



.....**FORERUNNERS**

Journal of The Philatelic Society of Greater
Southern Africa
Affiliate 190 of the American Philatelic Society

6 VOL III - No.2-----May - August 1989

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Table of Content

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page #</u>
◆ News of The Membership	1
◆ From the Editor	1
◆ A few Words from your Board	1-3
◆ Member Biographies	4
◆ The Forerunners Forum	4
◆ Bits & Pieces	5
◆ Feature Articles	
- The 1929 Darmstadt Trials	6
- Collection Organization	7
- Perflins of South Africa	8
- Aerophilately	8-10
- The O.V.S. Commando Brief	11-13
- Reciprocal Listing Exchange	13-14
• Nominations Committee Report	13
• Classifieds	15
• 1990 Scott Catalogue Insert	

PSGSA focuses on past and present stamp
Issuing entitles of greater Southern Africa
through the Union Period.
individuals desiring membership Information
should contact the Resident Representative
most convenient to them geographically.

-----**WELCOME**

aBOARD 111

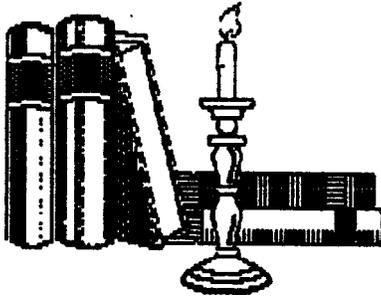
- **GALEN MCPHERSON - #89-1 - Arcadia, California.** Primarily Interested In CGH cancellations, revenues and covers. Galen is a member of APS, American Revenue Association and the War Cover Club.
- **TIM MAHON - #89-2 - Earisfield/London, U.K.** Our new British colleague's primary areas of interest include Union of SA, Bechuanaland & Protectorate and Basutoland. Tim's secondary interests are CGH, So. Rhodesia and Swaziland.

Other Notes

Roy Setterfield will be attending the London International '90. If you plan on being there, Roy would look forward to meeting and acting as an informal host. Please write Roy at: 18 Goldsmid Rd., HOVE BN31QA, East Sussex, Great Britain.

CONGRATULATIONS to Morgan Farrell (#87-03) became a father to a son born January 19th!

From The Editor



Just after opening your envelope, you probably noticed that **ForeRUNNERS** has been expanded to include a title cover page. This is more in alignment with the traditional Journal style which gives us a more

professional appeal, if you will.

I am still awaiting word from the Cardinal Spelman Philatelic Library's annual judging of philatelic literature. **Fasts** was entered by invitation. Now that the Society is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society, our journal also qualifies for entry into APS's annual literature competition. One of the things which warms the heart /excites editors is receiving unsolicited material for publication. Whether the submission be an article, or a copy of a long sought after cover, or a new

discovery does not matter. The meaningfulness lies in the fact that here is another collecting soul; willing to share something of interest with us all.

I am looking forward to a greater number of Society members becoming contributors in **Faer rs As** always, I am available for assistance (and a little "arm-twisting" encouragement if needed).

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR BOARD

"Random Jottings From The



President"... Syl C. Tully
Spring is finally springing and philately has to take a back seat for me for a little while due to profes-

sional duties that arise this time every year. I do wish to acknowledge all the good work done during the past year by everyone connected with **Forerunnerq** as well as the prompt responses regarding our Society's

change. Particular thanks should be noted to our Editor and to our Archivist, both of whom have received recognition in the latest issue of the Journal of the Orange Free State Study Circle (OFSSC). For those members not familiar with OFFSC and whose collecting interests include OFS/ORC, I recommend they consider membership in this group. Some very interesting articles and information have been printed in recent issues of their Journal. The address is: OFSSC, attention Hon. Secretary J.R. Stroud, 28 Oxford St., Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1LQ, England. We have received a donation of Volumes II & III of their handbook from them, for which I for one am very grateful.

As you may have gathered, OFS is one of my special interests. Any of our members who have produced 11-bar numeral cancels with numerals 80 through 80, would be doing all of us a great favor by providing copies to both PSGSA and OFSSC. Some of these numbers are only

known to exist In one or two collections and not on FORERUNNERS, Vol.III, No.2, May/August `89 p2 cover, so the Issuing offices are unknown. Archives

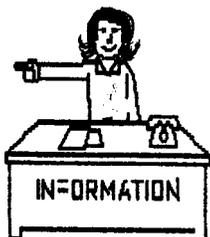
In South Africa seem to Indicate all numbers were assigned somewhere, but available information dome not Indicate aecifll h

"From The Archives"
by: Tim Bartshe

p c a y

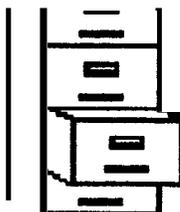
-----were-----"From Your

Program Chair"



by: Louise van Ingen

We are really excited about our First Official Meeting. Now that PSGSA Is an APS Affi- liate, and we have been given a meeting room at STaMpsHOW ' 89, It is really official. Our meeting will be on Sunday,



An entire area of "literature", not often considered as research material Is found In the mall box on a frequent basis. This literature Is the eagerly awaited Auction Catalog. Certainly, the series of catalogs pertaining to the Ferrari or

August 27th from 10:00 a_m- to 12:00 noon_

Tim Bartshe our Archivist from Colorado Is planning on coming out and hopes to have a presentation ready for us. We had hoped our European Representative, George van den Hurk, would also be with us, but we have had recent word that he will not be able to come over from Switzerland.

One more speaker Is needed for our meeting program_ We hope many of you are going to attend, and that someone will volunteer to make a presentation_ Please write me at the address listed on the cover If you are Interested In being a presenter.

Tim asked about accomodations, and the cost of same at the Disneyland Hotel. There are also many places to stay, for every kind of taste and pocketbook, and mainly within walking distance. A list Is provided as an enclosure with this Issue-

A thought to consider - let's have your ideas on the subject. One group I belong to has a library of xeroxed copies of the members' collections - well, those who wish to participate. Other members can buy copies of the copies. It Is one way of sharing knowledge in our chosen field of collecting.

In the meantime, I hope to meet as many of you as possible. I will be attending NAPEX In Washington, DC. If any of you are going to be there, let's get together.

Regards,

Louise

Col. Green sales can be counted In the group Of reference material required for study of the classics. But, what about the modern day auction catalog?

Speaking from my own specialized area of the Orange Free State, modern day auction catalogs represent a photographic representation of the finest material In existence. Since 1983, no less than three major collections have come under the hammer. Colonial Stamp Company's 11/29/83 auction broke up the Jerram collection which was auctioned-off In a sale of 73 lots_ The A. C_ Fenn collection was auctioned-off by Harmers of London on 5/22/85, while the Buckley collection was sold by Christies Robson Lowe on 3/16/87_ Over a period of 3 1/2 years, three of the finest collec- tions assembled since the turn of the century were put up to the public. The catalogs were of high quality, typical of these auction houses and afforded ample illustrations for future reference_

The fact that major collections usually are handled by the major auction houses should not preclude one from seeking out the small and literally unknown auction firms, spread out over the world. Two recent

examples come to mind from South African dealers/ auctioners. Johnson Philatelcls of Port Elizabeth has an illustrated lot of SG 106b (3d VRI raised level stops, pair, one without surcharge). As there are probably

only 10 such pairs possible, this serves as a reference .In Itself. Allan Raw of Durban is offering a cover with a 2d VRI raised stops (SG 114 variety) without a stop after the "I". Although no photograph was Included, if this Item is genuine, It Is a true find as It Is not listed In Gibbons or Vol. 11 of the OFSSC Handbook. Auction catalogs are and will continue to be valuable sources of Information, be It present

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value of an Item, or as a general representation of its scarcity. Catalogs can yield a pedigree of sorts for most rarities. Anyone Interested In a short list of the smaller auction houses around the world that deal with our area, please send a note with an SASE and I will be glad to send It to you.

Et= "Facts, Figures & Other Matters"

t - by: Bill Brooks

- **ENCLOSED IS YOUR COPY OF PSGSA'S FIRST MAIL-BID AUCTION GUIDELINES- PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LOT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JULY 15TH_ THE CATALOG WILL BE SENT OUT DURING THE FIRST PART OF AUGUST_ PLANS ARE TO HAVE A SUPPLY OF THEM AT STaMpsHOW FOR DISTRIBUTION_ TIM WILL ALSO HAVE SOME OF THE CHOICER LOTS ON DISPLAY DURING OUR MEETING AND PROG-**

RAM-All members recently received the completed financial analysis and ballot to raise the annual membership fee_ The results are In: 15 members voted to raise annual dues to \$18, 15 voted for **\$15, one member for \$12_50 and one suggested leaving the fee where It Is-** Since a majority of the ballots cast were for an annual fee of \$15 or less, **It would seen appropriate to have \$15 as our revised annual membership fee_** The fee scale for new members has been revised as follows: July-October is \$15, Nov-Feb Is \$10 and Mar-June Is \$20, the latter Including the next year's membership_ **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 188s-S0 MEMBERSHIP PERIOD BILLING IS INCLUDED WITH THIS ISSUE WITH THE PAYMENT DEADLINE OF JULY. 1ST_**

Some of the returned ballots included comments about how we might reduce costs and raise revenues_ On the revenue side there will be

FORERUNNERS, Vol-III, No-2, May/Aug '89 P.8

Society surcharges in our first auction. Also, one member recommended that we hold a donation auction, where all proceeds go Into our **treasury_ IS THERE A MEMBER OUT THERE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO PURSUE THE IDEA OF A SOCIETY DONATION AUCTIONS Please contact Tim or yours truly If you are.**

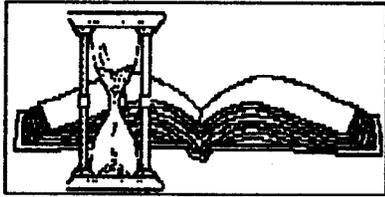
Now that PSGSA has attained APS Affiliate status, let us take a look at what that relationship yields In terms of benefits:

- Monthly copy of the *7 AA Aine ae PiatW/s2* (APJsent to Society's library
- PSGSA will be a listed organization In APS's biennial *Ha wk of S~~s* distributed with the AR
- Society application packets will now be used by APS in replying to Inquiries about our

- A copy of PSGSA's journal and news releases will be featured In *APs* "Active Affiliates" column

*** APS will furnish us with the names and addresses of new members whose collecting Interests Include those areas we cover_ **WHAT IS REQUIRED IS THAT SOMEONE IN OUR GROUP NEEDS TO 00 THROUGH "THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT" IN EACH ISSUE OF THE AP AND MAKE A LIST OF NEW APS APPLICANTS (AND THEIR APS NUMBERS) WHO COLLECT AREAS COVERED BY PSGSA_ Once the list Is compiled,** It will be sent to me and I will contact APS, obtain needed addresses and send out Society Information packets to these prospective new members. **ANYONE /NTE/ F''STEO /NAFZPINO' "lr. PLAWSM CONTACT AE' / CAM CERTA/AC YL TAFASSISTANG9E_**

UNTIL NEXT ISSUE I I I



~a FWES

W_ 'Jack' Grutter, our Resident Representative for South Africa, was born in King Williamstown, RSA, on the third of February. Jack is married to Petra and has three sons: Anton, Herman and Philip. He received a B. A. degree from the University of Stellenbosch. Jack's primary occupation is freelance journalism which has contributed to his recent "assignment" as Editor of *the South African Philatelist* - Jack has been very supportive of PSGSA via press releases on our behalf. Concerning other hobbies, Jack asks rhetorically "is there time?!" He despises watching TV which he does professionally as a critic. His primary philatelic interest is the Cape of Good Hope. (I'm still waiting for that article, Jack.)

* Richard F. Day hails from Manchester, New Hampshire where he was born on April 21st. Dick has two daughters - Loma and Jennifer - and is married to Eunice. His occupation is that of engineer and surveyor. Dick's primary philatelic interests include SA, SWA, British Honduras and Belize. In addition, he enjoys collecting coins of these countries. In closing his biographical notes, Dick commented "I'm just one of those 'dirty' accumulators who likes to gain info on countries I collect." (Don't worry Dick, you are certainly not alone!)

THE FORERUNNERS FORUM

"Questions & Answers"

by: Syl Tully

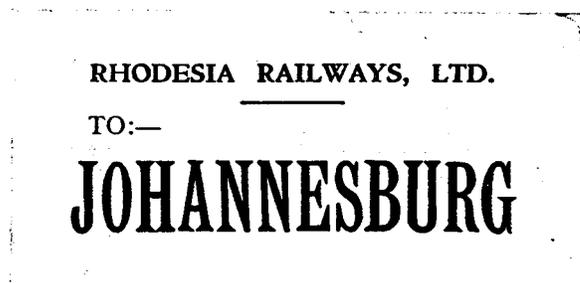
Members are invited to submit questions to Syl. If he is unable to provide an answer, the question will then appear in the "Unanswered Challenges For The Scholar" column. There it will remain until one of you brave souls comes forth and enlightens us all.

Question 1: I have two OFS items with the following cancels - (1) Scott #28 2p on 3p ultramarine, 1888 issue with an orange cancel, and (2) Scott #46, 2p on 2p violet of 1901 issued under British occupation with a blue vertical, crayon-like cancel in addition to a cds. What is the significance of these color cancel marks?

Answer_ (1) Orange cancels are not uncommon on Orange Free State issues. Several colors were used including blue, red, purple and orange. Often the orange cancels are an 11-bar oval with a circled "R", probably used in Bloemfontein as a registry cancel. (2) Blue crayon lines were put on registered mail by most British Commonwealth countries crossing the envelope vertically and horizontally at approximately the center of the envelope. Hitting the stamp is 'accidental, not intentional. This does not detract from the stamp's value as a rule. I have some nice Rhodesia „ double heads marred by this happening. It all depended on the postal clerks as to whether the crayons hit the stamp or not, assuming they could miss if they tried.

BITS AND PIECES

• Bill Wallace has quite a number of Rhodesia Railway routing slips, mostly with Rhodesian towns on them, but several with South African cities. One of these slips is illustrated below. Bill would like to know if any member is familiar with these slips and has additional information about them. If any of you can help Bill out, please contact the Editor for publication in the next issue in this column.



• Morgan Farrell writes that his find of the "Virginia Siding" Postmark in the last Issue, was reported as not previously seen. Well, evidently the OFS Study Circle says that someone got there before him. Morgan's information on the postmark in question was evidently dated. His copy is, of course, rare and the latest known use; however, unique it is not.

• From the OFSSC's Mar. '89 journal issue:

"We have now set up a reciprocal exchange of journals with the Pre-Union South African Study Group (published before we had our recent name change), and we have donated copies of Vols 11 and III of our IA a&m* to their library for which they have expressed

FORERUNNERS, Vol.III/No.2-May/Aug'89 P5

many thanks and much appreciation. The Society really is taking off in a big way, much of its attraction being, I feel, in that it gives an overall of philately in South Africa in pre-Union days - it puts one's specialized field into perspective. There have been some interesting articles by our member, Tim Bartshe, on O.F.S. - well done, Tim, for flying the flag! - and the Free State features regularly in the Group's journal *Forerunners*. PUSASG's enthusiastic and industrious Secretary is Bill Brooks. . .and he will be pleased to hear from new members."

• **STAMPSHOW '89 Preregistration Available** Preregistration forms are available for and the 108rd Annual convention of the American Philatelic Society.

Scheduled for August 24-27 at the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California, is the largest annual philatelic exhibition in the U.S.! Over 8,000 pages of stamp exhibits will be on display.

lay, and collectors will have the opportunity to visit 110 dealers from around the world.

Admission to the event is \$6.50 for a four-day pass and program. The \$7.00 convention package includes a four-day pass, program, four mint cachets and a souvenir card. These admissions and tickets to the banquet and other functions may be ordered through preregistration. For further information, write to STAMPSHOW '89, P.O. Box 8000-N, State College, PA 16808 USA.

Your Editor will be staffing the APS Affiliate Table on Saturday in the morning. I would look forward to having members stop by and say "Hello" before our meeting the next morning..

FEATURE ARTICLES

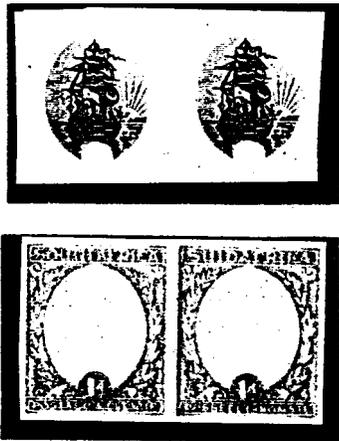
The 1929 Darmstadt Trials

by: Louise van Ingen

When printing of the first pictorial Issue of the Union of South Africa was moved from London to Pretoria, It was also decided to change to the screenless rotogravure process of printing. A press was ordered from Goebel A-G of Darmstadt. Cylinders had to be ordered from the Dutch firm of N.V. Nedelandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij who had the trade secrets and patents.

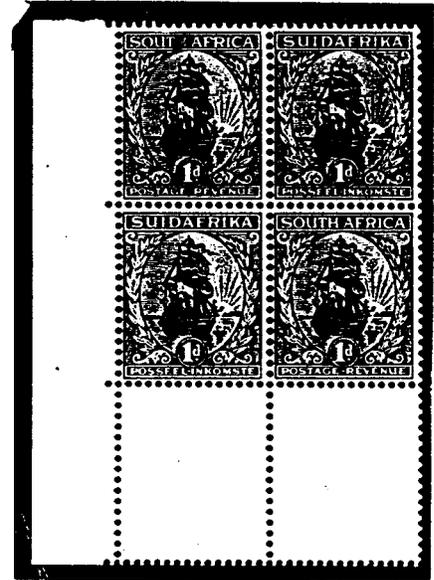
Trial sheets were printed on ungummed unwatermarked paper, ungummed watermarked paper and gummed watermarked paper (Figure). These trial sheets were the same size as post office sheets. Stamps from these sheets have been, unofficially used through the mail.

Figure 1



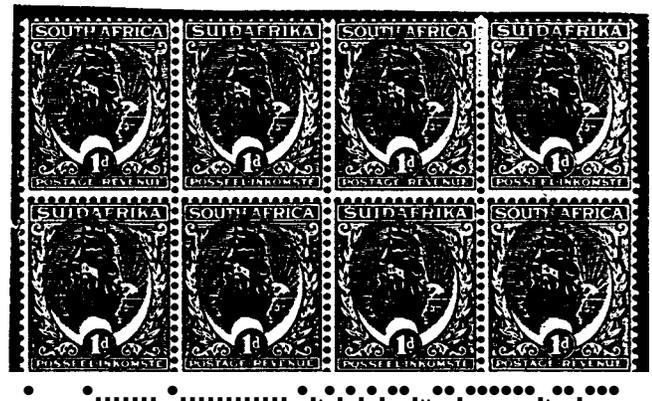
The corner block shown in figure 2 is gummed and unwatermarked and was printed from the first cylinder set. This cylinder set was damaged. An attempt was made to repair it by supplementary etching. This proved unsatisfactory and new cylinders were ordered. The first cylinder set had the Africans stamp first.

Figure 2.



A marginal block, unwatermarked and gummed - only one sheet was printed with the ship's plate out of register. The stern of the ship is smudged on all stamps, with the smudging running into rigging and front of hull on some stamps as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3.



• PSGSA & STaMpsHOW '89 •

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND OUR MEETING AND/OR MIGHT CONSIDER GIVING A SHORT PRESENTATION, PLEASE CONTACT LOUISE. IF YOU KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE STAYING, INCLUDE THAT INFORMATION ALSO.

COLLECTION ORGANIZATION:

Earliest Use Postmarks By:

Morgan T. Farrell

Recently I was able to get around to organizing my Cape of Good Hope collection into some sort of order. I decided the format for arrangement by shades, postmarks, etc. All of the stamps ended up in a single volume, and in such a way as to know what I owned at a glance.

One category decided upon was the earliest dated postmark for each stamp. It did occur to me that some stamps would have "early" postmarks that would be up to 1-2 years after issue, but it would be a starting point, i.e., it would give me a new topic to look for. A postmark earlier than the one in my collection is a good example. This proved to be true, though some postmarks in my collection were not "early" in the first date of issue sense. In one case just the opposite happened.

On the 1/2d Hope Standing, *Scott #59/St? #67*, the earliest use date I could find was in SO and given as 10.98. Yet, on one copy in my collection, although the day cannot be seen, the month and year of the postmark are very clearly SEP 98 and used at the GPO in

FORERUNNERS, V.111, No.2 May/Aug '89 P.7 -----

Capetown. I realize that Stanley Gibbons works with the best information available and my find is not a major breakthrough; but it does seem to demonstrate to me that this may be a long-neglected area of research. Perhaps the established date of availability may be more accurate than the use of the first day of issue, as far as pre-1890 items are concerned. It is true that some early uses and first day postmarks are keenly sought after. The first Union stamps are a good example. Its first day issue of *4NOV10* is well-known and much desired. Few South African auctions fail to offer at least one for bid. To a lesser extent, the first definitives or KGV issues of the Union are also watched for - especially the *1Sep13* first day postmark. These also appear in auctions with hefty starting bids. Any experienced Union collector has scanned his/her collection for these first day cancels. However, how many of us have checked the later issues? For example, the same KGV set has four values with later issue dates: the 1d on 23.8.20, the 3d blue on 10.22, the 1/8 on 1.10.20 and the one pound on 7.16. Perhaps there are others in the Society who are interested in/have been researching the area of "earliest use postmarks". (*Ed tars aaAtAkw avhv a/xfaalJ ratkn caxari tile* tapes aft%u=WbyAtr&w/z v¹Zv se)t to tdc 4CWar aA'wal/ Jr p 4AW *A later e*)

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THE 1990 SCOTT CATALOGUE AND PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Scott Publishing Co. recently has announced that its 1990 Catalogue will contain retail stamp values, that is, stamp values which reflect actual dealer selling prices. Additionally, stamps will be valued in a grade of Fine-Very Fine, one grade higher than in the past.

These changes may have both a short-term and long-term effect on how members of this society take part in specific services offered by the organization.

The combined effect of the changes will render it impossible for a user of the 1990 Scott Catalogues to compare stamp values in any of those volumes with stamp values in past volumes, cautions Wayne Lawrence, Scott president and publisher.

Participants in *society-sponsored auctions* may need to adjust bidding habits, he adds. Bidding at large discounts from 1990 catalogue value will decrease the bidder's chances of acquiring a lot. For best results, he advises, bidders should compare catalogue values with recent auction price realizations and place bids with that information in mind. Bargains may still occur at auction sales when there is little demand for a particular lot or type of material.

While there may be a perception that the catalogue **changes will affect society sales circuits, Lawrence notes** that as long as sellers continue to key their asking prices to retail, there should be no noticeable change in such prices. Sellers who key their asking prices to a percentage of catalogue value should clearly indicate in the terms what catalogue year and volume is being used for valuations. In the future, sellers may want to reassess that approach.

Society sponsored *trading or bartering programs* which are keyed to catalogue value will have to make appropriate adjustments, until all of the volumes of the 1990 Scott Catalogue are published and the participants have had a chance to adapt to the new value structure.

Wherever possible, Lawrence says, barter terms should point out which catalogue year and volume is used.

The long-term effect of the new Scott valuing practices will be quite favorable to barter groups, Lawrence says. The reflection of retail prices throughout the Scott Catalogue will eliminate the country-to-country percentage differences between catalogue value and retail price that occurred under

PLEASE.

the previous Scott valuing system. Under the new system, it should be possible to trade fairly among all countries and eras, using the 1990 Scott Catalogue as a basis.

Another significant change in the 1990 Scott Catalogue involves the valuing of unused stamps as never-hinged on a country-by-country basis. Where stamp values are based on a never-hinged state, notices will be placed prominently both at the beginning of the country's listing and within the text where such effect on the value begins.

The Scott Catalogue is an annual publication, which reflects market activity as closely as possible. Catalogue users should recognize that currency fluctuations and general market movement may affect individual retail stamp prices during the period following the release of the 1990 Catalogue and preceding the publication of the 1991 edition.

**** GUEST ARTICLE ****

*Have You Ever Thrown Them Away?
Perfins of South Africa & Provincials*

By: John W. Hodgson, A.I.J.P.

Perfins are Initial letters perforated or punctured on or through stamps to denote official use; also the Initials of private concerns applied to stamps as a precaution against theft. Perforation of stamps in this manner was first officially permitted in Great Britain in 1888, for which purpose A. Sloper designed a special perforator. Many machines manufactured by this firm are in use world-wide today.

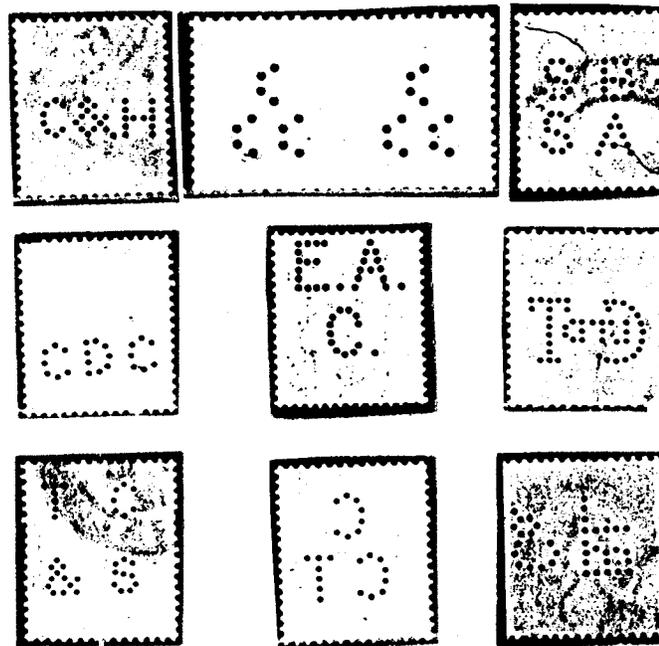
Over 8,000 perfins can be found in Great Britain today, and, as can be expected, early perfins are much sought after. Just about every country has at some time or another had perfins used by firms and/or individuals.

The first perfin known to have been used in South Africa dates from 1883, and about 150 patterns have been recorded to date. What is of particular interest is the fact that about 90% of South Africa's perfins are to be found on pre-Union stamps. The introduction of franking machines in the 1930's saw perfins being phased out. Two of these machines remain in regular use, both in Cape Town, with one being erratically used in Durban.

Generally speaking, perfin-perforated stamps are considered as damaged and seldom are retained in a country collection. All too many of them are thrown away, being considered as damaged, making the collection of perfins somewhat difficult.

Even more difficult is the positive identification of perforated South African and Provincial stamps, as most of the firms who used them have ceased to exist. A perfin dated 1889 was only recently identified when it was found on a cover postmarked 1901. These "non-collectibles" make for exciting collecting and study.

Perfin examples:



AEROPHILATELY

By: George van den Hurk

Since our Society concerns itself with the Union period after 1910, as well as with many other aspects of Southern African philately, Aerophilately cannot be ignored.

My own introduction to aerophilately goes back to just after World War II, when J. Boesman was writing a column in one of the Dutch stamp magazines and gave advance information on special flights. Being a teenager, I was thrilled to get these special flights returned to me. One of my first tries was a K.L.M. trial flight from Amsterdam to Johannesburg with the "Friesland" on 7 Dec 1946.

The next day I read in the newspaper that the "Friesland" had engine problems after departing from Tunis and in view of the fact that the next stretch was over the Sahara, Captain A. Viruly decided to return to Tunis. Spare parts were flown out from Schiphol and another plane flew to Tunis to pick

passengers and freight for the onward journey to South Africa.

When much later I got hooked on philately of Southern Africa, aerophilately remained a soft spot.

As a first time exhibitor at a regional mini-exhibition in Kempton Park in 1976, I met Captain Dawle Uys, one of the foremost South African aerophilatelists, who organized hundreds of special flight covers over a period of many years until his untimely death when commanding the ill-fated S.A.A. Boeing 747 "Helderberg" from Taiwan to Johannesburg which on 28th of November 1987 crashed into the sea off the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, killing all 159 passengers and crew.

Dawle Uys had a marvellous gold-medal collection of early South African flight covers, but his writing concerned itself mostly with the Republican period, 1961-81 (1).

In 1977 I met for the first time another outstanding aerophilatelist. He was Captain Milton Stern, a jury member of the National Philatelic Exhibition RAND 77, held in Johannesburg. Captain Stern was the author of *South African Airmails* (2). Until 1969, the literature which a collector of South African airmails had at his disposal comprised *The Airposts of South Africa*, 1936, by L.A. Wyndham (3), *The Airposts of South Africa*, 1956, compiled by N.C. Baldwin and M.F. Stern, a series of articles "South African and South West African Airmail History and Development" which appeared in the *Airpost Journal*, published by the American Airmail Society from June 1962 to March 1967, and various "Airmail Notes" by I.H.C. Godfrey and M.F. Stern, appearing from time-to-time over several years in *The South African Philatelist*. However, at the time *South African Airmails* by M.F. Stern was the most important up-to-date work on the airmails of South Africa.

Another book with interesting information but without much philatelic background is *Pioneers of Early Aviation in South Africa* by Hannes Obersholzer (4). Also, I still remember Jack Burrell at one of our seminars for learner-judges recommending amongst others not to omit reading the chapters on aviation in the Reader's Digest "South Africa's Yesterdays" (5), which indeed contains most interesting information and attractive colourful illustrations.

This brings me to Jack Burrell who recently, at the age of 85, passed away on 20th December 1988. He was a pillar of strength and knowledge to organized aerophilately in South Africa. In a tribute in the *South African Philatelist*, Colin Plen writes about Jack Burrell:

"From the time that he was a small boy, Jack had a permanent romance with stamps. At the age of seven, his mother introduced him to first day covers such as the 1910 Union stamp and later on the King's Heads. After that, he never let a stamp issue go by.

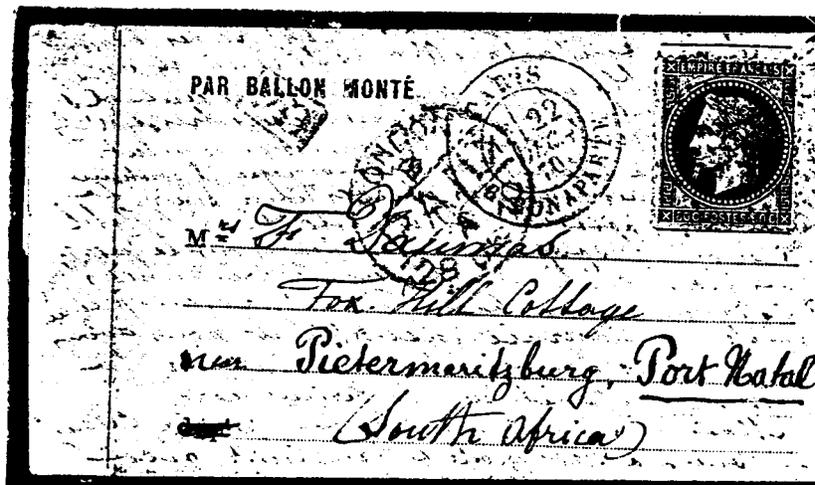
In 1972, when Jack retired after a successful career, he decided to write a definitive book of the airmails of Southern Africa. He had assisted Captain Stern in his publication of *South African Mails*, which he edited in 1968. However, Jack saw the shortcomings of the book and decided to write his own. He published a checklist of prices for Captain Stern's books a few years later. With the death of his wife Jess in 1982, Jack was set back in his writing but later, after encouragement and prodding by Martie Vox, began researching and writing seriously. They were joined by Nick Dorn who, being a typesetter, advised them on layout and printing. Eventually *PAF: AVION* (6) was published in 1986, just before Johannesburg 100, and was judged with a silver award."

"Jeldel Collection of African Airmails" (7), held by Stephan Welz & Co. In association with Sotheby's, in Johannesburg on 15th June 1988, is invaluable for the serious collector. This auction catalog describes and illustrates, with more than 800 photographs of covers, the airmails of Southern Africa from 1870 to present times. It is interesting to note that the 1870 "Ballon Monte" entire Paris-Pietermaritzburg (Port Natal) with an estimated price tag of Rand 8000-4000, realized in the auction room a price of Rand 84,560 or approximately US \$15,000.

Last but not least, I would like to draw attention to the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa which produces an excellent Aeroletter (8) since 1980 under the editorship of Colin Plan,

References:

- (1) Uys, Capt. D.J., *Airmails of the Republic of South Africa 1961-81*, Johannesburg, 1982, The Aerophilatelic Society of South Africa
- (2) Stern, Capt. M.F., *South African Airmails*, Johannesburg, 1969, The Philatelic Federation of southern Africa
- (3) Wyndham, L.A., *The Airposts of South Africa*, Cape Town, 1981, The Reader's Digest Association, S.A., (Pty) Ltd.
- (4) Oberholzer, Hannes, *Pioneers of Early Aviation in South Africa*, Bloemfontein, 1974, National Museum, Bloemfontein
- (5) Reader's Digest, *South Africa's Yesterdays*, Cape Town, 198, The Readers Digest Association S. A. (Pty) Ltd.
- (6) Burrell, John T. (Jack), *Par Avion in Southern Africa*, 1986, Johannesburg, The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa
- (7) Stephen Welz & Co., Auction Catalog of the Jeldel Collection of African Airmails, Johannesburg, 1988
- (8) *The Aeroletter*, Official organ of the Aerophilatelic Society of South Africa, Editor Colin Plan, P.O. Box 391499, Bramley 2018. South Africa



TAE-0 VS COMMANDO BRIEF

Tim Bartshe

During the onset of hostilities in October 11, 1899, the military forces of the Free State requested the issuance of a special stamp to frank the large volume of mail being sent from the front. Then-acting Commando General Barend Instructed Field Postmaster A. F. Hochapfel to procure stamps to be used in lieu of an officer's approving initials. However, no proof has come to light that such a initialing system existed. Hochapfel contracted Messrs. Curling & Co. of Bloemfontein (of future VRI overprint fame), to print up the required issue. The printed stamp consists of a typeset form with an overall design size of **34x25mm. The presumed paper used was a deep yellow which will run if not soaked with care.** The stamps were printed in sheets of 120 with the five individual impressions making up each of the four rows and line-perforated 12. The design consists of a lined border inset with pearl-like ornaments, surrounding the three-line inscription reading **"COMMANDO BRIEF." "O.V.S." / "FRANKO"**. For those readers not having a copy of *The Stamps of the Orange Free State, Volume I*, or **Fenn's article from the South African Philatelist** below is a description of the plating characteristics for each of the five types of these stamps.

Position 1: The center pearl at the top and all the pearls on the bottom are inverted; a white break between the top left square and the first vertical pearl; the first "O" of "COMMANDO" is broken at the top.

Position 2: The first stroke of the first "M" in "COMMANDO" is short; the stops after "O" and "V" are damaged; the fifth pearl at the

-----top has a

break in the outer line.

Position 3: There is a botch after the sixth pearl at top; the stop after the "V" is *damaged; and the IN' in "FRANKO" is slightly*

damaged.

Position 4: The inner line of the border ornaments opposite "COMMANDO" is damaged; there is a missing shading line on the top right; break in bottom frame after the sixth pearl; and dropped stop after "BRIEF".

Position 5: The top of the "C" in "COMMANDO" is flattened; damage in border opposite "O"; damaged stop after "O"; and first stroke of "A" in "FRANKO" is weak.

The Commando Brief stamps were used throughout the theater from October 1899 through March 1900 by the Free State Commandos, both during the initial advances into British territory, as well as their retreat northward. A number of mint sheets were captured by the British after the surrender of the Cronje army at Paardeberg on February 27, 1900. Stamps seen canceled after March 31 are believed to be philatelic in nature (what Boer War issues were not one might ask.). It has been reported that 500 sheets were printed, making a total of 10,000 stamps and it might be assumed that a large percentage of these items have survived. However, these stamps on cover are uncommon and might even be considered rare indeed. Somewhere in excess of 35 different postal agency markings are known on these stamps from Stormberg to the south, to Modder River to the west and from Hellbron to the north, to Dundee to the east. As there was only a small contingency of Free Staters on the Natal front, it should be assumed that examples of these strikes would be the rarest of the group.

The O.V.S. Commando Brief...cont'd

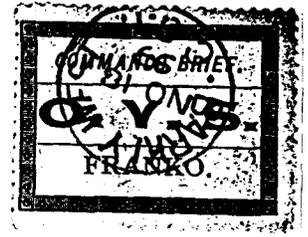
would be the rarest of the group. Modder River would be the most common due to the fact that Cronje's army was headquartered there for several months. The following illustrations are examples of the five types of impressions printed, as well as two examples of actual usage. The two covers were sent by the same individual from a "Leutnant T ... berg" to a "M. Schlett". The first is postmarked "Boshof/NO 8/99" while the next is from "Modder River/NO 15/99". The former is backstamped "Bloemfontein/II NO/99".



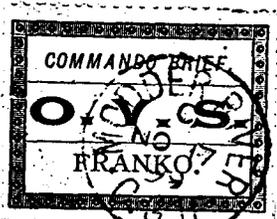
POSITION 1



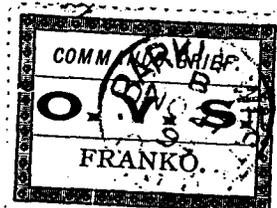
POSITION 2



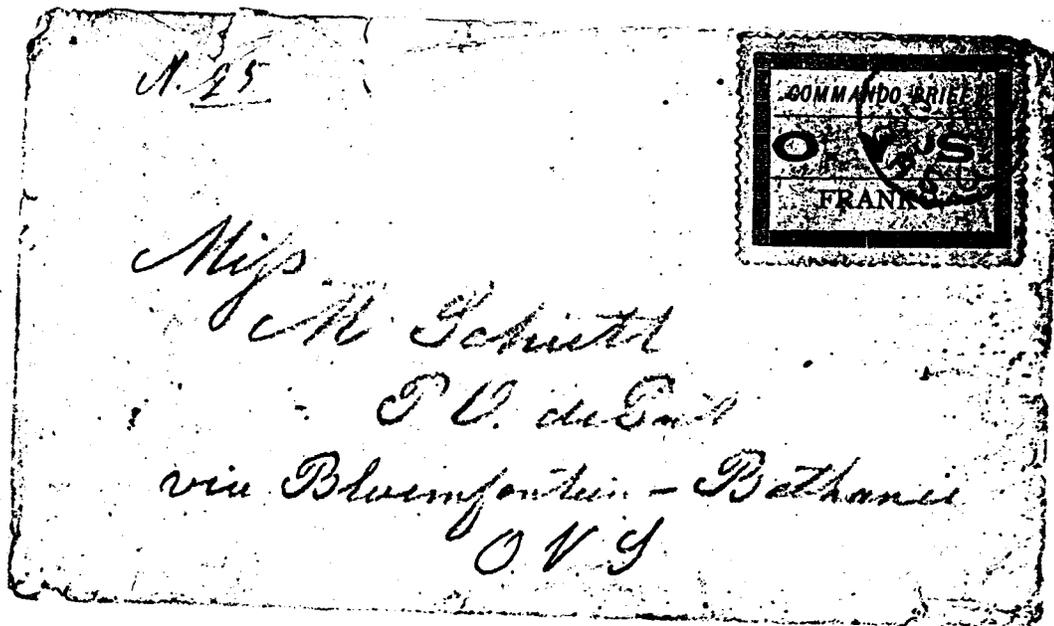
POSITION 3

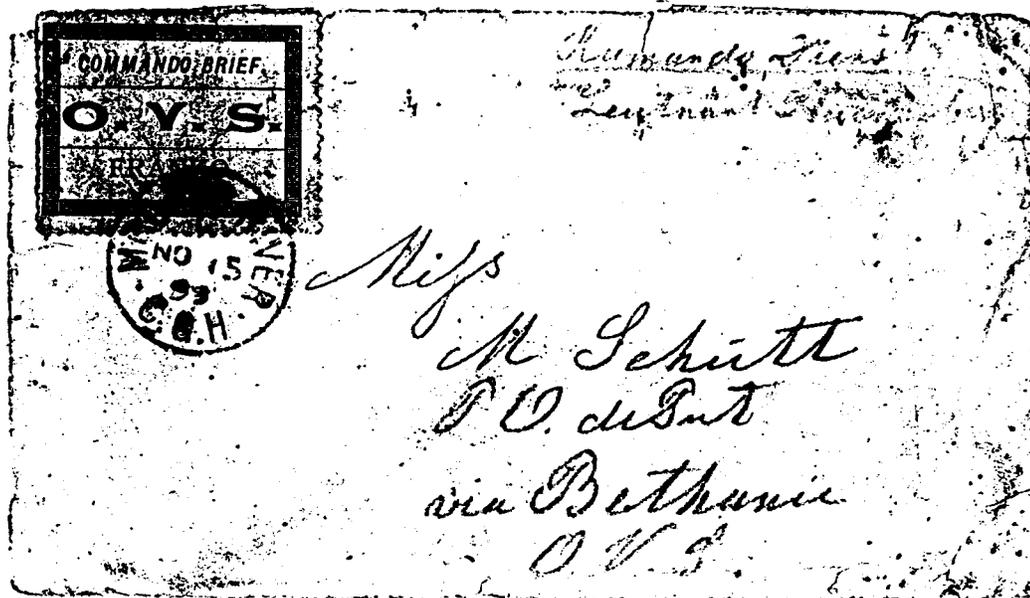


POSITION 4



POSITION 5
POSITION 5





POSITION 3 "MODDER RIVER/NO 15/99"

There has been much discussion in the past as to the postal validity of these interesting stamps. There is to my knowledge no existence of any markings on letters with the stamps indicating a due or penalty for insufficient postage. It would appear that the postal officials in the Republic accepted these stamps as frankings, sufficient for prepayment of postage and delivery, although there has been to date no official proclamations found stating such. The catalogs of this world do an injustice by not listing the Commando Brief and affording it the official nod of approval.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
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Nomination/qualification states were only received from the current officers. It is the Committee Chair's recommendation that the current officers continue serving in their present capacities for the next two-year term - commences July 1, 1989 and ends on June 30, 1991. Unless there are strong feelings to the contrary, it is felt that an official election would be an unnecessary expense. Installation of the Officers will be part of the Society's program at STAMPSHOW '89. On behalf of my fellow officers and Society members, I wish to thank the Nominations Committee members who were: Morgan Farrell (Chair), Ralph Myerson and Bill Wallace.

The Reciprocal Listings Exchange
 By

William C. Brooks VI

As a member of the Society, you no doubt have seen us evolve quite rapidly compared

to our very inauspicious and humble beginnings. Our experience tells us that sharing of information in areas of mutual interest is the reason we have created PSGSA. The Society provides valuable opportunities for us to grow and prosper in our areas of specialized pursuits. This issue of *FORERUNNERS* heralds the next step in our effort to provide additional membership services, if you will.

Broadening contacts with other organizations similar to ours, creates potentially valuable avenues for information exchange; this is what begins to take shape with the introduction of THE RECIPROCAL LISTINGS EXCHANGE.

Simply put, the Society, through the medium of *Fc 'z a*-g* will provide opportunities to bretheran organizations to make themselves known to a larger portion of the Philatelic Community. The criteria for participation is simple: if an organization focuses on areas covering subjects of mutual interest with that of PSGSA, it is invited to publish information about itself in our journal - brevity is paramount, of course. Solid examples of potential exchange participants exist in the form of groups which focus upon Transvaal, OFS, RSA, SWA and Anglo-Boer War, etc.

The Reciprocal Exchange Service includes the following guidelines and benefits:

1. *Far&7nws* will publish listings of participant organizations in each issue. The listing will be brief and provide the following information: (1) organization's name and address for membership information; (2) countries/eras focused on; and (8) name of publication.

2. *FararuuArr* will print brief news releases, e.g., announcements about special events/ activities, furnished by participating organizations.

8. Each participating organization will reciprocate by publishing PSGSA items in each issue of its own publication.

4. Individual members of participating organizations have the opportunity to publish guest articles on topics of mutual interest.

5. PSGSA will exchange a copy of its journal with each participating organization. This feature of the service will provide each organization's archives/library with valuable

reference material for use by individual members.

6. Participation in the exchange process will provide participants with opportunities for greater exposure to the collector population for membership recruitment purposes.

The Orange Free State Study Circle has indicated their desire to participate with the Society in the Exchange program. PSGSA members who belong to other groups, e.g., Transvaal Study Group, are requested to either send me a contact name/address or contact them directly about our new service, so that we may broaden the participation. Your help and cooperation in this regard will be appreciated... Thank you

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RECIPROCAL LISTINGS EXCHANGE

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Any organization whose philatelic focus falls within the scope of PSGSA's areas of interest, is invited to briefly list information about their group, its activities and special events, e.g., news releases, in this section of *Farerueer*. All that is required is that PSGSA be offered the same opportunity. Requests to participate are to be sent to the Editor (Address on cover.)

THE CLASSIFIEDS

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Advertising space for dealer and non-member ads costs \$8.00 per single Issue, \$20.00 per year (8 Issues). Basic ad size is 2"x8 1/2".

Contact Editor for larger ad rates.. Non-commercial ads are free to members. The Editor reserves the right to modify ads to correct spelling ... etc

WANTED: Volume I of the **6F3=A&1At'0** . Syl Tully (address on front cover.)

Dr. John Engle needs Zambian & N. Rhodesian postmarks for his collection. Write ' the good doctor at 10 Lloyd Rd. Waterville, ME 04901, USA

Syl Tully has an extensive collection of **Natal stmps which he would like to dispose of, either piecemeal or as a lot. Want lists by Scott or Stanley Gibbons numbers are requested. Included are several multiples of SG 114** exhibiting varieties and plate positions_

The Editor would dearly love to receive copies of used Stellaland, on and/or off cover. These are extremely rare items, seldom seen on the auction circuit or through private treaty. Any copies sent in will be published in future Issues of *Fovsrrrx* for all to enjoy. Please include a brief description... Thank you.

**DON'T FORGET
1989-90 SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FEE
DUE JULY 1ST**

Compliments of The White Rose Philatelic Society newsletter, May/June '88



When an I getting that sink coat you promised me?