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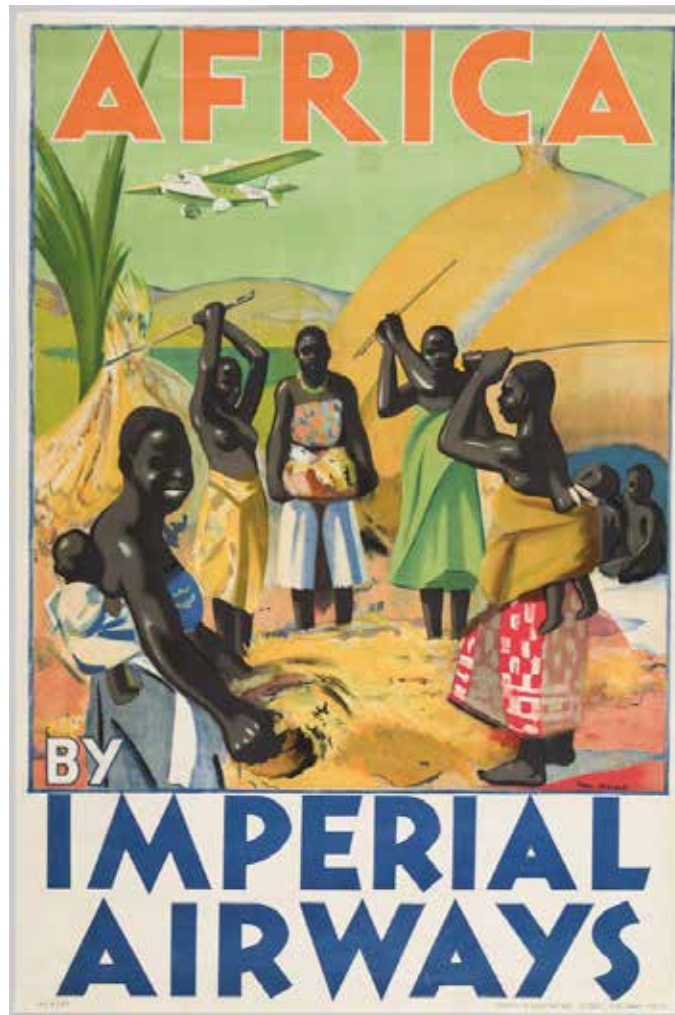
\*\*\*\*\***FORERUNNERS**

*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 3, Whole Number 107

September-December 2023



Imperial Airways Poster from the Late 1930

### Highlights

British Central Africa Wrapper

Bo-poo-tat-swana

Heidelberg Postcards

Aviation in Bechuanaland

Bulawayo Boer War Civil Press Censor

# Publications of the PSGSA

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Available as a free download from the Society website

EARLY POSTAL SERVICES OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE  
by R. Taylor  
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Publications payable by US check, cash, or PayPal to piperjohn165@gmail.com.  
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Founded 1987

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Botswana Post issued on July 18, 2021, a set of two stamps commemorating Nelson Mandela's visits to Botswana. The stamps were released as stamps and a round miniature sheet. Here is shown the P9 stamp. The printer was Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.

Front Illustration:

Imperial Airways poster from the late 1930 showing a rural scene from one of its stops probably in East Africa. [https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/africa-imperial-airways/nasm\\_A19900981000](https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/africa-imperial-airways/nasm_A19900981000)

\*\*\***FORERUNNERS**

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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 SESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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## Editorial Notes

Arriving is another issue of our journal with hopefully interesting articles for everyone. This time a couple of well established authors offers subjects covering British Central Africa wrappers and views on the Bophutatswana stamps. But we are also able to introduce a new author writing on the deltiology subject of Heidelberg in Transvaal (present day Gauteng). I had to lookup the meaning of deltiologist, but fortunately I don't need to explain since Carol Hardijzer clearly explains its meaning. It is the editor's hope that we can convince Carol to let us read other of her existing articles and future writings. But do not always rely on somebody else to write the articles in Forerunners. Write your own on the subject that interests you.

The past months have been hectic for your editor. Not only because I had to prepare this issue. I finally managed to sell by auction my collection of Bechuanaland and Botswana postal stationery. This happened just a couple of days ago as this is being written. So obviously the question is if I have lost interest in the subject. Probably not so, but I will have to stop looking for new items to add. Fortunately, I have several collections in progress also related to southern Africa. My Madagascar postal stationery collection you may already have seen at the recent Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. Another subject is Zanzibar stationery although not a southern Africa subject. Further there is the southern Africa World War Two postal history subjects (African Pioneers and the airgraphs). That should be plenty to keep me busy so I should not need any new collecting subject. You are wrong assuming so. A new subject I have taken up is the former Danish trading posts in the Gold Coast of West Africa and the East India. The East India areas include the Serampore near Calcutta of Bengal and Tranquebar toward the south. This offer me new challenges and excitements.

You may have discovered that we have organized our list of publications. Most of our publications are now listed on our website for the download of all visitors.

Other good news is that the two books written by Franco Frescura have been awarded Gold and Large Gold at recent exhibits.



*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 April 15, 2024. 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](mailto:piperjohn165@gmail.com).



## Collapse of the Postal System as We Know it

The holidays at the end of the year have always been a period for exchanging greetings and well-beings to family and friends. That practice has now changed. We used to mail out greeting cards a week or two before Christmas. A year before the COVID epidemic, I mailed my usual philatelic cards in good time, I would have expected. Two months later, I discovered that the cards had been distributed in Europe. Four months later they had finally reached South Africa. Needless to say, that experience put an effective stopper for my Christmas greetings cards.

Another tradition was that we would mail gift packets to family members, particularly those with kids. So, this year I prepared the usual care packet to my 'starving relatives in Europe.' It was a selection of American specialities heavenly focused on various iconic candies. It cost me about \$30 at the local grocery store. I took it to my local friendly post office who told me that it would cost me \$70 to mail my 3-4-lb. packet. And then I was told that the rules for mailing to the EU had dramatically changed. It was now required that I provide a detailed content and value of the content. After my explanations had been put into the computer, I was told that the recipient would have to pay \$175 (or was it perhaps kroner?) to receive the packet. Again, a long tradition may have been broken. More

## 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 an application form from [www.psgsa.org](http://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](mailto: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

### *Fellow Members*

As another year closes, let me first say that by the time you read this it will be 2024 and I pray that you had a blessed Christmas and that the New Year will bring you continued joy and happiness. Also, may you find a few philatelic goodies to fill the holes in your collections and dazzle you with something you either have been looking for or never knew existed.

As I sit here in my stamp cave, I look over all of the 3-ring binders of material and boxes of "stuff" that I knew I needed to acquire for whatever reason that is now lost in time and wonder what the future holds. Many things have changed for what most of us in organized philately believe is not for the better, but I was reminded this last weekend at CHICAGOPEX by some that the new realities for the philatelic social structures will open new doors of opportunity for most. We have watched in North America as the series of shows we call the World Series of Philately have dwindled with the demise of a handful of dealer-supported exhibitions due to the aging of volunteers and dealers who pay the freight of venues. More are yet to fall, yet I was told that the health of the hobby is not in danger because of the fact that so many collectors are now more insular than we once were some 20 years ago, myself included. Many are spending thousands of dollars monthly through intermediaries such as agents and a "new" kind of dealer like our friend Kurt Schau which does support shows but has a series of contacts through which material changes hands in short order. Younger auctioneers of newer small houses but with very influential contacts are moving material at a fast clip to those who eschew the travel component that shows entail and higher seller/buyer fees of larger and legacy houses. This is what I was told by a few of this newer breed of "suppliers" entering the market that we represent.

Getting back to the material that sits awaiting my attention, I look at my driver's license and realize that I have less and less time to organize and to simply wait for the right moment to create and exhibit my material; to organize it and leave it to someone else. I look at my wonderful and long-suffering wife and realize that I do NOT want to do either one of the two obvious results of dumping this tonnage upon her: 1) burden her with the responsibilities of disposing the estate and 2) watching from some ethereal place as she dumps a lifetime of accumulations in either a dumpster or get little value for my treasures.

I have come up with numerous goals that can be achieved:

1) Try to dispose of surplus, excess, or unwanted material in an orderly manner by selling to friends or dealer friends. This material will not be missed and while not a gold mine, can fuel the acquisition of desired material for collections we are still passionate about.

2) Donate to a charitable organization that can use the aforementioned unwanted material for their benefit and if still possible to declare deductions for a win-win situation giving a financial gain to the charity and keep from paying a little bit in taxes. Better in our pockets than the government.

3) Finally, and this is more interesting to me, to organize my material into written-up pages. It is like producing exhibits which I have done for nearly 30 years, but without the concern of being

totally concise and worried about how the judges will perceive it competitively. I realize that this is not any great revelation as so many of you mount items of pages when you acquire material. This is to make order of things and be able to see what you have. The advantage of this organizational mounting is that it makes it easier for a potential purveyor of philatelic material to evaluate its worth in the marketplace, which is to say dealer/auctioneer/middle man.

Just some thoughts for the Christmas season and may everyone have a blessed Christmas and love to your families and loved ones. If you have any thoughts on this let me know.

*Tim Bartshe*

## Secretary-Treasurer Notes

As the last Forerunners of the year hits the press, it's time to wrap up the membership and financial issues for 2023.

We have had a modest membership drive with a booth at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show last May as well as several ads in various related stamp journals. The net result was a modest bump up in the roster so we currently stand just north of 75 members.

Financially, we remain in good shape as revenue (dues) almost exactly offsets expenses (Forerunners printing and mailing costs). With David McNamee's retirement earlier this year the bank account was moved from California to Colorado. You'd think that would be relatively easy – not the case! Anyway we seemed to have outsmarted the US banking system and we are now well entrenched with US Bank in Denver. Our cash balance (the only asset) hovers around \$10,000 on any given day.

With the end of one year comes the start of another. That means dues for 2024 are due January 1. No changes in rates are planned for the new year so the following options remain available:

Digital only	\$20 US
Print (US member)	\$25 US
Print (Canada member)	\$30 US
Print (Worldwide member)	\$35 US

All print members will also get a digital copy unless they specify otherwise. Checks (or cheques) payable to the PSGSA should be sent to me John McFarlane at 371 Dahlia Street, Denver, Colorado 80220. Or you can send it through PayPal using my email piperjohn165@gmail.com. Please try hard to get your dues in as soon as possible thanks.

Please have a wonderful holiday season. We will see you in 2024. Warmly,

*John McFarlane*

### **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.**

## Resolution of Illustrations

The quality of the illustrations in Forerunners is an important part of the journal. We can all agree about this. We all want illustrations that allow us to see all the details and the real colors, both on the computer screen and in the printed journal. Despite this, more and more illustrations submitted are of a subquality and easily pixellate when enlarged (as above). This is becoming more and more common with images often downloaded from internet sites. Is this an unavoidable consequence of a changing world and collectors now using internet information for their research? A good example is the research article in this issue on the Central British Africa newspaper wrappers. All the information used in this article was obtained from eBay and likewise all images were also downloaded from eBay. Is this acceptable or is there anything that we can do about it?

## 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 2024.** Hartford, CT, August 15-18, Connecticut Convention Center.

**SAVPEX 2024.** South African Virtual Stamp Exhibition is being planned for 2024. This will be the ninth 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.



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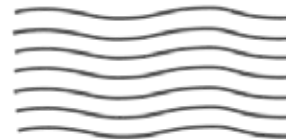


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## Closed Album: Jeffrey K. Weiss (1949-2023)

It is with sadness that we are being informed that our long-time member Jeff Weiss recently has passed way after long illness. We have lost another dedicated member and extend our condolences to his wife and family.



## 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 have now been scanned and are available on the website to members.

## 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.

# Bulawayo **PASSED PRESS CENSOR** Cachet

by Frederick Lawrence

In the previous issue of this journal, Campbell Buchanan writes in his article on *Covers from the Anglo-Boer War with Connections to the Matabele Rebellion in Rhodesia* that a violet PASSED PRESS CENSOR cachet was applied in Bulawayo.

Although this is correct, I will like to offer some additional information. As I described in my APS Stamp Chat on September 26, 2023, the PASSED PRESS CENSOR handstamp was applied in the Army railway mail car, which was parked on a siding at the Army Base Camp just outside Bulawayo. Personnel from three organizations worked in the mail car: soldiers assigned to the Army Field Post Office, civilian postal workers from the Bulawayo post office, and civilian censors hired by the Army. The civilian postal workers from the Bulawayo post office checked the frankings on covers, which came into the mail car, to ensure the proper postage was paid. Five sets of initials are recorded for those postal workers who checked the frankings on covers smuggled out of Mafeking during the siege by native runners. The civilian censors hired by the Army reviewed

the contents of all mail pieces, and then applied the PASSED PRESS CENSOR handstamp to those which were cleared to be turned over to the Bulawayo post office for delivery or for onward transmission.

I attach an images of an out-of-Mafeking cover with the PASSED PRESS CENSOR handstamp. This is one of four such covers reported today which are franked with Mafeking siege photographic or "blueprint" stamps. (JRF Turner showed 10 such covers at the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1901, but only four of these are reported today.) There are other out-of-Mafeking covers franked with MAFEKING BESIEGED overprints, also with the PASSED PRESS CENSOR handstamp. I don't collect these and don't have any images, but they're often seen in auction catalogs with Anglo-Boer War material, especially Mafeking siege material.

I was certainly "delighted" to see the Figure 3 cover in Campbell's article, and as you might expect, the PASSED PRESS CENSOR handstamp "jumped right out of the page".



## Botswana Stamps for Sale

Sheila Case is closing out Stamps of Botswana. All cheap items (packet material) has gone; what remains is a quantity of fine used stamps, sets and high value angles, notably top values of definitive sets, also a few oddities, 'shades', misplaced overprints, etc. There is emphasis on BIRDS. For your collection or for selling/trading stock. Contact Sheila at [sheilacase23@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacase23@gmail.com) for details. All material is heavily discounted. Note also some Zambia of interest and a few other Southern Africa items.



# British Central Africa: An Analysis of a Single Wrapper Issue

by John K. Courtis

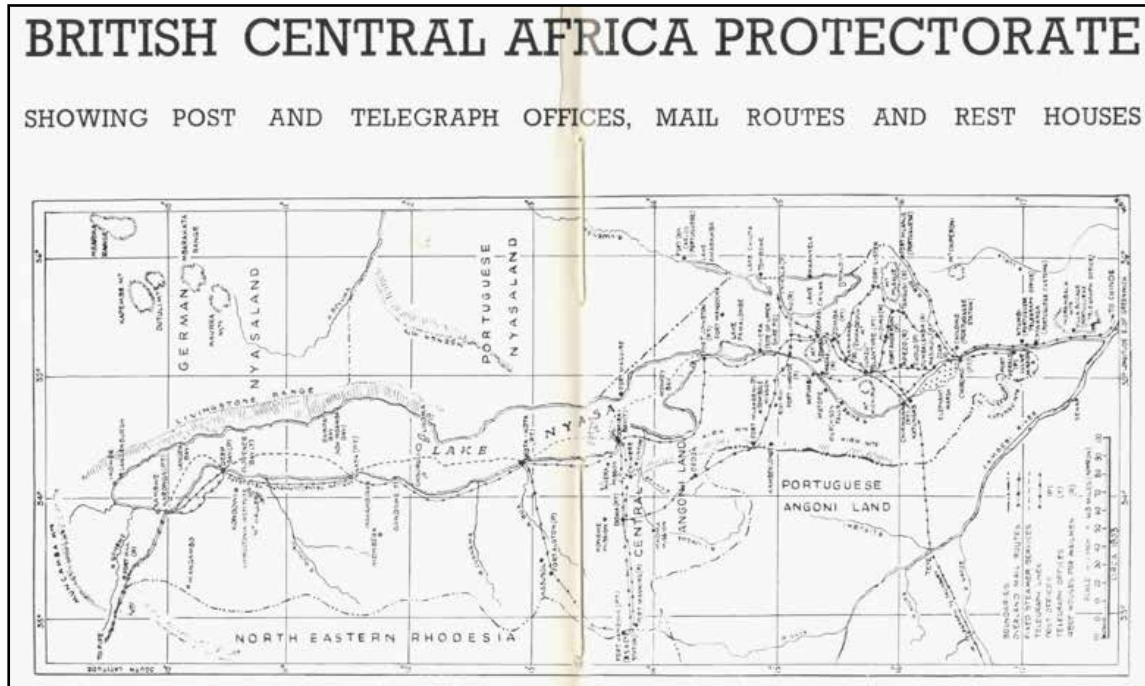


Figure 1. BCA - source Nodder and Twynam (1955, pp. 42-43)

British Central Africa (B.C.A.) was a British Protectorate proclaimed in 1889. It was then ratified in May 1891 to forestall a Portuguese expedition claiming effective occupation. It is located on the west of Lake Nyasa and with Mozambique to the south (Figure 1). This protectorate resulted from the explorer David Livingston's Zambezi expeditions. He claimed the area's climate and fertility were conducive to both Christianity and commerce. His writings led to missionary activity and the development of a small trading settlement at Blantyre in 1876. A British consul took up residence there in 1883.

## Post Office Issue

One of the most attractive Post Office postal stationery wrappers worldwide is that of B.C.A. with its banner-type heading. The 1d carmine indicium is the coat of arms of the Protectorate. Only one wrapper-type was issued, together with a specimen overprint for U.P.U. distribution. B.C.A. joined the U.P.U. in 1891. When this wrapper was printed in London by De La Rue, and issued in 1899, the U.P.U. requirement was for 726 copies to be sent for distribution to member countries.

There are 44 used copies in the author's database and one officially-used wrapper for the mailing of the Government Gazette. The rate of postage for newspapers to any part of the world was in 1891 1d per 3 oz. The purpose of this study is to investigate the postmarks, demographic usage, and sales realizations of these wrappers.

Nodder and Twynam (1955) state that: "...postal stationery bearing any of the early postmarks can be taken as being scarce..."

All but two postmarks are square circle with the letters B.C.A. beneath. Of the readable postmarks, postmarks were noted from seven post offices ZOMBA (20), CHIROMO (7), BLANTYRE (5), CHONE (3), NKATA (1), FORT MANNING (1) and KARONGA (1). Place names beginning with TSH had their spelling altered to CH, the original spelling corresponding more closely to the native pronunciation.

The used example illustrated in Figure 2 has a squared circle postmark ZOMBA JY 2 04 B.C.A. addressed to the Editor "Pall Mall Gazette" Charing Cross, London. The 1d paid the overseas rate for the first weight scale up to 3oz. Of the 44 used copies examined, only three showed a 1d uprate to pay for the second weight scale of up to 6oz.

The overprinted SPECIMEN wrapper is also illustrated. They appear on the philatelic market only occasionally, and do not appear to attract much interest. The collector base for British Central Africa is likely small.

The other six post office postmarks recorded on the wrappers are illustrated here – not all are clear.

Figure 3a is one of two examples where a circular date stamp has been used, prior to the ubiquitous squared circle. This NKATA postmark, according to the ratings by Nodder and Twynam (N&S), is scarce. The second illustration does not appear in the





Figure 2. ZOMBA JY 2 04; overprinted SPECIMEN



Figure 3a. CDS NKATA DE 16 99; squared circle FORT MANNING (needs corroboration) NO 11 06

illustrations by N&S having one unbroken inner circle and another unbroken outer circle; this does not match with any of the six illustrated squared circle types. The post office is FORT with letters 'AN' legible. It is addressed to Lady Stokes c/o Capt. N.H.S. Stokes, readdressed to Felixstowe, Bescombe, Hants.

The first wrapper of Figure 3b is postmarked KARONGA, one of the 14 early post offices operating in the Protectorate. The handwriting indicates the addressee was in Milanji, the source of another post office, hence its local use. The second wrapper shows a circular date stamp postmarked from CHINDE (previously spelled TSHINDE) and addressed to Hammersmith, London West, England.

This pair of wrappers in Figure 3c is cancelled by squared circles are both addressed overseas. The first, addressed to Berlin, Germany and posted from BLANTYRE AU 20 01 has been uprated 1d to pay for the second weight scale up to 6oz. The second wrapper, posted in CHIROMO AP 25 01 is to the same person and address as shown in Figure 3b, namely, at Hammersmith, London West, England. This was within the first weight

scale of up to 3oz.

There was one wrapper with overprinting, for the Government Gazette. The only noted copy was postmarked ZOMBA, but the address label was mostly torn away. At lower left there is a purple handstamp E. S. ENGLAND and beneath Manager. This wrapper is shown in the Kośniowski catalogue (image supplied by this author), but with label and blue crayon marking removed. This wrapper is shown as Figure 4. The blue crayon marking requires interpretation.

This was the government gazette of the British Central Africa Protectorate. It was published monthly in English between 1894 and September 1907.

#### Postmark Year Profile

It has already been noted that postmarks on this wrapper are from seven post offices ZOMBA, CHIROMO, BLANTYRE, CHONE, NKATA, FORT MANNING and KARONGA. Not all postmarks are readable – when only a few letters can be read the sending post office can often be inferred. The year details were



Figure 3b. Squared circle KARONGA AU 6 02; CDS CHINDE JA 5 01



readable from 37 postmarks covering 1899 to 1909, with the caveat that postmarking details from internet copies is notoriously difficult and often unreliable. Hence, the profile of these dates is merely indicative: 1899 (5), 1900 (8), 1901 (5), 1902 (1), 1903 (3), 1904 (2), 1905 (3), 1906 (5), 1907 (3), 1908 (0), and 1909 (2).

#### Destination Profile

Overall, the destination profile of these 43 used wrappers is four to local addresses; 12 with no address shown (allegedly appearing on the reverse of the fold), or address cut off, or address destination deliberately mutilated; four addressed to Germany; two addressed to India, one to Scotland, and 20 to England. Of those readable, 26 were addressed to individuals and six were addressed to some type of institution, such as Cambridge University Library, Material Provincial Bank, African Lakes Company, Commander-in-Chief, India, The Editor, “Pall Mall Gazette”, and some companies. There are two clusters of names

within the individuals’ category both of London: Mrs Smith accounts for seven wrappers and Mrs Ambruster accounts for three. Perhaps these two ladies were missionaries of the *Universities’ Mission* to Central Africa, which had a significant presence in the early life of the Protectorate. The officially used wrapper had its label torn off.

#### Sales Realizations

Between October 2002 and January 2022, i.e., a continuous period of 243 months, 30,000 worldwide sales transactions were recorded. Of these, 44 copies of this wrapper were listed for sale on eBay with 21 sales. The 44 copies represent a listing rate of about one per 5½ months on average, or about two per year. These are average figures and do not reflect the fact that no copies were listed for several years. Moreover, not all sold, particularly those with no address details, or unreadable postmarks.

Over the 16+ years of daily data-gathering of eBay sales transactions, there were 21 sales, at an average realisation of



Figure 3c. Squared circles BLANTYRE AU 20 01 uprated 1d: CHIROMO AP 25 01

USD30, including an outlier of \$205. If this outlier is removed, the average drops to \$21.46. There is a wide range of realizations from \$0.99 for a space-filler, to \$205 for an uprated copy, but with a circular date stamp and postmarked NKATA (shown in Figure 3a.) Ironically, the name of the addressee has been cut out from the wrapper.

The average number of bidders per sale was 3.19, but some copies attracted eight, seven and six bidders. The highest selling wrapper attracted seven bidders. The norm for bidders is a score of about 2.5 – below this is a signal of weaker collector interest; above 2.5 is a signal of stronger interest. The overall 3.19 is indicative of stronger collector interest although five sales attracted only a single bidder.

There were eight sales of Specimen overprinted wrappers. The average sales price was \$19.42 with an average of two bidders per sale. It must be remembered that, theoretically at least, all Specimen overprinted wrappers are the same. The range or realizations was \$4.25 with four bidders, to \$58 (bidders not recorded). Three of the eight sales attracted a single bidder.

Taken overall, the collector base for this wrapper is low.

### Summary

The British Central Africa Post Office postal stationery wrapper is aesthetically attractive and is the only banner-style overprinted wrapper worldwide. Over a lengthy period of 20+ years, only 44 copies of this wrapper have been listed on the auction platform site eBay. Of these, 21 were sold at an average of about \$30, and for the eight sales of the Specimen overprinted counterpart, about \$20.

Postmarks revealed these wrappers were sent from seven Post Offices: ZOMBA, CHIROMO, BLANTYRE, CHONE, NKATA, FORT MANNING, and KARONGA, between 1899 and 1909. There were three wrappers uprated 1d each to meet the second weight scale to 6oz. Four wrappers showed destinations within the Protectorate, and 27 to four countries: England,



Figure 4. Overprinted Government Gazette, and Manager

Scotland, Germany, and India. Addressee details revealed 26 went to named individuals and six to institutions of one kind or another.

In 1907, the name of the country was changed to Nyasaland Protectorate. In 1908, two key-plate Post Office postal stationery wrappers were issued depicting the head of King Edward VII – ½d green and 1d carmine, both also with a U.P.U. Specimen overprint.

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Nodder W. C. and Twynam C. D. (1955), *The Postal History and Postmarks of British Central Africa and Nyasaland Protectorate*, *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly Handbook*, No. 3 (New Series), London, pp. 105.

### Acknowledgement

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# A Personal View on Stamps of Bophutatswana

by Sheila Case

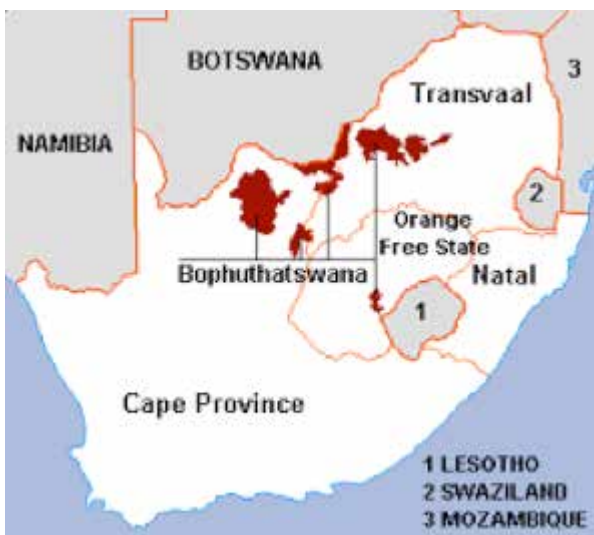
It is my privilege to share thoughts on a short-lived territory listed in the Scott catalogue as South Africa *Bophutatswana* (Bo-poo-tat-swana) or shorten as BOP.

Tswana is the root term relating to a group of peaceful people of Bantu origin. One such person is a Motswana, two or more are Batswana, the language they speak is Setswana and half of them live in Botswana, independent since 1966 and routinely touted as Africa's most successful democracy.

For 17 years (1977 to 1994), a portion of Botswana's long border with South Africa became a boundary between two territories harboring people who were one linguistically and culturally. Half of them were in Botswana (land of the Tswana people) and half in Bophutatswana (gathering of the Tswana), a Bantustan or native reserve created by the South African government to solve an internal problem.

In 1960, the Afrikaners (Dutch-speaking whites) seized power from the British and started, slowly, but surely, re-creating the land to comply with their distinctive philosophy of Apartheid (separateness) in which the whites owned the farming land, the mines and other sources of wealth, and the blacks were, by decree of God, their labourers living separately. The trouble was that there were so many blacks (about 10 million) and jobs for only a portion of them. What to do with the remainder? "Homelands" were planned, each to accommodate a single tribal group where workers surplus to needs were forced to reside.

Of the ten Homelands, Bophutatswana was the most controversial. The Afrikaners had to cede 6 separate areas to the Tswana, including one, Thaba 'Nchu, way down South near Lesotho, widely separated from the others. Here is a map showing how weird the geography of Bophutatswana was ... in fact, given that the 'independence' was a fiction, almost everything about Bophutatswana was whacky!



Bophutatswana, non-contiguous enclaves

Of these Homelands, 4 reached a point of development at which postage stamps were issued in their name. These were: Bophutatswana, Transkei, Venda and Ciskei.



Independence Commemoratives of Bophuthatswana Dove of Peace, National symbol (leopard), Coat of Arms (note leopards rampant) and National Flag. The other Homelands used the same topics on their Independence sets but replaced the Dove of Peace with a photo of the First President

In Botswana, we had our own Stamp Advisory Committee driving the philosophy of stamp issues and reflecting the concerns of the citizens. In BOP the stamps, were planned, designed, produced and marketed by INTERSAPA, the South African stamp-issuing authority, based in Pretoria. INTERSAPA had a stable of artists, designing stamps inscribed with the names of the four Homelands and destined for the international market.

I will introduce: the definitive sets, the commemoratives issues, some topics of special interest, and the range of products.



Art of Gillian Condy

**The First Definitive Set (1977)** is, to me, of considerable interest. At first sight it looks like a set of animal stamps.

However, the images are slightly cartoonised, and not by chance, because these are only secondarily animal stamps. Their designs represent the *totems* of the clans of Batswana. Every family, every individual for purposes related to tribal life, is a member of a totem clan. Each citizen of BOP could see his or her family represented on one of these stamps. Totems are ranked in order of precedence; the leopard totem outranks all others; therefore the first president of BOP was the chief of the highest ranked totem group, the leopard, which then became the national animal. In Botswana, the highest totem represented was the *phuti*, a kind of duiker. Sir Seretse Khama, the first president, and his successors, were its chiefs.



Four of the 1985 stamps, from First Day Cover showing special cancellation

**The second definitive series (October 1985)** was originally planned as a set of 16 stamps, *Bophutatswana Industries*.

BOP had a large population, relocated (forcibly in some instances) to arid land unsuitable for intensive farming; part of the deal was the development of factory sites and establishment of industries. It is not clear how many of these industries became reality, or if they have survived after the re-incorporation of BOP into South Africa (1994), but the stamps, and accompanying blurb presented an optimistic view. Black workers are shown in textile production, car parts manufacture, men's clothing, printing and other industries serving the development of South Africa as well as that of Bophutatswana. The complete set is difficult to collect, having been released on 7 different dates. It is in the nature of postal tariffs that prices rise ... this set had been prepared early in 1984 and due for release in 1985, but the new internal mail rate of 11c was not available from stamps already in circulation, so an 11c value for the 1985 series was

produced, and this 'added value' actually precedes the issue of the full set. Soon a 12c stamp was needed, again, the added stamp is premature, dated April 1985. The planned set of 16 came out in October 1985. Additions were needed as that pesky rate kept climbing, 14c in April '86, 16c in April '87, 18c in January '89 and finally in August '90 a strip of 5 stamps each of face value 21c, these being theoretically part of the same set, having a similar industrial picture, but with noticeable difference in overall stamp design.



4c Tswana miner and molten platinum being poured, the other 3 values show uses of platinum in modern industry

**The commemorative stamps fall into three categories:** those introducing the 'nation' of Bophutatswana, as viewed from the whites-only headquarters INTERSAPA, those designated mainly for the international philatelic market and finally those in which the Tswana people celebrate their rich cultural heritage.

**The nation of Bophutatswana** is celebrated by its Independence stamps, consisting of the series of totem definitives and the set of 4 commemoratives as already described, followed by Independence anniversaries after one, five and ten years. Industries, agriculture and medical services also feature. Noteworthy is the 1979 set on platinum mining, not for the impact of the designs, but for the political significance. When guidelines for defining Homelands territories were issued, there was no escaping the fact that, despite the Afrikaners success in retaining for themselves the gold and diamond mines, they were forced to cede the world's most productive platinum mine to the Tswana people.

**The international market** was well-served with regular issues on popular themes. Some international anniversaries were depicted, including the *75th anniversary of Powered Flight* (1978) of which I illustrate the two stamps. Birds, animals and plants of the region are well-represented; I have selected for illustration the (1983) *Pilanesberg Game Reserve* set, 4 very eye-catching animal designs; for Birds I offer the 10c Kori Bustard from the 1983 *Veld Birds*, and from the plants sets, the *Aca-*



Strip of 5 x 21c, *Bus Assembly*, added Aug 1990. Note different handling of country name

cias of 1992, to be illustrated later. Under the heading *Range of Products*. The programme was filled out with two series: *Easter stamps*, 10 issues in all, and *History of the Telephone*, 4 issues. This policy, series not really relate to the 'nation' was repeated in other Homelands; Transkei did several sets on *Fishing Flies* and *Pioneers of Medicine*, and Venda had 4 sets on *The History of Writing*.



Wright Brothers, both stamps



Pilanesberg, 1 of 4 stamps



Veld Birds, 1 of 4

**Finally, stamps related directly to the Tswana people ...** only 3 commemorative sets in 17 years. (For perspective, in the same 17 years Botswana issued 9 sets celebrating history and culture of their people.) In 1984, an attractive set on *Traditional Houses* included this aerial view. It is well chosen, showing that the hut is only part of the home; the enclosed area, lolwapa, is where daily life is lived out. In 1979, shortly after Independence, came a set popular in Bophuthatswana, *The Production of Sorghum Beer*. Sorghum beer is an essential component of all major celebrations such as weddings. It is hand-brewed by the women, and arrives at the event with some ceremony, the assembled crowd chanting and ululating as a procession of women bearing large containers on their heads moves into the scene.



Traditional Houses, set of 4



Production of Sorghum Beer, 4 stamps

**INTERSAPA's range of products for Bophuthatswana** is matched exactly by its products for the other three Homelands. For each issue there were four routine offerings, mint set, cancelled set, FDC and Collector's Sheet (a 'page' with the stamps

attached and cancelled, with notes on the significance of the designs.) Collectors' Sheet did not sell well, and in 1983 this product was replaced by Maximum Cards, one for each stamp in the set. Maximum cards were produced for all commemorative sets until 1994, by which time just over 100 had been issued. A fifth product was added to the range; starting in 1986, with the set on *Historic Thaba 'Nchu*, occasional issues also included a Philatelic Foundation Miniature Sheet; These were issued not by INTERSAPA, but by the Philatelic Foundation of South Africa, their purpose, to raise funds contributing to the expenses of National Stamp Exhibitions.

I choose to illustrate the range of products starting with the FDC and maximum cards of the Acacias set of 1992. The choice is both personal and philatelic. First, the artist, Gillian Condy; I worked with her designs for a number of issues on Botswana plants. She is not a pretty-picture artist, but a professional illustrator, specializing in plants of Southern Africa. Next, still on the personal choice, I searched through every stamp and philatelic product of Bophuthatswana, and the most striking image I found was the supplementary image on this FDC ... those devilish thorns tell the story of the Tswana habitat. They are perfectly engineered to cause maximum damage for minimum contact, and we all ran afoul of them sooner or later. Then, for the philatelic design, I note these things: first, the languages on the FDC are English and Afrikaans, where is the Setswana? Second, the artist has chosen to illustrate the plants in the seed-pod stage, rather than the more expected flowering stage. Why? I think it is in order to show the thorns. Finally, the design chosen by the artist presents a less familiar view of acacias, which are known for their flowers. This is why, I suspect, INTERSAPA chose to use the floral images on the maximum cards; this turns out to be pleasing to the collector of plants on stamps, giving two views of the Acacia at the same time.

Thaba 'Nchu is one of the weirdnesses of Bophuthatswana; refer again to the map showing non-contiguous enclaves, and right down near Lesotho you will see a small patch of BOP; this is Thaba 'Nchu. It is historic in foundation (1833, before the first Afrikaners penetrated the region) and for its good relationships with incoming settlers. Thaba 'Nchu had been granted, in 1913, special status a native reserve within the Orange Free State.

**Special Mentions.** I conclude with three references of National and International interest. To return to the matter of language on the stamps; it is patronizing and humiliating to inscribe the philatelic products in two languages of conquerors (and oppressors). The Tswana nation should at least have its language added as a third option. For example, the *Anti-Smoking Campaign* of 1980, one very striking stamp, was sold in a collectors' sheet, folded, with the message on the outside *Smoking is Dangerous to your Health*, in Afrikaans and English ... this for a campaign directed towards the residents of the Homeland. Egregious!

Next, a mention must be made of the issue of 1982, *75th Anniversary of Boy Scouts*. This is, of course, tied to a major event of South African history, the siege of Mafeking. The stamps honour Lord Baden-Powell and various aspects of mod-

Acacias anthers on FDC



Acacias in bloom - one of 4 maximum cards



1986 issue, Historic Thaba 'Nchu, Philatelic Foundation M/S



Anti-smoking, 1980

ern scouting. Mafeking is, of course, in the territory ceded to the Tswana, but they prefer the spelling which reflects their own pronunciation of the name. The special cancellation is therefore inscribed Mafikeng. Mafikeng/Mafeking, though 65 miles south of the border with Bechuanaland, was the capital of the Bechuanaland Protectorate for 75 years, until the transition to Independence in 1966.

**Finally, a quirk and a missed opportunity.** The quirk: Homelands stamps were designed and issued for profit of INTERSAPA at a time when South Africa had strict foreign currency controls, money could not be readily moved across international borders. Stamp collectors, and others, soon found that they could buy Homelands stamps from INTERSAPA, sell them overseas at a substantial discount, and acquire dollars or GB pounds. This means that Homelands stamps are well represented in the international market, and complete collections are

within reach, to an extent not matched by other small territories of fleeting existence. And, for the missed opportunity, it should be noted that BOP incorporated in one of its enclaves the settlement of Taung. No stamp was issued for the Taung Child, but this child will be remembered in some circles long after even the most famous of South African citizens ... the child's skull, excavated from a cave in Taung, is the oldest recorded hominid, the earliest of our ancestors yet identified and described (Wikipedia) *as the most important anthropological find of the 20th Century.*



## Book Review

**POSTE RESTANTE AT THE CAPE AND OTHER ES-SAYS** by **FRANCO FRESCURA**, 2022, Phansi Museum Press, Durban, South Africa. Reviewed by Alex Visser.

It is unusual to find essays on technical or historical non-fictional topics. Franco has managed to weave postal history with a literary style. His use of words makes for easy reading and although the book contains listings of various elements of postal history, the narrative material is entertaining. This volume and its companion publication “POSTAL OFFICIALS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE” which contains extensive listings, of immense historical value, but hardly reading matter.

The book covers a listing of earliest postal history prior to occupation of the Cape of Storms by Jan van Riebeeck, from the Portuguese “padrao” (wooden or stone cross) to the post office stones up to Union. When I read through the Ch. 2, from which the book gets its title, I wondered about the reading audience as these stones are mainly in museums. How wrong I was, as in a July 2023 auction by Ken Joseph a post office stone was offered. The description was “Cape of Good Hope: Large piece of an original Post Office Stone with part inscriptions, one dated 1614 & the other “CHRISTO ANNO”, mounted onto wooden stand with brass plaque, includes certificate, related literature etc, A UNIQUE ITEM OF IMMENSE HISTORICAL INTEREST & VALUE, provenance ex Robert Goldblatt collection, weighs 6 kgs.” Fig. 1 shows a photo image. This item was not sold on the auction.



**Figure 1.** Photo image of 1614 post office stone (Ken Joseph photo)

Any evidence as to its provenance are obviously meagre. According to the listing in the book Frescura (2022), only four groups of English visitors anchored in Table Bay in 1614, only one of which may have had a link to the stone in question. In a discussion with Franco, he would not like to assign its provenance to any of them, but the Cultural Museum in Cape Town may have better records. One ship, name not known, was captained by one William Edwards (WE) who visited Table Bay on 28 June 1614, but this is sheer supposition. There is clearly material for further research. In addition, a source of debate about patrimony being held in private hands should also follow.

Besides the serious note of the contents of the book, there are also light-hearted moments. Fig. 2 shows an extract from Punch, presumably mid-1800, which shows that parcel management in the post office was challenging. I remember the days when parcels were delivered within days, but now we are back

in the 1800s!!

Often present-day postal history students express a deep indebtedness to the earlier students for going to post offices or sending requests to Postmasters for postmarks. If we did not have this cache of material we would have been much poorer. Evidently some of these students misused the system as the Post Office Circular No. 276 of 1 November 1904 considered the use and safe keeping of office date stamps to be the matter of the highest security. Paragraph 9 stated:

*The official date stamps and seals must be used for no other than Post Office purposes, and persons unconnected with the office must not be allowed access to them. Special impressions of the office stamps or seals must on no account be given to members of the public; and the obliteration of unused postage stamps at the request, or for the purposes of stamp collectors is in the highest degree irregular. Any breach of this rule will be mostly seriously noticed.*

Evidently these regulations remained in force during Union but were ignored as the reviewer has seen a notice from the 1970s where a person who obtained impressions was mentioned by name. In hindsight this should not have caused a problem, but rules are rules. The book, however, in the last narrative chapter discusses “South Africa’s undeclared war on its archives”. Malicious use of forged postmarks is a far more serious situation than obtaining date stamp impressions. All students should study this chapter carefully, so that these forgeries can be documented, as has often been done, and removed from the competitive material shown at exhibitions.

With these highlights this book, and the companion book, are items that should be available in the library of every student.

Alex Visser

*Stop press:* the two books, entered as one, were awarded a Large Gold at the GASS show in Ohio in August and a Gold at Chicagopex in November, 2023.

**Figure 2.** Bringing order out of chaos (Frescura (2022) p. 66).





# Early Heidelberg Through the Eyes of Deltiologist

by Carol Hardijzer



I describe myself as a South African photo historian, but at the same time, also an avid deltiologist. So what does that mean?

These two concepts are closely intertwined in that historical photographs and deltiology share a common interest in their visual representation. Combined, they contribute to presenting a variety of valuable historical narratives.

Photographs are documentary and journalistic in nature. They provide us with records of events, people, and places, whereas deltiology relates to the study and collection of postcards. Deltiologists, in turn, collect postcards for their historical, cultural, and artistic value. These old postcards provide us with a most valuable visual reflection of our past.

Until very recently, postcards were the most popular form of communication, where the back of the card was used for written communication with the front of the card presenting a visual narrative of some sort. Various social media platforms, in use today, have replaced the postcard as a communication tool.

The relationship between photography and deltiology therefore lies in the fact that postcards often feature photographs as their primary visual theme. However, not all postcards originate from photographs in that many postcards are also artistic creations.

In the early days of postcards, before colour photography became prevalent, most postcards were black and white or sepia-toned photographs. Colour postcards from before a certain era were all hand-coloured – like all the coloured postcards included in this article.

Early photographs used in publishing postcards were mainly topographical, showing street or general scenes, landmarks, and buildings. Everyday life and events were also portrayed through these postcards.



Historical photography, therefore, plays a pivotal role in deltiology in that photographers were ultimately responsible for capturing the images contained on postcards. They captured scenes of interest, developed the photograph, and then either published the postcards themselves or collaborated with publishers to produce postcards for mass sales. Sadly, in the majority of instances, the photographers are unknown. Finding publisher details on the cards is more common. Some prolific publishers may even have hired photographers with the aim of capturing a broad spectrum of photographs to be reproduced in postcard format.



MARKET SQUARE, HEIDELBERG, TRANSVAAL.



Market Square, Heidelberg — With Best Wishes

Photo by A. Baillie



Market Square, Heidelberg, Transvaal

The fact remains, photographers significantly contributed to the visual content and historical documentation that deltiologists like me find of value today.

In short, the relationship between photography and deltiology allows for the preservation of our visual history.

Any South African postcard in photo format automatically qualifies for inclusion in the *Hardijzer Photographic Research Collection* (HPRC) in that the photographs assist with broader research.

In Europe, many publications, relying on photographic picture postcards, have been published to capture the photographic history of particular towns.

This has also partly been achieved with the publication of such books on Johannesburg, Durban, and Kimberley.

These publications provide us with a glimpse into what our towns looked like more than one hundred years ago. In some instances, buildings have survived the onslaught of develop-

ment and are possibly still in use or have been preserved for prosperity.

This article reflects on the visual history of the town of Heidelberg (Gauteng) as photographed and portrayed in photographic postcard format between 1900 and 1915. This is Heidelberg in Gauteng (old Transvaal). Heidelberg in the Western Cape had much earlier beginnings.

While much has been published on the history of Heidelberg, a brief overview in support of the visual historical narrative is provided below.



Police Barracks, Heidelberg, Transvaal.



Post and Telegraph Office, Heidelberg, Transvaal.



Railway Station, Heidelberg, Transvaal.

### A brief history of Heidelberg

Heidelberg lies at the foothills of the Suikerbosrand, a ridge that also features the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. Before colonisation and the Basotho wars, the area was once the kraal of the Bakwena.

Heidelberg is one of the older towns in the Transvaal province, with significant architecture and a rich history. This historic town (in a South African context) is situated some 75 kilo-

metres southeast of Johannesburg and expanded between 1890 and 1910 following the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand gold reef in 1885. The Mining Commissioner's office was also soon established in town.

Heidelberg developed as a typical rural Victorian town. Many buildings dating back to the period between 1890 and 1910 have been preserved, including the home of A.G. Visser, a well-loved medical practitioner and famous Afrikaans poet. Other historical landmarks in the town include the old jail, the original railway station, and the Klipkerk (Dutch Reformed Church). A monument in memory of Boer women and children (black and white) who died in British-built concentration camps during the second Anglo-Boer War has also been erected.

A number of buildings in Heidelberg, such as the Dutch Reformed Church, the Volksskool, and the railway station have been declared heritage sites.



Heidelberg had its origins in the early 1860s, after a trading station was built on the farm Langlaagte by the German, Heinrich Julius Christian Ueckermann. The town is named after Ueckermann's German university town, with the initial development of the town taking place around Ueckermann's store.

Having been laid out as a church place in 1865, the district of Heidelberg was proclaimed in 1866.

Sandeman, an early traveler, had the following uncomplimentary comment to make about Heidelberg (his spelling) in 1877: *Looking down on the village from a mile or two away, it has all the appearance of a pretty, old-fashioned German hamlet, but a closer inspection showed it to be a decidedly dirty and unpicturesque little place.*



Although a small town at the time, it briefly functioned as a seat of government of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek in 1880-81. Heidelberg was selected because it had no British troops stationed there, thus the Republic could be re-proclaimed without interference from the military. The town rose to fame on 16 December 1880 (Dingaan's Day), when the Boers (Dutch-speaking farmers) raised their flag in town in defiance of British authority – the same day the first Anglo-Boer War began.

Heidelberg became a municipality in 1903.

Heinrich Julius Friedrich Christian Ueckermann (1812 – 1883). Ueckermann arrived in South Africa in 1849. He disem-



Ueckermann was business minded in that he not only had the trading store, but he also opened a chemist (which gave rise to the thought that he may have studied pharmacology in Germany). He is also recorded as being a building contractor. He was also a member and the secretary of the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk, and it was under his supervision that the first church was built in 1864-65.

Ueckermann Street, named after Heinrick, starts at the present-day roundabout next to Blesbok Spruit inclining to the Old Jail. It runs parallel to Voortrekker Street on both sides of the old market and church squares.

Not only did the square determine the location, scale, and proportions of the buildings to each other, but also the setting of the street. It is noticeable that most of the double-storey buildings are located on Ueckermann Street and was therefore seen as the main trading centre.



barked in Durban and set up business in Pietermaritzburg. In April 1855, he married British-born Elizabeth Mason (1832 – 1910) in Pietermaritzburg. The couple had 13 children (another source suggests 14).

After the birth of their first son, they trekked extensively by ox-wagon into the interior, as far as the Soutpansberg. It was on this trek that their first daughter was born in 1856.

On a subsequent trek, Ueckermann got to the farm Langlaagte and decided that the location was ideal to establish a trading store, resulting in the end of the family's wanderings.

He purchased a piece of land from local farmers to set up the trading store. This piece of land still exists as Stand No. 92 on the corner of Ueckermann and Kerk Street.

His business was successful, resulting in him becoming a respected citizen of the town. He also represented Heidelberg in the Volksraad (Parliament) and was a member of the executive board.

### Heidelberg photographers

The following photographers have been identified to date as having been active in Heidelberg between 1860 and 1915 and may have played a role in producing some of the images included in this article.

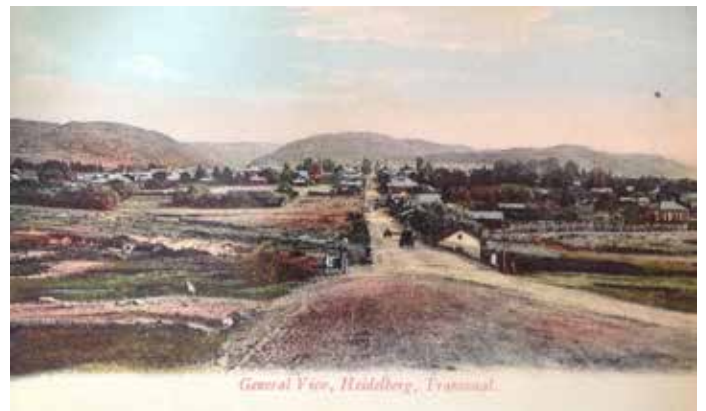
#### •Drieselmann Wilhelm Peter Franz (1861 – 1915)

Drieselmann was born in Hanover, Linden, Prussia in 1861. On 19 May 1884, he married Auguste Bernadina Pistorius in Heidelberg. The couple had 8 children: Johan Friedrich Wilhelm Theodor, Getruida Catharina, Erwine Magdalena, Irene, Violet, Erina Agnes, Eleonora & Friedrich.



• *Robinson Christiaan Engelstof Nissen (1865 – 1955).*

The British-born Nissen was based in Heidelberg between 1893 and 1898.



The Drieselmann studio was based on Market Square between 1889 and 1899.

Drieselmann passed away in Heidelberg on 7 August 1915, at the early age of 54. While photographs by him carry the initials FW, his death certificate confirms that he was a photographer at the time of his death.

The publisher of the majority of the cards included in this article was Harry Noel Fisher. British-born Fisher happens to have been the son-in-law to Drieselmann. Fisher married Gertruida Catharina Drieselmann on 8 June 1910, in Heidelberg. Fisher is also recorded as having been a hairdresser. It is therefore deduced that Drieselmann took the photographs and Fisher had them published.

Two other photographers who were based in town were:

- *August Blaettler (1877 – 1948).*

Swiss-born Blaettler passed away in Pretoria, where he also ran a photographic establishment. It is not known exactly when, or for how long he was based in Heidelberg;

### Closing

The collection of postcards depicting Heidelberg is by no means a complete representation of photographs depicting the town that were converted to postcards at the time.

A gap in the images presented here are postcards of other church buildings in town, the Normal College (built in 1911), the old jail (built in 1888) or even the two unique homesteads, namely the Old Drostdy (magistrate residence built in 1903) or De Rust (built around 1906). In time, I am hoping to find some of these (and other) cards to expand on Heidelberg's earlier visual representation.

Considering the vast number of South African-themed cards produced between 1900 and 1925, it is not possible to collect

them all. Many collectors select specific themes. Examples of such themes vary between ethnicity, bridges, railway stations, trams, post offices, market places, and specific towns.

The next article in this series, relying purely on picture postcards similar to those included in this article, will be on the town of Standerton which was established in 1876.

One of my most challenging deltiology themes is that of water wheels in South Africa. To date, the collection only consists of 5 such examples.

Also see the article on South African ethno-photography and the picture postcard: <https://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/early-ethno-photography-and-picture-postcard-south-african-perspective>

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# Development of Aviation in Bechuanaland and Botswana, Part 1

by Peter Thy

Botswana, or before 1966 the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland, occupies a landlocked area of 223,000 square miles (578,000 square kilometers) of central southern Africa. At about a 3,300 feet (one kilometer) elevation above sea level, the landscape is mostly rolling tablelands broken by rocky hills and river valleys. The western part is the Kalahari Desert made of undulating sand and limestone outcrops covered by grass and thorn scrub. Most of the region suffers from a lack of permanent surface water. In the northwest, the Okavango River enters from Angola and forms a large inland delta filling the Ngami Lake, but with most of the water ending in swamps and evaporate to form salt pans.

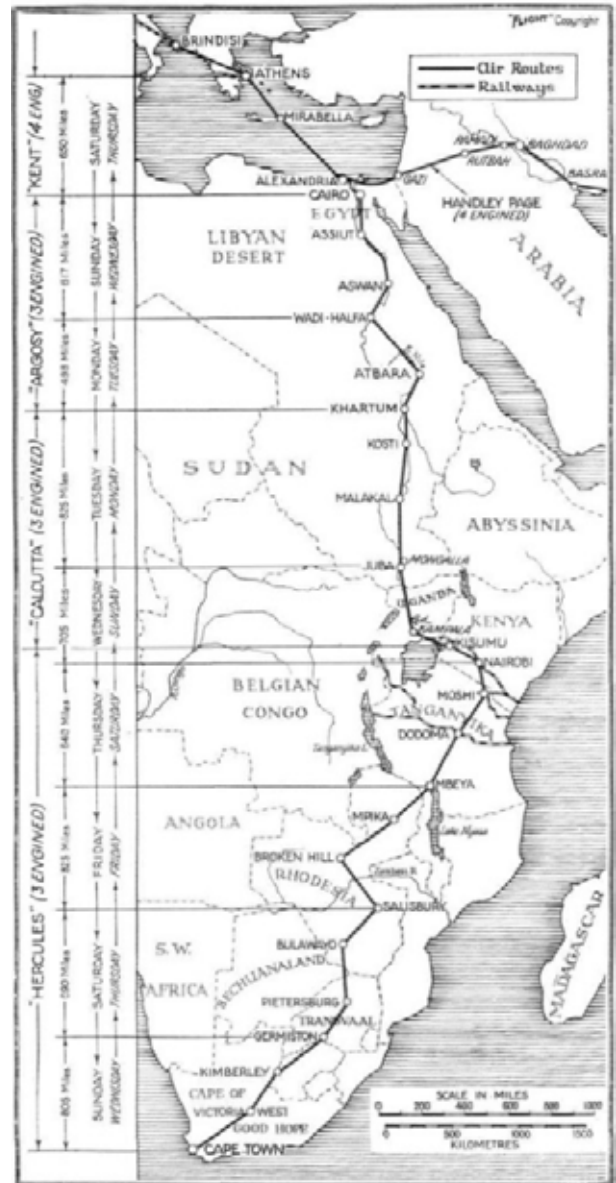
The total population at independence was 630,000, mostly concentrated along the eastern border where the rail line between South Africa and Rhodesia was located. The European population was until the end of World War II below 2,000. The majority of the country of an area equivalent to France was, and still is, sparsely populated. Because Bechuanaland was a British protectorate little attempt was directed toward developing the infrastructure, educational level, and health services. As a protectorate, Bechuanaland was expected to be self-supported with little or limited British investments. The result was that at independence Botswana was one of the poorest countries in Africa, largely dependent on its surrounding countries of the Rhodesians (later Zambia and Zimbabwe) and the Union of South Africa. This completely changed with the discovery of large diamond deposits shortly after independence.

## *Imperial Airways' Africa Services*

The first flying machines were introduced in South Africa and tested already in 1911 for carrying the mails. It was, however, first after the World War One that aviation took off, making it possible to transport passengers and mail over short and long distances. The *Imperial Airways* inaugurated their first transcontinental flight in 1932 from Croydon near London, eastward through Europe to Egypt, and further southward through Africa, ending in Cape Town in South Africa (Figure 1). This and the following flights bypassed Bechuanaland by landing in Bulawayo from where mail and passengers to Bechuanaland would have departed for the daily train to reach locations in the Protectorate.

Flying boat services, now by *British Overseas Airways* (B.O.A.C.), was added to the services in 1937 and operated until 1950, routed along the east coast of Africa and ending in Durban giving mail and travelers access to the internal rail services of South Africa.

The Imperial Airways flew in 1932 the distance from London to Cape Town with about 30 stops (Figure 1) taking a total of ten days to reach Cape Town in segments each of an average



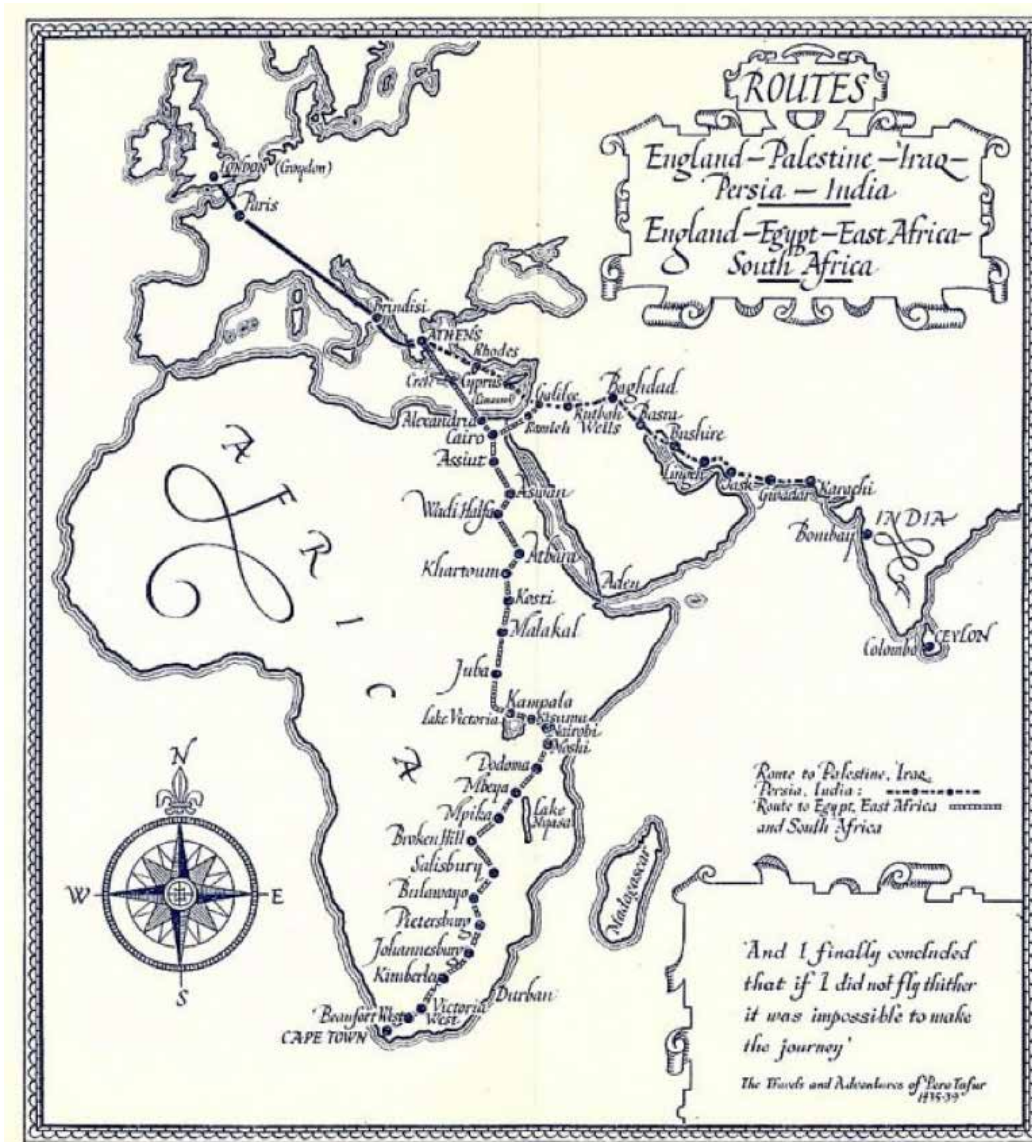
**Figure 1.** The first mail-only flight by Imperial Airways from Croydon near London to Cape Town was inaugurated on January 20, 1932. Scheduled passenger service was in April added at single fare of £130. Flights left Croydon on Wednesdays and landed at Cape Town on Sundays, ten days later. <https://www.thisdayinaviation.com/tag/imperial-airways/> (accessed April 2023)

of 700 miles using five different aircraft (Figure 1). This would require multiple landing fields, facilities for exchange of mail and passengers, food and fuel supplies, aircraft repairs, over-

night passenger accommodations, aircraft hangars, and ground personnel to handle aircraft, mail, and passengers. Although time would have seen technological improvements in aircraft technology and possible flight distances (Figure 2), it would still have been a major achievement to organize and maintain over the years, including the disruptions caused by the World War Two in Europe and northern Africa. The South African trunk air routes only reduced the traveling time in 1932 from about 14 days with the *Union-Castle Line* to 10 days with Imperial Airways on the other hand the single fare for the air transport was £130 (1932) as compared to single first (£91) to third class fares (£36) for the sea transport (1939). There is thus little doubt that the high price for the Imperial Airways' program would mainly have attracted governmental and tribal officials. A typical British poster for Imperial Airways is shown on the front page.

### Southern Africa Developments

The establishment of the Imperial Airways routes to southern Africa, during the 1930's and World War II, soon resulted in local feeder services in Central, East, and South Africa. *South African Airways* (S.A.A., the *Springbok*) was formed in 1934 by the government's takeover of an earlier Union Airways, dating back to 1929. In the beginning, services were, just to mention a few, offered between Windhoek and Kimberley, Durban and Johannesburg, and Durban and Cape Town. Eventually, Johannesburg emerged as the center of South African aviation and S.A.A. in 1936 took over from Imperial Airways their Johannesburg to Cape Town segment. Similarly, the East African aviation saw establishments of feeder services connecting to the Imperial Airways stops at Kampala, Kisumu, and Nairobi. In 1946, *East African Airways* was established by Uganda, Kenya,

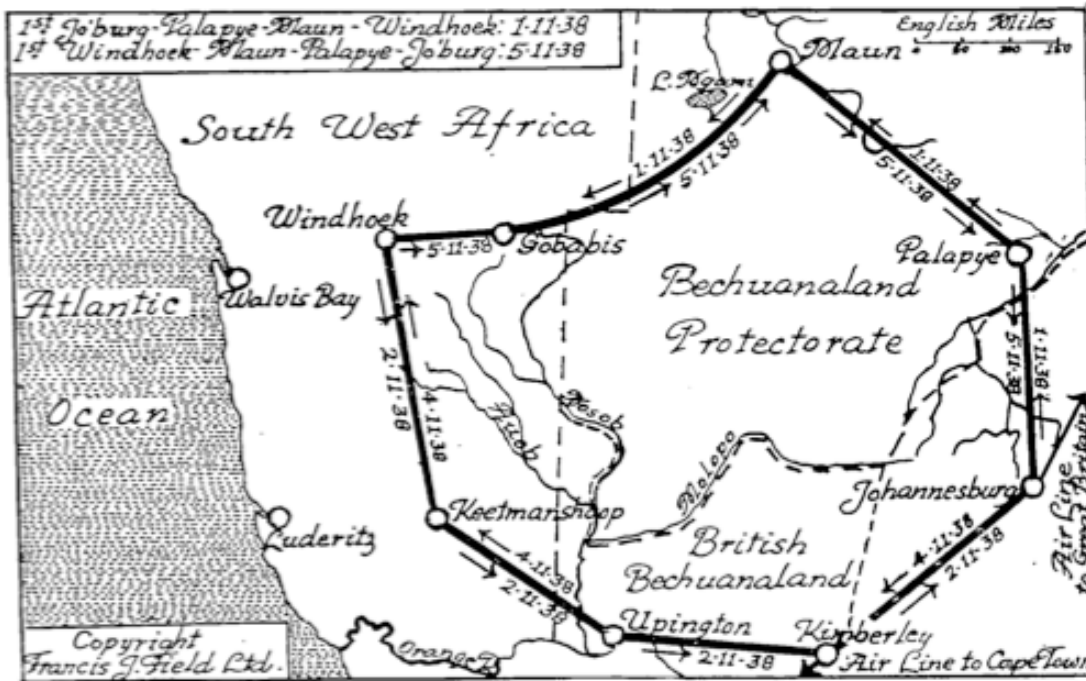


**Figure 2.** Imperial Airways India and Africa routes between 1935-39. From Croydon to Palestine, Iraq, Persia, and India and through Africa connecting Egypt, East Africa, with South Africa. From Imperial Airways Gazette and printed by His Majesty's Printers. <http://whitewaterlandings.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/imperial-airways-routes-1932-391.jpg> (accessed April 2023)



# Kalahari Desert Air Mail

**Figure 3.** Cachet applied to covers by Francis Field for the first flights of the internal Kalahari Desert November 1938 airmail service. From Inglefield-Watson (1990).



**Figure 4.** Cachet used on August 1939 first flight covers for the West Coast feeder airmail service.

and Tanzania to provide air services centered on Nairobi and offering connections to Mombasa and Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Kisumu, and Entebbe, among others. The first aircraft to land in Bulawayo of Southern Rhodesia happened in 1920 on its way from England to South Africa, but unfortunately crashed the following morning during takeoff. It however took a few years more before the Rhodesians could be reached by air when the Imperial Airways made their regular stops at Mpika, Broken Hill, Salisbury, and Bulawayo of Northern and Southern Rhodesia on the way to Cape Town. Beginning in 1933, a feeder service was offered between Salisbury, Blantyre of Nyasaland, and Beira of Mozambique. The development was slowed down by the war until 1946, when the *Central African Airways* (C.A.A.) was formed by consolidating several smaller companies. Shortly thereafter, B.O.C.'s flying boat service via Lake Nyasa was terminated.

## Kalahari Feeder Service

These central and southern African developments largely left Bechuanaland untouched without direct air connection to London or to the rest of southern Africa, save for the stop of Imperial Airways/B.O.A.C. just north of the border at Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia. It took until 1938 before an attempt, operated by the S.A.A., to integrate Bechuanaland and South West Africa into the air services by the inauguration a weekly Kalahari Desert feeder service connecting Palapye and Maun in the Protectorate and Windhoek and Keetmanshoop in South West Africa with Kimberley and Johannesburg and the Imperial Airways flights to Cape Town (Figure 3). It now would take six days for mail from England to reach Bechuanaland and vice versa. The following year, a West Coast feeder line was operated, again by S.A.A., connecting Cape Town with Luanda in Angola without direct connection to Bechuanaland, except connections to the Kalahari service (Figure 4).

(Continued in next issue.)



# Forerunners Forum

## Old French Love Letters Discovered



A pile of French love letters from the mid-18th century have been discovered in the archives and has been opened and read by a researcher for the first time since they were written. The letters were sent to French sailors by wives, siblings and parents, but they never made it to their intended recipients. They were sent between 1757-58 during the Seven Years British-French War mostly addressed to the crew of the Galatée warship. The French postal administration forwarded them from port to port in hopes of reaching the sailors. But when the British Navy captured the Galatée in April 1758, French authorities forwarded the batch of letters to England where they remained unopened for centuries, until the historian Renaud Morieux of the University of Cambridge discovered them in Britain's National Archives.

The researcher discovered that the letters revealed a universal family dynamics and demonstrated the difficulty of long-distance communication in the 1750s. Many of the senders were likely illiterate and dictated their messages to a scribe. The research result was an article in the French history journal *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*. Look for more information by going to <https://www.npr.org/2023/11/06/1210861222/lost-french-love-letters-1750s-seven-years-war>. Or if you read French, obtain a copy of the original article in question (*Lettres perdues. Communautés épistolaires, guerres et liens familiaux dans le monde maritime atlantique du xviiiè siècle*. *Annales HSS*, 78-2, 2023, p. 333-373).

### Trotter's Southern Africa Book for Sale

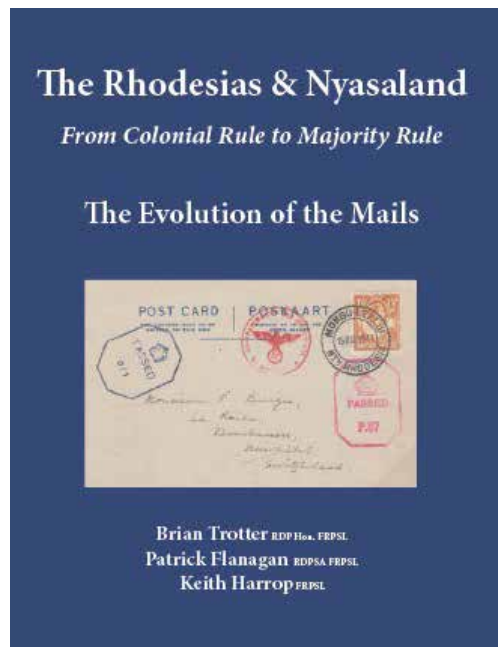
An unopened copy of *Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806–1916* by Brian Trotter. RDP, FRPSL, published 2016 by The Royal Philatelic Society London. Retail by RPSL at £55.00 (\$67.00) plus postage from UK. This unused copy available at \$60.00 plus \$10.00 postage (inland USA only). To purchase contact Michael Dixon by email: [mdd10@att.net](mailto:mdd10@att.net)

In 16 sections, the book covers, as the title states, the routes, rates and regulations of letters and postcards of southern Africa from the chaos and uncertainty of 1806 to the relative stability of 1916. The geographical coverage is southern Africa, as far north as the Rhodesias and Mozambique, but excluding Angola.

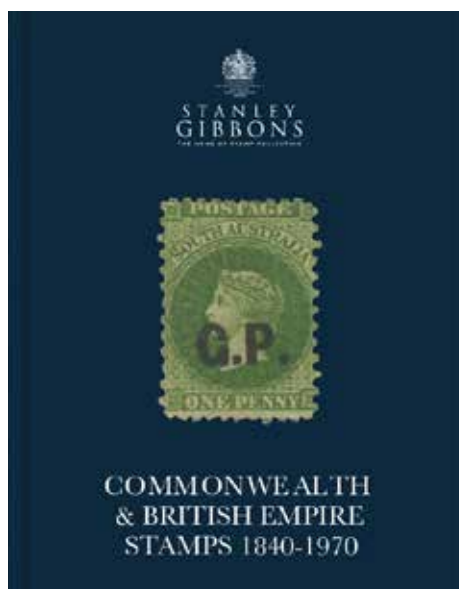
*Editors comment: this is a good offer bypassing the excessive overseas mailing expenses.*

# For the Record

474. The Royal Society of London has announced the release of Brian Trotter, Patrick Flanagan, and Keith Harrop's book on the evolution of the mails of the Rhodesians and Nyasaland. The book is available from their website at £54 for non-members plus shipping expenses.



475. The 2024 edition of Stanley Gibbons's Commonwealth and British Empire stamps covering the period 1840 to 1970. Included are variations in watermark, perforation, paper and printing methods, major shades, important plate flaws, errors, government telegraph stamps and booklets (all listed and priced). Sold at the equivalent of \$119 plus shipping. It is the best bet for collectors of southern Africa given that the Southern Africa catalogue no longer is in press.



476. **James Bendon** has announced his **final retirement**. He writes *After more than 50 years as a full-time stamp dealer and philatelic publisher and having reached the age of 85. I have decided that it is time to retire. I will be spending my time putting my own collections in order, disposing of my stock and parts of my library, and writing some articles or even another book. Over the years I have welcomed correspondence about specimen stamps and I intend to continue to advise and help collectors. Have a look at [www.jamesbendon.com](http://www.jamesbendon.com) to see what retirement really means?*
477. **Spink** sold as part of their November 2023 sale of Stamps and Covers of the World a large research collection of **Bechuanaland postal stationery** in about 100 lots.
478. **Stanley Gibbon** included in their Live Auction Sale in November 2023 a full sheet of **Reuter's 1894 Telegraph Service Stamp** sheet. Only two complete sheets are believed to have survived. The sheet was estimated at £8,000-10,000



### New Books

- Beech, D.R., 2019. *A Guide to Philatelic Research at the British Library*. David R. Beech, London. Can be obtained by writing to [drbeech@btinternet.com](mailto:drbeech@btinternet.com).
- Haiman, A., Knight, I., and Simpson, C., 2023. *Cash of Empires: the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War Exhibition*. Royal Philatelic Society London, London, 191 pp.
- Haiman, A., Knight, I., and Simpson, C., 2023. *Cash of Empires: Context and Considerations*. Royal Philatelic Society London, London, 155 pp.
- Janssen, V., 2023. *The Frama Labels of South Africa and South West Africa*. Philately Collections of Stampe Vo. 28. Peninsula Publishers, 105 pp.
- Thy, P., 2023. *Postal Cards and Newspaper Wrappers Used in the Bechuanalands and Botswana*. Philatelic Exhibits. Exhibitors Press, Amazon.com.
- J.E. Symons, edited by Peter Thy, 2022. *The Macloutsie Post Office and its Postmaster, Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1892*. Krone Publications. Amazon.com.



### SAVPEX 2023

The 80 exhibits of the Eighth South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition - SAVPEX, has been posted on PFSA website - <https://stampssa.africa>. Also still posted are the exhibits for 2022 to 2020.

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### 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.
- Amoore, H., 2023. CGH: telegraphs and the 9th War of Dispossession of 1877/1878. *Journal of the Cape and Natal Study Circle* 27, 145-156.
- Amoore, H., 2023. The 1918 'Our Day' Red Cross Flights: a footnote. *South African Philatelist* 99 (Whole Number 980), 152-153.

- Banks, T., 2023. The use of L30 revenue stamps in Northern Rhodesia/Zambia from 1925. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 297), 356-357.
- Barter, M., Flanagan, P., Spivack, D., Menzies, I., and Burke, S., 2023. More Paris Missionary Society postal history ex Bartoseland. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 297), 360-366.
- Berry, R., 2023. Rhodesian and Zimbabwean military formation and unit cachets: Part 6 - the coordinating structures of the security forces, and how 'context philately' related to this series of articles. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 297), 279-284.
- Briscoe, A., 2023. Consignee letters. *South African Philatelist 99* (Whole Number 980), 156-157.
- Briscoe, A., 2023. The history of postal services in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to 1888. Part 1. *South African Philatelist 99* (Whole Number 978), 88-91.
- Briscoe, A., 2023. The history of postal services in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to 1888 – part 2. *South African Philatelist 99* (Whole Number 978), 122-125.
- Burke, S. (ed.), 2023. The Romance Continues. A history of the Rhodesian Study Circle. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 296), No. 2, 233 pages.
- Burke, S., 2023. Early lithograph-printed postcards from Central Africa. *South African Philatelist 99* (Whole Number 978), 97-98.
- Burke, S., 2023. The Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland. Early mails via the Bechuanaland Protectorate. *London Philatelist 132*, 148-159.
- Burrett, R.S., 2023. Beyond the Hills; early postal facilities south of the Matobo. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 297), 367-373.
- Davis, T., 2023. Zululand: mail runners and post carts. *Journal of the Cape and Natal Study Circle 27*, 43-49.
- Diesveld, J., 2023. Speciale Kaapse briefkaarten met advertenties. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 35* (Whole Number 139), 24-26.
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- Haimann, A., 2023. Clash of Empires. The 1879 Anglo-Zulu war. *American Philatelist*, October 2023, 900-909.
- Hankins, P., 2023. A surprise reference in the RSC journal to my grandfather working in British Central Africa in 1905. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 297), 348-349.
- Hill, R., 2023. Postmarks of towns and villages in the Cape during the period 1880-1915. Part 6. *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 361), 28-29.
- Hill, R., 2023. Postmarks of towns and villages in the Cape during the period 1880-1915. Part 8. *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 363), 105-106.
- Hill, R., 2023. Postmarks of towns and villages in the Cape during the period 1880-1915. Part 9. *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 34), 139-140.
- Hoffman, C., 2023. On Zeederberg, Komatiepoort, Tuli and more – an early mil route to Rhodesia via the Transvaal. *South African Philatelist 99* (Whole Number 978), 84-85.
- Howgrave-Graham, T., 2023. An official enquiry! *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 361), 11-12.
- Howgrave-Graham, T., 2023. The 1d unhyphenated rotogravure ship – Part 1. *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 362), 46-57.
- Howgrave-Graham, T., 2023. The 1d unhyphenated rotogravure ship – Part 2. *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 363), 77-82.
- Johnson, T., 2023. Identifying the 'printings' (issues), and flaws, of the 'Bantams.' *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 364), 124-131.
- Kamffer, G. and Clemons, T., 2023. Various aspects of the postal system of the Republic of South Africa. Part 10: the development of stamp design and printing from 1971 to 2023 – part 1. *South African Philatelist 99* (Whole Number 978), 94-96.
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- Kentzer, M., 2023. Mail into Scotland during the additional 1/2d period. *Springbok 71* (Whole Number 364), 137-139.
- Kind, D., 2023. The skeleton postmarks of Southern Rhodesian World War II camps. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle 74* (Whole Number 297), 289-292.
- Klugman, K.P., 2023. Natal: combination use of the three-pence embossed stamp of Natal. *Journal of the Cape and Natal Study Circle 27*, 128-131.
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- Knip, E., 2023. De overdrukken van Zuidelijk Afrika deel 3. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias 35* (Whole Number 138), 24-26.
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- Lester, L. and Lester, R., 2023. South African post offices – Part 7. Springbok 71 (Whole Number 364), 141-105.
- Lester, L. and Lester, R., 2023. Union Cinderella – Part 8. Springbok 71 (Whole Number 363), 93-96.
- Lester, L. and Lester, R., 2023. Union Cinderella – Part 9. Springbok 71 (Whole Number 364), 132-137.
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- Maassen, W., 2023. Successful FIP exhibition in Cape Town with minor blemishes! Philatelic Journalist, Whole Number 170, 27-31.
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## Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist in electronic format only: June 2023 (Volume 99, No. 3); August 2023 (Volume 99, No. 4); October 2023 (Volume 99, No. 5).

FVZA Bartolomeu Dias: November 2023 (Volume 35 Whole No. 140).

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 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 (Memory Stick). \$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. Can be downloaded from Society webpage.

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. Can be downloaded from the Society webpage as an excel file.

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@gmail.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; gs@postalhistory.ca.

**Botswana Meter Marks:** interested in all eras. For trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gs@postalhistory.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 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.

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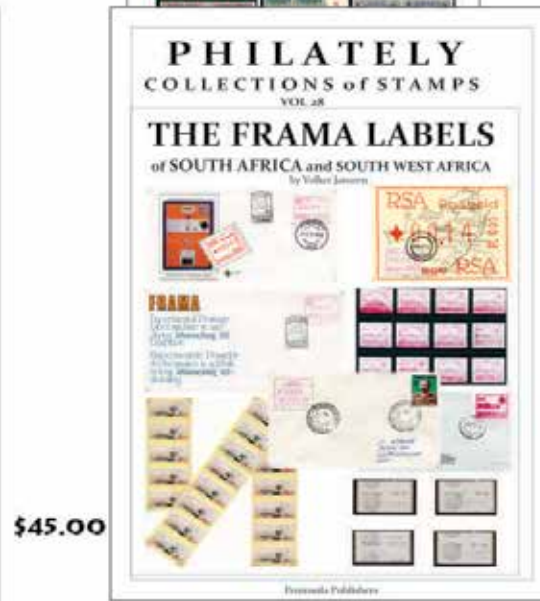
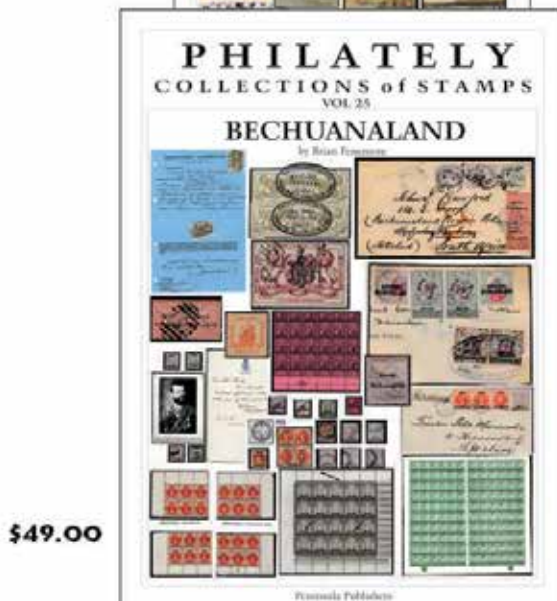
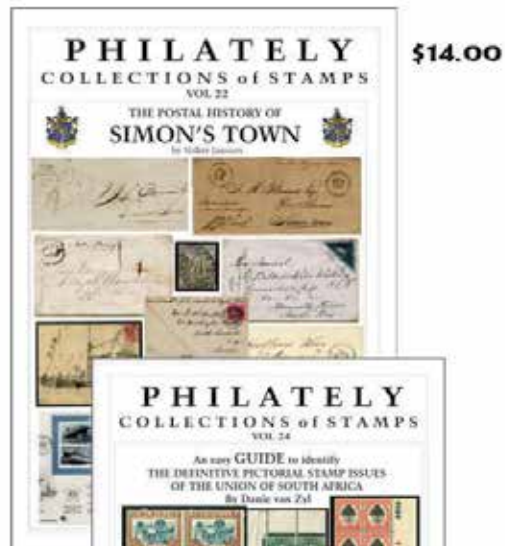
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