Society of Greater Southern Africa website (Note 2). The database is easily searchable and ships as a CD-ROM.



Figure 19



Figure 18



Figures 20 and 21



Figure 22

End Notes

- 1, Stamps of the Union of South Africa, 1910-1960. Handbook Catalog. Hagger, S.J. editor. 1982 Edition.
2. The Postmarks of South Africa. Putzell, R.A. No. 232/250.

This article originally appeared in Forerunners Whole No. 94, 62-64.

NOW AVAILABLE

**PIONEER POSTCARDS
OF SOUTH AFRICA
1896 – 1900**

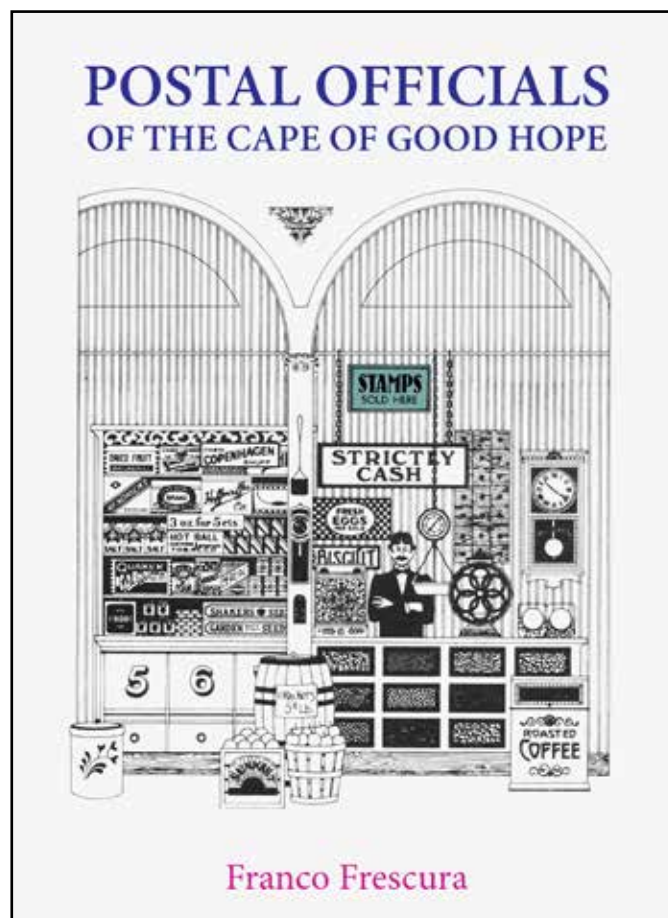
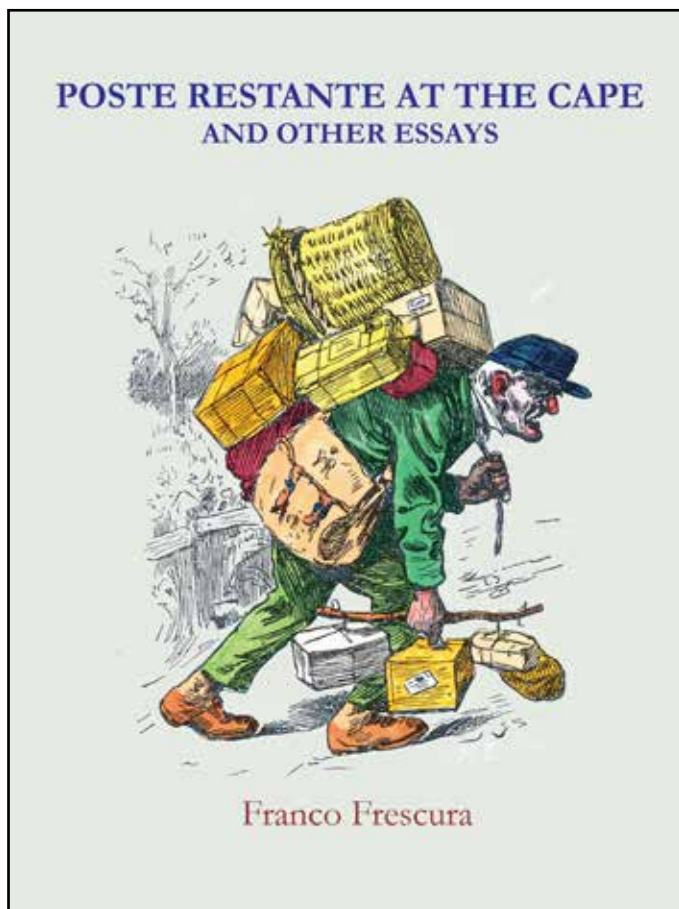
A catalogue with a postcard rating scale.
152 pages in A4 format, full colour printing on 130 grams silk mc and saddle stitched, profusely illustrated, 77 publishers with more than 650 postal stationery and non-stationery picture postcards of the Boer Republics, the Cape Colony and Natal.

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New PSGSA Books

Phansi Museum Press and the PSGSA have released two new monographs by Franco Frescura on the postal history of the Cape of Good Hope: Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays & Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope



Franco Frescura, 2022. *Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays*. Phansi Museum Press, 302 pages, black and white, paperback, 8x10 inches. ISBN 9780620996570. Available in South Africa at R350 each from Phansi Museum (<https://phansi.com>) and for the rest of the world from Amazon.com (<https://www.amazon.com>) for \$20 each. Shipping and taxes are additions.

The book is a collection of essays dealing with aspects of the Cape of Good Hope, a land originally inhabited by Khoikhoi and San First Nations, first visited by Portuguese mariners, invaded by successive Dutch and English colonialist, settled by German armed farmers, prospected by Cornish, Italian, Australian and Californian miners, traded with by Jewish Lithuanians, and finally inhabited by a complex mixture of European, African, Chinese, Malay and Indian cultures. It was inevitable that out of this complicated cultural mix should emerge a number of puzzles, contradictions and enigmas, many of which continue to color our understanding of the South African history to this day.

Franco Frescura, 2022. *Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope*. Phansi Museum Press, 300 pages, black and white, paperback, 8x10 inches. ISBN 9780620959247. Available in South Africa at R350 each from Phansi Museum (<https://phansi.com>) and for the rest of the world from Amazon.com (<https://www.amazon.com>) at \$20 each. Shipping and taxes are additions.

This is a book of data, including lists of postmasters, early visitors to the Cape, licensed stamp vendors, main post and sub-post offices, railway stations and returns of post office property. This book is an essential companion for students of Cape colonial genealogy and not the least of postal history.

Both books are published by the Phansi Museum Press of Durban in association with the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA).

Forerunners Forum

Public **Zoom** Meetings

Several organizations and specialist societies have started offering Zoom presentations with regular intervals on subjects that may interest collectors of Southern Africa. These are often open to the public although may require registration to get the Zoom links. Those the Editor have enjoyed recently is the *Collectors Club of New York* that variably offer talks with an African or Commonwealth connection (<http://collectorsclub.org>). Another group is the *British Empire Study Group* (besgonline@gmail.com) that may be more aligned with our interests.



The British Empire Study Group has been hosting two discussions between Steven Zirinsky and Hugh Jefferies on catalogues. Steve Zirinsky is a New York part-time dealer and Hugh Jefferies are the editor of the Stanley Gibbons catalogues. The first was in September 2022 and the more recent was in April 2023. Both are available on You Tube via the website https://bestudygroup.org/category/besg_video. Another recent presentation of interests to southern Africa collectors was Christopher Dorn talk on the Cape of Good Hope Trinagles.



South Africa Philatelist 100 Years

The Philatelic Federation of South Africa celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the South African Philatelist. The first issue appeared in 1923. The 2023 South African National Stamp Show will therefore be hosted at the Kyalami Country Club, Johannesburg, 11-14 October. The general theme for the show will be '*SA Philatelist 100.*' The journal is now being distributed to subscribers via the website only in digital version. In addition, the 1923-1955 issues of the South Africa Philatelist has now been scanned and are available on the website to members.



SAVPEX 2023

The eighth and well established South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition - SAVPEX, hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society, is in preparation. Entries for the event close on 31 May 2023 and the date for receipt of the uploaded exhibit is 15 June 2023. Results will be announced in July 2023 and all partaking exhibits will be available for viewing on the PFSA website. For further information visit the PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa/>. Contact: Joof van der Merwe - josuav528@gmail.com for further information.

Philatelic Federation of South Africa

The emblem of the Federation depicts a unique South African feature of early postal history: "Post Office Stones" were discovered on 7 March 1896 while excavations in Strand Street, Cape Town were in progress. The stones tell the story of early Cape history in which letters addressed to, or to be conveyed by, passing ships were placed under the rocks. The earliest inscription dated 1618. The lowermost center of the logo symbolizes the stone with letters underneath on the ground.



Road to Democracy



<https://stampssa.africa/wp-content/uploads/INTERNASIONALE%20FILATELIE%20UITSTALLING%20-%20Kwela%20S24%20Eps42.mp4>

Watch a video on the 2022 Cape Town Exhibition by clicking on this link (mostly in Afrikaans): Click on link above.

Best Article in Forerunners

The award for best article in volume 35 of Forerunners is given to Gordon Smith for his article in Whole No. 103 titled *Post-Independence Industrial Development of Botswana as Illustrated Through Meter Marks: Large Companies*. This is the second of a promised series on meter marks of Botswana. Congratulations to Gordon. His article will be posted on APS website <http://stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction>.



PSGSA Articles of Distinction

Posted at: <http://stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction>

- 2022. 'Post-Independence Industrial Development of Botswana as Illustrated Through Meter Marks: Large Companies' by Gordon Smith. Whole No. 103.
- 2021. 'The Air Mail Stamps of the Union of South Africa' & 'Varieties of the Airmail Stamps of the Union of South Africa' by Andre du Plessis. Whole No. 102.
- 2020. 'T110 Rail Letter Post Labels' by Jan Stolk. Whole No. 98.
- 2019. 'Letters from the Zulu War 1876-1879' by David McNamee. Whole No. 94.
- 2018. 'Lieutenant Alfred Hutton Radice, 1st Battalion Cloustershire Regiment: British Prisoner of War and Disaster at Nicholson's Nek' by Paul Benson. Whole No. 91.
- 2017. 'The intersection of African Liberation and Philately in the Life of an Activist' by Ken Lawrence. Whole No. 88.
- 2016. 'The 'Woodblock' triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope' by David Mordant. Whole No. 84.
- 2015. 'The South Africa Christmas Stamp Project' by Franco Frescura. Whole Number 83.
- 2014. 'The Cape Post Office 1795-1910: A Final Report' by Franco Frescura. Whole Number 79.

Annual Article of Distinction Award

The next award will be for the current volume ending with this issue and will be announced in No. 108.

All feature and column articles of more than two printed pages will be eligible. The competition will be judged by an *ad hoc* committee presided by the Society President. The judgement of the committee will be final.

The winning article will also be eligible to be posted on the American Philatelic Society's 'Articles of Distinction Archive' (www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction).

Exhibit Books

South African Republic and Transvaal



Seven Outstanding
Single-Frame Exhibits

R. Timothy Bartshe

The *Exhibitors Press* has released four volumes containing reproductions of Tim Bartshe's Orange Free State and Transvaal exhibits. The volumes are

- (1) An illustrated Visitor's Guide to Bloemfontein: A South Africa Postcard Exhibit.
- (2) Orange Free State Cards of 1884-1900.
- (3) Orange Free State Republican Postage Issues 1868-1900.
- (4) South African Republic and Transvaal: Seven Outstanding Single-Frame Exhibits.

The latest volume just released contains seven one-frame exhibits (Yes SEVEN!) and thus concludes Tim's OFS and Transvaal exhibits. The sheer magnitude is impressive and provides a basic source to understanding the philately and postal history of southern Africa that cannot easily be obtained from existing published books. The high awards obtained by the exhibits and the included synopsis pages provides a guidance to a new exhibitor of any subject on how to do it successfully.

THE NEWS
HAS NOT BEEN WONDERFUL THIS YEAR
now here is something to
look forward to
40 pages of exciting philatelic
information to help make your
World great AND
colourful
www.stampssa.africa

Clash of Empires

the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War

1-31 July 2023

Spear Museum of Philatelic History
15 Abchurch Lane, London

When British and Colonial forces invaded the Zulu Kingdom on 11 January 1879, they ignited one of the most famous conflicts of the Victorian era. In July 2023, the *Spear Museum of Philatelic History* at the *Royal Philatelic Society London* will host a public exhibition displaying more than 500 postal, historical, and cultural objects exploring the context, history, and ongoing legacy of this Clash of Empires. The exhibition's narrative will begin in the early years of the 19th century with the emergence of King Shaka kaSenzangakhona and the rise of the Zulu Kingdom and go all the way through to 2019, 140-years after the start of the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War. The depth and scope of this context philately exhibition is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to see the intertwined stories of this important history told through hundreds of artefacts.



Lo Bengula

Left impression of the seal of Lo Bengula, King of the Matabele.

Lower left drawing allegedly of Lo Bengula around 1890.



Khama the Great



Khama *The Great* (Khama III, 1837?-1923).
King of the Bangwato, 1895.

Summary of Increases in South Africa Postal Rates for 2021-23

Category	2021	2022	2023
Standard Postage	R5.34	R5.65	R5.95
Local Postcard	R5.70	R6.05	R6.35
Airmail Postcard (APC)	R10.85	R11.50	R12.10
International Small Letter	R12.65	R13.40	R14.10
Aerogrammes	R8.00	R8.50	R8.95
B5 Rate (Medium)	R10.75	R11.40	R12.00
B4 Rate (Large)	R13.15	R13.95	R14.65
Postage included Registered Envelope	R41.40	R43.90	R46.15
Registered Letter (DL- Small)	R37.45	R39.70	R41.70
Registered Letter (B5 - Medium)	R42.85	R45.40	R47.70
Registered Letter (B4 - Large)	R45.10	R47.80	R50.25

Information obtained from the Government Gazette no 48062 of 17 February 2023 pp 70 - 82. (Postal Rates will increase on [Saturday] April 1st, 2023)

For the Record

469. The website **ZimFieldGuide.com** contains historic, cultural and wildlife information for Zimbabwe. Included are detailed historical information including postal. <https://zimfieldguide.com>



470. The 2023 **South African National Stamp Exhibition** will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the **South African Philatelist**. The will be in Johannesburg 11-14 October.
471. The 37th Edition of the **South African Stamp Colour Catalogue 2023-2025** has been released. The catalogue contains the same areas as the Stanley Gibbons Southern Africa Catalogue (now out of print) with the exception of the post-independence countries Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Contact Janssen Stamp at www.janssen.stamps.com. Price is R780 plus shipping.



472. **Spinks' Stamps and Covers of the World** offer collections of **Bechuanaland, South West Africa, and Rhodesia** in their March 2023 sale.

473. The **Royal Philatelic Society of London** invites to a display of **Anglo-Zulu War** objects at their 15 Abchurch Lane, London, facility. On display are items from Alexander Haimann collection. Visit **Clash of Empires: The 1879 Anglo-Zulu War**, July 1-31, 2023.



Specialist Societies Under Threat

The small specialist societies we all rely on are under threat of extinction. We use them to get our information on new postal history and philatelic findings, like clarification of postal routes and rates, new and old stamps, postmarks, or just to keep in touch with old friends. There are several telling signs that we know well from our own society: Difficulties of finding replacement for essential society functions as treasurer, secretary, and editors are some of the first signs. Another is society journals that is mostly written by the editor or is reproducing old articles from the past or from other journals. An example of these problems is clearly revealed by a note I recently got from a small society I belong to: *Please read carefully - This may be the most important (...) newsletter you will have received.* I can only hope that they will survive until the next crisis. There is not much more for me to do to help than to pay the dues.

New Books

- Frescura, Franco, 2022. *Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays*. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 302 pages. Amazon.com.
- Frescura, Franco, 2022. *Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope*. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 300 pages. Amazon.com.
- J.E. Symons, edited by Peter Thy, 2022. *The Macloutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1892*. Krone Publications. Amazon.com.
- Bartshe, T., 2023. *South Africa Republic and Transvaal: Seven Outstanding One-Frame Exhibits*. Exhibitors Press. Amazon.com.

South African Philately Club

This is an online meeting place for collectors of southern Africa. It is a place for discovering new things, to ask questions, to help fellow collectors, and to meet new friends. You will have to register to get the full advantage of the site. It can be highly recommended and is certainly worth exploring. Go to <https://southafricanphilatelyclub.com>.



Highlights from Journals

This regular column lists some of the more important articles on Southern Africa Philately and postal history that recently have appeared in other journals. It is based on our exchange journals as well as on those that by other means end up on the Editor's desk. If you find that some important articles are missing, please supply the relevant quotes.

- Berry, R., 2023. Rhodesian and Zimbabwean military formation and unit cachets: Part 5 – Government Departments, combined operations, army headquarters and brigades. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 35-41.
- Briscoe, A., 2023. The Bechuanaland Expeditionary Field Force. *South African Philatelist* 99, 50-52.
- Briscoe, A., 2023. The Crocodile Pools data stamp. *South African Philatelist* 99, 14-16.
- Clemons, T., 2023. Road to Democracy stamp – designed for specific production setup. *South African Philatelist* 99, 66-67.
- Cooper, D., 2023. 1959 3d Rhodes grave printed on the gummed side: conclusive proof. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 43-44.
- Davis, T., 2022. Zululand: Paul Dorn, Zululand and the lower Tugela post office. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 26, 206-209.
- De Bourbon, A., 2023. Printing of the 1905 Victoria Falls bridge stamps. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 42.
- Flanagan, P., 2023. Bulawayo, Lobengula and other things. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 51-52.
- Fraser, C., 2023. Nyasaland King George VI definitive stamps – imperforate to the sheet margin. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 45.
- Hickman, P., 2023. Bulawayo – related items of postal history. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 46-47.
- Hickman, P., 2023. Some early postal history from the Jesuits in Southern Rhodesia. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 66-68.
- Hickman, P., 2023. The Umtali type 6 cancel. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 56-58.
- Kachan, V., 2023. How Europeans encountered South African Butterflies in the 18th century. *South African Philatelist* 99, 19-22.
- Kalkhoven, V., 2022. CGH: watermarks of the triangular issues. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 26, 212-217.
- Kamffer, G., Aspects of the postal system of the Republic of South Africa. Part 7. *South African Philatelist* 99, 56-60.
- Knip, E., 2023. De overdrukken vann Zuidelijk Afrika deel 2 (Botswana). *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 36, Whole No. 137, 12-14.
- Osthoff, G., 2023. Collect a bouquet of Ericas. *South African Philatelist* 99, 28-29.
- Plessis, A. du, 2023. Union of South Africa illustrated stamp varieties. War Effort, large series 1941 to 1943. *South African Philatelist* 99, 53-55.
- Plessis, A. du, Union of South Africa stamp varieties. Huguenot commemoration fund, 1939. *South African Philatelist* 99, 18.

- Porter, R., 2023. The 'Natal Witness' newspaper and its perfins. *South African Philatelist* 99, 30-31.
- Pratley, R. and Menuz, W., 2023. South African Republic postal order master plate. *Postal Stationery* 65, 80-84.
- Roche, C., Kamffer, G., Wigston, D., and Rose, A., 2023. Celebrating 100 years of the SAP. *South African Philatelist* 99, 5-9.
- Solomon, S., 2022, Joubert de la Ferte. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 26, 180-183.
- Solomon, S., 2022. CGH: parcel labels and parcel postal certificates. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 26, 193-198.
- Solomon, S., 2022. Natal: the 1874-79 postage issues composite essays and the artistry of De La Rue. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 26, 184-192.
- Solomon, S., 2022. Natal: the 1891 twopence halfpenny surcharge (SG109) on the De La Rue 4d brown (SG102). *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 26, 201-205.
- Spivack, D., 2023. Bechuanaland Protectorate telegraph station datastamps 1899-1913. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 28-31.
- Van Vliet, O., 2023. Zuid Afrika: eeuwenland onder de indruk! *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 36, Whole No. 137, 6-10.
- Visser, A., 2023. Phun with postmarks (rail letter post). *South African Philatelist* 99, 11-13.
- Wilson, A., 2023. Perforations and shrinkage. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 74, 32-34.

Past Print Issues of Forerunners

In an attempt to reduce valuable storage space, the past print issues of Forerunners are available to members willing to pay for shipping. Send a wish list to the Editor and he will let you know which issues are still available and the shipping expenses (only from No. 47). The most recent issues of the past two years will not normally be part of this offer. The full set in searchable pdf format is available on CD or on the Society website and takes up much less space.

Index for Forerunners

There are several pressing issues for our society that require volunteers to step forward. The preparation of a Forerunners index is perhaps the single most outstanding task. The Editor runs into this problem often. For example, recently, a member asked if an article he wrote some years ago ever appeared in Forerunners. The answer is that I really do not know. Other examples involve philatelic questions that we know have been covered in Forerunners but that cannot be found. An index will greatly improve the usefulness of Forerunners to our members and philatelists in general. The fact is that if we can't find something that has been written in the past, it may just as well not exist. So, consider stepping forward.

It is true that the archival edition of Forerunners (available on CD) can be searched using Adobe Acrobat or Reader functions. However, results of a simple search for say 'Rhodesia' will generate too many results. An author and subject index and a table of content would be so much more efficient.

Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist in electronic format only: February 2023 (Volume 99, No. 1); April 2023 (Volume 99, No. 2).

FVZA Bartolomeu Dias: January 2023 (Whole No. 137).

The PSGSA exchanges printed journals with the Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in electronic format. Forerunners is exchanged as an electronic document to all southern African specialist societies known to us.

Society Publications

Frescura, Franco, 2022. Poste Restante at the Cape and Other Essays. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 302 pages. Amazon.com.

Frescura, Franco, 2022. Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope. Phansi Museum Press, Durban, and the PSGSA, 300 pages. Amazon.com.

Smith, Gordon, 2020. Bechuanaland and Botswana Registration Labels: An Updated Typology and Listing. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Matheson, Ian, 2017. The "Officials" of South Africa. PDF on Memory Stick, \$30 pp.

Mordant, David, 2017. Barred Oval Numerical Cancellers of Cape of Good Hope 1863-1963. A Third Edition of the listing is also available downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Bartshe, Tim, 2003-9. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1. The Postage Stamps, 280 pages.

Vol. 2. The Telegraphs, 250 pages.

Vol. 3. Revenues and Postal Stationery, 205 pages.

Available on Amazon.com.

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 99 (CD-ROM). \$30 plus \$5 s/h. Early issues can individually be downloaded from the Society website.

Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope PSGSA Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

To order contact John McFarlane using the address given on page 1.

The Market Place

South Africa OFFICIALS. Want to purchase/trade for stamps overprinted official/offisiel. Collections, accumulations, units or pairs, for studying purposes. The usual is as interesting as the spectacular. Can offer Union and RSA stamps and covers. Send scans and price to Roald Sand, Bygdoy alle 27B, 0262 Oslo, Norway. roald.sand2@getmail.no

Bophuthatswana used. Wish to trade for used in/off cover, including revenues and postal stationery. Have all Homelands used, some mint and older general worldwide to trade. Write Will Ross, 4120 Schuykill Dr., Calabasas, CA 91302.

South West Africa postal stationery. I am seeking pre-1969 items. Please send offer to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

Mafeking siege "blueprint" covers. Want to purchase or trade for covers with Mafeking siege "blueprint" stamps. Send photocopies or scans, prices, or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net

South African postage due covers. Looking for postage due mail from and to South Africa, all periods welcome. Please send offers to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

Natal Postcards Wanted. Used or unused picture postcards from 1906-1907 depicting scenes and events surrounding the Natal Native Rebellion. Contact David McNamee dmcnamee@aol.com.

Botswana and Bechuanaland Official Free Marks: interested in trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gordon.smith@ns.sympatico.ca.

Botswana Meter Marks: interested in all eras. For trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gordon.smith@ns.sympatico.ca.

Zimbabwe Covers between 2008 (Jan 1) and 2009 (Apr). Bob Hisey at bobhisey@comcast.net.

Airmails from SA to South America. Wanted airmail covers from SA to South or Central America between 1932 and 1952. Send scan or photocopy with price to Hugh Amoore, (9 Bishoplea Road, Claremont, South Africa, 7708); email to: hugh.amoore@uct.ac.za).

Send request for your free non-dealer membership ad to the Editor. Multiple ads per issue per member are admitted as long as space is available. Ads will run for several issues unless specified otherwise. Limits of 40 words plus name and postal and email addresses.

Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

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Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

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1/2 page: single issue \$10, annual \$25, two years \$80.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

An annual advertiser will automatically receive the electronic version of the journal. Contact the Society Treasurer or Editor for any special requirements and for booking your premium spaces. All payment should be addressed to the Treasurer. The Editor will assist with ad designs if required.



1884 Warren Expedition OHMS cover from Dongola in Egypt/Sudan to a member of the Royal Engineers in London, franked by provisional 1884 20 paras on 5 piastres green pair, tied by indistinct POSTE EGIZIANE/DONGOLA circular datestamp dated 1880 in Arabic. Readdressed on arrival in London (Dec 29 and 30) from New Cross to the Telegraph Battalion, Bechuanaland with Cape Town circular datestamp on reverse on arrival Jan 22 85. Delivered on the Telegraph line to Traungs in British Bechuanaland. See Brian Trotter's article on the Warren Expedition in FR#100. Feldman, June 2021 sale, Lot 10249.

Membership Application

Membership includes a subscription to the Society's journal *Forerunners*. The membership fees are \$20 for an electronic version of *Forerunners*. To also obtain also the print version add US\$5 to US mailing addresses, US\$10 to Canada addresses, and US\$15 to the rest of the world. Those that join before July 1 will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals are due by January 1. If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." Mail all payments to John McFarlane, PSGSA Treasurer, 371 Dahlia St., Denver, CO 80220 or piperjohn165@gmail.com. PayPal to piperjohn165@gmail.com is also acceptable, but please add US\$ 1 extra to cover part of the PayPal fees we must pay to use the service. For some overseas members, it might be more advantageous to send in dues for two or more years to avoid the annual currency conversion fees.

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