



******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXVII, Number 3, Whole No. 79

March-June 2014



Rare Bechuanaland Protectorate postal-fiscal stamp surcharged in 1918 for revenue purposes. This is the only mint copy known.

Highlights

South West Africa Wrappers
Closing the Book on the Cape Post Office
Rare Bechuanaland Stamp Found
PSGSA National Convention 2015
Index for Volume XXVII
The Never Ending Story
Kimberley's BONC 227

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Zimbabwe Posts issued this stamp on March 26, 2013, as part of a two stamp set. The theme is the eradicating of extreme poverty.

Front Illustration:

The 1918 £5 surcharge of the 1 shilling British Bechuanaland definitive stamp from 1888. One of the rarest Bechuanaland stamps only known fiscally used. This is the only known mint copy recently discovered (see page 68 for more details).

*****FORERUNNERS**

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Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JOBURG, 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 SESCOAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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Editorial Notes

The coming few years promise to become exciting times for southern Africa Philately. Next year we will have our own Convention at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver. It is now time to start planning your travel and contributions. Overlapping in time will be the international London 2015. It will be a difficult decision to make if you have unlimited travel money. But we still hope to see you in Denver. Coming up in a few months will be APS annual STAMPSHOW, this time in Hart-

ford, CT. I am planning to be there for the complete show and will be ready to talk about that long overdue article that you have been thinking about writing for Forerunners (or any other subject for that matter). I am also planning to be at the Joint Southern Africa Collectors meeting at Leamington Spa in November and hope to meet some of our British members.

This issue contains three feature articles all written by non-members. Particularly, the unusual long article by Franco Frescura on the Cape of Good Hope dated cancellers should interest many of our members. It was decided that the subject was too important to serialize. Hope that you agree and forgive the lack of diversity in this issue. Admittedly, the lack of possible alternative articles made the choice much easier. And now while on the subject, your articles - small or large - are badly needed if we are to keep publishing Forerunners. Contact me if you have any questions about how to.

There is two big issues that is troubling our Society right now. Or in fact - perhaps only one: the lack of member responses to important decisions that we all as a Society will have to make shortly. First the auction. We just completed our first auction in many years. We saw disappointing bidding and so far have had few responses to a repeated request for feedback on how to proceed. Secondly, we have test distributed an electronic version of Forerunners for the past two months and will try another time with this issue. Then we will have to make the decision whether to discontinue the paper version and only distribute electronically. Unfortunately, only few members have told us about their views and preferences.

Peter Thy



The Future of Forerunners

The last two issues have been distributed to all members as an email attachment. This is done to test an alternative way of publishing and distributing Forerunners to our members. We have been asking for your views, but have so far only heard from a handful of members. We must assume that the rest of our membership consider this an acceptable means of distribution and that they can live without a print version in the mail. If this is not the case, this is your last chance to 'vote.'

The deadline for the next issue will be October 15, 2014. 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 David McNamee at dmcnamee@aol.com. Contact David McNamee if you wish to reach another member.



Society Auction

Your feedback on the just completed auction is greatly needed. Contact the Auction Manager as soon as possible with your evaluation and recommendation for the future.

Annual Article of Distinction Award

The best article in Forerunners will in the future receive the "Article of Distinction Award." The first award will be for the current volume ending with No. 79 and will be announced in No. 80.

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

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

Society Affairs

The Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. The journal is published three times per year for the periods July/October, November/February, and March/June. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). Membership fees are US\$25 for USA mailing addresses and US\$30 for all other addresses. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1st. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$6. A sample issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from psgsa.thestampweb.com. 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 dmcnamee@aol.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 to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board or directly to one of the Editors. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a floppy disk or CD. MS Word files are preferred. Avoid complex tables, unless in text format. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in tif, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editors 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 most welcome.

President's Corner

Greetings from Ontario! June has just rolled around and this is traditionally the month in which the annual show of the American Topical Association is held. For a number of years it was called TOPEX, but now is usually referred to as NTSS (National Topical Stamp Show), the year being the only thing that changes. This year, the show is being held in St. Louis and I already have my hotel reservation to attend the annual event. My wife and I have attended almost all the ATA shows since 1979, when we flew out to Spokane for the show. Since we enjoyed it so much, it became a regular fixture on our holiday making calendar. An upside to attending the shows is that we drove to most of the show locations and by that means managed to see many of the scenic wonders that the U.S. has to offer. Spending time in Arizona, Utah and California filled many photo albums and drew us back for more innumerable times! Unfortunately, she can no longer accompany me.

Much of the Saturday at the show is given over to various study unit meetings and these cover a wide spectrum of subjects: Ships on Stamps, Wine on Stamps, Penguins on Stamps and many more. As President of the Biology Unit, I shall be in the chair for their meeting which is always held at 10 a.m. For many years, I acted as Editor of this unit and it was always a pleasure putting together each issue of Biophilately, the unit journal. The exhibits which are on display at the show now are a far cry from those we used to see in the early days of TOPEX, as the show was then called, with titles such as "ships on stamps" and "flowers on stamps". A couple that caught my eye in the listing in "Topical Time" are; "Thar She Blows – A history of whales and whaling" in 8 frames, "Laundry Day 1880-1920" in 4 frames and "The African Coelacanth" in 2 frames. Now that Display Class and postcards are allowed in as thematic endeavors, the exhibits have become more diverse and much more interesting and makes me rather sad that I am no longer judging!

I seem to have strayed rather far from subjects usually found in our journal, but 2015 is not far off and we shall all be looking forward to the planned "African" show in Denver. I hope to see many of you there!

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks

Mark Your Calendar

Several important stamp shows and exhibitions are fast approaching. It is now time for making a decision about to attend and to mark your calendar.

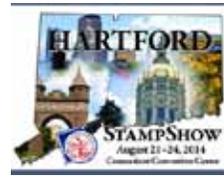
APS STAMPSHOW 2014. The APS annual stamp show will be in Hartford, Connecticut, August 15-21.

LONDON 2015 on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the first postage stamps is an international exhibition in London 13-16 May 2015. Go to <http://www.london2015.net/welcome-to-london-2015/> for the details. There will be no U.S. commissioner for the show and applications for exhibiting must be submitted directly to the show committee in London.

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2015 (May 15-17) is being planned to feature southern Africa with participations of national and international specialist societies. Updates when available

will be posted on <http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com/> as well as in Forerunners (see page 56).

World Stamp Show NY 2016 is an international show to be staged in New York from May 28 to June 4, 2016. Go to <http://www.ny2016.org/> for all the details.



New Members

Welcome to

Todd Ehlers (Iowa)

Main interests are South Africa,
Iowa Postal History, Nature Thematics

Peter Bromwich (Spain)

Main interests are Southern and Central Africa

TBVC Studiegroep/Study Group

The study group has started a comprehensive study of the stamp issues of the South Africa Homelands. TBVC stands for Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei. So far 20 summaries of the stamp issues of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, and Venda have been distributed:

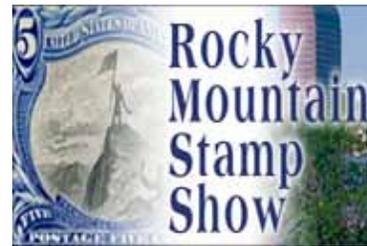
- No. T1: Summary; 1963 Transkei Legislative Assembly; 1976 independence series (8 pages).
- No. T2: 1976-84 First definitive series (12 pages).
- No. T3: 1977 Transkei Airways; 1977 medical plants; 1977 Radio Transkei (8 pages).
- No. T4: 1977 Help of the blind; 1978 pipes, weaving, and wild fruits (9 pages).
- No. T5: 1978 Cripples; 1979 initiation, water resources (8 pages).
- No. T6: 1979 Year of the child (4 pages).
- No. T7: 1980 Fishing flies; 1980 Rotary International; 1980 cycads (9 pages).
- No. T8: 1981 Medical plants (4 pages).
- No. B1: Summary, 1977 independence issue (8 pages).
- No. B2: 1977 First definitive series (12 pages).
- No. B3: 1978 World hypertension month; Taung stone works; Wright brothers (8 pages).
- No. B4: 1978-9 First year independence; boxing; road safety (8 pages).
- No. B5: 1979 Sorghum beer, platinum, and agriculture (8 pages).
- No. B6: 1979 Year of the child (4 pages).
- No. B7: 1980 Anti-smoking; 1980 Mafeking (4 pages).
- No. B8: 1980 Birds (4 pages).
- No. V1: Summary; 1979 independence (4 pages).
- No. V2: 1979 First definitive series (7 pages).
- No. V3: 1980 Wood carvings; 1981 tea and sunbirds (8 pages).
- No. V4: 1981 Orchids; 1980 bananas (8 pages).

Each stamp description gives a detailed summary of the philatelic knowledge as well as the special cancellations and covers. If your interest is the homelands, this is definitely something that you will want to see and a project you must get involved in. The group invites comments and input to the project. Contact Connie Liebenberg at jacoli@mweb.co.za to get on the mailing list for the TBVC annexes and to offer your help. Visit <http://tbvcstudygroup.co.za/>.

PSGSA 'Annual' National Convention 2015

Since the founding of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa some 30 years ago, we held our first national meeting at Pacific 97 with a major auction, numerous meetings and in general a wonderful time getting to know so many of our members. Members from South Africa, England and Germany attended as well as Canada and numerous states from the US. Some five years later in 2002, we once again gathered together in Denver for the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS, then known as ROMPEX). Again, we had people from all over the world come and even had dealers from SA and the UK man tables at the show. Our banquet brought some 40 or so people together and combined we entered more than 100 frames of outstanding exhibits of British Southern Africa with the Grand going to one of our members, then President, I believe. We again met in New York City and were able to use the Collectors Club of New York club house to have a full slate of speakers the day before the show began.

Well, it is time to once again get together and show off our material, renew acquaintances and garner new friends. Next May 13-17, 2015, will be the Pan-African celebration at RMSS. While we will be the "lead" society, being American-based. We have invited all of our related friends to join us here in Denver. The show is capable of housing over 300 frames of exhibits and has space for over 40 dealers and many numerous society tables available. The pre-show festivities will include at least one day of seminars and talks about the British Empire in Africa, a group dinner at a fine dining establishment with transportation to and from the show hotel not far from Denver International Airport, and planned trips for those attending that are not immersed in philately. Yes your spouses can come and have something fun to



do!!! Imagine that! These trips will be planned with transportation to many of the fun sites in the Denver area and surrounding mountains. Further talks and meetings will be planned during the show itself.

The invited societies include the South African Collectors Society, Transvaal Study Circle, Orange Free State Study Circle, Rhodesian Study Circle, Cape and Natal Study Group, Philatelic Federation of South Africa, Aerophilatelic Society of South Africa, Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, Southwest African Stamp Study Group, Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, Postmark and Postal History Society of South Africa, East Africa Study Circle and the West Africa Study Circle. If I have left anyone out, let me know and we will invite them!

For those who are interested in exhibiting please look at the RMSS website at <http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com/> and within the next 6 months the prospectus and entry forms will be there. As to the show hotel data and other pertinent information as to meetings, seminars, schedules and field trips, these too will be on the website. We really look forward to surpassing the show we had some 13 years ago and seeing you one and all.



The Cape Post Office 1795-1910: A Final Report

by Franco Frescura

FOREWORD

This paper is based upon data gathered during the course of field research conducted between 1979 and 2002, and although I have published much of this information previously, it has never been subjected as a whole to a process of systematic analysis. A number of the individual Office Date Stamps (ODS) described here have been the subject of separate papers (Frescura, 1982, 1983b, 1984, 1989) but, to date, I have not made an attempt to bring the information together on a comparative basis (Frescura, 2002). In a way, therefore, this should be read as my final report on the subject.

In a general sense, some of the trends described here have been understood for some time, but have never been quantified, while a number of assumptions I made previously have now been brought into greater focus. Happily this analysis has yielded a number of original conclusions which have increased my understanding of the daily affairs of the Cape Colonial Post Office, although it is now also clear that many other aspects are still in need of additional investigation.

INTRODUCTION

The use of Earliest and Latest Recorded Dates (ERD and LRD) as a means of establishing patterns of usage for hand-held postal cancellers is a research methodology based upon the assumption that, in the era before mechanization, the documentary data presented by a postal marking was reliable enough to be accepted at its primary face value. This can certainly be held to be true in the majority of cases involving clear strikes delivered by an ODS, and usually includes information relating to the place of posting, and the date and time of processing. This was backed up by a range of postal rules and operational procedures which specifically regulated the behaviour of postal officials and the use of their office cancellers.

The need to monitor the progress of mails through the postal delivery system must have been realised at an early stage in the history of postal affairs, and although the British Post Office only introduced postal adhesives for the first time in May 1840, by the mid-1850s its postal markings and processing procedures were held to be reliable enough to be used as evidence in a court of law.

In the Madeleine Smith murder trial, for example, which was held in Glasgow in 1857, a young woman of respectable middle class background was charged with poisoning her French lover, one Pierre Emile L'Angelier, who was employed as a clerk in a seed-packing company. The affair cooled after a few years, and when Ms Smith became engaged to William Minnoch, a wealthy bachelor and a rising star in the Glasgow business world, she asked L'Angelier to return her letters. Suspecting that he was "onto a good thing", the man refused to break off the liaison, and threatened to make public her correspondence. After suffering from a short bout of stomach cramps

on 19 February 1857, he fell ill again on 22 February and died early the following morning. After his employers requested that a post mortem be carried out on his body, it was found that the cause of his death had been arsenic poisoning. Because of these circumstances, Smith became the prime suspect in the police investigation that followed, and was eventually charged with his murder.

During the course of their passionate courtship the couple had exchanged some 500 letters, but as Ms Smith had destroyed those sent to her by L'Angelier and had never dated hers, the postal markings upon her surviving envelopes took on additional significance. The Crown was never able to prove that the couple had met on those dates, or that Smith had been in possession of arsenic on the 18 February, and its case ultimately came to rest upon a letter which, it alleged, proved that the couple had met briefly on the night of 22 February. The letter was merely headed "Wednesday" without a date, but the postmark on the envelope had been carelessly struck and was virtually illegible. In his evidence, Rowland Hill McDonald, Controller of the Sorting Office at the Glasgow Post Office, examined the postmarks and pronounced them to be "illegible", but subsequently stated that the one figure could have been a "2". Thus the letter could have been sent either on 2 February, or on 22 February or on some other date thereafter.

Had the Crown been able to prove conclusively in its evidence that the letter had been posted on or after 22 February 1857, then its contents would have indicated that Smith could have met L'Angelier on that date, and could therefore have had the opportunity of administering the poison. Fortunately for her the judge found that the strike delivered by the Glasgow Post Office upon the envelope was not distinct enough to be considered definitive beyond reasonable doubt, and Smith escaped the gallows (Mackay, 1984: 41-47). In the aftermath of post-trial publicity, public opinion turned against her, her fiancé broke off their engagement, and after moving to London, she went on to marry an associate of William Morris, became secretary to Karl Marx's son-in-law, was a pioneer socialist and suffragette, and eventually died at the age of 93. The Glasgow Post Office, on the other hand was roundly pilloried for failing to apply a legible strike to an item of commercial mail entrusted to its care.

In South Africa, the practice of processing mails was similarly held to be reliable, and it remained common practice, right up to the 1970s, for government departments to accept country tenders forwarded by mail provided the date and time of posting reflected on the canceller strike preceded the closing time of the tender. In 1913 the Union Post Office's "Instruction to Postal Agents" enjoined that:

"Great care must be taken to see that the stamping is clear and legible, and that the stamps on letters etc. are properly obliterated, and that letters reaching your office are date-stamped on the back at the hour of receipt. The date-stamp must be

changed daily at the commencement of business, and it should be cleaned frequently ... The cancellation of unused postage stamps for the purpose of stamp collectors, or for any other than official purposes, is strictly prohibited.

“The date-stamp, sealing pliers and seal must not be used except for postal or telegraphic purposes, and no person other than a postal official must be allowed access to them” (Union South Africa, 1913: 5-6)

The reliability of this system was also based upon a number of additional assumptions based upon the internal performance of the postal service. These included that:

1. Post office staff was able to process mails within a reasonable period from the time of its postage.
2. Post office cancellers provided clear and unambiguous information on an envelope relating to the place, date and time of its posting.
3. Mails could be delivered to the addressee within an acceptable time frame.
4. Post office officials could not be “persuaded”, for a consideration, to amend their ODSs to reflect a more “convenient” date, and
5. The post office itself had an infrastructure in place capable of monitoring its own processing procedures and delivery times.

In one instance, in 1893, the French Consul stationed in Cape Town complained to the Postmaster General of the Cape that his personal mails were being subjected to untoward delays. After an investigation of its own records and procedures, the General Post Office in Cape Town found that mail to this gentleman was not being subjected to any unusual hold-ups, and although no formal charges were ever laid, the Post Office was able to exonerate the personnel concerned.

Because of the volumes of mail carried by the modern Post Office, today the effective implementation of the above requires a process of registration and monitoring with a computer-regulated tracking system. However, a century ago postal officials in the field could still be called upon to explain any undue delays experienced in the delivery of an ordinary letter on the basis of evidence provided by the Post Office’s procedural markings. To this end the Cape Post Office had in place a system of office date stamps which bore the date and place of posting as well as, in some instances also, the time period of processing.

DAILY LIFE AT THE POST OFFICE

At the start of every working day the postmaster issued to counter staff their designated cancellers, a strike of which was made in the Impressions Book and signed off against the official concerned. This person was then held to be responsible for that canceller until the end of the working day when it was returned to the office safe for overnight storage. If, for any reason, such as illness or early departure, the canceller had to be transferred to another member of staff, then a small change might be made to its make-up, which was then recorded in the Impressions Book and signed off by the replacement. Such changes could include the inversion of the time code, the reversal of the year date, or the substitution of a number for a letter, such as “5P”

for “SP”, denoting September. Any other changes made to the canceller during the course of the day, such as alterations to the time code, were similarly recorded. Consequently, any delays or irregularities experienced in the progress of an item of mail, from posting through to delivery, could be traced back to the official responsible and dealt with internally (Frescura, 1989).

Of course this assumed that other aspects of post office administration would also be able to keep pace with the changing needs of its field agencies. One such problem which arose regularly each year, towards the end of December, related to the timely requisition by country postmasters, from Central Stores in Cape Town, of additional date stamp lugs to reflect the new year-date. Although reminders were published in Post Office Circulars in November of each year, postmasters were notoriously slow in meeting this deadline, or, as sometimes happened, the small type was lost in transit in the mailbag. They were then forced to improvise to meet their short-term operational needs. One such incident took place at the end of the nineteenth century when many rural post offices found themselves without the double zero required to denote “1900”. As a result many small establishments, such as Lady Grey, in the Division of Aliwal North, resorted to using the figures “19” until the required lugs could be forwarded from Cape Town. Postmasters were also expected to meet the cost of lost lugs from their own pockets. Despite all this however, it can generally be assumed that the information provided by the Cape’s ODSs was generally correct within a high rate of probability.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

As a result, today the existence of a single unambiguous reading can normally be taken as evidence of the existence of a post office within a specific time frame, making such information valuable in the documentation of the history of an individual town or a village. Unfortunately the methodology suffers from the signal drawback of being open-ended, and without supporting archival data, can only be used to arrive at approximate conclusions.

Fortunately Earliest Recorded Date and Latest Recorded Date methodology is not based solely upon an assumption that postal data is accurate, but also upon its availability on a broad scale. This means that although one single strike of an ODS might not have significant meaning within the larger scheme of a postal infrastructure, the picture changes significantly when that single strike is supported by a body of similar data. Thus, although the methodology remains open-ended, when the information from an individual case is read in the context of similar information drawn from parallel case studies, we can arrive at certain conclusions within a high degree of probability.

One case in point might be drawn from the issue to the Cape of a Single Circle ODS with the words Cape Colony at its base (SC.CC) (Illustration 1). Archival information states that at least one such canceller was forwarded to Cape Town, from London, on 2 May 1864. Field data tells us that this canceller was in postal use on 21 June 1864. If we can allow for the fact that, at that time, it would have taken a period of at least 42 days for the package to reach Cape Town by mail-boat (Cattell, 1984), this

means that the earliest date that the canceller could have been brought into operation was on or about 14 June. As it definitely was in use by 21 June, this gives us a window of about one week within which an ERD could have been located. In addition, field data also shows that ODSs of a similar configuration were in use in Port Elizabeth on 15 August 1864, and in Grahamstown on 28 July 1864. Taking into account the length of overland mail delivery at that time, it seems probable that these two cancellers

were forwarded to Cape Town in the same shipment of 2 May.

The chronological tables reproduced below are the product of such a research process, and although each line is clearly open-ended, they can be used to identify similar windows of time. In addition, the trends that they show are the result of hundreds of readings drawn from personal collections and archives from all over the world. Thus although each bar line might not be exactly correct in terms of archival fact, it can be held to be

 <p>BTO BARRED TRIANGLE OBLITERATOR</p>	 <p>BONC BARRED OVAL NUMERAL CANCELLER</p>	 <p>DA DOUBLE ARC</p>
 <p>SC.NTAB NAME TOP AND BOTTOM</p>	 <p>SC.DOT DOT</p>	 <p>SC.CGHI CAPE OF GOOD HOPE</p>
 <p>DO DOUBLE OVAL</p>	 <p>SC.CC SINGLE CIRCLE CAPE COLONY</p>	 <p>SC.BAB BARE AT BASE</p>
 <p>SQC.CC SQUARE CIRCLE CAPE COLONY</p>	 <p>DC.EMB DOUBLE CIRCLE EMBLEM</p>	 <p>SC.RLC RELIEF CANCELLER</p>

Illustration 1. Summary Typology

generally correct within a high degree of probability for both each canceller and for the group as a whole.

This evidence became yet more conclusive when the results arrived at in the small sample chosen for discussion in this paper can be shown to hold true for those of another thirty documented case studies omitted from this paper for the sake of brevity.

The chronological tables arrived at in this article are representative only, and have been chosen to illustrate particular points made in this paper. Because many of the cancellers recorded in my original typology never found general use in most of the Cape's towns and villages, the number illustrated in this chronology has been reduced to six basic types. As a result, the following groupings have emerged:

1. The Obliterating Instruments, whose primary function was the defacement of postal adhesives. This includes the Barred Triangle CGH Obliterator and the BONC, although the latter was also used, to a lesser extent, as a town identifier. A number of other dumb obliterations may also have had local or regional significance, but no record of this has been found in the colonial records.

2. The early ODS, used primarily to deliver an inked strike bearing the place name and date of processing. Although initially this was limited to outgoing and incoming mails, eventually the system was extended to include points of interim handling and rerouting, thus allowing the Post Office to monitor the progress of mails through its system of transport and delivery. This group included both the Double Oval (DO) type of canceller, first issued in 1853, and the Double Arc (DA), first issued in 1857. In the case of both instruments their engraved brass stamp head was attached to the main canceller as a screw-on plate. In time this proved to be a patent defect in their design. Because of the repeated impacts it was subjected to, this was susceptible to wear and tear on its inner thread, known as stripping, and was thus in regular need of maintenance and re-cutting. After 1869 the screw-on pattern began to be replaced by the more efficient pivot patent design, whose mounting made it less liable to damage from repeated impact. The brass used in the manufacture of older instruments was also replaced with steel, which was more durable.

3. The Single Circle ODS (SC), whose introduction probably coincided with the switch-over to a pivot head design, and whose eight major types came to dominate the processing of mails in southern Africa for the next three decades.

4. The Experimental group of cancellers, including the Squared Circle (SQC) and, to a much lesser extent the Squared Octagon (SQ.OCT), the Compass Wheel (CW), the Hooded Circle (HC) types of ODS. Subsequent research seems to indicate that the early issue of a Double Circle (DC.EMB) ODS to Cape Town, recorded to have been in use from at least 27 August 1892, might also have been part of this experimental group of cancellers.

5. The Double Circle ODS, in all its variant forms, which was issued in a large scale to post offices from about 1900 onwards.

Therefore, for graphic purposes, some canceller types have been used as generic representatives of their group. Thus the

Squared Circle (SQ) stands for all experimental cancellers from that period, the Single Circle (SC) and Double Circle (DC) represent a whole range of similar instruments, while the BONC is used to denote all BONC types, 26 of which have been recorded to date. A simplified typology has been included in this text for easy reference (Illustration 1).

THE SURVEY

This research was conducted over a period of some 23 years, between 1979 and 2002, although the collection of field data was at its most intensive during the 1980s. Thereafter the process concentrated upon collation and production, resulting in a number of interim working papers (Frescura: 1982, 1983a, 1983b, 1984) and one book. The results of research into the Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor (BONC) were published in 1991 (Frescura and Nethersole, 1991), while the remainder was only published in 2002 (Frescura, 2002).

One of the most notable sources of frustration I experienced during the course of this research has been the paucity of original archival data. Not only has it proved impossible to verify the chronological history of Cape cancellers provided by Jurgens (1943), and subsequently republished by Goldblatt (1984), but not a single copy of an Impressions Book, which could have put many issues beyond doubt, has been recovered. Instead I have had to rely upon field data, which has frequently been in contradiction to the conventional wisdom of other authors. The Large Single Circle Relief Cancellers, for example, were not issued from 1902, as claimed by Jurgens, but from at least 1898, and possibly earlier. This conclusion was not arrived at as the result of one isolated (and possibly misread) strike, but of at least eight separate recorded instances. The evidence of the field data is therefore beyond doubt. Similarly the use of a Double Circle ODS did not take place in the Cape from 1900 onwards, but has been recorded in Cape Town from as early as 27 August 1892. It seems almost certain that, as more field evidence is gathered, more of Jurgens' "archival" dates will also be brought into question.

Thus, like much of his philatelic reputation, the fate of Jurgens' archival research also stands in the balance. Despite extensive searches in the Cape Archives, no record of such documents has ever been found, although the subsequent theft of historical documents by archival staff does not mean that these could not have been disposed of subsequently on the international philatelic market. On the other hand it is not known whether the cosy relationship existing at the time between Cape Archivist, Graham Botha and Adriaan Jurgens did not run to the latter being given permanent ownership of such correspondence. If so, then the Jurgens estate, wherever it may now be, needs to be re-examined for such records.

The fate of the Post Office's Impressions Books is equally problematic. The Cape Archives are singularly devoid of Post Office material after the early 1880s, and it is believed that, at that stage, the GPO stopped sending its correspondence files to a central depot. What colonial records there were in 1910, it is alleged that the GPO in Cape Town forwarded them to Pretoria at the onset of Union. Certainly none were found in the Union

Archives, although a small number of ZAR and OFS post office files were discovered there. Anecdotal evidence from post office employees during the 1920s seems to indicate that, by that stage, the GPO was in the habit of incinerating its voluminous paper documentation on a regular basis. This appears to have mostly involved old telegraph forms and office paper work, which may explain why bundles of these still appear on the philatelic market from time to time.

It seems incredible though that its correspondence files, old contracts, and Impression Books could have been dealt with in a similar manner. Graham Botha reportedly conducted a “cleansing” of the Archives in about 1927, as a result of which many Colonial records were similarly burnt, but I have never found an itemised listing of his culling. Personally, I still live in the hope that a roomful of Impressions Books may yet be discovered in some dark vault beneath the Union Buildings, but I dread the thought that a latter-day Botha could still get their bureaucratic clutches upon them.

SOME GENERAL FINDINGS

The basic data gathered during the course of this research was published in 2002 (Frescura) when, even without the benefit of the chronological tables set out below, a general historical sequence was confirmed in principle, even if not in detail.

The Barred CGH Triangle Obliterator, a crude instrument whose shape was designed, presumably, in emulation of the Cape’s elegant triangular postal adhesive, was probably introduced in 1853 and, with a few notable exceptions, was gradually superseded in most post offices by the Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor, or BONC.

The Double Oval (DO) and the Double Arc (DA) ODS were introduced from 1853 onwards and, in their time, some 171 post offices were issued with such a canceller. For the sake of this paper, they have been treated as one type, even though eleven post offices were issued with both. As the structural and operational shortcomings in their design began to be exposed, so then they were superseded by the Single Circle (SC) ODS.

In the 1880s a number of experimental cancellers found limited usage before the Colony eventually settled, in the new century, upon a combined dating and cancelling instrument with a double circle format.

The chronological tabling of this information, however, seems to illustrate a number of interesting sub-plots. Firstly, let us deal with the group of obliterated, the BTO and the BONC.

1. It is now evident that the BONC was not allocated according to some fixed master plan. An analysis of its geographical distribution does not reveal any consistent pattern of use, and it now seems probable that these instruments were ordered in batches, which were then retained in stock by the Controller of Stores in Cape Town, and issued on an ad hoc basis, as and when an order for a new obliterator was received from a post office. There is good reason to believe that, in time, such distribution might have been delegated to Regional, or even, Divisional Head Offices. The dream of finding some master list of BONC distribution to post offices, such as the one published by the Orange River Colony, is probably wishful thinking on the part

of postal historians (Weinstein, 1972). A close look at the complex and seemingly chaotic procedures followed by the ORC Post Office in its administration of its limited stock of BONC instruments should provide us with enough reason to suppose why postal officials in the Cape never attempted to keep such a record. On the other hand, the daily record book of the Cape Stores department would make for interesting reading should such a document ever be found.

2. BONCs were not allocated in one operation, which might also presuppose a pre-arranged geographical or hierarchical pattern of distribution, but were generally issued over a period of time to replace BTOs in established post offices, or when requisitioned by the postmasters of new establishments. This was supported by empirical data which shows that of the 70 post offices positively recorded to date to have used both types of obliterator, 37% made the changeover in the 1860s, 34% during the 1870s, 17% during the 1880s, and the remaining 12% after the 1890s.

3. BONC instruments were ordered in batches. The first was delivered to Cape Town some time in June 1864 and involved numbers 1-4. They were all in the 3.3.3 format and, with few exceptions, are marked by “chunky” numerals with a somewhat squat, inelegant typeface. The second distribution, involving numerals 5-39 was probably made between 1865-9. A third distribution involving numerals 40-78, was made in 1868 or 1869, many of which went out on loan to Natal Colony, and were returned to the Cape after 1879. It seems probable that numbers 79-200, mostly distributed to the Cape, were part of this delivery.

4. Thereafter orders appear to have been made in batches of 200, each being noted for marked differences in the size and form of their numeral typefaces.

5. Other than Natal, other groups of BONCs were also sent out on loan to other postal administrations in southern Africa. BONCs 851-874 were sent to the British Central Africa Company, while a more scattered group, ranging from 809-957, was allocated to the BSA Co; the ORC was sent a range of individual BONCs from numerals 1093-1398, while a handful were also sent to the Transvaal, probably in the era preceding the establishment of the ZAR. At least two of these are known to have been used in Swaziland, and were never returned to stores in Cape Town.

The patterns of ODS usage established by the chronological tables are equally revealing.

1. There was no clear pattern of usage indicating that the transition from one type of canceller to the next took place on a replacement basis. This was particularly noticeable in the case of the Single Circle ODS (Illustrations 7-11), whose use in many postal agencies is marked by substantial overlaps in time. This indicates that many offices retained their old cancellers and continued to use them together with the new ones, presumably until the former became unusable and had to be scrapped.

2. By the same token it would seem that once issued to an office, a canceller remained there for as long as it continued to be functional. This includes the large single circle relief canceller issued by the Cape GPO to country post offices from

1898 onwards. Significantly, none of the larger regional offices, including Port Elizabeth, East London, King William's Town and Kimberley, are recorded to have been issued with a relief canceller of this description, presumably because there was no shortage of other cancellers available for daily use.

3. A more intensive recording of dates of usage of the large Single Circle Relief Cancellor (SC.RLF) also seems to indicate that although it remained with the office of issue, it only saw sporadic use and was not issued daily. This must reinforce the original findings, namely that this was a designated "relief" canceller subject to use only when the primary ODSs were sent to Central Stores for repair.

4. This therefore leads us to question whether other cancellers already issued to post offices, but overtaken by more recent and new types, were not, in fact, kept back for precisely this same function and also acted, from time to time, as ad hoc relief cancellers. Regrettably we did not keep a complete record of every one of the thousands of strikes recorded, but now that the periods of overlap usage are known, more focused research may become possible.

5. One area where the use of the relief canceller has left a number of questions unanswered, has been its failure to find more widespread distribution during and immediately after the South African War of 1899-1902, when Republican forces routinely made it their business to burn down any of the postal establishments they encountered. Effectively very few of the post offices affected by the conflict were issued with such an instrument, and none were recorded in use in the period following the cessation of hostilities when, presumably, the need for relief cancellers would have been the greatest.

6. The last point to be highlighted by many of the chronological tables drawn for individual towns, is the ambiguous role played by the Single Circle class of ODS with no bars or markings at the base (SC.BAB). While in some instances, such as Malmesbury, Molteno and Nelspoort they clearly form part of a transitional process, in other instances, such as Aliwal North, Beaufort West, Burghersdorp and Richmond (not illustrated), their use overlaps with not one but many subsequent canceller types which were supposedly issued in its stead. One must therefore question why this canceller type had such a sustained period of usage when other types of ODS had a much shorter life span. It may be argued that it had an applied and much more limited designated function, such as the Telegraphs Counter, which might explain why it appears on so many surviving telegraph forms. This would seem to support Goldblatt's contention (1984) to this effect, although there is nothing to separate this canceller from others of a similar type which were not necessarily used for telegraph purposes.

THE CHRONOLOGICAL CHARTS

For the purposes of comparative analysis the divisional centres of Aberdeen, Aliwal North, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, Paarl and Wellington have been selected for discussion. However, these are supported by at least 25 other case studies which were examined in similar detail.

The post office of Aberdeen (Illustration 2) was opened on 10 August 1857, but its documented postal history does not be-

gin until 10 November 1861, when its Double Oval (DA) ODS was first recorded in postal use. Its Barred Triangle Obliterator (BTO) was similarly first recorded in use in November 1861, probably on the same entire. It seems fairly certain, therefore, that the two instruments were issued to the postmaster, Mr CF Heugh, at about the same time, and quite soon after the opening of his establishment. Similar conclusions could be drawn from most of the case studies opened after 1853 under examination.

In the case of Aberdeen, no further BTO usage was recorded after 28 August 1874, but its use of BONC 205, associated with this office, was only noted for the first time on 7 July 1883. It seems sensible to assume therefore, that the transition between the two instruments took place during this hiatus, from 1874 to 1883, a wide gap that can only be reduced contingent to the discovery of additional field data. This point was perhaps better illustrated in the instances of Oudtshoorn, Paarl and Wellington where the gap between obliterating instruments was less than 18 months (Illustrations 2 and 4-6). Even more remarkable was the case of Bedford (not shown), where the transition period has been narrowed down to a mere 16 days.

It is significant to note that the time line for Aberdeen's BONC 205 comes to an end sometime in about 16 October 1903, and that the town's Double Circle ODS came into use on or before 7 December 1904 (Illustration 2). This was a pattern of usage between these two instruments which was found to hold true for all of the 30 offices chosen for detailed study. Given the fact that the new generation of ODS, which came to be typified by the double circle canceller, set out to provide the Post Office with a dating and obliterating facility, it appears sensible to conclude that the era of BONC obliterators effectively came to an end upon the introduction of the double circle ODS.

This also included the range of Experimental ODS, first introduced to the Cape in 1882, which only had a small but influential distribution in the Colony. Their issue to Aliwal North, Oudtshoorn, Paarl and Wellington also brought to an end the use of BONC instruments at those post offices, and illustrates my argument for the replacement of BONC obliterators by the new generation of dating and obliterating instruments. Obviously this did not take place at once throughout the Colony, but on a staggered basis as each post office requisitioned a canceller of the new type to replace its ageing Single Circle ODS.

This is an important conclusion in the study of Cape cancellers, for it establishes a series of potential latest date of usage for any postal agency where both the BONC and the double circle ODS had been deployed. This does not mean that overlaps between the two instruments are not possible, just that such occurrences must have been extremely rare. To the best of my memory only one or two instances were ever brought to my notice over the whole period of my research where both cancellers had been used on the same proving cover (Frescura and Nethersole, 1991).

It also marks a significant turning point in the history of the Colonial Post Office, as it heralds a time when its management, finally made the transition from the obsessive obliteration of postal adhesives to a more rational approach towards the processing of mails. There is no doubt that this was probably forced

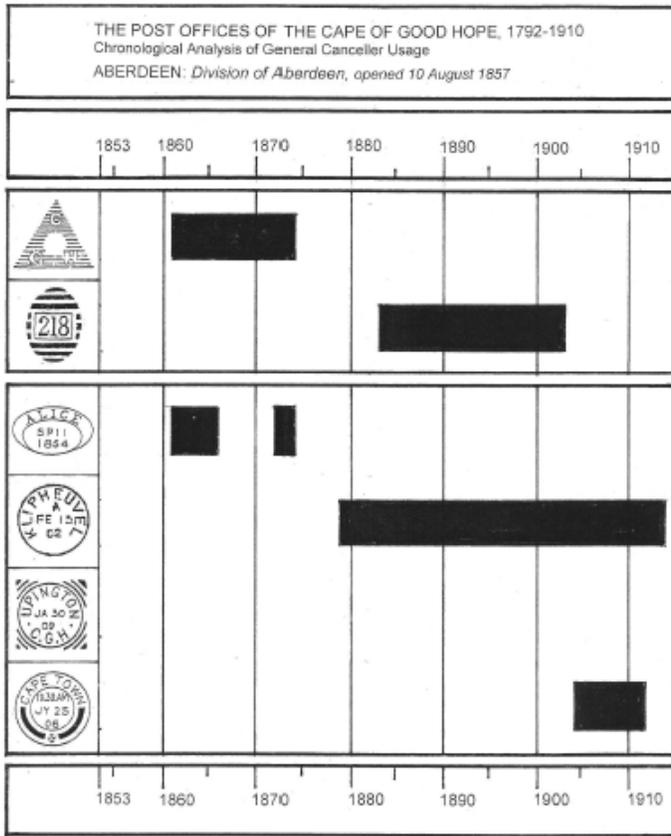


Illustration 2. Aberdeen, Division of Aberdeen, opened 10 August 1857

by the growing volumes of mail that it had to process on a daily basis, but it is also the result of a more realistic attitude towards the employment of postal staff in a more productive and time-efficient manner.

The use of various types of postal instruments issued to all thirty post office establishments under consideration shows a steady transition from the earliest dated town cancellers, both the DO and the DA, through a series of single circle cancellers of various configuration, to the Experimental cancelling and obliterating instruments, and finally to the Double Circle ODS. There is ample evidence to show that such transitions were not sudden, but usually involved prolonged periods when two or more types of canceller were used at the same time (Illustrations 2-6).

This point is perhaps best made by the chronological tables showing the use of Single Circle ODS at both Mossel Bay and Wellington, although charts for almost every other case study might have made the same point equally well (Illustrations 8 and 11).

Significantly, in a few cases, such as that of Aberdeen, the results for the Single Circle ODS proved to be inconclusive, but this could be ascribed to an absence of field evidence rather than the fact that these represented exceptions to the rule. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the Single Circle ODS, in all of its variant forms, was the workhorse canceller of the Cape Post Office, and the processing of its mails from the 1870s through to 1910 are dominated by this canceller type.

These chronological tables also revealed a number of additional points of potential importance. The Single Circle ODS with the post office name inscribed both top and bottom (SC.NTAB), did not feature strongly in almost all of the case studies chosen for closer analysis, and its place in the historical hierarchy of cancellers remains undefined. Quite clearly, therefore, its status in the context of its broad type and era of usage is still in need of clarification and additional research. Similarly a number of other cancellers, although well documented by field data, are shown to have played a relatively minor role in the running of the Cape Post Office. These include the various idiosyncratic Experimental Cancellers, and the Single Circle Relief ODS (SC.RLC), none of which had a prolonged usage or a significant distribution in the Cape's postal establishment. A few post masters appear to have welcomed the Squared Circle ODS and kept it in use for a decade or more, such as in the case of Mafeking and Wellington, but in most other cases the type was abandoned just as soon as it could be replaced by the seemingly more efficient Double Circle ODS.

In the case of Victoria West, which was not chosen for detailed investigation, its SQC.ODS was retained in service for over 28 years, from 1896 to 1924, well beyond its expected functional and political life span, but then this post office had a previous record of longevity for other ODS. Its elderly Double Oval cancellers, of which it had two, were in use consecutively from 1854 to 1880, before they were replaced by a Single Circle (SC.BAB) instrument in March 1882. Perhaps, therefore, some

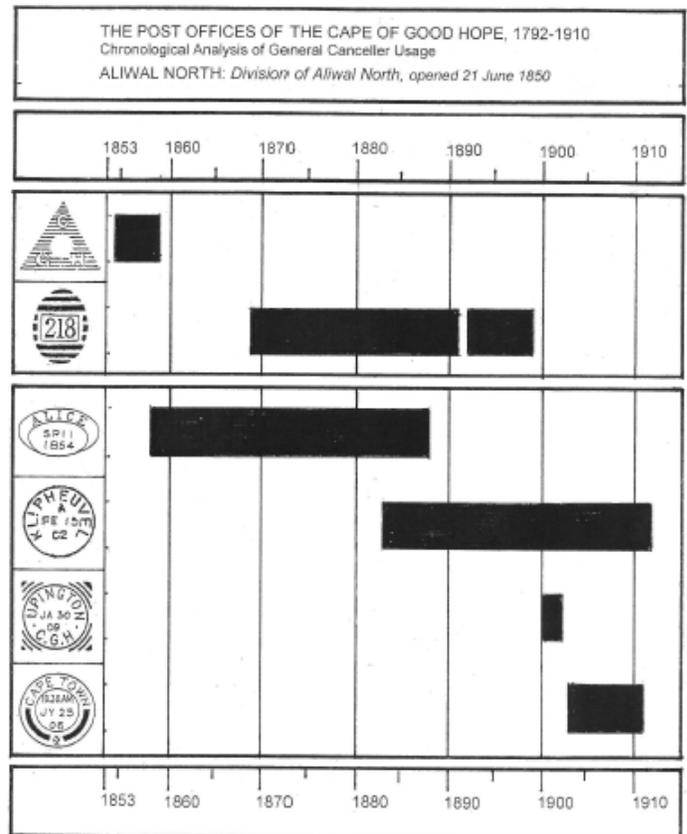


Illustration 3. Aliwal North, Division of Aliwal North, opened 21 June 1850

towns developed an attachment to their post office cancellers as part of a regional or civic identity, much as the postal adhesives of a country contribute to its national identity.

The Single Circle Relief ODS, on the other hand, only enjoyed a small and widely scattered distribution, and although there is evidence that, in some instances, it remained with its office of issue, it does not appear to have entered service as an ODS in its own right. I have never been able to examine personally a specimen of this canceller type, but I can only surmise that it had a structure which allowed for the use of movable fonts, which would have made it unsuitable for prolonged use on a post office counter. Nonetheless its use was extremely limited.

Given its status within the overall history of the Cape postal system, I would like to suggest that a separate research programme needs to be instituted for each of the Single Circle class of cancellers.

The chronological tables produced for the various post offices in this study all show to a remarkable degree the same patterns of canceller usage over time. The details of their chronology did obviously differ, but the broad patterns of canceller usage remained essentially the same. The time charts for Aberdeen, Aliwal North, Oudtshoorn, Paarl and Wellington are reproduced here (Illustrations 2-6), but any one of the other 25 establishments in this study might have done just as well. The broad patterns of usage for the ODS as a whole, as well as those relating to the Single Circle type (Illustrations 7-11) all follow the same paths of development indicating the fact that their design was not a matter of individual and haphazard choice, but the subject of deliberate choice and experimentation.

Unfortunately, a lack of archival documentation does not allow us to establish what policy decisions were made, who was responsible for making them, and who implemented them. It appears likely that much of this resided in one person, Somerset French, later to be knighted for his services, whose arrival at the Cape in 1880, and subsequent appointment as PMG in 1892 oversaw a period of rapid expansion in the postal and telegraphic infrastructure of the Cape, when key decisions would have been necessary on a monthly basis. It is not impossible, therefore, that the plethora of ODS designs that appear during this time was not the result of systematic long term planning, but rather the outcome of short term attempts at problem solving.

This would have been complicated by two factors: the changing nature of ODS head technology, moving from the screw-type mount to a swivel head, and eventually to a more efficient but increasingly more expensive movable type; and the need to run a postal infrastructure economically and often under less than desirable field conditions.

These chronological tables therefore provide an useful continuum within which to plot out events of a social, economic and political nature external to developments within the postal system. They also make it possible to map out areas of inconsistency and breakdowns of continuity. Aberdeen, for example, is recorded to have used two different instruments of the Double Oval type (Illustration 2), and a change-over must have taken place sometime between 3 July 1866 and 9 August 1872. The

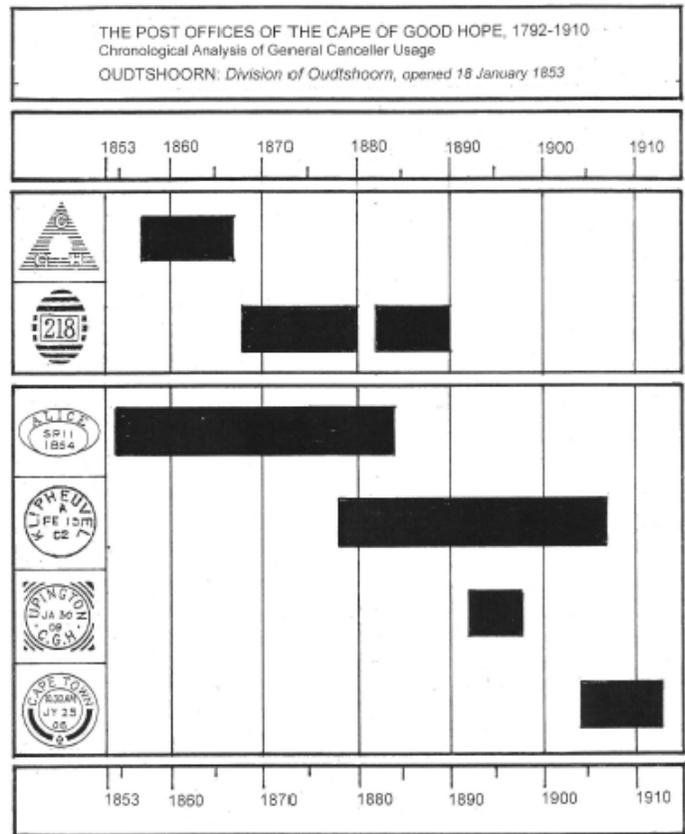


Illustration 4. Oudtshoorn, Division of Oudtshoorn, opened 18 Jan. 1853

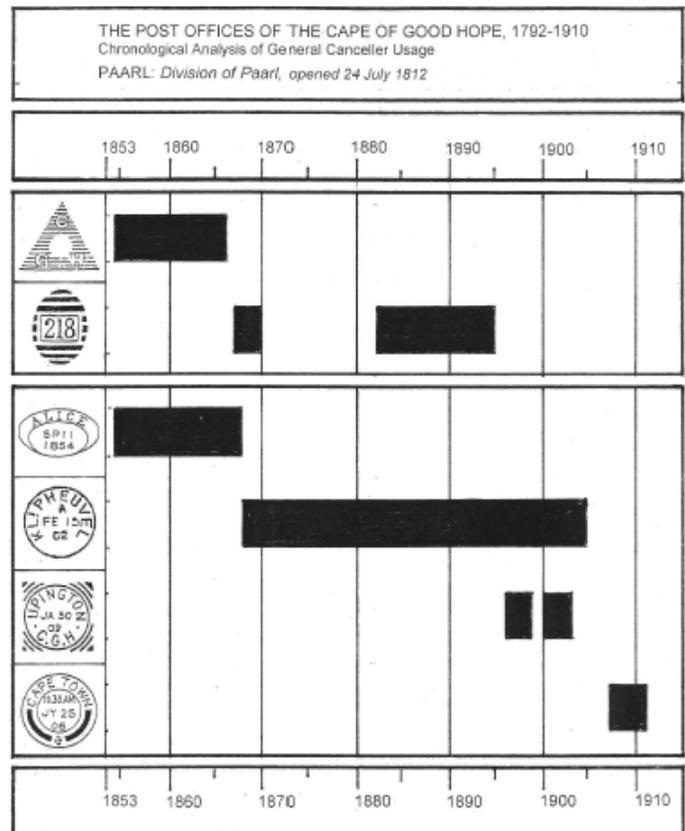


Illustration 5. Paarl, Division of Paarl, opened 24 July 1812

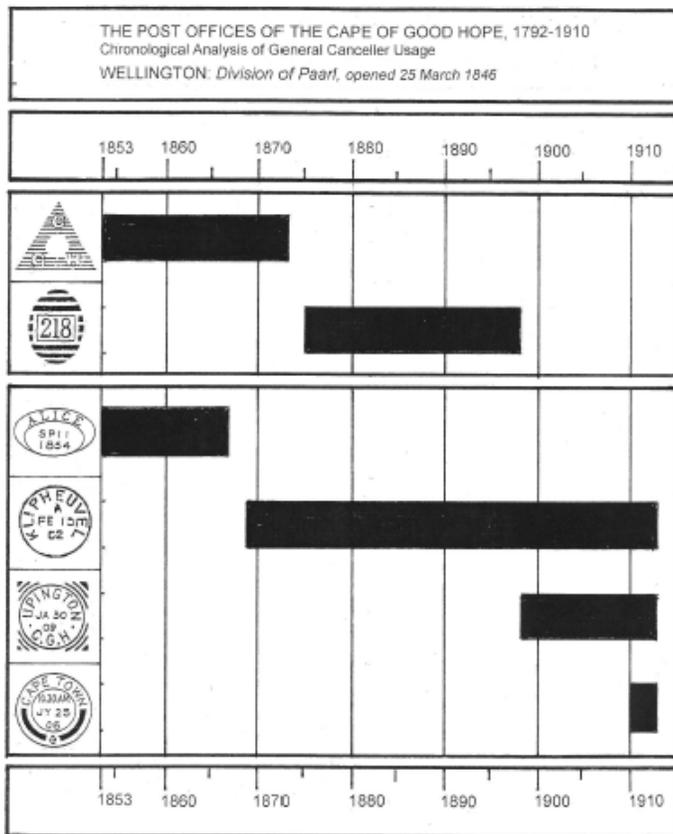


Illustration 6. Wellington, Division of Paarl, opened 25 March 1846

reasons for this are not known, but must surely represent a riddle for local historians to resolve.

CONCLUSIONS

It is perhaps unfortunate that when, in 1979, Michael Nethersole, David Morrison and I began to research the history of the Colonial Post Office at the Cape, we did not keep, from the outset, a more detailed record of every postal strike we examined. Had we begun our project five years later we might have



Illustration 7. Aberdeen, Division of Aberdeen, opened 10 August 1857

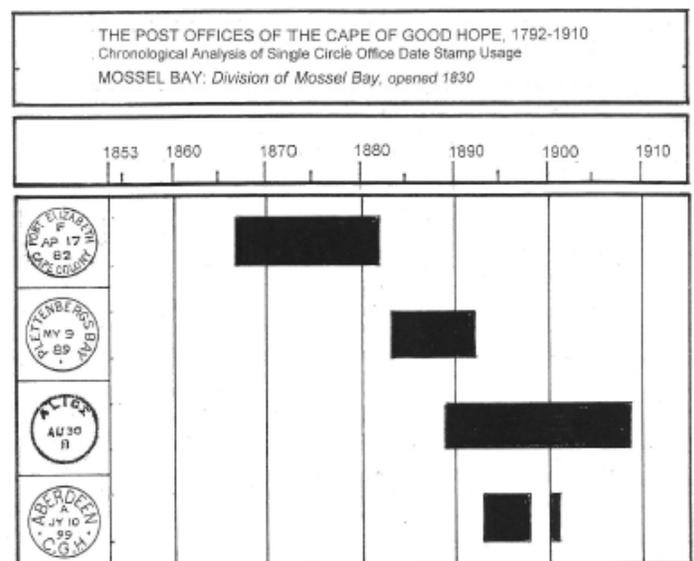


Illustration 8. Mossel Bay, Division of Mossel Bay, opened 1830

had the benefit of newly-developed PC technology, and our mindset might have been quite different. At that stage we were more concerned with the historical documentation of postal establishments, and the possibilities of statistical analysis at some future time were never considered. Michael Nethersole, who did keep a meticulous record for some types of cancellers was eventually able, as a direct result, to arrive at some key conclusions regarding the large circle relief cancellers (SC.RLF). The idea of using the ERD and LRC as an applied methodology only came to me in about 1982 when I began to examine the body of often conflicting data that surrounded the documentation of the BONC (Frescura, 1982).

This is also, by the way, when the acronym BONC was “struck”, a nice onomatopoeic pun which preceded by a couple of years the arrival at Wimbledon of “bonking” Boris Becker.

Consequently, when Michael and I eventually concluded that the published data of our colleagues was not sacrosanct, and that the information derived from our field research provided a strong support base for the research decisions were now being called upon to make, we were forced to re-evaluate our documentation strategy. By then all of our work had been transcribed onto computer, so this became a relatively easy matter to achieve.

By that stage we had all moved on to new lives, and new aspects of our careers, and publication of the work as it then stood became a priority ... but that is another saga whose telling will probably require strong moral fibre and sound legal counsel.

Today my life is still as complicated as it ever was in the 1990s. I get up every morning at about five, and braced by a good cup of coffee, enter into a time machine to travel back to 1873, or thereabouts, where I try to unravel the mysteries of colonial Durban and its urban development. A history of Johannesburg and its mines is next in my sights. Therefore I must ask my colleagues for forgiveness if I now make this report my last word on the subject. The data base, as it stands, is now in the public domain and I hope that other researchers will be able to

put it to good use in future years.

The memory of Michael Nethersole looms large over my writing, and I know that he would have been delighted with some of these findings. Hamba kahle old friend.

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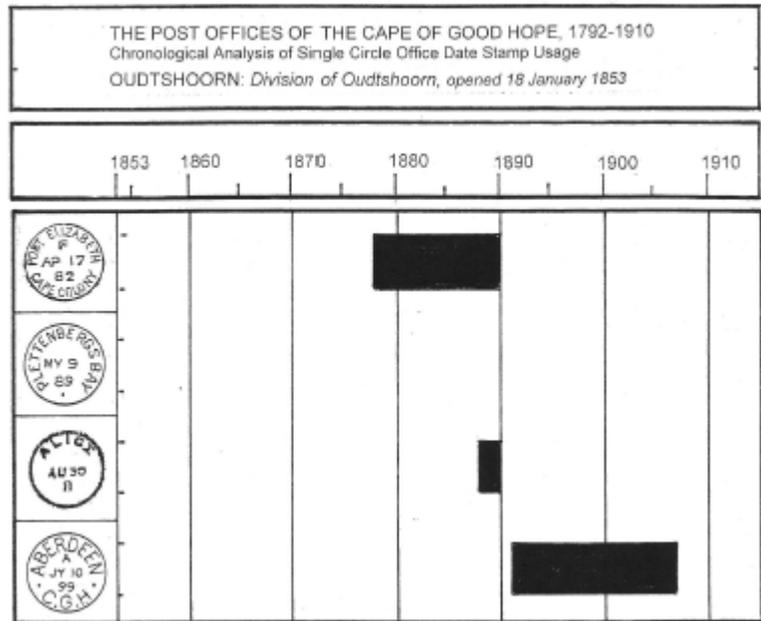


Illustration 9. Oudtshoorn, Division of Oudtshoorn, opened 16 Jan. 1853

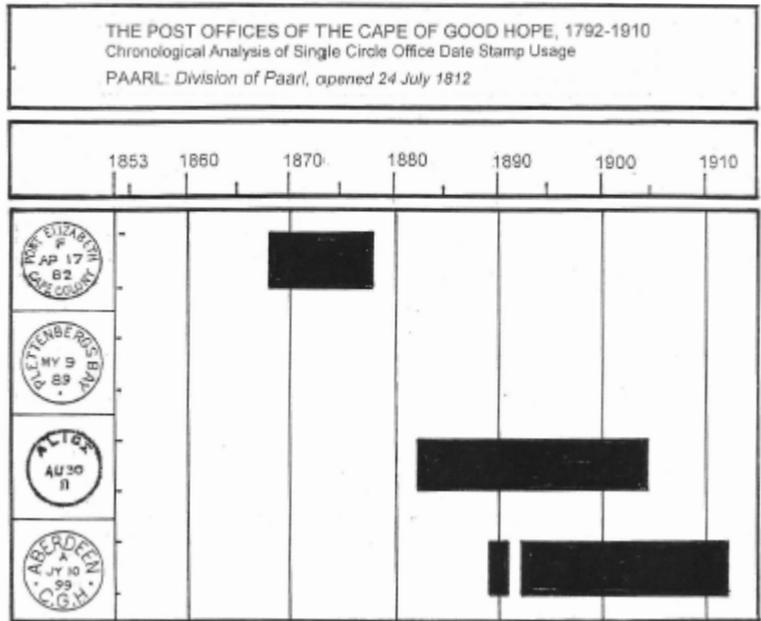


Illustration 10. Paarl, Division of Paarl, opened 24 July 1812

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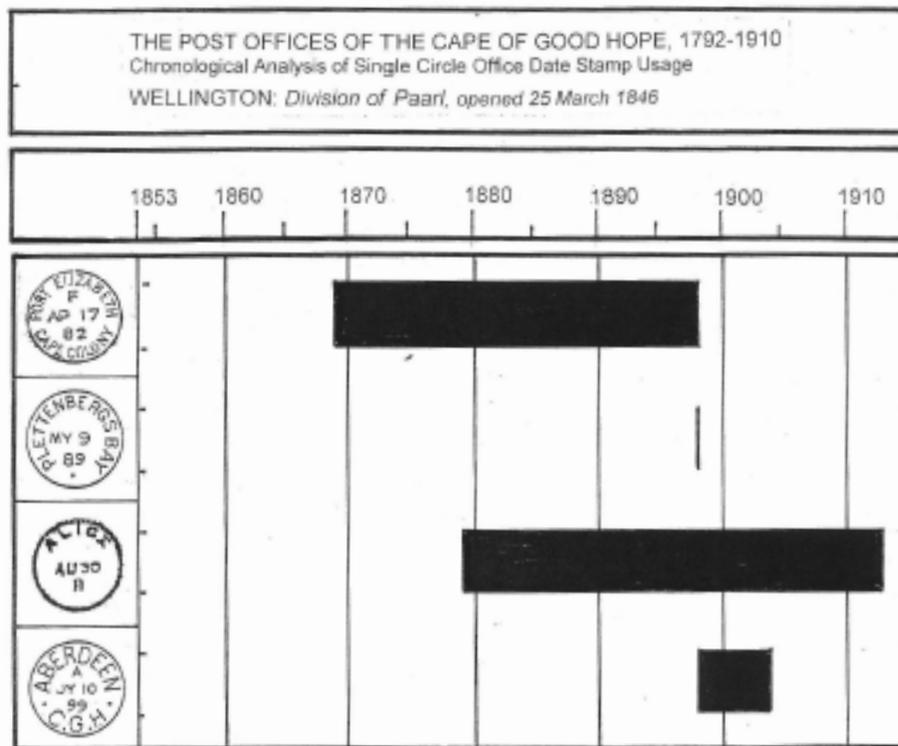


Illustration 11. Wellington, Division of Wellington, opened 25 March 1846

The Never Ending Story: West Charterland

by Peter Thy



The story of the 1896 West Charterland's Ngamiland expedition is apparently never ending. It started in Forerunners #76 with a detailed account of the then known incoming letters and cards to the expedition members. However already in Forerunners #77, we were able to show another postcard addressed to another participant not previously seen (Hicks). Then in Forerunners #78, we showed a caricature drawing of the leader and could bring some further details about the expedition. Well, it should be no surprise that we are already able to show yet another postcard addressed to an expedition member: Robert J. Hicks. But this time not to Ngamiland, but

addressed to his permanent residence in Palapye. Hicks wrote his name into history by having obtained, with two others, the mineral rights for Ngamiland. This card was from his bank in Mafeking (SP 24 95) less than a year before he joined the West Carterland Expedition for gold and diamond prospecting in Ngamiland.

Discovery of Bechuanaland Rarity

by Richard McDonald



I was working in my Victoria office early last year on a small collection of British African stamps that I had purchased from a dealer at a large British postcard show, some years earlier. On the last page, was a clear envelope with an unusual Queen Victoria stamp. The paper in the envelope had several large question marks, a price of \$20.00, and a date in the 1960's. It appeared that the former owner of the collection had purchased the stamp for \$20.00 in the 1960's, probably in America. The stamp was a British Bechuanaland One Shilling stamp marked postage and revenue originally issued in 1888. Overprinted on top of the stamp was 5 Pounds. The example was in Post Office fresh condition, unused, with full original gum. It showed no signs of ever being mounted or hinged in an album or display. Five Pounds in the reign of Queen Victoria was about three months pay for an English labourer. It was also the largest denomination of stamp normally used for postage. In checking the standard reference works from England and America, I found the stamp listed. The British catalogue had no price, and the American catalogue listed it with a five figure value. So I consulted with Chris Harmer of Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, whom I had previously worked with and known for over 30 years. He was able to obtain several opinions from other experts, and all believed the stamp was likely real. We then arranged to have it shipped to London for an independent written certificate from the British Philatelic Association. The stamp was certified as genuine about six months later. It took longer than usual, as this was the first example of this stamp they had ever certified. As the British Philatelic Association is considered to be the world experts on British Empire stamps, it greatly emphasized the rarity of this piece. I was fortunate to have an extensive library of several hundred reference books, and among the less common volumes, I found the answer to how rare the stamp is. The reference stated that only 2 unused examples and one postally used example were known. So we now have only the fourth known example of this postage stamp. It is known in America as Bechuanaland Protectorate Scott #AR2, and in Britain as Bech-

uanaland Stanley Gibbons #F2. I then telephoned the author of the reference book, both to report my new find and seek further details. The author was able to inform me about an article written in 1994 in the Journal of the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society. Checking on the internet, I found a related American Society as well. The society was able to provide me with copies of the 1994 British article and several other references. It turns out that the three known examples are all in Public Collections. One unused stamp is in the British Library, London, and the other two are in the Botswana Philatelic Museum, Gaborone, Botswana.

THE STAMP

The stamp is a British Bechuanaland One Shilling stamp marked postage and revenue originally issued in 1888. Overprinted on the top of the stamp is 5 Pounds. The overprint is what makes the stamp rare and different. Although the stamp shows Queen Victoria, it actually was overprinted in 1918 during the reign of King George V. It is unusual in that post office policy is always to reduce the value of the stamp by overprinting. This is to deter counterfeiters. However, this far-flung colony was in need of 5 Pound stamps, and there was a war going on. It meant obtaining material from England was not an easy option. England was suffering a manpower shortage, and the U-boat campaign had sunk nearly 5,000 vessels plying their trade with the United Kingdom. It is believed that several hundred of the Queen Victoria One Shilling stamps were found and overprinted locally. This wartime issue was unknown for 13 years after its issuance, until an article was printed in South Africa stating they had found an example and thought that the stamp catalogues should list it. The last known sale was in 1981, when the Botswana Philatelic Museum bought two of the three known examples at auction.

SALE OF THE DISCOVERY

The stamp has been consigned for auction to Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries of Petaluma, California. They will feature the discovery in a Public Auction at the annual American Philatelic Society Stamp Show held this year in Hartford Connecticut, August 21-24, 2014. This show will feature 150+ world dealers, an exhibit of 15,000 pages of display, 50 other stamp societies, and thousands of attendees. Chris Harmer of Harmer-Schau will be the auctioneer. Also of interest, his uncle auctioned two of the other known examples of this stamp in 1981.

VALUE IS UNKNOWN

There are very few postage stamps with only one example available for purchase to the public. Of note, on June 14 of this year, Sotheby's New York, is auctioning the unique British Guiana 1 Cent Magenta stamp. Their estimate is about 20 million dollars. The big difference between our stamp and theirs, is that

their stamp is very well known, whereas our stamp, although noted in all major catalogues, is almost unknown. Slightly commoner examples of stamps of that geographical area that are rare, have sold in recent years for over \$165,000,00 U.S. Only one collector will walk away with this rarity. If there are a number of determined bidders, almost any amount is possible.

NOTES ON BECHUANALAND

Bechuanaland Protectorate was created in 1885 by the British and maintained until its independence in 1966, when it became the Republic of Botswana. The country has 225,000 sq.mi. of territory, but 70% is part of the Kalahari Desert. Bechuanaland Protectorate had a population of 120,000 when formed, which has increased to a current level of two million. Historically, its early capital was Mafeking, which became famous during the Boer War when Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, commanded the besieged city for 217 days in 1899-1900. Currently, Botswana is one of the world's fastest growing economies. Diamond mining is the largest industry, but there is considerable mining of metals as well.

Richard McDonald was born in Victoria, BC, Canada, and started working on Fort Street in a stamp and coin store in 1967. In 1972, he opened his own stamp and coin store which at one point, had five locations in Victoria. He became one of the largest dealers in the world, being regularly ranked in the top 100 dealers worldwide. After selling part of his inventory, name, and location in 1987, he later moved to the United States where he worked with several large British auction houses including becoming an associate in Sotheby's.com. In 2006 he returned to Victoria, but still has an American office and associates in London, England.

To contact the lucky finder, write to surlamer07@hotmail.com.

B. P. A. Exportising Limited
London - England
EXPERT COMMITTEE

No: 82,045 8th November, 2013

The Committee is of the opinion that the
BECHUANALAND - Postal Fiscal: 1918 £5 surcharge (Type F2), on 1888 1s green & black, Wmk "VR" sideways, reading up, Perf 13½ (SG F2), unused with original gum, small colour run at foot, is genuine.



ZUID-AFRIK. REPUBLIEK
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A group of collectors with a common interest in the philatelic and postal history of British southern Africa. The Society publishes the 'Forerunners' three times a year. Recent content includes the surcharged stamps of Lesotho, stamps of South West Africa, World War 2 censor marks, South Africa tax marks, Bechuanaland postmarks, and registered mail of the Second South African Republic. A presentation issue can be downloaded from our website, which also contains other important information about our society.

For further information contact Alan Hanks, 34 Seaton Dr.,
 Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2K1, Canada; alan.hanks@sympatico.ca
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Post Office, Specimen, and Private Wrappers of South West Africa

by Dr. John K. Courtis FRPSL

It would be trite to say that used wrappers of South West Africa are hard to find, but they are some of the most elusive wrappers worldwide. The author's database of 32,000 images of used worldwide post office postal stationery wrappers collected daily by hand from eBay listings over the past decade reveals only three used examples. Another database of private used wrappers collected from the same source since 2009 has 4,000 images of which two are from South West Africa. The purpose of the paper is to identify the indicia used on the post office issues and discuss the extant wrappers from this region.

to the same date is printed in Afrikaans ZUID-WEST and AFRIKA with a variety without the dot after AFRIKA.

On 23 May 1923 a new issue appeared with South West Africa in lower casing and the Afrikaans counterpart Zuid-West Afrika in lower casing and with hyphen between Zuid and West. These issues appeared with dot after Africa or Afrika. The last issue appeared in September 1923 with Zuidwest joined together in lower casing and Afrika with dot. There was no corresponding 1d red issue. These indicia with overprinting variations are shown in Illustration 1 and are copied with acknowledgement

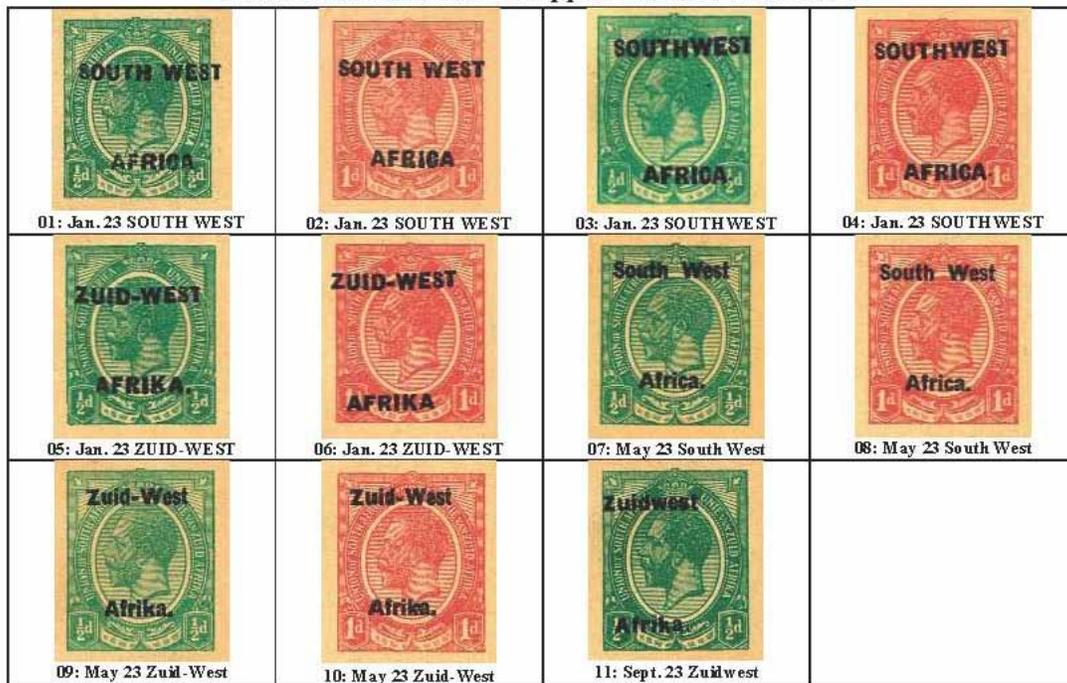


Illustration 1. Indicia used of Wrappers of South West Africa

Post Office Issues

All issues of South West Africa were made available to the public between January and September 1923, all overprinted on the first two issues of South Africa and varying only by the spacing, font and use of English/Afrikaans. Prior to 1923, from 1914, the first two wrappers issued in South Africa were made available for use in South West Africa, but without any overprint or special identification marking other than the postmark.

The first issue of South West Africa wrappers appeared in January 1923. They comprised a ½d green and 1d red and were overprinted SOUTH WEST AFRICA in black upper casing on two lines. A variety can be found without the dot after AFRICA. Another printing attributable to the same issue date appeared with SOUTH and WEST joined. A third issue also attributed

from Kosniowski's catalogue (2014 forthcoming). His ordering of these issues is clearer and better organized than the Higgins and Gage "E" catalogue numbers and follows the ordering given in Quik and Stolk (1993).

When postmarking occurs on the indicium it can be difficult to identify the overprint casing and the presence of the hyphen. A comparison of the indicia in Illustration 1 should be useful in identifying the various wrappers, albeit so few extant used examples have been listed on eBay in the past decade. Other philatelic auction houses and dealers would undoubtedly have sold copies during this period and examples may exist in collector's holdings. Philatelists with additional information are invited to supplement the findings of this study for a more robust understanding of what Southwest Africa wrappers are extant.

Extant Copies

The pre-overprint issues of South West Africa were the de facto 1913 first two post office wrappers of South Africa. In order to determine whether extant copies exist of these South Africa wrappers used from South West Africa, the author examined his database of 54 copies of ½d green and 12 copies of 1d red South Africa looking for postmarks of South West Africa. Using Putzel (1977) as a guide there were no cases of the South Africa ½d green with postmarks of South West Africa, but there were two cases of the 1d red, both postmarked WINDHOEK and these are shown as Illustration 2. The first wrapper's postmark is dated 23 JAN 5 16 (Putzell V.40/160). The second wrapper's postmark is the most common early canceller converted from the German train canceller and showing WINDHOEK POST 5PM ? 7.17 (Putzell V.8/32).



Illustration 2. South Africa Issues used in South West Africa

There were only three overprinted South West Africa wrappers in the database and these are shown in Illustration 3. The first wrapper is a front of South West Africa without dot (07), the annular postmark reading WINDHOEK 18 3 27. The second and third examples are very similar, headed Printed Matter in manuscript and addressed to the same person in Germany. The basic difference in appearance between the wrappers is the location of the surname Dörr. These two cases might be philatelically-inspired.

The first overprint is in English upper-casing, the words separate; this is type 01 although it is a late usage, the postmark reading 27 JAN 30 4.00 PM. This wrapper requires careful scrutiny because the postmarking obliterates part of the overprint. The third wrapper is also postmarked 27 Jan 30, but at 3.15PM (quarter of an hour later) and the overprint is English lower case with dot, being type 07.

Specimen Wrappers

SPECIMEN overprinted in serif upper case 47.5 x 6mm in red reading up appeared on four wrappers: SOUTH WEST AFRICA (01-02), ZUID-WEST AFRIKA (05 and 06) with and

without dots. It is unusual to find the SPECIMEN overprint in red, the norm for most overprints is black. By way of example, three of these South West Africa specimen wrappers are shown as Illustration 4. By contrast, there are no SPECIMEN overprinted wrappers of South Africa.

There was one sale of SOUTH WEST AFRICA (01) and five sales of SOUTH WEST AFRICA (02). Specimen and mint newspaper wrappers are sometimes more common than used wrappers. The sole example of the 01 specimen sold for \$46.00 with four bidders. The five recorded sales of 02 specimen were for \$20.70 (two bidders), 39.00 (one bidder), 43.59 (three bidders), and two sales each of 46.00 with four bidders.

Private Wrappers

In an image database of private wrappers collected by the author there were two South West Africa private wrappers. These wrappers are shown as Illustration 5. Both wrappers contain private printing: John Meinert (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 56 and details of the enclosure Allgemeine Zeitung The Windhoek Advertiser. Each wrapper's font is different – the earlier uses the typical Gothic style, the later a sans-serif plain font. Only the first wrapper's addressee details are revealed in the images: Niedersachsen, Germany, British Zone. The adhesive added is the 1931 ½d green and black Kori Bustard in Afrikaans (SC108b); the adhesive on the second wrapper is the 1954 1d rose brown rock painting of two bucks (Sc249). The postmark details are unreadable apart from WINDHOEK. Newspaper proprietors from other countries regularly used their own wrappers in preference to post office stock in order to ensure adequate supply, to meet specifications regarding the size and paper strength required and to advertise the newspaper's masthead and other details with the addition of private printing.



Illustration 3. South West Africa Overprinted Wrappers

Realized Sales

The three wrappers listed on eBay sold for modest sums. The 01 wrapper sold for \$20.50 with six bidders. The 07 front sold for \$5.50 with three bidders and the other 07 sold for \$11.50 with two bidders. In previous country-studies the author developed a metric for determining strength of bidder interest at a norm of 2.5 bidders. A score above 2.5 indicates strength in bidder interest and a score below 2.5 bidders indicates a lower level of bidder interest. The overall level of bidder interest for the three South West Africa sales was 3.66. However, with such a small sample size little can be said other than all things being equal the score suggests that collectors who monitor eBay listings were active bidders.

Conclusion

The post office postal stationery wrappers of South West Africa are elusive, perhaps even scarce. Of the eleven types noted in Kosniowski and Quik and Stolk, only one copy of the first issue (01) and two copies of the May 1923 ½d green issue (07) have been listed for sale on eBay in a little over the past decade. This is a listing rate of one wrapper approximately every 40 months making them some of the most elusive wrappers worldwide. These wrappers sold for an overall average price of only \$12.50 suggesting a low collector base for this area of postal stationery. There was bidder interest also in the sales of SPECIMEN overprinted wrappers with one sale of 01 and five sales of 02. The overall average realized price was \$40.22 with an overall average number of three bidders.

With regard to private wrappers of South West Africa there were only two cases from a database of almost 4,000 private wrappers. Both were privately printed for the Windhoek Advertiser. Newspaper proprietors from other countries usually prefer the use of private wrappers in order to be sure of supply, as well as obtain the required specifications of gumming, paper strength and size. The private printing can also be a useful form of advertising by showing masthead, address and other details.

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Previous Publications by John Courtis on Southern Africa Newspaper Wrappers

- British East Africa and East Africa & Uganda Postal Wrappers: An Analysis of Availability and Demand, BEA: The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle, January 2014, 2-6.
- Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of British Bechuanaland: Supply and Demand Characteristics. Forerunners, Vol. 27, No. 78, 2013, pp. 42-47.
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Illustration 4. Specimen Overprints on Wrappers of South West Africa

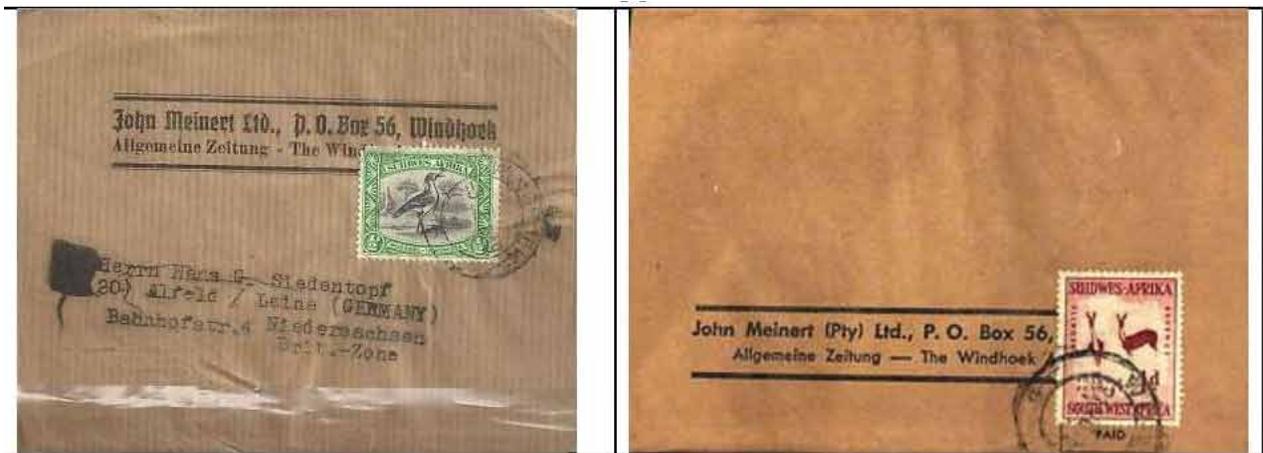


Illustration 5. Private Wrappers of South West Africa

Kimberley's BONC 227

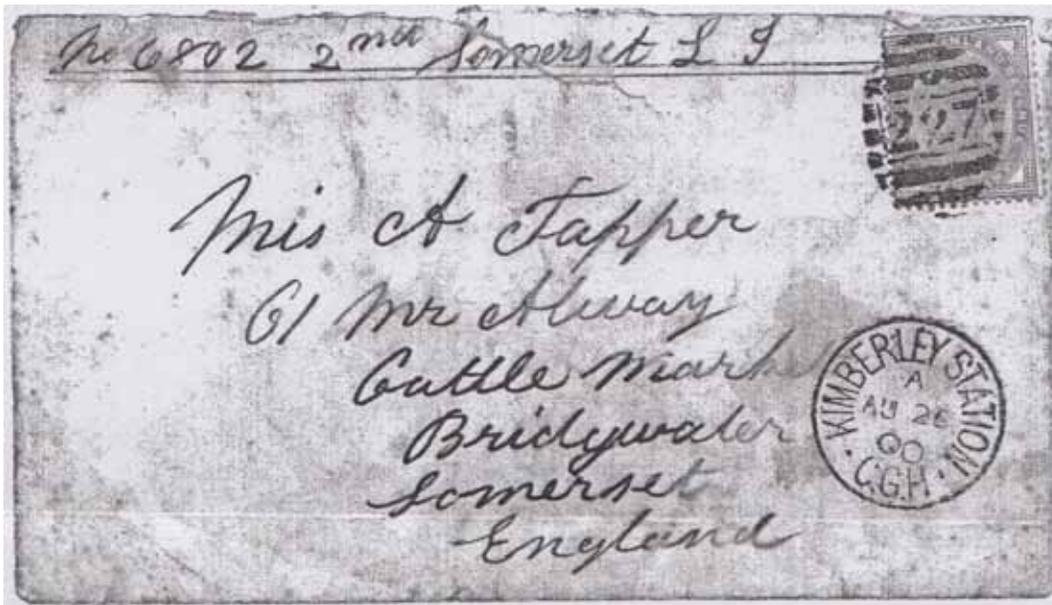
by Werner Seeba

Werner Seeba has with some amusement noticed Peter Loden's rather schematic drawing in Forerunners #73 of Kimberley's BONC 227. He will therefore here like to set the record straight by showing a couple of Kimberley covers with authentic strikes of BONC 227.

The first is to London from Kimberley in 1900. It received a strike of BONC 227 and a dated circular canceller of Kimberley Station dated August 28. The writer was a soldier serving in the 2nd Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry that had landed in

the Cape in December 1899, and was part of the British forces defeated at the Battle of Spion Kop in January 1900. In February of the same year, the battalion helped to relieve the siege of Ladysmith. They spent the remainder of the conflict taking part in a number of minor actions, apparently including Kimberley after the siege.

The second cover is undated but received several strikes of BONC 227. It is addressed to Pudimore Siding, Taungs, British Bechuanaland.



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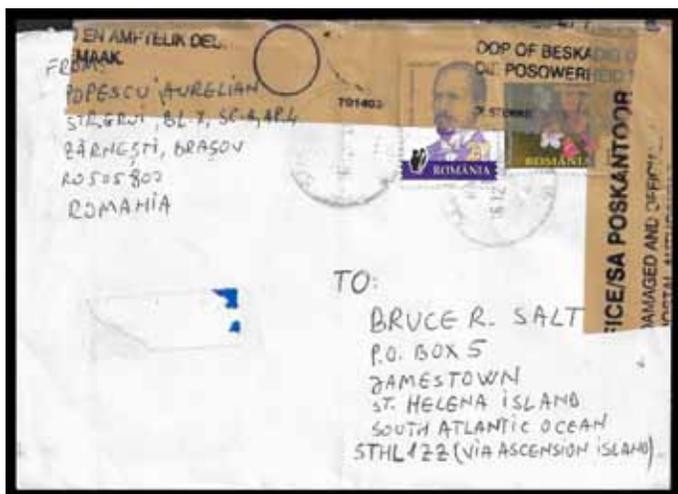
Forerunners Forum

Questions, Comments, and Answers

Cancelled Stellaland Stamp. Werner Seeba has sent this illustration of a Stellaland 4d stamp with a BONC 555 cancellation of Vryburg. This was not listed by Hennie Taljaard in Forerunners #77.



St. Helena Mysteries. Hugh Amoore has written several emails to Steven Zirinsky, copies to the editor, in regard to the note in Forerunners 78 about markings and labels on inbound mail to St. Helena. Here is Hugh's comments: I can confirm that the boxed "Directory 25," "CMA 29," and "CMA 16" are sorting marks used at Cape Mail, the bulk mail depot in Cape Town. The bilingual (Afrikaans and English) tape on the letter from Romania is used by the South African Post Office, showing that despite being marked "via Ascension" this came via South Africa (see illustration below). He continues in other emails: The South African incoming registered labels are bar coded and they are (supposed to be) put on all incoming registered mail as soon as they enter the custody of the SA Post Office. Once this is done, the route and last noted location of any registered item can be traced through the Post Office's tracking system. The customs tape is similar to customs tape I have seen used at Cape Mail, but I cannot be certain that this was used at Cape Mail, or in St. Helena or at some other point en route. The SARS (South African Revenue Service) look at all parcels routed to or through South Africa primarily to see where VAT or excise duty is payable. The yellow tape is SA Post Office tape.



SAPOA-FIFA Sheets. A complete imperforate set of the 2010 SAPOA-FIFA sheets was recently offered for sale. Since the set are complete it must be assumed that it originated from the printer Joh. Enschede Securing Printing. The sheets were printed on 'gold foil' that only poorly scans. The only missing is the Malawi sheet that were printed later using a different technique. See Runnerpost #70 for details.



Book Reviews

French Africa Airmails 1932 to 1940, An English translation of Volume 2 of "Lignes Africaines," by Gérard Collot and Alain Cornu, translated and published by John Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London, United Kingdom SW4 6QU, 2013, 272 pages, hard cover, A4 (8¼ x 11½) size. Black & white illustrations. UK£25.00 (approximately US\$42.00) plus UK£9.00 postage to UK & Europe and surface to the rest of the world. UK£16 (approximately US\$27.00) airmail to the rest of the world. Reviewed by Ken Sanford.

The original book "Lignes Africaines" was published in French, and this edition has been translated by John Parmenter with Colin Spong and John Hammonds. It was published by the Cercle Aerophilatelique Francais from November 2007 to March 2011 as supplements to the Bulletin d'Information numbers 44 to 54 with the title "Histoire Aerophilatelique des Lignes Africaines".

The text covers all the French Colonial trial flights in the period 1932 to the outbreak of World War 2. It is not a list of all the scheduled commercial flights, but some first flights are included. There were a variety of people and organizations carrying out these flights:

- Wealthy individual aviators often competing against each other in setting records for distance and time.
- Military flights by the French Air Force for the exploration of French colonies and border surveillance.
- Trial and maiden flights by commercial airlines to establish routes for future scheduled flights. These routes were established for both commercial and political reasons.

An early phase of exploration was made along the Northwest African coast by the Latecoere Airline up to Dakar in June 1925 in establishing its route to South America.

Much of the exploration of inland Africa was made somewhat later by both commercial and military flights: the French

to Madagascar through Central Africa, Belgium to the Congo and the British to Egypt, East Africa and South Africa. Although the subject is French exploration, mention is made of connections with other commercial airlines.

A variety of French airlines were often ephemeral, and many were later merged into Air Afrique and Air France. Some African airlines were indigenous or subsidiaries of European airlines. And some European airlines, such as British, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Belgian, had routes to their African colonies, and mention is made of some of these and route maps are shown.

For each flight, the format is:

- Dates(s) of the flight, including crashes
- Airline / commercial / military / private
- The aircraft used (if known)
- Pilot & crew (if known)
- Details of the flight
- Covers recorded (all possible dates are not listed)
- Illustrations of postmarks & cachets used (full size)
- Price of cover in Euros (€)
- Illustrations of selected covers (less than full size)

There are a number of excellent maps, showing the routes of the various airlines/operators. Also included are photos of some of the aircraft involved.

Overall, the handbook is very well done and it is a valuable addition to the literature on African Airmails.

The Final Book on Anglo-Boer War Local Stamps The fifth and final book in the Birkhead/Groenewald series on the local stamp issues of the Anglo-Boer War, Anglo-Boer War Stamp Souvenirs, is due for publication soon. The book deals with the Cape of Good Hope stamps overprinted “Kuruman Besieged”, the Vryburg “VR Special Post” stamps and the ZAR revenues handstamped “VRI” and used at Zeerust. The Cape stamps cancelled at Vryburg and initialled “CSQ” at the centre of the circular postmark are also detailed.

As with the previous books published by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa on the local stamps issued at Wolmaransstad, Schweizer-Reneke, Rustenburg and Lydenburg, the research of the authors will provide new facts and perspectives on these issues, which are labelled ‘souvenirs’.

All titles are still obtainable at the original published price but only a single handful of the Wolmaransstad and Schweizer-Reneke books are still available.

Joh Groenewald says in the two years prior to the passing of Harry Birkhead in April 2013, the authors had critically re-examined the relevant material in the Birkhead collection, perused material from other collections and checked all the amassed archival references and other data.

Collectors are invited to order the book at a pre-publication price and have their names included as subscribers to the book. Orders close at the end of July 2014 and the book is due out by late August 2014. Enquiries may be directed to johgroen@mweb.co.za.

Companion volumes on the wartime philatelic issues sanctioned by the ZA Republiek government are in Afrikaans and

deal with the Machadodorp postcards (from the Government Printer-in-the-field), the Vryburg ‘ZAR on Cape’ overprints (the very first stamps of the war) and the Pietersburg issue (the last stamps of the Transvaal republic).

The remaining books of the series: four in English and three in Afrikaans (mentioned above) are still available from the foundation, although some already in short supply.

(Press release from the Philatelic Foundation of Southern Africa).

Publish Your Research in Forerunners

Our Journal is in constant need for articles. If you specialize in southern Africa, please consider writing down your observations and findings for these pages. The editor and his Specialty Editors will be happy to assist if required. We particularly need modern philately and postal history, thematic, aerophilately, cinderella, TB stamps, telegraph and rail philately and history, rate and route studies, and military postal history. Your interests are the limits. If you are a regular reader of Forerunners you will know that certain areas are well covered. Other areas are poorly covered. These include the Rhodesia’s, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Union and Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Basutoland, Malawi, among others.

A typical article for the Forerunners contains text, illustrations, tables, reference or literature list, acknowledgement if relevant, and captions for illustrations and tables. The editor prefers the main text as a word document. Illustrations should be scanned at 150 dpi (covers) or 300 dpi (stamps) and saved as jpg or tif files. References, illustrations, and tables should be called for in the text. All illustrations should be clearly identified both in the text and by file names. This will greatly help the editor.



For the Record

226. The **Philatelic Federation of South Africa** has announced the availability of a forthcoming book by **Birkhead and Groenewald** titled 'Anglo-Boer War Stamp Souvenirs.' The content includes Kuruman, Vryburg VR special post, and the Zeerust revenues. It is scheduled to be published in late August 2014 and advance orders are accepted until July 31 (R270 including overseas mailing). Write to PhilFed Books, P.O. Box 4007, George East, 6539 South Africa, the Editor for a flyer, or Joh Groenewald directly at johgroen@mweb.co.za.
227. **Spink** sold as part of their **Philatelic Collector's Series** auction during May 2014 several large collections of interest to southern Africa collectors. Included was large **Bechuanaland** (110 lots), **Nyasaland** (60), **Orange Free State** (25), and the **Rhodesians** (170) collections. Also included were Bradbury, Wilkinson die proofs and a large Niger Coast Protectorate/Oil Rivers (120). See the archived catalogue at www.spinks.com.

228. Our Treasurer-Secretary **David McNamee** has in May sold his collection of **Registered Mail of Tasmania** in 120 lots at public auction with **Prestige Philately**. Plenty of nice material, but without any with southern Africa roots.



229. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** has sold in April 2014 the **philatelic library** belonging to the late **Cliff Wheatley** as 180 lots. The sale was done by electronically circulating a list to all members and were after the reports a great success. This is an idea that other societies like the PSGSA might adopt. The Study Circle has also announced that all future philatelic auctions will be conducted using email distributed lists and that they now finally accept PayPal as payment.

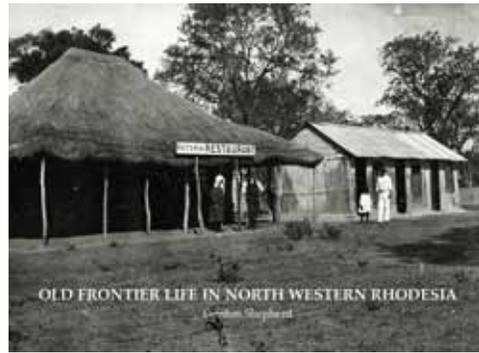
230. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** just distributed the **250th issue of their Journal**. The Journal has developed from a first mimeographed sheet in 1984 to the present offset-printed, full color version of 48 glossy pages. Quite an achievement that fully deserve our congratulations to the Study Circle.

231. **Rand Stamp** and **Paul van Zeyl** have just launched their new website at www.rand-stamps.co.za. Their regular auctions are already listed with color illustrations for all lots.



232. New editor: **Robert Johnson** has stepped down as editor of the **Journal of the Cape and Natal Study Circle**. In his place as editor has been appointed **Simon Solomon** of Australia, who can be reached by writing to simon.solomon@bigpond.com.

233. **Stampshow 2014 Pretoria** is scheduled to be held at the University of Pretoria from 8 to 11 October, 2014. The 2015 Stampshow will be in Cape Town.
234. The **Southern African Philatelic Societies Joint Conference** is scheduled for 7 to 9 November as usual at the Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa. The meeting is being organized by **Simon Peetoom** who can provide further details at simon@africastamps.co.uk.
235. **Gordon Shepherd** of Scotland has finished the third and final volume of his story of early frontier life in Northern Rhodesia based on contemporary photos and post-cards. They are all available from www.stenlake.co.uk at £9 each. The three titles are **Old Frontier Life in North Western Rhodesia**, **Old Livingstone and Victoria Falls**, and **Old Zambia's Railways and More**.



R10 Queen Elizabeth decimal overprinted revenue stamp

Exchange Journals Received

- The Springbok: Volume 61, No. 4, Whole No. 324 (November 2013) and Volume 62, No. 1, Whole No. 325 (February 2014).
- South African Philatelist: no longer received.
- South West Africa Newsletter: Nos. 392 (February 2014), 393 (March 2014), 394 (April 2014), and 395 (May 2014).
- FVZA Bartholomeu Dias: No. 102 (May 2014).
- Magnify (Royal Society Zimbabwe): Whole No.308 (2014).
- Transvaal Philatelist: Volume 49, No. 1 (March 2014).
- We still only receive print journals from the Transvaal Study Circle and Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. The Forerunners are now only exchanges in electronic format.

Highlights From Journals and Newsletters

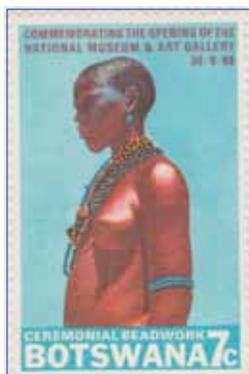
This regular column lists some of the more important articles on Southern Africa Philately and postal history that recently have appeared in other journals. It is based on our exchange journals as well as on those that by other means end up on the Editors' desk. If you find that some are missing, please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

- Ahmad, J., 2013. South African POWs in Italy and Germany during World War II. Springbok Vol. 61. No. 4, 100-109.
- Amhad, J., 2014. South African POWs in Italy and Germany during World War II. Part 2. Springbok Vol. 62. No. 4, 22-27.
- Courtis, J., 2014. South West Africa: Post Office, specimen and private wrappers. South West Africa News Letter. Whole No. 395, 7-11.
- Hilster, T. de, 2014. Walvisbaai 20 jaar bij Namibië. FVZA Bartholomeu Dias 102, 20-25.
- Huggins, A., 2014. The 4d British Bechuanaland registration envelope die. Postal Stationery 55, 249-251.
- Jørgensen, L., 2014. ZAR/Transvaal arms stamps cancelled with the First Republic 24 mm circular datestamps. Transvaal Philatelist 49 (whole no. 187), 10-15.
- Kasper, J., 2014. Ghana aerogrammes. Postal Stationery 56, 109-112.
- Klugman, K., 2014. Anglo-Boer military letter in 1842 leading to the annexation of Natal. London Philatelist 123, 141-143.

- Krieger, G., 2014. Overprinted stationery of the Imperial British East Africa Company, 1895. Postal Stationery 56, 87-92.
- Landeghem, A. van, 2014. Imperial Airways' de noordelijke route 1932-1939, Zuid-Africa naar Europa. FVZA Bartholomeu Dias 102, 4-9.
- Palazzo, G., 2014. RSA registration mail labels. Springbok Vol. 61. No. 4, 96-99.
- Peetoom, O., 2014. 1910 Pageant – the Cape Times Series of 24 Post cards. Springbok Vol. 62. No. 1, 14-15.
- Taljaard, H., 2014. Stellaland stamp cancellations. Runner Post Whole No. 87, 2150-2153.
- Thy, P., 2013. Forged used British Bechuanaland newspaper wrapper. Runner Post Whole No. 85, 2118-2121.
- Thy, P., 2014. Southern African Pioneers in World War II. Exhibit. Runner Post Whole No. 87, 2170-2184.
- Tonking, M., 2014. Revisiting the third definitive 3c Protea with 'drunken perforations'. Springbok Vol. 62. No. 1, 20-21.
- Tonking, M., 2014. The extended left leg mystery. Springbok Vol. 62. No. 4, 28-29.
- Wheatley, C., 2014. Gunboat mail from the Zambesi an dLake Nyasa. Journal Rhodesian Study Circle. 64, 82-84.
- Woolgar, J., 2014. Post Office box system in the Transvaal during the Edwardian period with particular emphasis on Johannesburg. Transvaal Philatelist 49 (whole no. 187), 17-28.

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New Books

- Shepherd, G., 2013. Old Frontier Life in North Western Rhodesia. Stenlake Publishing, Ayrshire Scotland (www.stenlake.co.uk).
- Shepherd, G. Old Zambia's Railway and More. Stenlake Publishing, Ayrshire Scotland.
- Shepherd, G. Old Livingstone and Victoria Falls. Stenlake Publishing, Ayrshire Scotland.
- Collot, G. and Cornu, A., 2013. French Africa Airmails 1932-1940. English Translation of Vol. 2 of 'Lignes Africaines'. Translated by John Parmenter, Colin Spong, and John Hammonds. Published by John Parmenter.
- Indian Ocean Study Circle, 2014. IO the Bulletin of the Indian Ocean Study Circle, 1992-2010 Whole Nos. 71-119. CD published by the Study Circle.
- Birkhead, H. and Groenewald, J., 2014. Anglo-Boer War Stamp Souvenirs. Southern Africa Philatelic Federation (PhilFed Books), George East, South Africa (see details elsewhere in this issue).

Society Publications

- Hisey and Bartshe, 2003. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1, The Postage Stamps. Hardbound, 280 pages. Sold Out.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2004. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 2, The Telegraphs. Hardbound, 250 pages. Sold Out.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2009. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 3. Hardbound, 205 pages. Sold Out.
- CD version of the Orange Free State Volumes is in preparation.*

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 75 (CD-ROM). \$30 plus \$5 s/h. Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope PSGSA Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.
Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. \$25 full color print, \$10 on CD-ROM. Postage paid.
Hisey, B. (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.
To order contact David McNamee at the addresses given on page 1.

The Market Place

Union machine and parcel postmarks. Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations. Please contact Bas Payne on bas.payne@gmail.com, or The Mill House, Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QE, UK.”

Union pictorials 1926-1940. Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations including singles. Please contact Bas Payne on bas@paynes.demon.co.uk, or Saltbox Barn, Edney's Lane, Denmead, Waterlooville, PO7 6JL, UK.

Cape of Good Hope. I buy postal history material, specially the period 1652 - 1853. Please send scan or photocopy with price. Johnny Barth, Nivavaenge 25, DK 2990 Niva, Denmark. E-mail: barth@post3.tele.dk.

SA Homelands used. Seeking postally used stamps and covers (larger lots with duplication OK). Have used Homelands and GB, Commonwealth (Australia, NZ, others) to trade. Send description/scan/price to Chris Oberholster, 2013 Yancy Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022; pangolin100@aol.com.

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 Schuyllkill 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.

Bechuanaland and Botswana postal stationery. Used, stamped and unstamped, stationery from any territory and any period needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

GSWA, OFS postal stationery & the Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp period are my interests. Philatelists wishing to correspond and exchange information / material can write to me at: Hennie

Taljaard, P O Box 816, Ceres, 6835, RSA or stadsbeplanner@ananzi.co.za.

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

Perfins Wanted. I buy/trade for perfins of Cape, Natal, Transvaal, ORC, and South Africa. Especially interested in on cover examples, but will give generous return for any loose stamps. Write or email with trade/sale proposal. Robert Weeden, 1446 Grenac Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709 or email weeden@mosquitonet.com.

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

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

Numerical Cancellers (BONCs) used in Southern Africa sought by collector. Contact me for wantlist or let me know what you can offer. Werner Seeba, In Den Wannenaeckern 14, D-70374 Stuttgart 50, Germany.

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).

Swaziland Picture Postcards Wanted. Please send scan to Peter van der Molen at molens@pixie.co.za

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

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Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

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Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

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Membership fees are \$25 to US mailing addresses and \$30 for all other addresses. Membership includes a subscription to the Society's quarterly journal Forerunners. Those that join before July 1 will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1. If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." Mail all payments to David McNamee, PSGSA Treasurer, P.O. Box 37, Alamo, CA 94507 USA. Paypal to "dmcnamee@aol.com" is also acceptable, but please add US\$ 1 extra to cover part of the PayPal fees we must pay to use the service. For some overseas members, it might be more advantageous to send in dues for two or more years to avoid the annual conversion fees.

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THE RARE AND UNUSUAL

1930 Unhyphenated Rotogravure Printing of Van Riebeeck's Ship

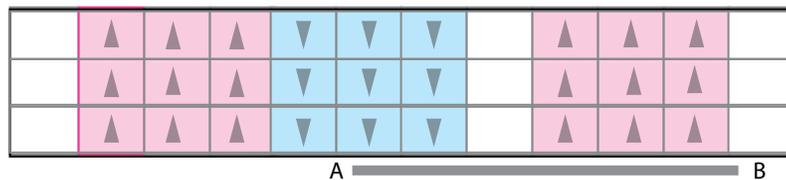


Missing vignette



This strip of five stamps displays the effect of interrupting the printing process in mid-stream. The error is the result of a temporary switch-off of the printer, causing the paper roll to move forward by three blanks. The printer was off during frame printing resulting only in the upper half of the frame. When the printer was turned on again, almost immediately, it printed the lower portion of the same frame, but four blanks lower, in exact position. The interruption is proved by the fact that the portions of the first and last stamp are both in English whereas normally the last stamp would be in Afrikaans. This error is very rare in Union philately. Besides using the best equipment available and stringent quality control, the Post Office missed this error to the delight of its present owner.

The 1930 booklet contained four panes of the 1d ship stamp. These were printed as shown below. The sheets were not sold separately, but nevertheless some booklet sheets appeared on the market. Shown is a tête-bêche strip that could only have been from the position marked 'A-B.' This is one of only twenty possible examples of this strip and as such it is very rare. The fact that it is postally used makes it extremely rare, perhaps unique.



A



B