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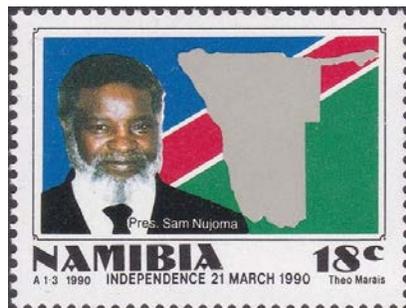
******FORERUNNERS*

JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

Volume XXX, Number 3, Whole No. 88

March-June 2017



Namibia celebrated its 1990 independence with this set of stamps

Highlights

African Liberation and Philately
Report from Convention
New Society Publication (BONCs)
Dinner Remarks
Index Volume XXX
Matabele and Mashona Map

*New Society Publication
Report and Keynote Address from the Spellman Symposium*

Publications of the PSGSA

BARRED OVAL NUMERICAL CANCELLERS OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE FROM 1863 - 1963

by David Mordant.

Comprehensive numerical and alphabetic listings of the Cape Barren Oval Numerical Cancellers (BONC) with an introduction.

Available as a free download from the Society website

Philately of the Orange Free State Vol. 3. THE REVENUES AND POSTAL STATIONERY

Vol. 2. THE TELEGRAPHS

Vol. 1. THE POSTAGE STAMPS

by R.W. Hisey & R.T. Bartshe

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Founded 1987

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Namibia issued this standardized mail (35c) stamp in 1995 (March 21) to celebrate their five year Anniversary of Independence. This was also a year after the Walvis Bay Territory finally was ceded by South Africa to Namibia (March 1, 1994).

Front Illustration:

Set of stamps issued in March 21, 1990, by newly independent Namibia. Independence was achieved after 23 years armed struggle against South African occupation. Read article by Ken Lawrence in this issue.



*****FORERUNNERS**

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Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

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

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Editorial Notes

This issue of Forerunners is being prepared just after the completion of our Convention at the Philatelic Show in Boxboro, MA. It is therefore dominated by the convention report and a long article based on the first of our keynote presentations from the Spellman Symposium. Ken Lawrence takes us on a personal journey through his life as a political activist and philatelist pausing on its intersections with the liberation of Africa. The next issue will contain Johan Joubert's keynote presentation dealing with what is known in South Africa as the Bush War (or the liberation of Namibia). Hope that you all will enjoy these articles despite being a bit different from our usual postal history articles.

Both articles are rather long and will fill most of their respective issues. So if you have sent me articles in the past that have not yet appeared, feel assured that they are not forgotten and will appear as soon as space is available.

Speaking about space. We are restricting the journal size to 32 or less pages per issue. The reason is simply that this is the size we can mail at a reasonable postal charge. Increasing the size to say 36 pages will likely bring us into another mailing bracket and significantly increase our mailing expenses.

From reading the Convention report in this issue, you may get the impression that everything went exceptionally well. This is on some level true, but on others a truth with reservations. The fact is that both the Convention and the Symposium were staged with limited involvement of our membership. The organizer of the symposium had real difficulties with recruiting speakers, the program went through many changes until it reached the list given in the report. For our 2015 Symposium in Denver, we were able to attract ten speakers, this time in Boxboro we could only find five people after some arm twistings who were willing to share their knowledge and collections. Only five members submitted exhibits to the show with one person submitting four exhibits. All exhibitors were the usual suspects without little surprises. One of our goals is to promote exhibiting and we have failed utterly. What is perhaps more problematic is that we were unable to manifest a basic presence at the show outside the exhibit hall. So few members actually attended the show that we were unable to stage a general meeting, a seminar, and man an information table. As a society we missed an opportunity to show off our society and to recruit new members. Worse, we were unable to support the hosting societies that organized the show.

There is nothing unusual about this state of affairs. Most smaller specialist societies suffer from the same problems. Still can anybody suggest remedies or what we should do next?

Peter Thy

The deadline for the next issue will be October 15, 2017. 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.



Past Print Issues of Forerunners

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

Active Email and Web Links

Considering that more and more members are using Forerunners in its electronic form, we attempt to preserve hyperlinks in the pdf version. By clicking on an email address or web link you should be taken to an email box or directly to the web page. Let the Editor know how it works.

Correction

The email address given for Mmama Phalatse in the 'For the Record' column, item #301 is incorrect. It should have been mmama.phalatse@postoffice.co.za.

Society Affairs

Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods 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). The basic membership fee is US\$20 for the electronic version of the journal. The print version can in addition be obtained by adding \$5 for USA mailing addresses, \$10 for Canada addresses, and \$15 for the rest of the world. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1st each year. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$6. A sample issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from www.psgsa.org. Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at 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 directly to the Editor. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a CD. MS Word files are preferred. Tables in Excel or text format is preferred; avoid complex Word tables. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in pdf, tiff, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editor if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or hand written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are most welcome.

President's Corner

In my last "President's Corner" I noted that the word "topical", when applied to a philatelic exhibit, has a slightly different meaning now, according to the new Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting (MPSJE7), which has been approved by the APS Board of Directors and took effect Jan. 1, 2017. The word "Thematic" has been in use for a number of years and the word "Topical" had fallen out of favour. The new definition states that to qualify as a "Topical" exhibit, it must show as many philatelic items as possible with the image of the particular subject or group of subjects that is the focus of your exhibit. Items which are commonly found in a "Thematic" exhibit are not allowed. It seemed to take a long time to re-establish the word which Jerry Husak brought into the light so many years ago!

I was going through a drawer of odd philatelic items that I had collected over the years and found this little poem which illustrates things that I am sure many of you have seen over the years.

I wish I were an Auction Lot
To be described as I am not,
With every blemish set at nought
And nothing but a good report.

The principle on which one acts
Is "never be confused by facts",
For if a stamp is really grotty
Call it "a good plating copy".
And should the sun have made it fade
Then dub it "the scarce paler shade",
Of gum it has the slightest hint
Then state it's "lightly mounted mint".

But if you really want to spoof
Call Printer's waste a rare Die Proof,
Or better still a Colour Trial
And you will fool them all the while.

If it has a brownish hue
Say "slightly toned", though hardly true,
And if it leaves the Auction Floor,
Then to be sure it's "Caveat Emptor"!

With apologies to our many worthy stamp dealers.

I understand that PSGSA 30th Anniversary Convention during Philatelic Show, Boxborough, Massachusetts, and the associated full day African Philately Symposium at the nearby Spellman Museum have both been completed with successes. My apologies for not being able to attend,

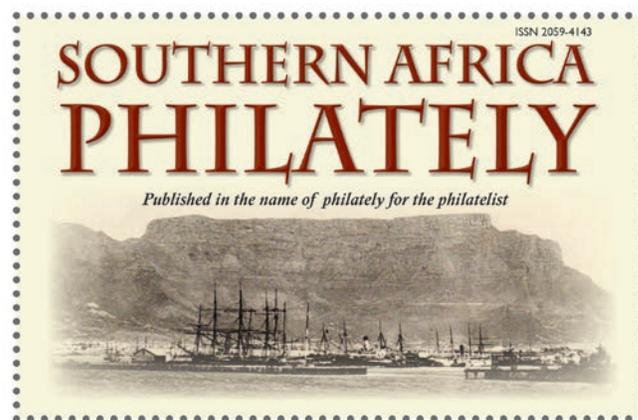
Until next time.

Alan J. Hanks



Resolution of Illustrations

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



www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm

Annual Society Auction

Our auction manager Moody Tidwell announces he is preparing the next auction catalog. Each of us need to support the Society and one good way is to review your collections and identify how you can add to the auction. Our auction gives each of us a chance to sell surplus stamps, covers and philatelic ephemera and for the rest to add to their collections at a fair and reasonable price. Each lot is pictured in the catalog and guaranteed as to identity and condition.

Our Society auctions have gained acclaim over the years and we look forward to another catalog coming out this fall with a closing date shortly after the new year.

Please send your questions to Moody at PSGSA2016@gmail.com and your material to him at 912 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 USA. All material sent will be handled securely and with great care. Payment is guaranteed. No material is ever mail out until paid for in full.

Report from PSGSA 2017 National Convention

The 2017 PSGSA National Convention was held during Philatelic Show in Boxborough MA, May 5-7. Prior to the show, a symposium on African Philately was conducted at the nearby Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History. The symposium was planned and executed by Yamil Kouri of the Spellman Museum and Colin Fraser of the PSGSA. The program saw many late alteration, but the latest version is shown at the box below.



Symposium Program

Yamil Kouri Jr. and Tim Barthse (moderator)
Peter Thy, Postal History of Southern African Pioneers in World War II.
Ken Lawrence, The Intersection of African Liberation and Philately in the life of an Activist.
Tim Barthse, The Orange Free State at War, 1892-1900.
Colin Fraser, Provenance, Authenticity, Quality, Importance and Literature of Southern African Philately.
Johan Joubert, The South African Border War 1966-1989: A Philatelic Approach.
Tim Barthse, Closing Remarks.

The symposium was held in a pleasant auditorium of Regis College in Weston. It was well attended, principally by the regular patrons of the Museum, but also some PSGSA members who showed up despite the rainy forecasts. There was general agreement that all went well with some most interesting presentations. Two keynote presentations were given by Ken Lawrence and John Joubert. The talk by Ken was a personal account of the liberation of Africa as seen through the eyes of a US activist. Johan, who had traveled all the way from South Africa, detailed the Namibian liberation struggle (or the Bush War) through some very interesting (and very rare) covers. The whole symposium had a distinct military conflict theme that you will find reflected in this issue of Forerunners.

If you were unable to attend the symposium, most of the speakers have allowed us to post their presentations on the web in pdf format for all to enjoy. In addition, two of the authors have prepared articles for this and next issues of Forerunners. The presentations can be found in a dropbox by using this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/64tmo36onyc17a8/AAAg1l0G6y2v01ptbUj9vAwGa?dl=0> or use this QR Code:



<== Spellman

RMSS ==>



In case you have forgotten, the presentations from the 2015 symposium at RMSS in Denver are still available by using the QR Code to the right.

Philatelic Show 2017: South African Palmares

Guy Dillaway: Cape of Good Hop - Eastern Frontier.
Court of Honor
Eddie Bridges: The 1d Ship Pictorial of the Union of South Africa. **Grand, Large Gold, PSGSA Award.**
Tim Bartshe: Postal Stationery: South African Republic 1869-1900. **Reserve Grand, Large Gold, USPSS Marcus White Award.**
Peter Thy: The Postal Stationery Cards of Bechuanaland. **Large Gold.**
Tim Bartshe: Orange Free State: Overseas Letter Rates. **Large Gold (one frame).**
Tim Bartshe: Registration System of the Orange Free State. **Large Gold (one frame).**
Tim Bartshe: The Railway Stations and Markings of the 1890's Transvaal (ZAR). **Large Vermeil (one frame).**

The Philatelic Show at Boxboro was from an award point of view a great success for our Society. The southern African exhibits took home three large golds (Bridges, Bartshe, and Thy) for multiframe exhibits and two large golds and one large vermeil (Bartshe) for one frame exhibits. In addition, the Grand Award was awarded to Eddie Bridges for '1d Ship Pictorial of South Africa' and the Reserve Grand to Tim Barthse for 'South African Republic Postal Stationery'. Only the one frame Grand Award did not go to a society member: Mark Schwartz for 'Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue'. It is hard to imagine a better outcome for our Society.

Special thanks to Colin Fraser and Yamil Kouri for making the symposium possible, to the Spellman Museum for hosting us, to all the speakers for sharing their interests, and for the many people who despite the rain came out to celebrate our 30th Anniversary with us. Also thanks to the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs for hosting our convention at their Philatelic Show 2017.

What Next?

Our 2017 Convention was organized to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, but we could only supply five speakers for the symposium and we barely managed to organize an impromptu dinner after the talks. There were only six southern Africa exhibits all entered by the old guard, and four by the same person. Finally, we were unable to organize a society meeting/AGM or a table during the show as very few members were present. By all accounts, a disappointing outcome. What should be do next time? Any comments?



Spellman
Symposium
& Philatelic
Show



Upper left, moderator Tim Barthse starting the event; Colin Fraser speaking; view of audience. Second row, Tim introducing Ken Lawrence; another view of the audience with Kalman Illyefalvi in the front. Third row, Johan Joubert speaking; Reserve Grand award winner getting ready to dismount his exhibit; frame one of the Grand award winning exhibit by Eddie Bridges. Final Row: frame one of the Reserve Grand award winning exhibit by Tim Bartshe.



Remarks at the Official Dinner of the PSGSA Convention in Boxborough 2017

by Steve Zwillinger

Congratulations!

Congratulations on PSGSA Reaching 30 Years.

On behalf of the PSGSA, thank you to both the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History and to Yamil Kouri for hosting us. This is the Museum's fifth annual symposium and we are thankful to be here.

Thank you also to the presenters:

Peter Thy
Ken Lawrence
Tim Bartshe
Colin Fraser
Johan Joubert

I would like each of you to turn to your right and say "Thank you" and to your left and say "Thank you" to the people next to you for supporting PSGSA and being part of an exciting society. This afternoon Colin described South African philatelic literature as "reliable and intellectually vigorous." If the strength of the literature is reliability and intellectual vigor, how much more can we say about you gathered here and the other members who are the authors of this literature?

The society started thirty years ago as *The Pre-Union States Study Group* with a focus on the Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand West, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal. Over the thirty years since then there has been an increase in breadth – reflected in the new title of the study group – and now encompasses twelve more major areas starting with Anglo-Boer War, Botswana, Cape of Good Hope and all the way to Zululand.

Like most of organized philately, the membership is decreasing. But, a society with fewer than 100 members has:

- Auctions – started by Tim in late 1980s and now run by Moody Tidwell

- Library – maintained in Colorado
- Publication program with extensive range of publications
- Meetings like this, and
- A journal which has been awarded 30 medals in philatelic literature competitions since 1988, first edited by William Brooks and since 1998 by Peter Thy – that's about 60 issues. This morning one of the speakers described Peter as the "Savior of the Society."

Certain characteristics are admirable in specialist societies such as the breadth of interests on the part of the membership, the interaction between members and the philatelic as well as the historical and cultural knowledge of the members, and PSGSA exceeds them all.

There is, however, one major challenge that I see facing us. How do we ensure that what we know, and what we discover is captured so that others may benefit from what we have learned? Some members make their exhibits available on web sites. Some members write books or articles. Some members have worked out rate tables or know how to calculate late fees, or know how to plate each provisional printing. Even if some of this is captured in older black and white journals, it may be appropriate to revisit these subjects in color in the pages of *Forerunners*.

The American Philatelic Research Library collects valuable fugitive documents. The Society library collects information products. We have a responsibility to pass on the knowledge we've gained. Please contribute to the Journal. Contact Peter Thy to find the best way that others can use what you've discovered or can present it in a manner that will serve both the Society and its members.

Congratulations to all of you with the first well done 30 years and may we all be around for the next 30 years.

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.



Philatelic Society during 13-15 October. Visit www.analytical-philately.org for details.

A **Postal History Symposium** has been hosted jointly by the American Philatelic Research Library and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum since 2006. The 'Tenth Blount Postal History Symposium' will be held Nov. 1-2, 2018 at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The theme is 'WWI and its Immediate Aftermath.' Information is now available. Deadline for submitting proposals is June 15, 2017. Visit <http://www.stamps.org/Postal-History-Symposium> for information.

APS STAMPSHOW, Richmond, VA, August 3-6, 2017. For information go to <http://www.stamps.org/STAMPSHOWS>.

The **Third International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately** will take place in London at the Royal



American Philatelic
Research Library

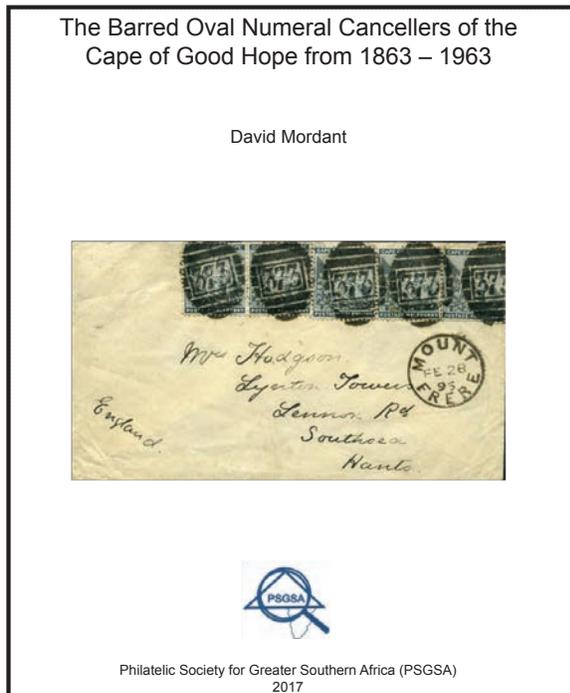


American
Philatelic Society



Smithsonian National
Postal Museum

New Society Publication: Cape BONCs



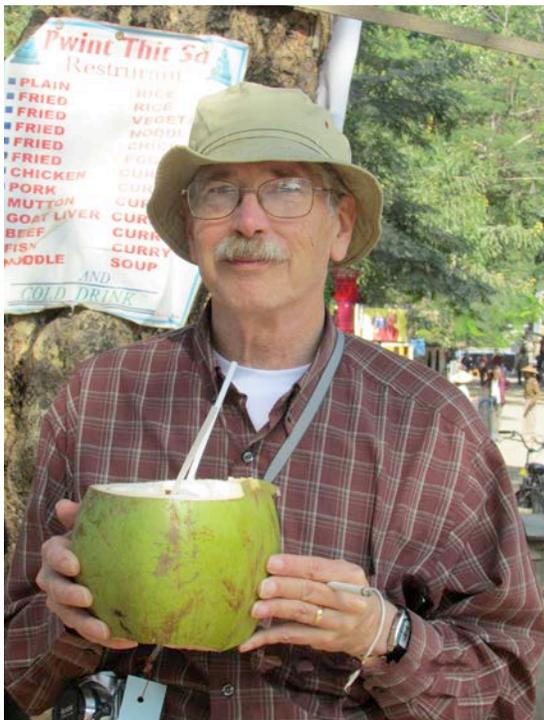
We are now able to offer all members and non-members alike an electronic version of David Mordant's compilation of the Cape of Good Hope barred oval numeral cancellers (BONC). The monograph is 48 pages long and contains David's lifelong compilation of the allocations of the BONCs in southern Africa together with first and last observed usages. The information is presented in two main tables: numeral and alphabetic tabulations together with a short introduction. The monograph can be downloaded from the Society website under "Publications". The author as given permission to print copies for your own use. He will appreciate your feedback with corrections and additions and can be reached by writing to david.mordant@shaw.ca.



An eBook version is also available by using this QR Code or the URL below. From this site you can also download the pdf version of the monograph.

https://issuu.com/peterthy/docs/mordant_cape_bonc_2017

Closed Album William Robert Wallace 1949-2017



It is with sadness that we must report the sudden death of Bill Wallace in San Francisco on February 22, 2017. Bill was a true native San Franciscan having lived there his whole life. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War with postings in Taiwan and Thailand. Anybody who have visited his home in downtown San Francisco will know that he had two passions in his life: stamps and cats. His official obituary puts it this way: "He never met a cat that he couldn't befriend. He never saw an envelope or a stamp that he didn't covet. There was no card game that he wouldn't play with fervor. No place in the world he didn't want to visit and explore, from his first overseas trip to southern Africa at age 18 to his last trip to Myanmar and Laos at age 64. He was generous with his expertise, a mentor to many, a good friend and a loving and devoted husband who will be deeply missed."

Bill was a longtime member and supporter of the PSGSA. He was an ardent collector of everything Rhodesian, nothing was so small that it did not interest him. He wrote many articles in the Forerunners on Rhodesia philately and postal history. He was also a longtime supporter of the Rhodesian Study Circle and was one of their US representative. For many years he kept a small local circle of southern African collectors together by arranging occasional informal show-and-tell meetings. It was delightful venue for showing off ones precious possessions and finds and to meet similar souls. We will miss Bill among us and send our condolences to his wife Janice and the family (and all the cats).

The Intersection of African Liberation and Philately in the Life of an Activist

by Ken Lawrence

To set the mood for my discussion let me begin with this epigraph:

— *You'll be quiet all evening, she said. Unless someone comes to talk football. And even they don't come so often.*

We might be in the desert.

He looked at her helplessly.

— *Sometimes I wish that I were a stamp, she said. Then you might look at me.*

That was Nella van Vlaanderen's *cri de coeur* to her husband Pieter in Alan Paton's 1953 novel *Too Late the Phalarope*. Pieter, the protagonist of Paton's apartheid tragedy, was an Afrikaner policeman and a stamp collector. Nella's searing charge laid bare the truth: stamps meant more to Pieter than she did. From those memorable lines Paton's readers understood why Pieter engaged in a forbidden tryst with an African woman, which led to his and his family's ruin.

Too Late the Phalarope is a masterpiece of philatelic fiction. If you have not read it, put it at the top of your library request list.

I began to collect stamps in 1953, the year that Paton's book was published, when I was 11 years old. My stamp collection taught me about imperialism, and especially about imperialist rule in nearly all of Africa.

Africa was an early waystation for navigators during the Age of Exploration, and for more than 500 years suffered the gruesome consequences of conquest, colonization, and the Atlantic slave trade. Europeans initially settled along the coastal areas, and gradually advanced into the interior.

Dutch settlers had established the Boer republics of Transvaal and Orange Free State in the mid-19th century. At the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference the other European imperialist powers — Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Portugal — had divided the rest of the African continent among themselves, with the exception of Liberia, Ethiopia, and Morocco. Italy tried and failed to conquer Ethiopia from 1885 to 1896. In the early 20th century Britain defeated the Boers and absorbed their territories into the Union of South Africa. France and Spain subjugated Morocco. In the aftermath of World War I, the victors took over Germany's African colonies. These things stood until after World War II, when popular indigenous insurgencies in Asia set examples of liberation from colonial rule.

My collection also taught me that oppressed people were fighting to be free from imperial domination. The mantra of my high school International Relations class was, "When people are dissatisfied, they revolt!" By the time I began to put stamps in my album, Britain had left Palestine, India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, and Malaysia; Indonesia had freed itself from Dutch rule; and Indochina had won from France at least provisional independence and self-government.

But Africans remained in bondage. In 1948 the Republic of South Africa had instituted apartheid to entrench white supremacy, much like the odious segregation of the races in the United States, while in the rest of the continent only Liberia and Ethiopia were governed by indigenous Africans.

The uneventful decolonization of Libya, Sudan, and Morocco, and a mercifully brief armed struggle that preceded the independence of Tunisia in the 1950s, kindled hope that the European imperialists had accepted the judgment of history and understood that it was time for them to accept self-government in Africa and leave. The *coup d'état* led by Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt in 1952, followed by the Suez crisis in 1956, put an end to British rule there.

A byproduct of Nasser's revolution enhanced my philatelic education. In Chicago, Marshall Field's stamp department displayed treasures from ex-King Farouk's collection, which were the first rare stamps I got to view and study at close range.

The African transition that caught my attention was the transfer of power in 1957 from the British colonial administration in Gold Coast to the independent government of Ghana led by Kwame Nkrumah, which also incorporated the British sector of neighboring Togoland. The Figure 1 cover is a postal relic of that event.

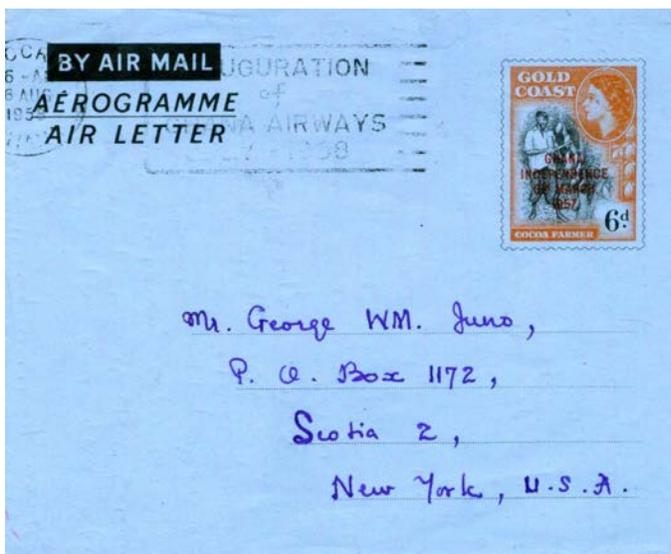


Figure 1. The Ghana Independence overprint on this Gold Coast aérogramme commemorated the end of British colonial rule.

Next came the French departure from sub-Saharan Africa: Guinea in 1958; Cameroun, Senegal, Mali, Chad, Togo, Upper Volta, Ubangi-Shari, Niger, Gabon, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Middle Congo, Mauritania, and Madagascar in 1960.

Britain took leave from Somalia and Nigeria that year, followed by Sierra Leone and Tanganyika in 1961, Uganda in 1962, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, and Zanzibar in 1963, Gambia in 1965, Basutoland and Bechuanaland in 1966, Mauritius and Swaziland in 1968.

Belgium exited Ruanda in 1961 and Urundi in 1962. Spain gave up its African colonies between 1968 and 1975. With the exception of limited military crackdowns by colonial hardliners, those transitions were peaceful.

Splendid postage stamps heralded each of these transfers of power.

But elsewhere in Africa where rich land and natural resources remained ripe for harvest, extraction, and plunder, popular aspirations were thwarted as colonial armed forces not only waged war to perpetuate imperial rule, but they also instituted cruel mass detention and torture of suspected insurgents, massacres of civilians, and assassinations of popular leaders.

The Mau Mau insurrection in Kenya lasted from 1950 to 1960. By killing more than 12,000 insurgents of the Kenya Land and Freedom Army and its supporters, Great Britain prevailed militarily, but the British public at home came to regard their colonialists in Kenya as indefensibly racist and cruel.

The People of Kenya Speak for Themselves by Mbiyu Koinange, published in 1955, taught me about Kenyans' aspirations for freedom. The British had arrested Jomo Kenyatta, the leader of the Kenya Africa Union, in 1952, and charged him with involvement in the rebellion.



Figure 2. This 1953 cover was posted from the headquarters of the 70th East Africa Infantry Brigade at Nyeri, in the central highlands of Kenya, a British Army counter-insurgency unit that waged war against the Mau Mau.

The Figure 2 cover represents an early stage of the British counterinsurgency war against the Mau Mau.

I did not know it at the time, but C.L.R. James, who became my political mentor in the 1960s, had been a founder and leader of the London group that organized and trained African independence fighters in the 1930s and 1940s, including Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta.

The fall 2013 special issue of the *CLR James Journal* includes a memoir of my political involvement in his organization and describes his activities in Chicago during the year that he lived in my home while he taught in the Black Studies program at Northwestern University. But that wasn't until 1969. Readers who desire more information about James's career might be interested in the 2015 motion picture *Every Cook Can Govern: Documenting the life, impact & works of CLR James*, available on DVD from www.clrjames.uk.

In February 1960, when I was 17 years old, civil-rights sit-in protests against racial segregation began at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. The organizers of those protests founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which we called *Snick*, to spread the movement across the South. In Chicago, I joined the picket line at Woolworth's in solidarity with SNCC. That fall I attended the SNCC convention at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Among my earliest memories of activism as a young socialist in 1960 is the day we picketed the British consulate in Chicago chanting "Free Jomo Kenyatta!" That summer I attended the Young People's Socialist League summer school at the University of Chicago. Kenya labor leader Tom Mboya led a seminar on the freedom struggle in his country, and Daniel Gallin, then director of the International Union of Socialist Youth in Geneva, led one on the independence struggle in Algeria.

Jomo Kenyatta was released from prison in 1961. With independence in 1963, denoted by the Uhuru stamps on the Figure 3 cover, he became Kenya's first president. Soon afterward, Kenya's vice president, Oginga Odinga, made a state visit to the United States. In Atlanta, SNCC leaders showed him the racially segregated parts of the city that the State Department had tried to hide. The SNCC Freedom Singers immortalized his visit in a song titled "Oginga Odinga."

In 2013, fifty years after Uhuru, the British government agreed to compensate more than 5,000 Kenyans who had been tortured and abused during the insurgency, and in 2015 Britain erected a Mau Mau memorial statue in Uhuru Park at Nairobi as a symbol of contrition and desire for reconciliation.

In 1959, I had chaired a committee that organized a public meeting in Illinois for a representative of the Algerian National Liberation Front. After a bitterly fought war of independence from 1954 to 1962, memorialized in the iconic motion picture *Battle of Algiers* by Gillo Pontecorvo, the French finally withdrew, but bitter reprisals continued for years afterward on both banks of the Mediterranean.

The 1961 French military cover in Figure 4 cover represents the war, and the 1962 United Nations souvenir in Figure 5 represents the French defeat.

Farther south on the continent, a tragedy had begun that continues to defy humanitarian solution. Belgium had formally exited the Congo in 1960, but imperial interests and their armed mercenaries fought to keep the country's mineral wealth by dismembering it. Patrice Lumumba, the man who had led the struggle for independence was assassinated, as was United Nations General Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld on his mission to save the country from civil war.



Figure 3. Uhuru, on these stamps, is the Swahili word for freedom. They signify that Kenya had won its freedom from British colonialism in 1963.

The war began with the secession of Katanga province in the South, as the Belgian mining companies sought to retain their grip on the country's most valuable resources.

United Nations forces arrived in the Congo shortly after independence. Take note of the Belgian colonial stamps on the Figure 6 cover from 1960. The Security Council had resolved that Congo was to be a unitary state, but UN forces did not succeed in suppressing the secessionists until late January 1963. The last UN troops departed in June 1964. The unified country, known from 1971 to 1997 as Zaire, has been plagued by corrupt governance and armed strife ever since.

In March 1960 South African police had shot and killed 69 people, and injured 180 more, who had staged a peaceful protest at Sharpeville against the pass laws that prevented free movement of black Africans.

On the fifth anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, about 700 members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Students for a Democratic Society, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the National Student Christian Federation picketed the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York as a protest against loans to apartheid South Africa.

Several SDS protesters entered the bank, staged a sit-in, and were arrested there while SNCC staged a sit-in at the South African consulate. Coordinated actions in Boston, Detroit, and San Francisco targeted other major firms and financial institutions that supported the apartheid regime.

These protests raised the visibility of anti-apartheid activism in this country, and linked it to the ongoing struggles against racial segregation and discrimination here. The Figure 7 button is part of my "Freedom Now!" collection of worldwide political

protest memorabilia that I exhibited at the old American Philatelic Center in State College in 2001 and donated to the Pennsylvania State University labor archive in 2010. The finding aid can be read at www.libraries.psu.edu/findingaids/6312.htm. Many of my buttons, posters, t-shirts, bumper stickers, armbands, and other items can be viewed on-line at www.flickr.com/photos/pennstatespecial/albums/72157629489879558, including the frame that shows the button illustrated here.

In 1965 the government of Southern Rhodesia headed by Ian Smith issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Great Britain — not to secure freedom for the African majority but to preserve the power of the white minority in a nation that was 80 percent black. A mem-

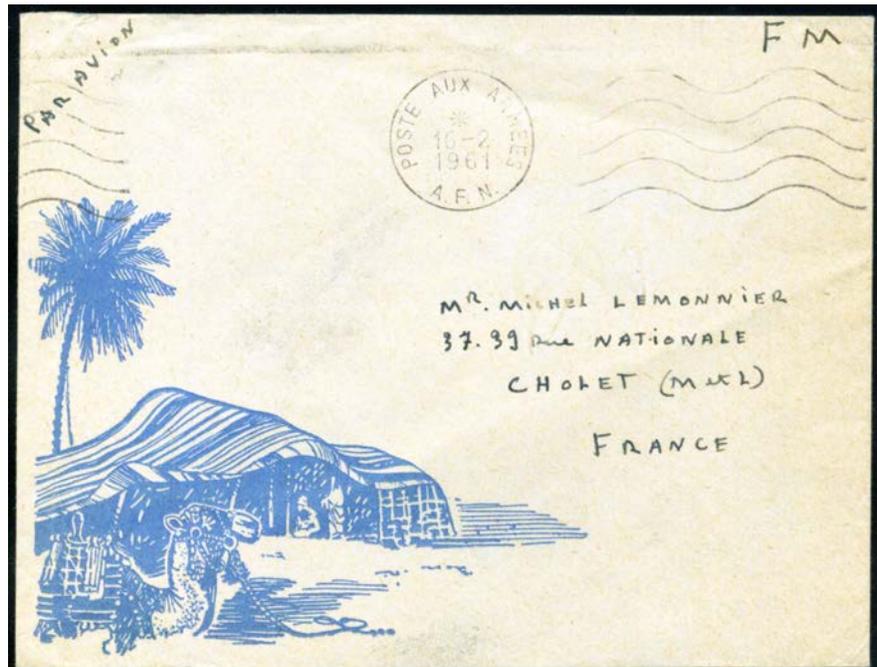


Figure 4. A 1961 French military cover from Algeria to France during the height of the anti-colonial insurrection led by the National Liberation Front required no postage.

ber of Smith's Rhodesian Front party created the Figure 8 cover to commemorate the event.

With the exception of apartheid South Africa, no country in the world recognized the independence of Rhodesia. The postal consequence was that Rhodesian stamps were not valid to pay postage on international mail. Figure 9 shows a cover from Essexvale, Rhodesia, to Luanshya in neighboring Zambia that required the recipient to pay postage due because the Rhodesian stamp was not accepted.

The Rhodesian stamp on that cover pictures part of the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, built of dry stone without mortar from

the 10th to the 15th centuries by the ancestors of the Shona people, first reported by a European traveler in the year 1531. The Rhodesian government denied that such structures could have been constructed by black Africans, but the liberation movements named themselves the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU). Today the country is named for this site, which is a national monument.

In 1972, not long after I moved to Mississippi as the Deep South representative of the Southern Conference Educational Fund and reporter for the SCEF newspaper *The Southern Patriot*, I joined and wrote about a protest at Burnside, Louisiana, where members of the International Longshoremen's Association AFL-CIO, supported by students from Southern University at Baton Rouge, refused to unload a shipment of Rhodesian chrome.

Along with the boycott of Rhodesian chrome, we supported and helped organize a consumer boycott of Gulf Oil Company products to protest its petroleum production in Portuguese Angola and a boycott of Polaroid products to protest that firm's sales of photographic equipment and supplies used to implement the hated identification pass system in South Africa. In 1974 we organized protests to prevent the Southern Company, which owned electric power companies in the Deep South states, from importing South African coal for their generators.

I became personally involved in solidarity with the Zimbabwe liberation struggle when Tapson Mawere, North American representative of ZANU, became my friend. I also became the principal publisher of ZANU literature distributed in this country, including a pamphlet titled *African Freedom Fighters Speak for Themselves* in which members of the military arm — the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) — told of their struggles.

Most of my ZANU-ZANLA publications can be viewed online at the African Activist Archive website of Michigan State University at <http://africanactivist.msu.edu>, searchable under the Freedom Information Service publishing imprint.

The 1974 revolution in Portugal abruptly transformed the balance of power in Africa. The new Portuguese government

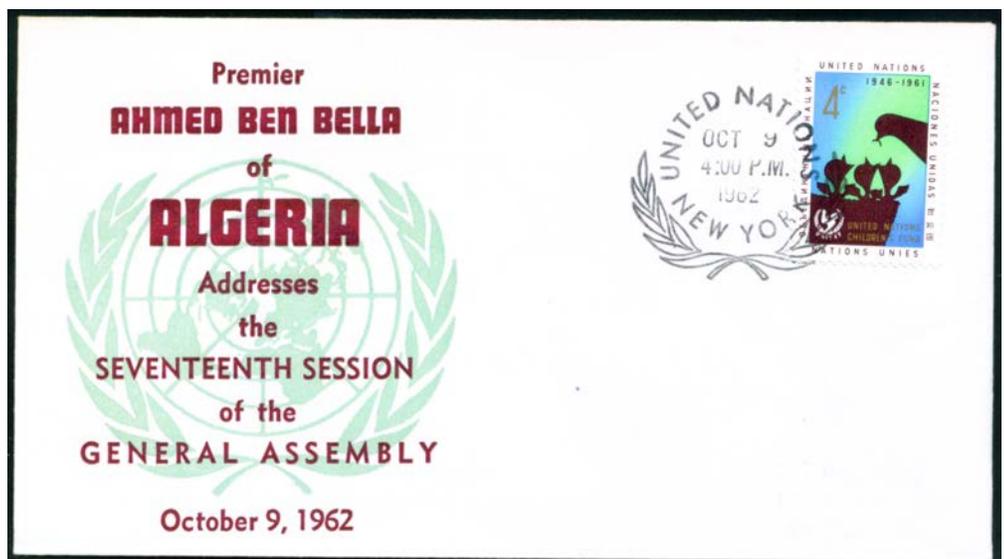


Figure 5. Ahmed Ben Bella, the first president of independent Algeria, addressed the United Nations in 1962, commemorated by this souvenir cover.



Figure 6. United Nations forces arrived in the Congo in 1960 to prevent secession of Katanga province, location of the country's richest mineral resources, and remained until 1964.

almost immediately recognized the independence of Guinea-Bissau. In 1975 it withdrew from Cape Verde, Mozambique, Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe.

The independence of Mozambique with a government sympathetic to the Zimbabwe freedom struggle opened up a new cross-border front for ZANLA. Likewise the independence of Angola offered sanctuary to the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

Figure 7. This button from a 1965 anti-apartheid protest in New York organized by Students for a Democratic Society, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the National Student Christian Federation, is part the “Freedom Now!” collection of worldwide political protest memorabilia that the author donated to the Pennsylvania State University labor archive in 2010.



tack killed an estimated 1,500 ZIPRA guerrilla fighters. The First Battalion of the Rhodesian Light Infantry, represented by the Figure 11 cover, was the Smith regime’s principal counter-insurgency force.

While this war heated up, Djibouti on the Horn of Africa gained its independence, bringing an end to French rule in Africa, leaving white minority regimes in control of only three besieged lands at the southern tip: Rhodesia, South West Africa, and South Africa.

Against both regular and mercenary armies the Zimbabwe liberation forces were invincible. For the last half of 1979, as the future remained in doubt, the still unrecognized country took the name Zimbabwe

Rhodesia, signifying a so-called “internal settlement” that Ian Smith hoped would leave his Rhodesian Front party in effective control, sharing power with Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the African National Council. To the best of my knowledge, the Figure 12 registry envelope is the only officially distributed postal item that used that name for the country.

The British government resumed direct control of Southern Rhodesia in December 1979. Elections were held in February 1980, won by Robert Mugabe’s ZANU Patriotic Front party. Britain granted independence to Zimbabwe on April 14, 1980. Mugabe has been prime minister ever since. The Figure 13 cover is franked with post-independence computer-vented Frama stamps that picture the Great Zimbabwe ruins.

With Zimbabwe liberated, only South West Africa (Namibia) and South Africa remained under white minority rule. As the liberation wars approached their denouement, Angola and Mo-

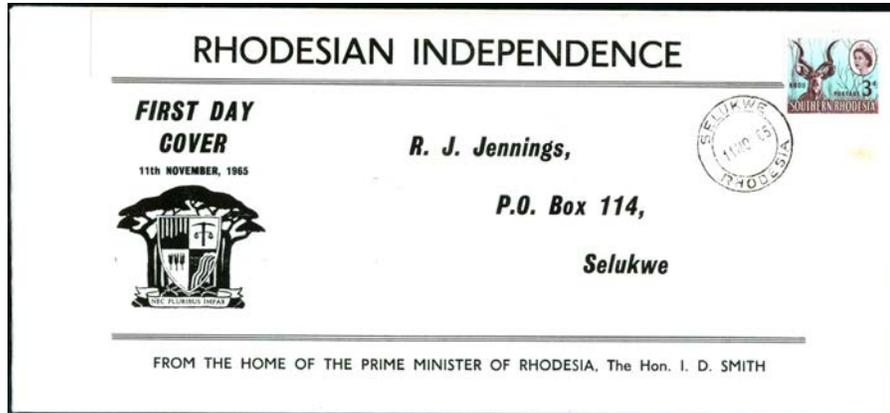


Figure 8. Rhodesia’s Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965, recalled by this cover, was a desperate attempt to perpetuate white minority rule in a country in which black Africans were an overwhelming majority of the population.

As the Rhodesian and South African governments grew desperate to suppress these insurgencies, they relied on mercenary soldiers to augment their conscript armies. Major Robert K. Brown of the United States Army Special Forces Reserve (later Lieutenant Colonel Brown) facilitated this effort by launching *Soldier of Fortune* magazine in the fall of 1975. The first issue was devoted to recruiting mercenaries for Rhodesia; the second issue, published the following spring, recruited for the covert war in Angola.

Although Brown’s magazine gave the appearance of a private operation frowned upon by the U.S. government, my comrades in Chicago secured proof that the recruitment center for Rhodesian mercenaries was the headquarters of the 12th Special Forces Reserve at Arlington Heights, Illinois. They published a booklet titled *Guns for Hire: How the C.I.A. & U.S. Army Recruit Mercenaries for White Rhodesia*.

Meanwhile, as a collector of military postal history I got on the mailing list of the Rhodesian Veterans Association offices in Arkansas and California. The RVA newsletters provided valuable insights into the culture, strengths, and vulnerabilities of the hired soldiers. I also corresponded with individual members who agreed to supply covers.

The operations room of the Rhodesian Air Force at Mount Darwin, origin of the Figure 10 cover, planned and directed raids against Zimbabwe People’s Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) camps in Zambia and ZANLA camps in Mozambique. One at-

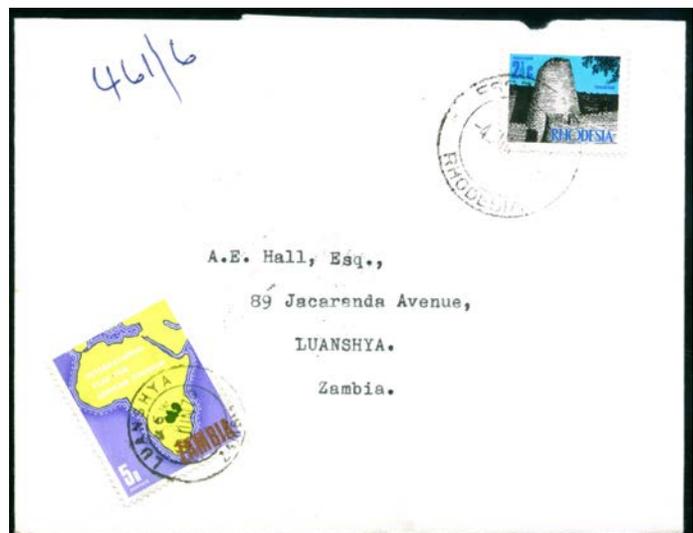


Figure 9. Only apartheid South Africa recognized the independence of Rhodesia. Other countries rejected the validity of Rhodesian postage stamps, as can be seen on this 1970 cover from Essexvale, Rhodesia, to Luanshya, Zambia, with postage due collected from the recipient.

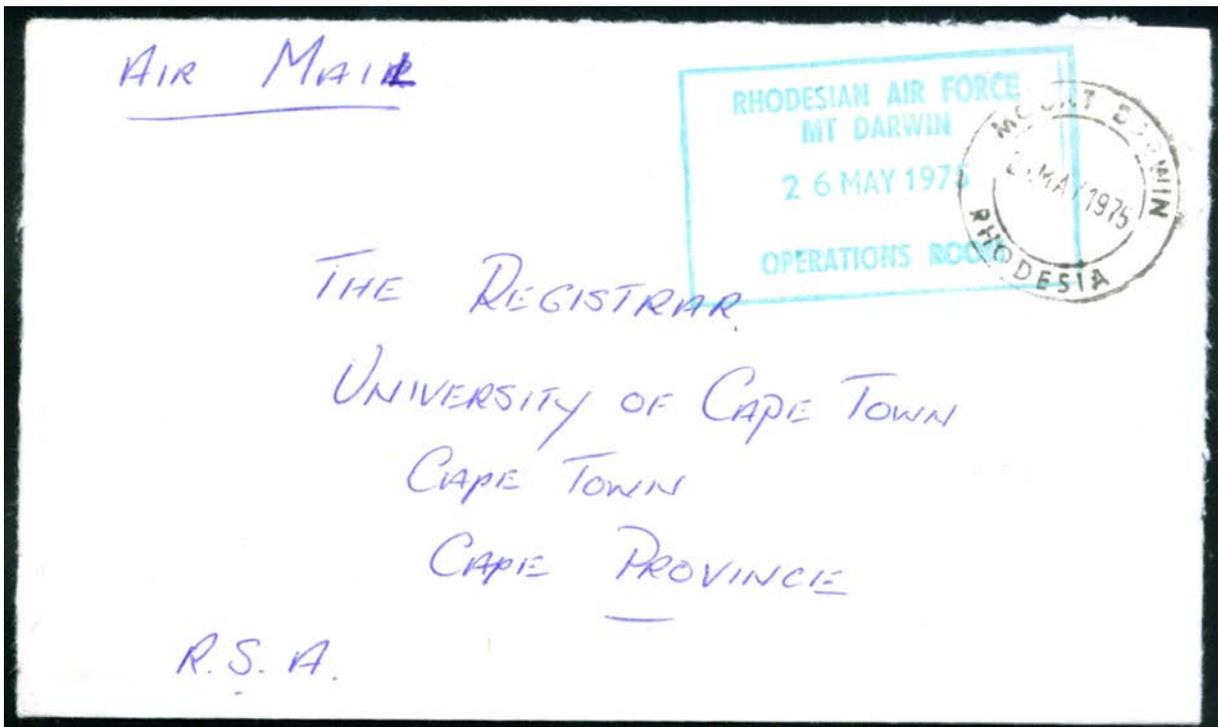


Figure 10. This 1975 Rhodesian Air Force cover originated from the unit at Mount Darwin that planned and directed raids against Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) camps in Zambia and Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) camps in Mozambique.

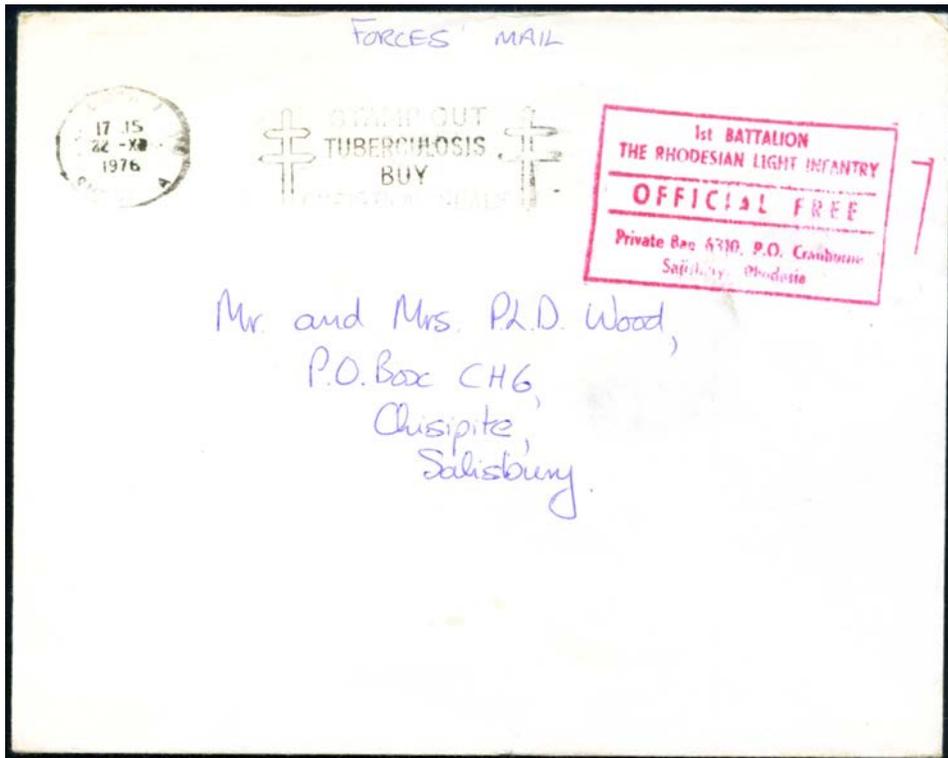


Figure 11. This 1976 military cover was posted at Umtali by a member of the First Battalion of the Rhodesian Light Infantry, the Smith regime's principal counter-insurgency force.

zambique became the principal front-line states, viewed as the greatest threats to the apartheid regime and its continuing domination of Namibia. Hoping to deprive the liberation movements

of cross-border sanctuaries, South Africa, assisted by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, instigated and armed African proxies in those countries.

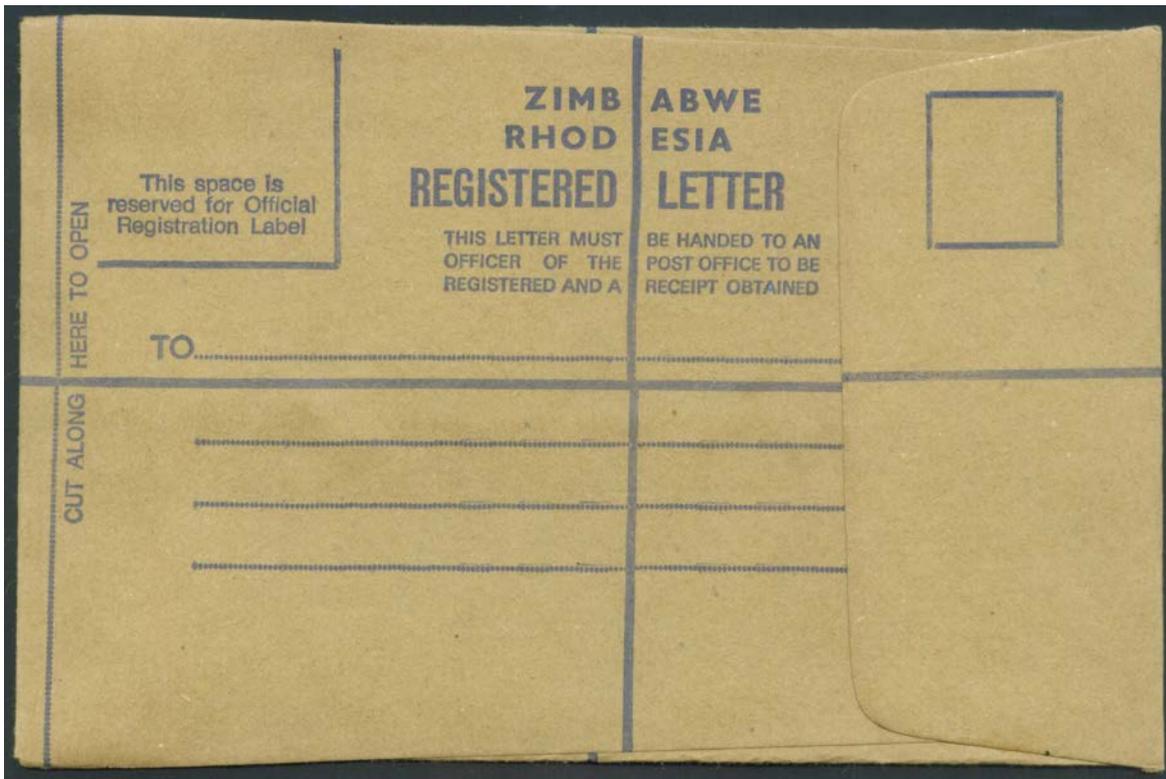


Figure 12. The Smith regime’s short-lived 1979 “internal settlement” renamed the country Zimbabwe Rhodesia, but produced no stamps. This registry envelope might be the only postal artifact issued during that final failed attempt to preserve white minority rule.



Figure 13. A 1986 registered cover from independent Zimbabwe is franked with computer-vended Frama stamps that include images of the Great Zimbabwe ancient ruins for which the nation is named.

In Angola the CIA backed Holden Roberto's National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) in the northeast, and Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA, in the southeast. By themselves those forces could not seriously challenge the majority MPLA party, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

The Portuguese transfer of power in Angola was scheduled for November 11, 1975. To prevent the MPLA from securing its governance of Angola, South Africa secretly staged a preemptive invasion with the tactical aim of destroying PLAN bases and denying sanctuary to SWAPO. The larger strategic aim was to install a friendly government in Luanda, headed by Jonas Savimbi, which would cease hosting and supporting Namibian freedom fighters.

South Africa had waged war against SWAPO and PLAN since 1966, the year that the United Nations revoked the South African trusteeship over Namibia, thus declaring the continued occupation by the apartheid regime to be illegal. In 1972 the UN General Assembly recognized SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

South African forces had been deployed along the Angolan border earlier in 1975, as shown by the Figure 14 cover from a military post in West Caprivi. In these unit cachets and manuscript routing marks "Coy" or "C" in English and "Komp" or "K" in Afrikaans meant "company," a unit of 250 men.

The Figure 15 tattered air letter to a South African infantry rifleman in the war zone from his mother at Johannesburg, with the bilingual boxed order DESTROY AFTER READING is an early relic of the border war. "The news that South Africa is withdrawing from Angola is very heartening and one can only hope that the political situation there will be settled and that we'll be left in peace," she wrote. "There was a T.V. programme last night dealing with the Angolan conflict. . . . altho it was interesting, they didn't show any of the South African involvement and we are all left in the dark."

But her hopes were dashed. The so-called Angolan civil war, actually a war to prevent conquest by South Africa and its Angolan puppets, lasted for 13 years, ending as it had begun with

the MPLA in power.

The arrival of Cuban advisors and combat troops reversed the fortunes of the South Africa-mercenary-CIA alliance and their Angolan proxies, and saved the MPLA government. More than 337,000 Cuban soldiers served in Angola, and 2,000 of them died there.

The late Jose Luis Guerra at the Cuban Postal Museum in Havana gave me the Figure 16 cover, mailed by a Cuban volunteer serving in Angola to his woman friend in Santiago.

The addressee of the Figure 17 cover was a member of 32 Battalion, also called Buffalo Battalion, probably the most despised counterinsurgency unit in the South African army. It consisted mainly of former FNLA members from Angola who had sworn allegiance to South Africa, commanded by white South African and foreign mercenary officers. Despite a search in at least two locations this soldier could not be found. Evidently he had left for Zaire, so the letter was returned to the sender.

Katima Mulilo, where 32 Battalion was based, is a town in Namibia on the Zambezi River opposite Zambia at the extreme northeastern end of the Caprivi Strip wedged between Botswana and Zambia. Several South African military units were headquartered there. The 2 Sub-Area command also included forces in Angola. In 1978 PLAN guerrillas had attacked this remote and vulnerable base with rockets, mortars, and automatic weapons, killing 11 and wounding 10 South African soldiers, and inflicting extensive damage.

In 1977 I met in Louisiana with a white South African who was organizing a campaign to promote resistance to military conscription and to assist draft dodgers and deserters to find shelter and support in exile. The new organization was called the South African Military Refugee Aid Fund (SAMRAF), with offices in New York and San Francisco, and a parallel organization in London. I became a member of the SAMRAF advisory board.

SAMRAF published an antiwar newsletter for young white South Africans called *Omkeer*, which means "About Face," in English and Afrikaans. Sources in South Africa obtained lists of men scheduled to be drafted into the army, and SAMRAF's friends mailed copies of *Omkeer* to them, offering to help them avoid conscription.

By the time the third issue was published in October 1979, the South African Bureau of State Security, known by its acronym as BOSS, had taken notice and regarded us as a threat. BOSS published a counterfeit version of *Omkeer* with the same front cover but altered text of articles. Below is an example of differences between our genuine *Omkeer* and the BOSS fake.

Figure 14. On this 1975 South African military cover from a West Caprivi location in South West Africa, the words "Coy" in English and "Komp" in Afrikaans in the unit cachet meant "company," a unit of 250 men.



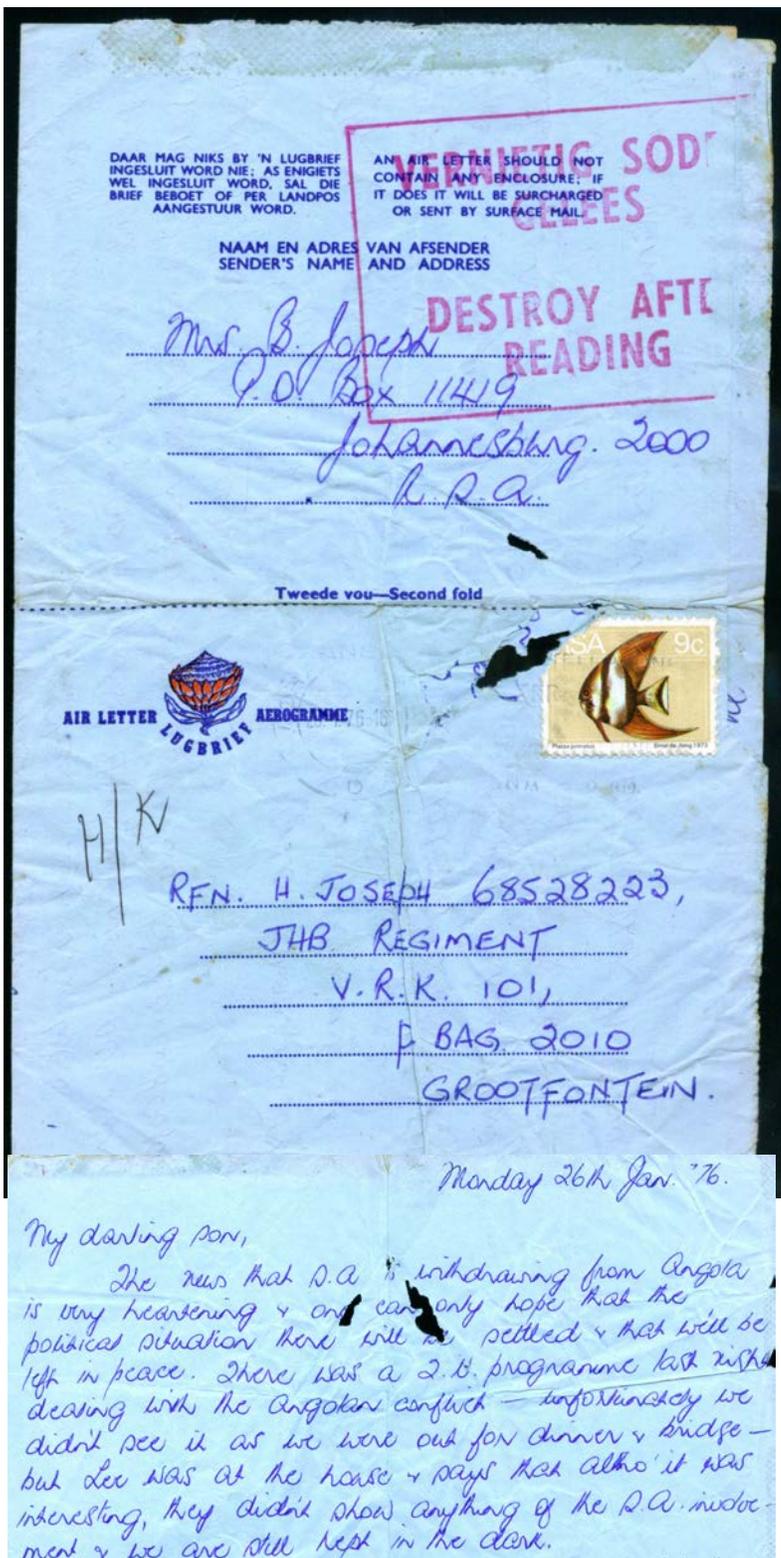


Figure 15. A scarce but exemplary postal marking from the early period of the Angola border war is the bilingual DESTROY AFTER READING cachet on this 1976 air letter to a South African Army rifleman from his mother in Johannesburg. Her message mentioned the army's involvement in Angola.

In an article about SWAPO by Theo-Ben Gurirab, head of the SWAPO mission to the United Nations and eventually his country's prime minister, he wrote, “. . . the primary contradiction, at the present, in South Africa, is the struggle for power between the black majority, on the one hand, and the fascist junta, under the leadership of the all-white Nationalist Party, on the other. . .”

The South African government imagined its enemies to consist of a communist conspiracy directed from Moscow, so the alterations in the text were designed to make us appear as Soviet puppets. The BOSS alteration reads, “. . . the primary contradiction, at the present, in South Africa, is between Communism and Capitalism.”

Reality was the opposite of the BOSS fantasy. More of our people were Anglicans and Methodists than anarchists and Marxists. The reason our movements were so effective was because they were independent and democratic. Each organization decided how best to deploy human and material resources to greatest effect. We met and coordinated our work to avoid duplication. We relied on the American Committee on Africa and the Washington Office on Africa to address policy makers and diplomats, and to serve as clearing houses. But because we were autonomous, the damage caused by BOSS's dirty tricks was limited and had scant lasting effect.

An editorial in a subsequent issue of *Omkeer* took note of the South African government's fear of our effectiveness and assured readers that BOSS's bogus issue had strengthened our resolve. The next BOSS attack on our work was worse. An undercover spy named Clifton Westraad, posing as a deserter from the South African Army, successfully infiltrated our San Francisco office, and from there, our New York headquarters.

Westraad broke into our files and stole SAMRAF's national and international mailing lists. Fortunately the list of contacts inside South Africa was secure, so none of them were endangered by Westraad's treachery. But his theft did affect my philatelic activities, as I shall explain below.

On the domestic front the apartheid regime had taken steps to deprive black Africans of citizenship and to establish an artificial white majority in the prosperous parts of South Africa by imposing independence on ethnically homogeneous so-called homelands, better known as Bantustans. The Bantustans consisted of territorially fragmented enclaves. Most black South Africans had never set foot on the soil of their assigned homes.

Transkei was first, in 1976, followed by Bophuthatswana in 1977, Venda in 1979, and Ciskei in 1981. That's as far as they got. The conservative Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party resisted the regime's pressure to declare Kwa-Zulu independence, and there the project stalled.

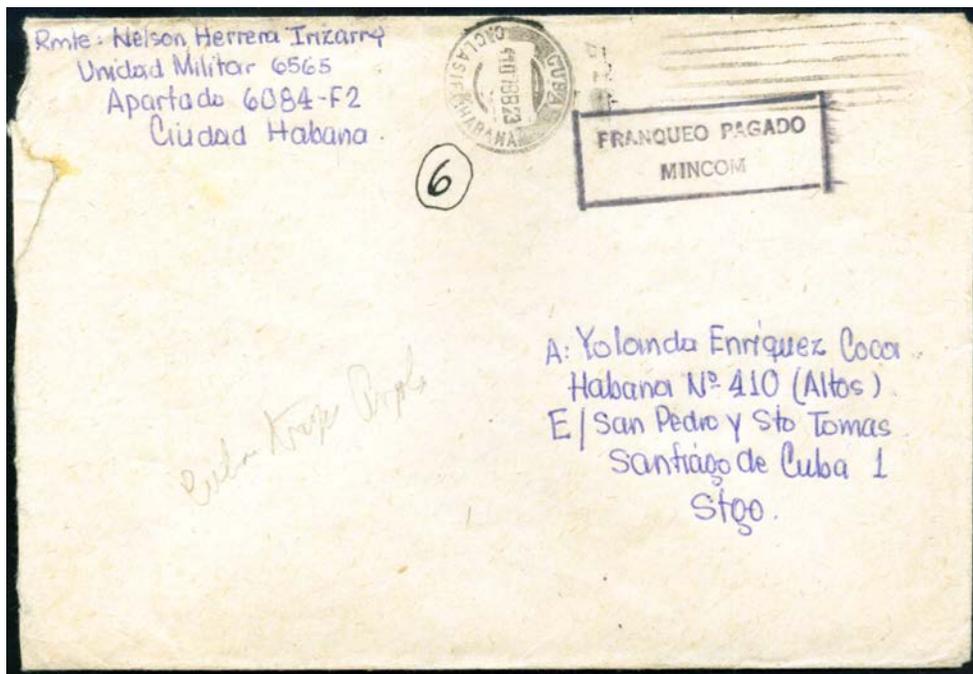


Figure 16. The arrival of Cuban doctors, nurses, engineers, technicians, and above all, armed forces and military advisors, prevented the United States, South Africa, and their Angolan proxies from overthrowing the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government in Luanda.

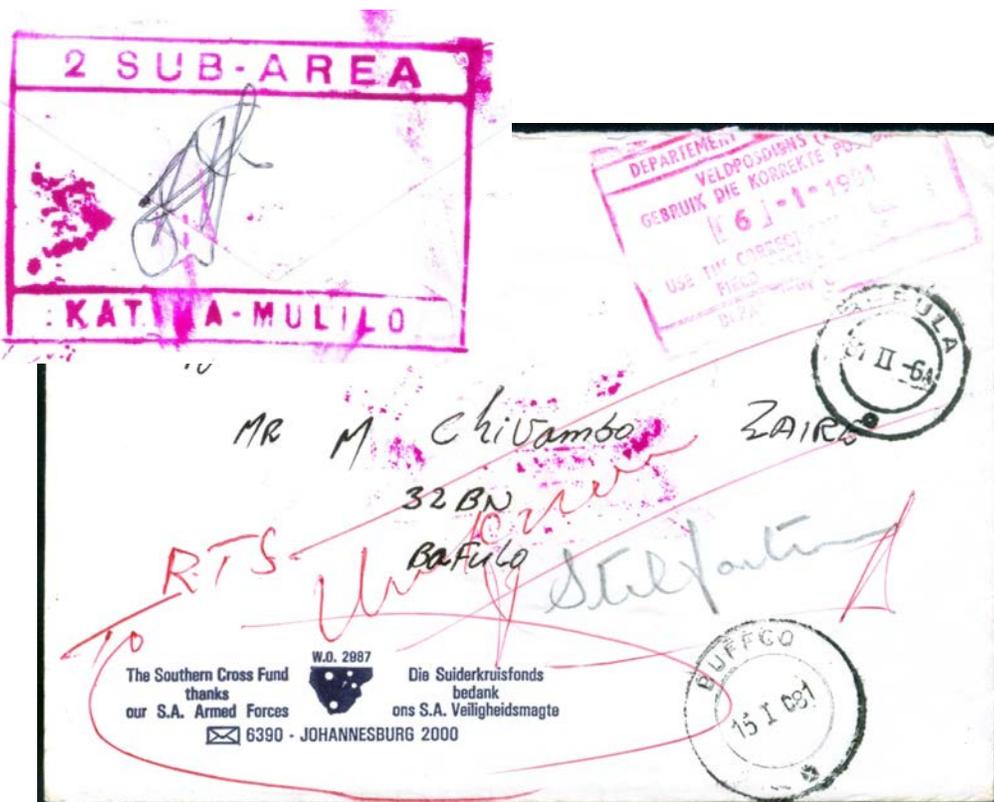


Figure 17. Renegades from Angola were enlisted in 32 Battalion, also called Buffalo Battalion, to fight against their countrymen under the command of white South African and foreign mercenary officers. The addressee of this 1981 cover, when the unit was located at Katima Mulilo in East Caprivi, could not be located, so it was returned to the sender.



Figure 18. South Africa imposed independence on the Transkei Bantustan in 1976, signified by issues of postage and revenue stamps.

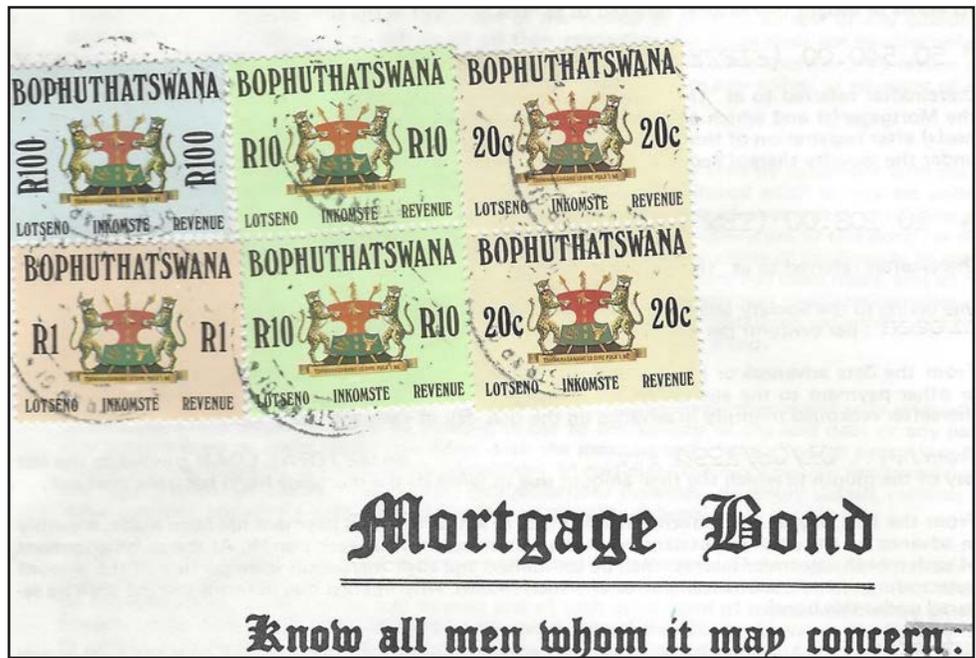


Figure 19. Revenue stamps of Bophuthatswana are shown here on a deed canceled in 1995, after the Bantustan had been reincorporated into South Africa.

The four nominally independent states issued stamps. Figures 18 and 19 present revenue issues of Transkei and Bophuthatswana, respectively. Naturally I wanted to collect stamps of these entities no matter how odious was their origin and purpose, but an embargo forbade their import.

My solution was to swap stamps and covers with a collector in South Africa. Figure 20 shows a cover he sent to me. Figure 21, 22, and 23 covers are from the other nominally self-governing so-called homelands.

As luck would have it, my trading partner was a South African policeman, and to my surprise he wrapped every cover and every packet of stamps in blank official police forms. I wasted no time in passing them on to representatives of liberation movements who put them to effective use in the struggle. But BOSS found out about my activities from Westraad's infiltration of SAMRAF, and that brought an end to these swaps.

The Bantustans ceased to exist on April 27, 1994, and were reincorporated into democratic South Africa. Their revenue stamps were demonetized on December 1, 1996. I believe the postal issues are still valid.

Meanwhile, as a consequence of my involvement in Zimbabwe and South Africa liberation struggles, I was invited to join the collective that published *CovertAction Information Bulletin*, a magazine that exposed Central Intelligence Agency clandestine operations. We were all friends and associates of former CIA veteran Philip Agee whose 1975 book *Inside the Company: A CIA Diary* exposed and criticized the agency's undercover operations around the world.

I wrote a regular column titled "Sources and Methods," and wrote longer articles about mercenary wars and political repression. In 1980 my editors collected our best articles on Africa and combined them with fresh research studies in the book *Dirty Work 2: The CIA in Africa*, published by Lyle Stuart, which the CIA tried and failed to suppress. Three chapters in the book

are mine, two on CIA academics and one on the Portuguese and French secret service joint operation to assassinate Amilcar Cabral, the leader of the independence movement in Guinea.

Another chapter in the book is titled "Media Manipulation in Angola" by John Stockwell. He had been the chief of the CIA Angola Task Force in 1975 and 1976. Disillusioned by his experiences, Stockwell resigned from the agency in December 1976 and published his tell-all memoir *In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story* in 1978.

Stockwell and I became friends. When I met him by chance in Managua in 1983, he and I called an impromptu news conference to expose the similarities between the CIA's Angola operations and its contra war against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. When right-wing organizations brought Jonas Savimbi to the United States in 1986, portraying him as a freedom fighter, Stockwell and I informed reporters about how UNITA forces had been armed and directed by the CIA and the South African army.

Our book was published simultaneously by Zed Press in London. I promoted it on a speaking tour of Britain and Ireland. Meanwhile three of our editors — Bill Schaap, Ellen Ray, and Louis Wolf — traveled to Angola for a continental gathering of liberation movement activists. Bill was a stamp collector and member of the American Philatelic Society, as might be evident from the Figure 24 post card.

My anti-mercenary activities included a speaking tour of the Western states in 1983. At the University of Colorado at Boulder a student group scheduled a debate between *Soldier of Fortune* publisher Robert K. Brown and me, but Brown failed to appear. The next morning I was a guest on a talk radio show in Denver when Brown called in. He told our host, "Ken's guys got our guys in Beirut, but our guys got his guys in Grenada." Then he hung up without waiting for my reply, which had the effect of turning listeners' sympathy in my favor.

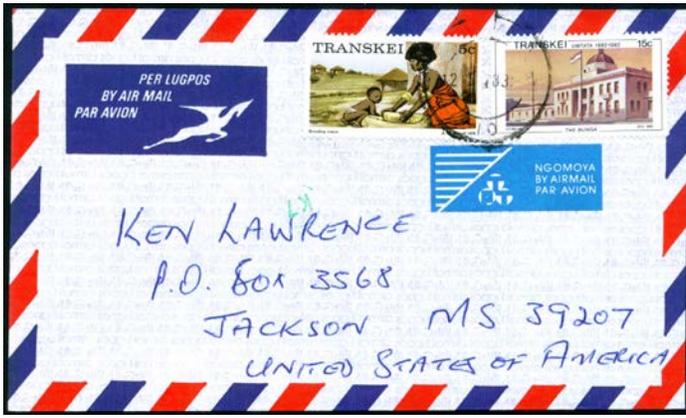


Figure 20. A South African policeman sent this cover to the author from Transkei in 1983.

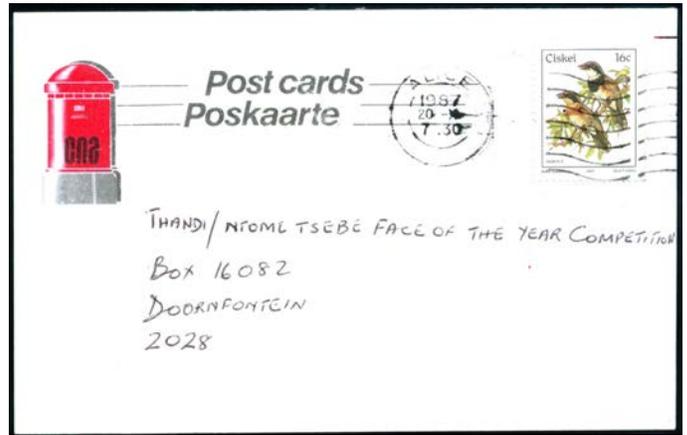


Figure 22. A post card from Ciskei.

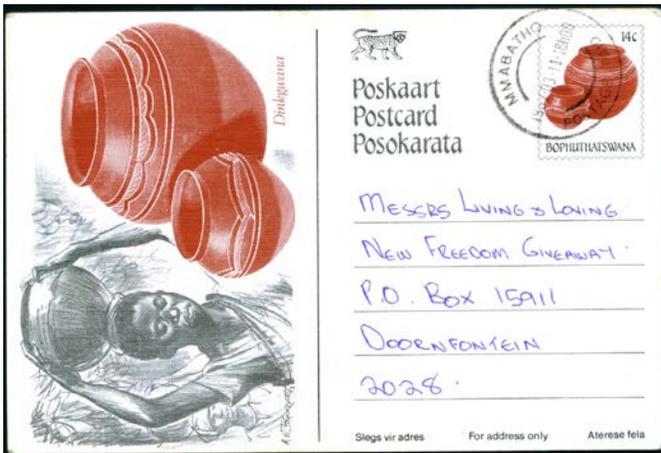


Figure 21. A postal card from Bophuthatswana.

At the AMERIPEX 86 international stamp exhibition in Chicago, the rogue French stamp dealer Marc Rouso held a news conference to promote the sale of stamps seen on the Figure 25 cover, which he claimed were issued and used by Jonas Savimbi's South Africa-backed UNITA forces in Angola.

A reporter asked the UNITA spokesman who accompanied Rouso how Angolans used the stamps in Jamba, where this cover was supposedly mailed. The man answered, "We don't use the stamps. Those are for collectors."

AMERIPEX provided me with an opportunity to meet unobtrusively with SAMRAF comrades in Chicago, and World Stamp Expo provided a similar opportunity for a meeting at Washington in 1989. No one had to notify me in advance the time and place of our meeting; they just sent someone to the show to fetch me.



Figure 23. A registry envelope from Venda.

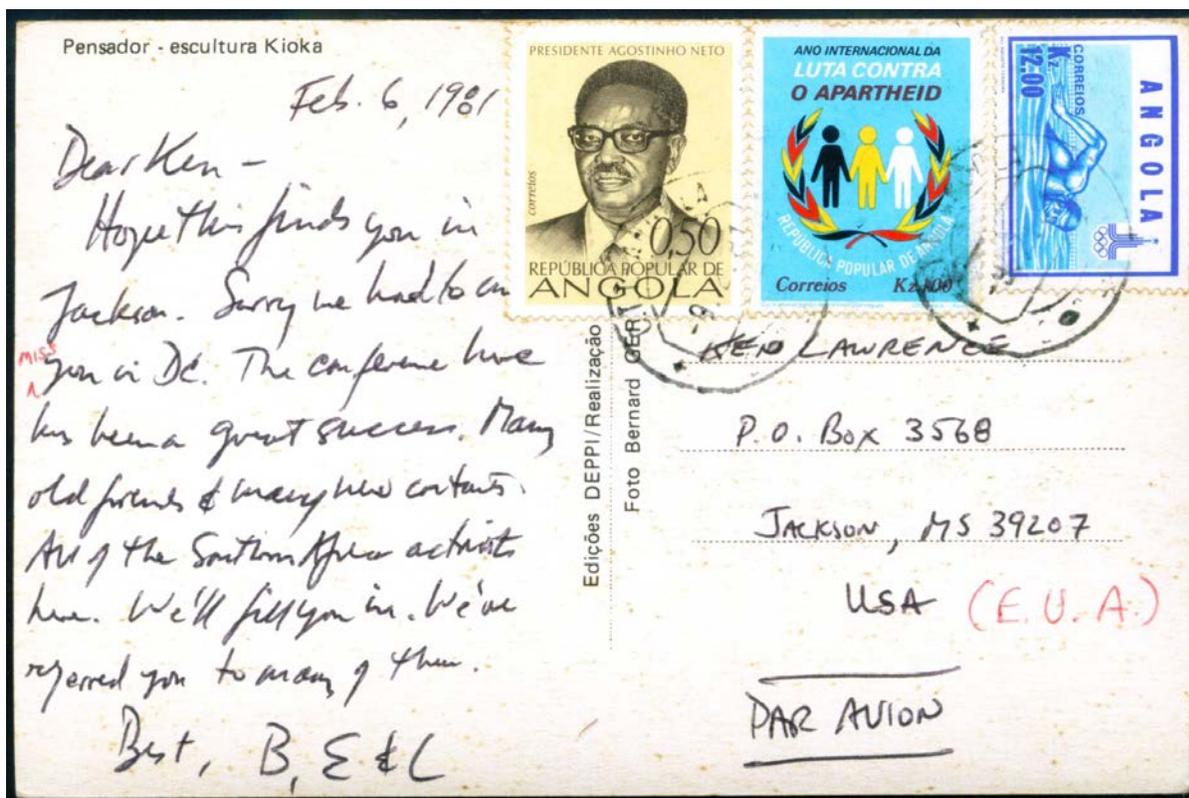


Figure 24. The editors of *Dirty Work 2: The CIA in Africa* — William Schaap, Ellen Ray, and Louis Wolf — sent this post card to the author from an African liberation conference in Angola in 1981. Bill Schaap was a stamp collector and a member of the American Philatelic Society.

A cease fire in the Border War in 1988 finally laid the groundwork for the transition of power to the African majority. The United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), source of the Figure 26 cover, was a peacekeeping force deployed in Namibia from April 1989 to March 1990 to monitor the peace process and the democratic elections, which were held in November 1989.

SWAPO won decisively. A new constitution was adopted in February 1990. Sam Nujoma, who had been the president of SWAPO since 1960, became the first prime minister of independent Namibia. I like the 1991 registered cover in Figure 27 because it shows the old SWA envelope overprinted with the new REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA name, and combines a pre-independence SWA Framma stamp with stamps inscribed Namibia.

On February 11, 1990, South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk lifted the ban on the African National Congress, freed ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, and took steps to end the apartheid system.

Mandela had spent 27 years in prison. As part of his triumphant world tour he came to the United States in June 1990. About 750,000 people attended his ticker-tape parade in New York City. He insisted on making time to meet with and thank American anti-apartheid activists before proceeding to Washington for a meeting with President George Bush at the White House.

On June 22, 1990, about 100 anti-apartheid activists from 49 cities in 29 states gathered at the Community Church of New

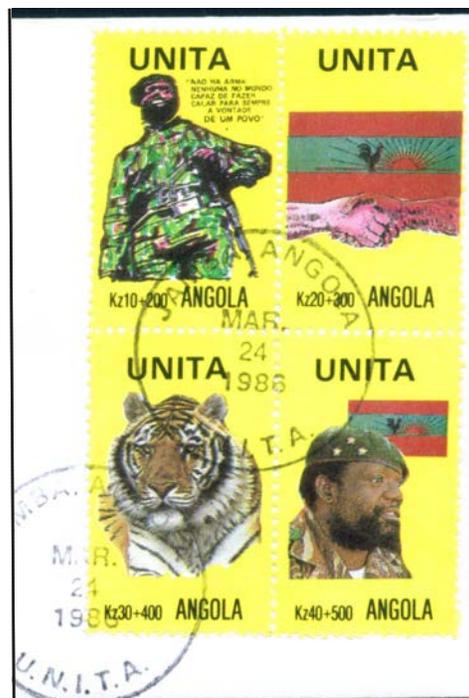


Figure 25. The rogue French stamp dealer Marc Rouso held a news conference at the AMERIPEX 86 international stamp exhibition in Chicago to promote the UNITA propaganda labels on this cover as postage stamps of the guerrilla organization backed by South Africa and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.



Figure 26. Members of 50 countries' armed forces constituted the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) to monitor and guarantee the transition to democracy in Namibia in 1989 and 1990. This cover was sent by a Polish UNTAG soldier.

York to welcome the man who symbolized our cause, and to receive an all-day briefing on the ANC's plans going forward. Mandela thanked, embraced, and shook hands with each of us individually before moving on to his next destination.

In 1994 South Africa held its first free election. The African National Congress won by a landslide, and Mandela became the president. If he had been running for president of the whole

world he would have won handily.

Phase One of African liberation had at last been achieved after a half century of sustained Pan-African struggle and global solidarity.

Black majority rule has not put an end to the sad legacy of imperialism and apartheid, but it has freed Africans of the most heartless and most prolonged barrier to peace, prosperity, economic opportunity, and human dignity.

Amilcar Cabral, who founded and led the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) until he was assassinated by the Portuguese secret service in 1973, famously taught, "Tell no lies. Claim no easy victories." His lesson became the watchword of African liberation solidarity movements.

In the spirit of Cabral's counsel I have shared with you some true stories from my life as an activist. Yet, as I tried to illustrate when I began, fiction sometimes serves as a more effective political medium than memoir. Alan Paton described his first and best known novel, *Cry the Beloved Country*, as "a compound of truth and fiction. . . . In these respects therefore the story is not true, but considered as a social record it is the plain and simple truth."

For that we all should strive.

This article is adapted from a presentation of the same title at the May 4, 2017, postal history symposium "Philately and Postal History of Southern Africa" sponsored by the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History and the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa at Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts.

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Figure 27. The Republic of Namibia overprint on this South West Africa registry envelope and the combination of SWA and Namibia stamps well illustrate the postal aspects of the political transformation.



Figure 28. Stamps of South Africa that pictured President Nelson Mandela showed the world that apartheid had passed into history, replaced at long last by inclusive democratic government.

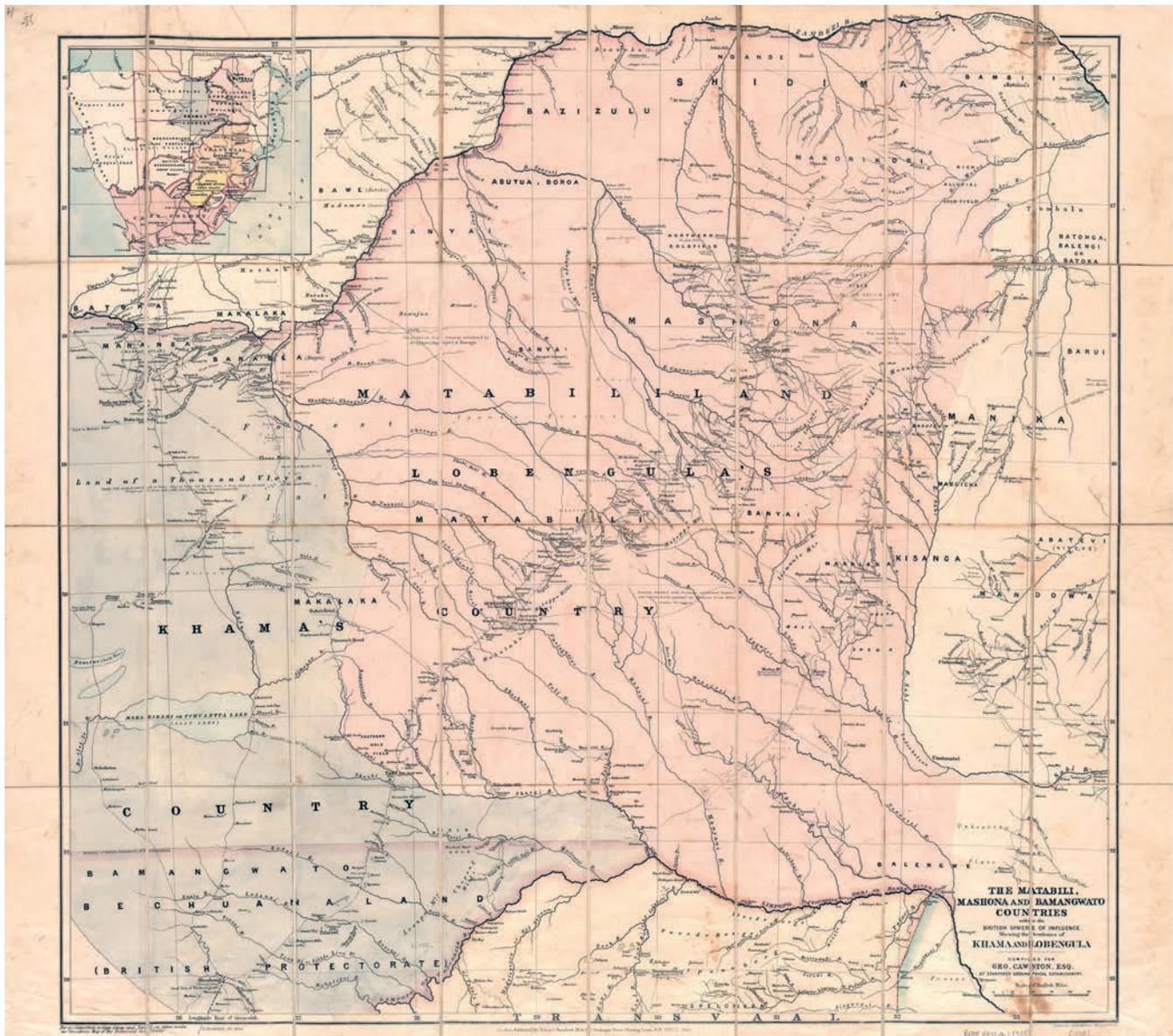


Photo of Nelson Mandela thanking the American anti-apartheid activists who gathered in June 1990 at the Community Church of New York to welcome him. Credit the African Activist Archive.

1889 Matabele and Mashona Map

‘The Matabili, Mashona and Bamangwato Countries Within the British Sphere of Influence, Shewing the Territories of Khama and Lobengula.’

Library of the University of Cape Town. <http://www.digitalcollections.lib.uct.ac.za/collection/islandora-19544>.



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Index to Forerunners

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

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



Forerunners Forum

Favorite Album

Ed Zuckerman asks: Greetings. I have recently begun collecting stamps of British colonies in Africa, and I was wondering what album to get. I gather there is a Scott album and a Minkus album. Thoughts on either of those? Are there others? I'm writing because I assume your society members may have considered the issue. Any opinions would be appreciated.

Moody Tidwell responds: Go to Subway Stamps Shop at <http://www.subwaystamp.com> and search for South Africa. You will find many different manufacturers of albums. You need to decide if you are going to collect all of the Republic of South Africa (1910 - present) or just the Union of South Africa (1910 - 1960) and if you want only the very basic stamps or whether you want to be able to add a few more esoteric items. Scott is good for the basics, so is Minkus but I don't think Minkus has spaces for all the stamps. If you want to do more, look at some of the European albums. They are quite lovely and give you the opportunity to do more than just fill blank spaces. Have fun.

Tim Barthse responds: I had an old Minkus album from 1950 years ago don't know about Scott. Minus was good to work with, but numbers rather meaningless. As I haven't used it in so long I am not a good recommendation.

Ed Zuckerman continues: Thank you for your replies. I will be looking at all these options. The prettiest album I have encountered so far (online only) is the Palo hingeless. I like hingeless but I don't like that the stamps are illustrated in color. I am taking a break from all this while I am on vacation in Paris. (But I will be stopping by the thrice-weekly stamp market here to poke around.)

Ed Zuckerman continues: I ended up going with the Palo albums (black-and-white, not color). They're attractive and certainly have spaces for more stamps than I will ever acquire.

The Editor: This is an interesting subject that many of our members either have experiences with or are interested in. Please let us have also your views as to which album to pick, pros and cons.

African Postal Heritage Papers

Ton Dietz writes: 'Dear members of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. Please have a look at: <http://www.ascleiden.nl/content/african-postal-heritage-aph-papers>. On the basis of many internet sources it intends to give an overview of the postal history of Africa. It currently includes the early postal history of all South African postal areas as well as South West Africa (and also others). I regard it as 'work in progress' and comments and additions are very welcome. If you like it: please show the link to other postal historians and philatelists, or to other people who may like this. They are also welcome to contribute to this project that combines scientific history writing (making sources available) with forming a virtual philatelic collection. Regards! Looking forward to hear from you! Ton Dietz (director African Studies Centre Leiden/The Netherlands and philatelist). Response to dietzaj@ascleiden.nl, <http://www.ascleiden.nl>



Tim Bartshe responds: What a very nice and informative website. I have looked at a few of my areas in ZAR/OVS and found the quality of the images and information quite lovely. Congratulations on your work. Would be interesting to see how much farther it could go if exhibitors would let their pages be posted? Below are some links for my exhibits on line with American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors

There may be some others there, Bob Hisey's officials of SA. Also here is a power point presentation that I am going to give about the official issues/cachets of the OFS.

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=93&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=48&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=47&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=26&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=25&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=18&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=17&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=15&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=16&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

Clive Levinson responds: Mr Dietz, that looks to be a very useful collection of work, sure to provide many hours of reading and research. Thanks for bringing it to our attention.

The Editor: There is also many other sites that post complete exhibits in high quality. Many of these could also be listed and would offer a large research potential. Also, see the two links previously in this issue to two folders with power point presentation from two recent PSGSA Symposia.

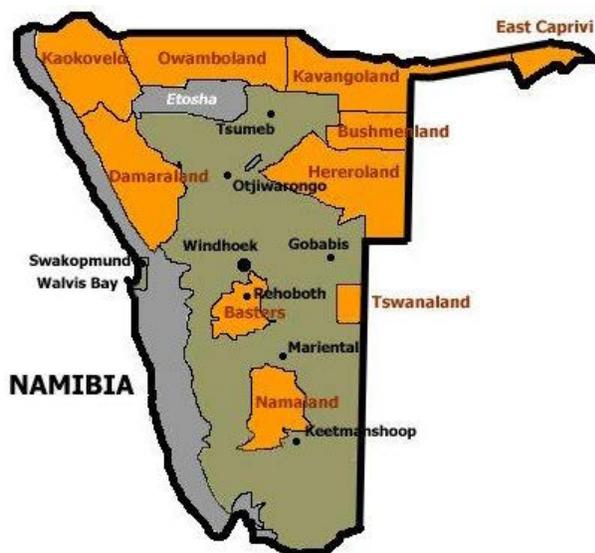
Suggestion to Open Class Display

Paul van Zeyl writes in an message to his clients: 'The Apartheid proposals for SWA': The Odendaal Plan of 1963 was a defining moment for SWA. It considered SWA's future development, but its focus was mainly ethnic division (see attached map below) and backing infrastructural and institutional building. While the world had already become hostile to RSA's Apartheid developments, the plan still introduced some benefits such as piped water to Owamboland & the establishment of the Bantu Investment Corp. for small-scale industrial and farming development in rural areas. And it also coincided with Black liberation activity from Zambia & Angola, which expanded into the 'Border War'. This segment of SWA/Namibia's history ends with the establishment of the multi-Party Turnhalle Conference. Needed by exhibitors: covers from villages of all areas; postcards of all tribes; documents and reports; covers; 'Border War' censored covers; newspaper cuttings of events related to political unfolding; covers and cuttings related to the Turnhalle set-up. A great opportunity to uncover this little known attempt at social engineering (see illustration on next page).

Rhodesian Stamps Used in Bechuanaland

The Editor asks: Here are four British South Africa Company stamps neatly cancelled in Francetown in 1897 (in Bechuanaland). Any explanations?





Odendaal Commission 1964

SA Federation Benefits

Patrick Koppel writes: I understand my membership in Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa allows me some benefits with the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. Can you tell me what they are?
Response: PSGSA is an affiliate member of the SA Federation and thus part of their Region 8 (Areas outside of South Africa). The vice-president for Region 8 is currently Andrew Higson of the UK. Your recommendations, news, views, complaints, and nominations must be submitted to the Federation Congress via the vice-president. The next Congress will be in October 2017. You have the same rights as any other Federation member. This means that you will have to subscribe to the Philatelist on your own and you can exhibit in South Africa. So in fact not many benefits except that your voice will be heard.

For the Record

304. The **South African Post Office** is searching to fill a position as 'Collection Specialist' or 'Curator' at the Post Office Museum in Silverton. Responsibilities include conservation, database development, information accessibility, accessions, implementing policies and procedures, designing and preparing displays, writing articles, and the security of collections. Deadline was May 2017.
305. **Grosvenor** has sold part of the late **Donald Napier** collection of **British African airmails** in 32 lots and **Rhodesia** in 100 lots.
306. **Spink's** Philatelic Collectors Series sold during April, 2017, several exceptional collections including part of the **Freddie Herzberg** collection (130 lots) of **South Africa** and **South West Africa**, the **Oryx** collection of **South West African tribal tax documents** (20 lots), and the **Andrew Higson telegraph stamps** (175 lots), the later including several exceptional southern Africa items.
307. **Victoria Stamp Company** has sold in May 2017 the 'Hope' collection of **retangular Cape of Good Hope stamps** (125 lots) including many excellent items.



307. **Zirinsky Stamps** is occasionally posting on their website documents of interest sometimes to collectors of southern Africa. This most recent example is **Gordon Smith's** compilation of Botswana registration labels. Go to <http://www.zirinskystamps.com/Publications.html> for details.
308. **World Stamp Show** in New York is still selling their **exhibit frames**. There is still a little more than 1,000 frames available, used only once during World Stamp Show in 2016. Price is \$150 per frame plus shipment. Contact Ken Martin at APS for further information at 814-933-3817 or kpmartin@stamps.org.
309. We reported in last issue (record #301) that the Philatelic Services' journal **Setempe** had been discontinued. This may be an error since we have now seen several issues. We also gave a contact email address that needs corrections; it should have been mmama.phalatse@postoffice.co.za.

310. **Les Congolâtres** is a free bimonthly philatelic journal that is being distributed by email as PDF file. Contact Thomas Lindekens by writing to thomas.lindekens@philafrica.to to get on the mailing list. To date a total of 28 issues has been distributed. It is written mostly in French but should interest many of our members because of the close geographical connection to the Congo area.



311. **Le Maghrebophilia** is another free bimonthly philatelic journal that is being distributed by email as PDF file. It are covering Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis. Contact Khalid Benziane by writing to khalid.benziane@ch-chatellerault.fr to get on the mailing list. To date a total of 18 issues has been distributed and are still available. Again mostly in French.



Complete 1859 example of the "The Natal Courier and Pietermaritzburg Advertiser" mailed to London and bearing a 1859 embossed blue stamp. Sold at Spink's April 2017 auction as lot 2448. Estimated at £4,000-5,000 sold for £3,500.

Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist: February 2017 (Volume 93, No. 1, Whole No. 940). April 2017 (Volume 93, No. 2, Whole No. 941). June 2017 (Volume 93, No. 3, Whole No. 942),
 FVZA Bartolomeu Dias May 2017 (Whole No. 114).
 Transvaal Philatelist Volume 52, No. 1 (Whole No. 196, March 2017).

The PSGSA exchange journals with the Transvaal Study Circle and Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa.

Websites that Promote Southern Africa Philately

Anglo Boer War Philatelic Society
<http://www.boerwarsociety.org.uk/>
 Basutoland, Bechuanaland & Swaziland
www.bechuanalandphilately.com
 Cape and Natal Study Circle
www.capenatalstamps.com
 Orange Free State Study Circle
www.orangefreestatesphilately.org.uk
 Rhodesian Study Circle
www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk
 South African Collectors' Society
www.southafricacollector.com
 The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa
www.psgsa.org
 The Rhodesian Philatelist
www.rhodesianstamps.net/The_Rhodesian_Philatelist.htm
 Transvaal Study Circle
www.transvaalstamps.org.uk
 Thanks to Otto Peetoom for making this compilation.

New Books

Lindekens, T., 2016. Congo Belge et Ruanda-Urundi la censure civile 1940-1945/ Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi the civil censorship 1940-1945. Published by the author. In French or in English. Contact thomas.lindekens@philafrica.be.
 Hughes, M., 2017. Machine Cancellations of Rhodesia. Supplement to South of the Zambesi. Wire bound or hole punched to fit the original binding. Rhodesian Study Circle. Contact John Gallimore at gallimore@btinternet.com.
 Barwis, J.H. and Lera, T., 2016. Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately. Institute of Analytical Philately, Ohio. Can be downloaded from http://analyticalphilately.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/IAP_Proceedings_2015.pdf.



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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 articles are missing, please supply the relevant quotes.

- Breckon, R., 2017. The postal service of Southern Rhodesia in 1902 and 1903. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 30-31.
- Briscoe, A., 2017. Early mail to Botswana. *South African Philatelist* 93, 86-87.
- Burke, S., 2017. John Austen of Que Que. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 21-22.
- Collis, D., 2017. Tales from the archives: a tale of two cities – well two Gwandas! *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 45-47.
- Dickson, J., 2017. CGH: Mail to and from St. Helena by Union Packet. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 78-82.
- du Plessis, A., 2017. The Union 1935 KG V jubilee issue: joined paper stamps. *South African Philatelist* 93, 50-52.
- Findlay, J., 2017. World War III South African Air Force ‘shuttle service’. *South African Philatelist* 93, 92-95.
- Fischer, A., 2017. The Portuguese Nyassa Company – Lisbon surcharges. The case for the prosecution. *London Philatelist* 126, 159-165.
- Flanagan, J., 2017. British South Africa Company. Rhodesia. The large arms issue – 1896-1897. *South African Philatelist* 93, 58-61.
- Gibbs, B., 2017. An astonishing discovery – a new 3d Double Head. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 34-35.
- Johnson, R., 2017. CGH: Postal Stationery – what was available at the Post Offices in 1897 and the associated regulations for letter post, postcards and newspapers. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 29-36.
- Johnson, R., 2017. CGH: the 1/2d overprint on 3d deep claret SG 46 and SG 47. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 24-28.
- Jørgensen, L., 2017. A postage due mystery. *Transvaal Philatelist* 52, 14-15.
- Jørgensen, L., 2017. Traditionele filatelie en de Transvaal 1d staatswapenzegel van 1883. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 29, 23-29.
- Kamffer, G. and Joubert, J., 2017. The postal services provided by the Post Office in the Union of South Africa, circa 1935. *South African Philatelist* 93, 18-22.
- Kamffer, G. and Joubert, J., 2017. Mail from the Border War and the ‘struggle against apartheid’ in South Africa: prisoner of war, political prisoner, refugee and other relevant mail. *South African Philatelist* 93, 82-85.
- Klugman, K. and Solomon, S., 2017. Natal: the eMadagascar ‘British inland mail covers’ Part 2. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 11-17.
- Kosniowski, J., 2017. Cape of Good Hope Specimen wrappers. *Postal Stationery* 59, 111.
- Lee, D., 2017. No. 1 Squadron, Southern Rhodesia Air Force – censorship revisited. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 47-48.
- Loomis, M., 2017. Southern Rhodesia missions. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 36-44.
- Menuz, W., 2017. Cape of Good Hope specimens. *Postal Stationery* 59, 59.
- Mulder, P., 2017. Boolemania. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 29, 4-7.
- O’Connell, B. and Peetoom, O., 2017. Balla Balla in the Umzingwani District. *Southern Africa Philately*, Whole No. 6, 240-241.
- Osthoff, G., 2017. Versierede poskantore. Part 24, Burgersdorf. *South African Philatelist* 93, 90-91.
- Peetoom, O. and Kasper, J., 2017. Aerogrammes and southern African rarities. *Southern Africa Philately*, Whole No. 6, 230-233.
- Peetoom, O., 2017. 1899-1900 the Boer War in Bechuanaland – Part

- II. The siege of Mafeking and its relief. *Southern Africa Philately*, Whole No. 6, 244-249.
- Peetoom, O., 2017. Early days at the Victoria Falls. *Southern Africa Philately*, Whole No. 6, 218-222.
- Peetoom, O., 2017. Early TATI cancellations revisited. *Runner Post*, Whole No. 95, 2351.
- Peetoom, O., 2017. SA WW II labels & street flags Part 1 – Red Cross. *Southern Africa Philately*, Whole No. 6, 234-237.
- Peetoom, O. and Rainey, C., 2017. The last ‘heroic’ Antarctic expedition on the Quest. *Southern Africa Philately*, Whole No. 6, 223-227.
- Peetoom, O., 2017. The Bechuanlands and Botswana Society 1984-2017. Then and Now. *Runner Post*, Whole No. 95, 2352-2366.
- Porter, R., 2017. Arrest of King Dinuzulu ka Cetshwayo, December 1907. *South African Philatelist* 93, 48-49.
- Porter, R., 2017. The 1906 rebellion. *South African Philatelist* 93, 12-17.
- Price, K., 2017. The OVS ‘Post-kantoo’ cachets. *South African Philatelist* 93, 26-28.
- Reah Johnson, S. and Hensman, S., 2017. The colours and printings of the 6d Rhodesian Double Heads. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 67, 85-92.
- Solomon, S., 2017. CGH: Cape postcards circa 1900-1906. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 20-22.
- Solomon, S., 2017. CGH: Victorian postal stationery – part 1 – Embossed envelopes and postcards. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 85-95.
- Solomon, S., 2017. Natal: Postal handstamps used during the Boer invasion of Natal. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 37-43.
- Solomon, S., 2017. Natal: The “postage/postage” overprints of 1870-73. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 21, 72-77.
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- Sorour, V., 2017. Pretoria typographs. *Springbok 1/2D. Identification of the issues*. *South African Philatelist* 93, 98-99.
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Posted at: <http://stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction>

2016. ‘The ‘Woodblock’ triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope’ by David Mordant. Whole No. 84.
2015. ‘The South Africa Christmas Stamp Project’ by Franco Frescura, Whole Number 83.
2014. ‘The Cape Post Office 1795-1910: A Final Report’ by Franco Frescura. Whole Number 79.

Society Publications

David Mordant, 2017. Barred Oval Numerical Cancellers of Cape of Good Hope 1863-1963. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

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

Vol. 2. The Telegraphs, 250 pages.

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

CD version is now available at \$30 pp.

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

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

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To order contact David McNamee at the addresses given on page 1.

The Market Place

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

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.

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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.

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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

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

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

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John Gledhill has forwarded this scan of a rather tatty 1965 postal order from Southern Rhodesia. He writes "It just shows that you never know what'll turn up." In Forerunners # 87, he showed a set of QE Southern Rhodesian registration copies in the archives of the BPMA dated 1963 and speculated whether they actually ever was issued in Southern Rhodesia. How one of them has surfaced. But the question is if this tatty copy really is the only known copy to exist? Please check your Rhodesia collection.

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