UPU International Reply Coupons South African issues, 1907 to 2017

Details of the 5/- Ox-Wagon Stamp

A closer look at modern stamps and an important message

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The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa
www.stamps.org.za

Awards:
• Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
• Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
• Vermeil APS Stampshow1999,
• Large Silver Egoli 2001,
• Federation Plaque 2004,
• Silver España’06, Literature Award 2006,
• Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007,
• Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
• Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.

REGULARS

36 Letters to the Editorial Board
36 Closing dates for future issues
38 Errors on Stamps
38 The ‘ABC’ of Stamps
39 Marcophily Phun Postmarks
40 A Closer Look at Modern Stamps
42 The Erica photo-postcard series of RSA - Additional Discovery
42 Registered Letter Markings of the ORC
42 Series 4 (1943 - 1946) The Bantam issues and Series 5 (1946-1952) the last King George VI issue of the Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa
46 New Postal Rates
46 The JSO exhibition.
47 The Erica photo-postcard series of RSA - Additional Discovery
47 by Prof Garry Osthoff
47 by Kevin Price
52 The Erica photo-postcard series of RSA - Additional Discovery
52 by Prof Garry Osthoff
52 by Kevin Price
56 The Erica photo-postcard series of RSA - Additional Discovery
56 by Prof Garry Osthoff
56 by Kevin Price

FEATURES

38 New Postal Rates
42 UPU International Reply Coupons South African Issues, 1907 to 2017
by Hugh Amoore RDPSA
47 The Erica photo-postcard series of RSA - Additional Discovery
by Prof Garry Osthoff
48 Registered Letter Markings of the ORC
by Kevin Price
52 Series 4 (1943 - 1946) The Bantam issues and Series 5 (1946-1952) the last King George VI issue of the Revenue Stamps of the Union of South Africa
by Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
56 Botswana’s Night Sky
by Andrew Briscoe
58 The 5/- Ox-Wagon Stamp
by Dr Vic Sorour
63 Guernica – The Story of a Stamp
by Chris Mobsby RDPSA

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:
• Johannesburg Empire Exhibition 1936 - Part 1
  by André du Plessis
• The Centenary Celebrations of the birth of Nelson Mandela 1918-2018: A postal history, political and philatelic perspective
  by Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA

Provisional entries for the 2018 National Stamp Exhibition close on 15 May 2018...

The SA Philatelist, April 2018.
Dear Post Office,

In this age where the use of stamps is dwindling fast, it’s an anathema for a collector to receive an item through the mail, only to find that a great big sticky label has been plonked over the stamps; particularly when the item has travelled thousands of kilometers from a foreign land! Is it really so difficult to train those in your employ not to cover up the stamps, or to scrawl something over them? It is possible to remove the label by means of daubing it with a cotton bud dipped in benzene or methylated spirits. Or one can try and tease off the sticker with a finger nail. But, more often than not, the stamp is damaged in the process. You just can’t win.

One also needs to mention the 46 days taken to deliver the item; so much for ‘air mail’ being a faster service. But at least this beats the three month wait for items from the UK. By-the-by, credit is due to the Indian Post Office for tapping the customs declaration at the side and top so as not to damage the stamps. The question now arises, if the Indian Post Office can get it right, what’s wrong with our Post Office? Come on now SAPO, are your employees up to the challenge to improve your handling of our mail? But then we need to query if those working for the Post Office actually know what a stamp is? Given the dearth of stamps in many of our post offices, it would come as no surprise. Just asking.

David Wigston.

<speedbird.imperial@gmail.com>
STANLEY GIBBONS
LONDON 1856

ORANGE FREE STATE
- A FASCINATING
PLATE VARIETY

SG F15a
Postal Fiscal, 1902-06, £5 green, showing the remarkable plate variety “VRYSTAAT” (with hyphen) which is believed to occur only once on the two-pane sheet of 120, at R1/5 on one pane, large part og with fresh colour. One green corner pair mentioned for accuracy, still very fine. A fascinating variety, excessively rare, in unused condition, with no other example yet recorded, and unpriced in Part 1 2018. Ex Allison.

KING EDWARD VII ALBUM
(1901-1910)
The King Edward VII set of albums is pre-printed, on cream paper, with spaces for all main SG numbers as per the Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970 catalogue. There are spaces for all postage, postage due, postal fiscal and official stamps, with changes of watermark, paper and perforation, as well as catalogue-linked type and die changes. Watermark errors, shades, varieties and printing errors are outside the scope of the printed album, but may be accommodated on matching blank leaves in line with the original New Imperial the SG Catalogue numbers are shown. There are information pages and many illustrations of Types and Dies to aid in identifying the correct space for a stamp. The four-volume set of 22 ring albums are housed in two slipcases.

INDIA
(Including Convention and Feudatory States)

- 5th Edition 2018
Based on the current 2018 ‘Part 1’, the India Catalogue includes all the information you would expect, with watermark varieties, perforation changes, major shades, plate flaws, errors, official stamps and booklets, together with a helpful guide to the prices of stamps on cover to 1945.

New for this edition:
- Prices have been carefully reviewed and revised to reflect the current strength of the market for all Indian stamps.
- The India used abroad listings now include Muscat, Guadour and the main postal offices in Aden for the first time.
- The listing of Telegraph stamps, commenced in the previous edition, has now been completed with the addition of Jammu and Kashmir telegraphs and Pataia telephone service stamps.

Our representative is our Southern African distributor Peter Bale of Peter Bale Philatelics (cell: 082 330 3925) to contact for all of your requirements.
### POSTAL RATES

**VALID FROM 1 APRIL 2018**

by Robin Messenger, South African Stamp Study Circle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Letter</th>
<th>New Rate R</th>
<th>Old Rate R</th>
<th>Increase %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small DL</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium B5</td>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large B4</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>9.55</td>
<td>7.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Domestic Postcards: Same rates as letters.

Registered letters, with insurance option.

Compensation up to R100.00 at no additional fee. Insurance for higher amounts is available for an additional fee based on a sliding scale. The maximum insured value is R2,000.00 for which the fee is now R168.05 (previously R156.05, an increase of 7.69%).

| Small DL (4.20 + 25.20) | 29.40     | 27.30     | 7.69       |
| Medium B5 (8.40 + 25.20) | 33.60     | 31.20     | 7.69       |
| Large B4 (10.30 + 25.10) | 35.40     | 32.90     | 7.85       |

**International**

Registration fee 39.80 36.95 7.71

There is no insurance option for international letter post.

Aerograms 6.30 5.85 7.69

Postcards – Airmail 8.50 7.90 7.59

Postcards – Surface 5.15 4.80 7.29

**Airmail letters – Southern Africa**

| Small DL | 7.65 | 7.10 | 7.75 |
| Medium B5 | 27.80 | 25.80 | 7.75 |
| Large B4 | 43.20 | 40.10 | 7.73 |

| Small packets (per 100 g) | 24.45 | 22.70 | 7.71 |

**Airmail letters – Rest of the world**

| Small DL | 9.85 | 9.15 | 7.65 |
| Medium B5 | 33.60 | 31.20 | 7.69 |
| Large B4 | 56.95 | 52.90 | 7.66 |

| Small packets (per 100 g) | 43.05 | 40.00 | 7.63 |


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**COLLECTING BASICS**

by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

**AEROGRAMME/AIR LETTER**

An aerogramme or air letter, (Fig.1) is a lightweight sheet of paper which is both envelope and letter. The sheet has gummed edges to seal the aerogramme when folded. Aerogrammes usually have an imprinted stamp to indicate prepayment of postage, which makes them items of postal stationery. The aerogramme became popular during WWII as its light-weight paper allowed more items to be carried by air. It was first used in Iraq in 1933.

**BISECT**

A bisect, (Fig.2) refers to a stamp that has been cut, usually in half, and then postally used for the proportional value of the whole stamp. So, a two cent cut in half would be used as a one cent stamp. This is usually done when there are no stocks of a particular value.

A bisected stamp must always be left on the cover, as that is the only way to prove that the bisect has been postally used. Otherwise, anyone can cut a stamp in half and call it a bisect.

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**STAMPS**

that make you SMILE

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

**Comic Corner**

**Errors on Stamps...**

**The wrong year**

In 1988 the Republic of Gambia issued a commemorative series of famous international movie stars. The D3 value showed portraits of the British-American actor Cary Grant together with Deborah Kerr.

Grant was the star in numerous Hollywood movies of the 1950s and 1960s and received a special Oscar for his contribution to the American film industry.

He was also the first independent actor who did not work for one of the big Hollywood Studios. He became a living legend as the perfect gentleman and a sophisticated comedian. In his later years he supported many young actors and directors.

Cary Grant was born in 1904 and died in 1986. The error on this stamp is the wrong year of his death 1987, although he deserved to live an extra year...
Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za

We deliver whatever it takes!!

This must be in the genes of the South African Post Office, and one which was only resurrected fairly recently. The cover shown in Fig.1 is interesting as it was undeliverable with the associated ‘UNKNOWN’ cachet. It was mailed from Bloemfontein on 28 July 1912, to Mr Heifrish Jnr, Grahamstown, C.P.

From the reverse shown in Fig.2 it is evident that the letter was sent by Holm & Kannemeyer, Solicitors, whose address is given on the front as P.O. Box 373.

The interesting part is that on the reverse there is a note in red ink ‘Not known to Postmen in Grahamstown’. There are numerals 1 to 9 in the same red ink, and alongside each are the initials of the postmen in pencil, confirming that they do not know the addressee. On the front there are initials JP in the same red ink, possibly the Postmaster. There is also a signature which appears to be CB Stone, but it is not known who this was. All searching took less than 2 weeks as the letter was returned to sender on 14 AU 1912 as per the Grahamstown date stamp.

Fig.1: Front of an undeliverable letter to Mr Heifrish.

The ultimate phun with postmarks!!

Fig.2: Reverse of undeliverable letter.

Roger Fresburg has made an interesting study of how postmarks embellish a stamp design, and I thank him for sharing this information. This is a highly innovative approach which may even give open class exhibitors some ideas. He has prepared an 8-page exhibit and I have extracted four items which are illustrated as Figs. 3a to d.

Fig.3a shows flying whooper swans and the postmark shows a ballerina, so this represents the ballet ‘Swan Lake’. When was the first helicopter designed?

The view is from 1646, which leads to the conclusion that the first helicopter was flying in 1646.

German lighthouses, shown in Figure 3c, can hear, as they have ears!!

Not only cats drink milk, but bees are also milk lovers, as shown in Fig.3d.

Fig.3 a-d: Postal marking enhances interest of the stamp.

Fig.3b

Fig.3b

Fig.3d

Fig.3b

The Monaco stamp in Figure 3b celebrates the 350th anniversary of the Notre Dame in Paris.

Soms mor ons oor die swak diens van die poskantoor, maar daar is uitsonderlike gevalle waar die pospersoneel ekstra moeite doen om ‘n geaddresseerde op te spoor, soos bewys deur die koever van Bloemfontein na Grahamstad. Die posbestellers het in 1912 die inwoners goed geken, maar die heer Heifrish Jnr was onbekend, soos almal geattesteer het. ‘n Pretversameling oor hoe posmerke ‘n seël interessanter maak is iets om na uit te kyk.
DAY ZERO!
As I write this snippet in February, with lovely Gauteng rain falling outside, it seems hard to imagine that by the time this edition of the journal reaches you (if you live in Cape Town that is) the arrival of Day Zero may be fast approaching. Initially the date for turning off the taps was sometime in May, but now, due to decreased water consumption by the citizens, the date has been pushed out to July/August. Perhaps by then good winter rains will have arrived and Day Z may never happen – we can only hope and pray.

Of course, if you are a philatelist you would know that campaigns to save water have been ‘stamping around’ for ages – if only a few of the politicians had been collectors and taken note (Fig.1). Arid countries like Israel take water conservation very seriously and with South Africa now being euphemistically labelled as ‘water challenged’, it would be wise to start thinking about how we use water sparingly in all regions of the country, not just in the Cape, where they do not enjoy summer rainfall. It seems as though all the Mediterranean climate zones are experiencing hotter temperatures and fewer months of rain. Drought and resultant fires have affected Spain, Portugal and Greece, California and Australia – and water conservation is now an urgent priority (Fig.2).

Thirty years ago, Israel issued a stamp showing a dripping tap (Fig.3) and how often does one see the waste of water on a grand scale; burst pipes pouring forth for days, before the Council responds to a complaint and repairs them. Communal taps never switched off, a golf course pumping water on to their greens during the hottest part of the day, schools and sports centres watering their Astro-turf hockey fields with potable water – the list is endless. Botswana shows how it should be done - save every drop (Fig.4). Agriculture and mining use huge amounts of water and the practice of strict economy in these sectors is vital. In Israel, the Agricultural Ministry sets quotas for farming, thus encouraging farmers to find the best ways of using available water. The planting of orchards and the sowing of crops have to conform to this framework. One of the most important aspects of water saving is the development of more efficient methods of watering different crops according to their specific needs. The invention of a tap that automatically shuts off the water when the correct quantity has flowed through was revolutionary and today this tap is used both in Israel and elsewhere (Fig.5). The drip method has also led to a significant saving in water and to the production of bigger crops because of this intensive system.

As the saying goes “When heaven weeps, the earth lives – save pure water”. Not only is the saving of all water a priority, but the preservation of clean potable water is essential and that is where we fail countrywide; the filth that pours into our streams and rivers and the degradation of our oceans by sewage and industrial pollution is disgraceful. No wonder fish-farming is fast becoming the norm – I’m surprised there are any fish still swimming ‘free-range’ in the ocean (Fig.6).

Twenty years ago the South African postal service issued a strip of five stamps encouraging the saving of water for ‘farming, gardening, health, housing and for all’ (Fig.7), but little has been done to implement this. Compounding the problem of contaminated water is the severe risk to health that faces Cape Town if the taps are switched off. Waterless toilets and water tanks are being installed by the few who can afford...
them, but what will the majority of the population do? An absence of clean running water may lead to outbreaks of Rotavirus in places like schools, and even worse is the risk of Cholera and Typhoid. Bathing is already out of the question, (hotels have confiscated bath plugs), ninety second showers are the norm and a quick wash in a small tub of water is recommended by the Premier of the Western Cape – but will that be enough to prevent the arrival of Day Zero? As the slogan says: “Save Water - Save Life” - every drop counts! (Fig.8).

Fig.7: Water for all.

Fig.8: Postal Stationery item from India

Let your spirit be touched by the history of our country. Retain your sense of wonder at the world you live in... Retiring?

NOW is an ideal time to explore:

There are traders all over the world who can help you buy the items that would assist you in discovering a new look at the world through stamps and at the same time offer you a thrilling store of value.

Go even farther... link to a process that offers an ability to illustrate the world in which you have lived, loved and hurt. Exploring the exhibit segment ‘Open Class’ philately and see what it can do for you; it’s the only segment that attracts non-collectors of stamps.

Discover what could make your exhibit special. Remember, half the ‘Open Class’ exhibit could include family documents and photos, newspaper cuttings of events which you have experienced, even letters and documents from those who similarly have shared losses and victories.

There are a handful of dealers who offer the wide range of material required for such appealing exhibits. Even fewer who’ve themselves regularly exhibited in the ‘Open Class’ segment. If your soul calls for specialness, ask me for help to navigate your journey of a past you want to re-walk ... for South Africans, usually a path less travelled.

PAUL VAN ZEYL trading as RAND STAMPS

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Box 11103, Queenswood,
0121 Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA
The sixth Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was held in Rome in 1906. The Postal Administration of the Cape of Good Hope was represented by Sir Somerset French, then Postmaster-General of the Colony. In his lengthy Congress Report he outlined the scheme, adopted by the Congress after much debate, for the issue of Coupons having a value of 25 Latin Monetary Union (LMU) centimes, exchangeable at any post office in the UPU for postage stamps of corresponding value. French commented: “There is no doubt, however, that once the new agreement is in operation it will be made use of by Union [i.e, UPU] Countries generally”. He was right. And in 1907 the UPU countries started to issue these coupons. They became popular across the world and most post offices sold (and exchanged) them. But in 2017, 110 years later, it was nigh impossible to find a post office in South Africa selling International Reply Coupons and before the year-end South Africa had withdrawn from the list of UPU member countries that issue these coupons; in withdrawing it was in good company, and the UK and the USA were among many UPU member countries that had withdrawn before. The need for, and the usefulness of these coupons, had fallen away.

What were they and how did they relate to the postal service?

The Rome Treaty provided for International Reply Coupons or IRCs. It stipulated that the IRCs should be sold for not less than 28 LMU centimes or equivalent, and be exchangeable for postage stamps of a face value of LMU 25 centimes, this being the international letter rate for letters up to 15g or ½ oz. Postal administrations were free to choose whether to participate in the issue and/or the exchange of IRCs.

The Cape Colony introduced the service immediately. Initial demand was small, and only 509 coupons were sold in 1907. The selling price in the Colony was 3d and a person exchanging an IRC in the Cape received stamps with a face value of 2½d. The Transvaal and Natal also joined the scheme at inception, but the Orange River Colony did not. Coupons were put on sale in Orange Free State Post Offices from 1 August 1910, these were

2. The franc/centime of the Latin Monetary Union (which included Switzerland, France, Italy, Belgium, Spain & Portugal) was the currency, stable at the time, which the UPU used to set prices & rates from its inception as the GPU (General Postal Union) in 1874 until the first UPU Congress after WWI.
3. Early in 2018 a very small number of Post Offices in South Africa had small stocks of out-of-date Coupons and would sell these to anyone wishing to buy them. The writer bought 20 Beijing Model 2 coupons (expiry date 31 December 2009) at the Edenvale PO on 16 January 2018 at the prevailing reprice (i.e., 2017/2018) price.
4. At year-end of 2017 there were very few Post Offices that sold the International Reply Coupons with expiry date of 31.12.2017. The SA PO website www.postoffice.co.za/products/International/internationalreplycoupons.html (accessed 13 January 2018) nonetheless still advertised: “The international reply coupon service enables customers to prepay the postage on a reply from a correspondent abroad. Coupons sent abroad may be exchanged for one or more postage stamps representing the minimum postage to be pre-paid on an airmail letter. The coupons are available at Post Office branches.”
9. This was the international first step weight letter rate, equivalent to 25 centimes.
11. Though the four colonies became the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910, the postal services of each continued under the pre-Union laws until 1 September 1911. Where possible rates and services were harmonized in the period up to September 1911, and the decision to allow IRCs to be sold in the Orange Free State (the former Orange

Fig. 1: Rome design/model coupon: type IV, issued between 1911 and 1922, in French, English and Dutch/Afrikaans (‘Antwoordbewijs’).

Fig. 2: A block of 4 of the ORC version referred to in superscript 14.
probably inscribed Orange River Colony. The Union Post office took over the issue of IRCs from the four Colonial Post Offices on 1 September 1911. Coupons inscribed Union of South Africa were thus first issued some time after September 1911\(^{13}\) (Fig.1) possibly as late as 1914. IRCs (presumably those of Natal, Transvaal and/or the Cape) were available in the Cape, Natal and Transvaal from the date of Union (31 May 1910) and in the OFS from 1 August 1910. Shown in Fig.2 are IRCs inscribed Orange River Colony\(^{14}\); it is possible that these were never issued but more likely that the coupons sold in the OFS from August 1910 (i.e., after Union) were inscribed Orange River Colony.

Cape, Natal and Transvaal IRCs issued before Union in 1910 are known but are rare or scarce; they are also known used in the interprovincial period from 31 May 1910. Figure 3 shows a Transvaal IRC (type IV) used interprovincially in Newcastle, Natal on 30 October 1910. Figure 3 shows a Transvaal IRC used known used in the interprovincial period from 31 May 1910 are known but are rare or scarce; they are also known used in the interprovincial period from 31 May 1910. Figure 3 shows a Transvaal IRC (type IV) used interprovincially in Newcastle, Natal on 30 October 1912\(^{15}\).

The next UPU Congress (Madrid 1920) made the exchange of IRCs obligatory for all member postal administrations from 1 January 1922, but the sale remained optional. The minimum selling price was increased to 50 [UPU] centimes\(^{16}\) and the exchange value was now defined as the postage on a single rate international letter\(^{17}\). The original 25 LMU centimes IRCs were still in circulation. They had no expiry date. Until 1 July 1930 the period of validity of an IRC was six months from the date of issue (i.e., the date of sale as indicated by the date-stamp on the coupon\(^{18}\), but from 1 July 1930 the period in which a coupon had to be presented for exchange was unlimited\(^{19}\); this remained the position until 2002. But the UPU decided (at Stockholm in 1924) to devalue those IRCs with a redeemable value of

### The UPU’s minimum selling price saw frequent changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>UPU Minimum Selling Price</th>
<th>Selling price in South Africa</th>
<th>Exchange value of a coupon in SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 October 1907</td>
<td>28 centimes 3d</td>
<td>2 ½ d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 1922</td>
<td>28 centimes 3d</td>
<td>1 ½ d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January (?) 1923</td>
<td>50 centimes 4d (see note1)</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October 1925</td>
<td>40 centimes 5d</td>
<td>5d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July 1930</td>
<td>37.5 centimes 5d</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>35 centimes 5d</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>28 centimes 5d</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May 1949</td>
<td>28 centimes 6d</td>
<td>3d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March 1950</td>
<td>28 centimes 9d</td>
<td>4 ½ d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>32 centimes 9d</td>
<td>4 ½ d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>40 centimes 9d</td>
<td>4 ½ d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 1959</td>
<td>40 centimes 1/- (see note 2)</td>
<td>6d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 February 1961</td>
<td>40 centimes 10c</td>
<td>6c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>60 centimes 10c</td>
<td>6c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July 1971</td>
<td>60 centimes 15c</td>
<td>9c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 1976</td>
<td>60 centimes 30c</td>
<td>10c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 1979</td>
<td>1 franc 50c 30c</td>
<td>15c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>1 franc 50c S/Suspended</td>
<td>See note 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October 1981</td>
<td>1 franc 50c 55c</td>
<td>15c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 1984</td>
<td>1 franc 50c 55c</td>
<td>20c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 October 1984</td>
<td>1 franc 50c S/Suspended</td>
<td>See note 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December 1995</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R5.00</td>
<td>R1.65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 1999</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R5.85</td>
<td>R2.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2000</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R6.20</td>
<td>R2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May 2001</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R7.00</td>
<td>R3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2002</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R11.00</td>
<td>R3.30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April 2003</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R12.50</td>
<td>R3.80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April 2004</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R13.15</td>
<td>R4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2005</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R14.05</td>
<td>R4.25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April 2006</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R14.45</td>
<td>R4.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2007</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R15.40</td>
<td>R4.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2008</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R16.25</td>
<td>R4.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2009</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R17.85</td>
<td>R5.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2010</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R19.00</td>
<td>R5.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2011</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R19.90</td>
<td>R6.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2012</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R21.00</td>
<td>R6.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2013</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R22.10</td>
<td>R6.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2014</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R23.40</td>
<td>R7.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2015</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R5.75</td>
<td>R7.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2016</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R28.05</td>
<td>R8.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2017</td>
<td>0.74 SDR R30.65</td>
<td>R9.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This date may have been as late as 1914. Wolfgang Leimenstoll's earliest record date for the South African type IV is 15 December 1914.

14. ORC illustration courtesy of Wolfgang Leimenstoll. These copies are not postmarked. It is possible that they were prepared for the OCR by the UPU but never issued. Until dated copies are reported - and none has yet been reported - we will not know (a) if these were ever issued or (b) were issued before, or only after, Union.


16. Post WW I currency chaos had meant that the use of the LMU Centime was no longer feasible and the UPU, therefore, adopted its own franc and centime defined with reference to the price of gold. 1 franc = 150 centimes. The UPU would then exchange IRCs and stamps at a rate based on the franc.

17. The Madrid Convention was published in the Gazette of 17 March 1922 under GN 494.

18. The Rome Convention (1906: Article 11.2) gave no suggestion of a time limit for coupon validity. The Madrid Convention (1920: Article 13.2) provided that: “The coupon is exchangeable in any country of the Union…. The exchange must, however, be made before the end of the second month following the month of issue; this period is increased by four months in relation with oversea countries.” The Stockholm Convention replaced this by the simple provision: “The exchange must, however, be made before the end of the sixth month following the month of issue.” The 1928 London Convention, effective 1 July 1930, dropped the provision.

19. Wawruckiewicz Anthony S and Henry W Beecher US International Postal Rates 1872 – 1996 (Cama, Portland Oregon 1996) pp 59-60. The authors record that in the USA the US Postal Service authorised the affixing of postage stamps to revalue/uprate an IRC and thus allowed the US Post Office to ‘revalue’ the coupon rather than destroy; this was an alternative to making a manuscript change to the printed selling price.

20. Tokyo Convention records that “There shall
The Stockholm Congress (1924) set it at 40 (gold UPU) centimes, London (1929) fixed this at “not less than 37½ centimes”, Cairo (1932) at 34 centimes and Buenos Aires (1939) at 28 centimes. After WWII successive Congresses raised the minimum selling price: Brussels (1952) set it at 32 centimes; Ottawa (1957) increased this to 40 centimes; Tokyo (1969) to 60 centimes and Rio de Janerio (1979) to 1 franc 50 centimes. When the UPU franc/centime defined by reference to gold fell away the UPU resorted to defining the minimum in terms of the International Monetary Fund’s Special Drawing Rights (SDRs or XDRs).

Table 1 gives the minimum set by the UPU and the selling price and exchange values in South Africa from inception in 1907 to 2017. Despite these minimum charges, currency differentials meant that the exchange value in country B, with a strong currency and relatively high international letter rates, could be far below that of the purchase price in country A with a weak currency. This led to the possibility that the unscrupulous would profit from arbitrage. (See postscript). In order to give member countries a tool with which to combat this possibility, the Stockholm Congress decided that with effect from 1 October 1925 a member country would have the option of restricting the number of IRCs that an individual could buy or exchange on the same day.

Notes to Table 1:

Note 1: This selling price was noted in Post Office Circular 229 of 13 November 1922, but no 4d coupon has been reported.

Note 2: The 1/- price was listed in the Gazette under GN 303 of 27 February 1959, with the new rates that came into effect on 1 April 1959, but may have come into effect earlier than this following the UPU increase in the minimum selling price in 1957. Leimenstoll has reported a 1/- coupon dated January 1959.

Note 3: South Africa was expelled from the UPU at the 1979 Congress of the UPU. However, South Africa regained membership soon after through a provision in the UPU Constitution that provided that “any member of the United Nations may accede to the Union [i.e., the UPU]” During the short period in 1980 between expulsion and subsequent accession South Africa suspended the sale of IRCs.

Note 4: South Africa suspended the sale of IRCs on 20 October 1984, following its expulsion from the UPU at the 1984 Congress. Some offices may have sold coupons after this date. South Africa was readmitted to the UPU on 22 August 1994 at the Seoul Congress and resumed the sale of IRCs on 1 December 1995.

Though South Africa ceased to obtain IRCs from the UPU in 2017 (or earlier) the ICASA-approved schedule of fees and charges for postal services effective 1 April 2018, gazetted on 12 January 2018 (CN 6 of 20-18 published in Gazette 41377) gave a new selling price in SA (R33.05) and stated that IRCs would be ‘available from post offices’.

The selling price in South Africa has been determined annually in recent years by ICASA and published in the Gazette. The redemption price in South Africa has been the rate for small airmail letters abroad.

An important change took place at the Hamburg Congress (1984); whereas up until then the IRC was exchangeable for stamps representing the redeeming country’s international surface-mail single-step letter rate, after Hamburg this was changed to the minimum postage for “an unregistered priority airmail letter of up to 20g sent to another UPU member country” or as it was later defined “the minimum postage for an unregistered priority item or an unregistered letter sent by air to a foreign country”.

The actual coupons are printed with a fixed (dollar) price, the Washington 1989 UPU Congress abolished the UPU gold franc as the monetary unit of the UPU and replaced this by prices defined in SDRs (special drawing rights), a reserve ‘currency’ created by the IMF in 1969 as an alternative to the dollar or gold, and based on a basket of four currencies (to which the Renminbi was added as a fifth in 2016).
and distributed through the UPU's International Bureau in Bern. They are watermarked and since 2002 have included a security hologram. There have been many different designs, beginning with that developed for and approved at the Rome Congress (1906). The front of each coupon (originally in French and the language(s) of the issuing country) is now printed in French (which remains the official language of the UPU, though at the Seoul Congress English was adopted as a second working language for the UPU). The reverse side of the coupon (originally in German, English, Spanish and Italian), has since the 1960s had text relating to its use in German, English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, and Russian.

The designs of coupons have come to be known by the UPU Congress at which the design was determined. Thus, we have

- The Rome Model (1906 Congress, first issued 1 October 1907) (Types I to VIII have been identified)
- The London Model (1929 Congress first issued 1 July 1930 (Fig.4a-d) (Types IX to XVIIa - including XVa, VXIn, and XVlu)
- The Vienna Model (1964 Congress, (Fig.5a&b) types issued from 1 January 1966) (types XVIII to XXI)

![Fig.5a: Vienna design/model: type XIX, 10c, issued 14 February 1970.](image1)

![Fig.5b: Vienna design/model: type XX, 15c issued 24 August 1974.](image2)

![Fig.6a: Lausanne design : type 23, 30c issued 22 September 1977.](image3)

![Fig.6b: Lausanne design: type 22, 30c coupon uprated to 55c and issued 13 April 1984.](image4)

![Fig.7: Beijing Model 1: issued 27 August 2002.](image5)

![Fig.8: Beijing Model 2: no issue date but valid to 31 12 2009.](image6)

23. Post Office Bulletin No 95 of July 1980
26. The typology is that used by the German FIAS (Forschungsgemeinschaft Internationale Anwortscheine or Research Association for International Reply Coupons) and set out in Peter Robin’s (2009) International Reply Coupons and Illustrated Guide to their Types. There may in fact be more sub-types than this listing suggests. FIAS has a preliminary listing with more sub-types.
In 1919/1920 Charles Ponzi (1882-1949) touted IRCs as the basis for the original ‘Ponzi scheme,’ - an investment scheme in which the investor’s returns are paid not from profitable investments but rather from the inflow of cash from new investors.

On seeing an IRC for the first time Ponzi, an American, realised that based on post WWI exchange rates, IRCs bought in much of Europe were worth more when redeemed in the United States than what they cost in Europe. Ponzi offered to enrich investors by buying IRCs in Europe and selling them at a profit in the United States. He convinced investors to give him money in exchange for a promissory note, promising them a 50% profit in 45 days based on his (supposed) transatlantic trading in IRCs. In fact, Ponzi never used his investors’ money to engage in IRC arbitrage, as he learned that the IRCs could only be exchanged for stamps, not cash. But by July 1920, Ponzi was taking in $250,000 a day in investments, and his ‘success’ continued until Post magazine revealed that to cover the investments made with his company, 160,000,000 IRCs would have had to be in circulation - in fact, at that time only about 27,000 were circulating.

US federal agents shut down Ponzi’s company on 10 August, 1920. Ponzi was arrested, tried and jailed for fraud. He left his name to ‘Ponzi’ schemes, which continue to beguile the get-rich gullible.

A postscript:
The first instance of pyramid selling and the term, “a Ponzi scheme” involved UPU IRCs 29.

The Beijing Model 2, (Fig.8) valid until 31.12.2009 appeared in two forms: first in 2006 and then a special IRC centenary form in 2007 marking 100 years of IRCs. UPU records show South Africa as having ordered these centenary coupons, but none has been recorded to date. Enquiries made to SAPO have yielded no information.

The Istanbul Model, valid until 31 December 2013 was designed by Rob Van Goor, of Luxembourg Post. Van Goor depicted the world being cradled by a hand and the perforated outline of a postage stamp. The Doha Model (Fig.5) (named for the 25th UPU congress held in Doha, Qatar, in 2012) was designed by Czech artist and graphic designer Michal Sindelar, and expired on 31 December 2017, and shows cupped hands catching a stream of water, to celebrate the theme of Water for Life.

The Istanbul Model (Fig.10, named for the 26th UPU Congress held in Istanbul in 2016) is valid until 31 December 2021. It seems that South Africa did not order or get Istanbul Model IRCs.

Acknowledgment: I thank Wolfgang Leimenstoll for comments that contributed significantly to this article.
In the April 2012 SAP issue (pp 52-54) the different paper types of the 3c, 5c and 8c issues of the Erica photo-postcards were described.

Of the 3c issues, only two types of card were described: dull matt or shiny gloss. Both fluoresced brilliant white under 366nm UV light. I recently obtained a 3c card with a PT emblem which had a cream colour on front and back sides (Fig.1). This already seemed odd.

Upon inspection under UV light, a coarse grainy brown fluorescence was observed on both sides (Fig.2). This was unlike the uniform fluorescence observed for all other cards of the series. Note that the blue UV-reflection recorded by camera and shown here is not the same colour as perceived by the human eye. Being a mint card, makes it impossible to place it in the numbering sequence that was used in 2012. While the dull matt card texture resembles EPC 1 & 2, the sharp photo image with light/bright colours resembles EPC 2. However, the PT emblem indicates a later date of issue, and the brown fluorescence a different type of card. I therefore assigned it number EPC 3.1.

It was previously described that the change of cards bearing the PT emblem was made during the use of shiny gloss paper. EPC 3.1 shows that the change to the addition of the PT emblem is not so clear.

A second card that I obtained had a shiny gloss front and cream smooth back, resembling EPC 4. However, the card has a faint greenish tint. UV reflection showed a grey front (Fig.3 bottom) and brilliant white back, which is the opposite of EP4 (Fig.3 top). I numbered it EPC 4.1.

It was mentioned in the 2012 article that post cards were printed on whatever card was available. A comparative study of all postcards of RSA, SWA and the Homelands that were printed during 1977 – 1980 would make an interesting research field to sort out the chronological order in which the card types were used.
This story is the continuation of a previous article that I wrote which appeared in the February 2018 issue of *The SAP* - the *Registered Letter Markings of the OFS*. In endeavouring to add to our understanding of these Registered Letter Markings of the ORC, the following markings will be described in their recorded chronological order of use.

During the Anglo-Boer War, the first registered marker the occupying forces used was a 26mm x 22mm vertical oval containing the letter ‘R’ (Fig.1), which was in the same style of mark that had been used in Britain for many previous decades. It is recorded as being used at Bethulie, Bloemfontein, Fairesmith, Harrismith, Heilbron, Jagersfontein, Kroonstad, Ladybrand, Ventersburg Road and Winburg from 1901 until 1903.

One clear example is shown in Fig.2 which was placed on a cover posted from P.O. WINBURG 28 SEP 03 O.R.C which passed through REGISTERED LONDON 17 OCT 03 before arriving at BATLEY OC 18 03 in England.

An identical mark, but of a taller size of 28mm x 20mm, has been seen used at Boshof, Bothaville, Frankfort and Reitz in a much later period of 1907 to 1910 (Fig.3). Perhaps these offices had run out of stock of their registered envelopes (described below) or mislaid their registered markers, so they used this marking as a backup to officially identify their registered mail rather than writing the word ‘Registered’.

Meanwhile some offices allowed their registered mail to be identified by using large crude markers made from cork or wood. It is not known if these markings were applied by the sender or the post office staff, suffice to say that they were accepted by the postal authorities. In 1904 a Bultfontein cover has been sighted with the large negative ‘R’ applied (Fig.4) and Senekal has been identified as using the coarse large ‘R’ (Fig.5). In late 1902 Springfontein mail had a large R in a circle applied, as seen in Fig. 6. This item was posted from SPRINGFONTEIN OC 24 02 O.R.C and arrived at its destination of PRETORIA 25 OCT 02.

The prepaid registered envelopes were first issued in five different sizes, ranging from a normal sized envelope (up to 292mm x 152mm) from September 1902 and, although the rate of consumption was fairly small, they are known used right through into Union. One example is shown in Fig.7 which was posted from VREDE 6 JA 07 O.R.C and passed through STANDERTON 7 JAN 07 before arriving at REGISTERED 2 27 JA 07 GLASGOW. As mentioned before, not every person used these envelopes, though, as much of the registered mail was still made up of normal envelopes of 134mm x 83mm where an additional 4d worth of stamps was added to pay for registration.

The status quo remained unchanged until January 1908 when the Post Office issued numbered adhesive registration labels (Fig.8) which exhibited pre-printed cyclometer numbers above the town name and were perforated on their left edge so as to be torn off and stuck on the registered item. These uncommon labels have only been reported used at Bloemfontein, Boshof, Edenburg, Harrismith,
Heilbron, Hoopstad, Jacobsdal, Ladybrand, Petrusburg, Philippolis, Rouxville, Smithfield, Springfontein and Tempe.

The cover in Fig.9 shows such a label applied at LADYBRAND 7 FEB 08 O.R.C. which travelled through REGISTERED BLOEMFONTEIN O-R-C 8 FEB 08 -2- and then REGISTERED LONDON E10 29 FE 08 before arriving at WAGENINGEN 2.3.08 in Holland. These labels appear to have been a failed experiment as their last known use was in November 1908.

At this time it can be seen that each post office now had to identify its registered mail by having the town name added to the item. This was likely to aid in tracking any errant mail. The next marking introduced was that of a large capital ‘R’ followed by the town name (Fig.10) that was made using a rubber handstamp. The registered number of the item was to be written below the town name. This marking has only been recorded used at Bloemfontein, Harrismith, Heilbron, Jagersfontein and Kroonstad from September 1908 to November 1910. A very clear example is seen on the cover in Fig.11 which was addressed to Tasmania. It was posted from KROONSTAD 7 MAR 09 O.R.C and passed through REGISTERED LETTER SECTION 10 MR 09 CAPE-TOWN and REGISTERED AP 1 09 HOBART before arriving at ULVERSTONE AP 2 09 TASMANIA. Cover evidence shows that this flexible type of marker deteriorated with constant use resulting in the ORC Postal Service introducing a new style of marking.

This new type of marking was comprised of only the town name (Fig.12) but it was made as a more durable steel handstamp. Archives of the British Post Office in London show that this type of marker was issued to the ORC from August 1907. This marker appears to have been distributed to a much wider extent than the previous types as it has been seen used at Bethulie, Bloemfontein, Boshof, Bothaville, Dewetsdorp, Frankfort, Harrismith, Heilbron, Kroonstad Station, Smithfield, Springfontein, Tempe, Voorspoed, Wepener and Winburg from November 1908 to decades into Union.

The cover featured in Fig.13 is a clear example of this marking. It was posted from BOSHOF 3 DEC 08 O.R.C and arrived at REGISTERED LETTER SECTION 6 DEC 08 CAPETOWN.

Some offices such as Bloemfontein, Harrismith and Heilbron have been recorded as using all three of the previous types of registered marker. Perhaps there are still many undiscovered markings out there reposing quietly in collections. It appears, though, that the authorities in the Bloemfontein GPO were not satisfied with these markings at all as they began to use a bigger style of marker, which comprised a large ‘R’ followed by Bloemfontein above the word No., that has become synonymous with use at the
GPO. This has been seen used from May 1909 right into Union.

The cover in Fig.14 shows this distinct marking that was posted from REGISTERED BLOEMFONTEIN -1- 20 OCT 10 to PRETORIA 21 OCT 10. Note that the O.R.C has been removed from the canceller after Union.

To conclude this subject Fig.15 shows what penalty occurred when an unrecorded registered article was posted with the ordinary mail. It is likely that this 4d prepaid envelope had the 1d stamp added and was dropped in the post box to be delivered with the other normal mail. When spotted by a post office employee, postal service regulations dictated that it be formally registered and forwarded with all other registered mail, except that in this particular case a surcharge had to be paid, which amounted to double the registration fee. If an additional 4d worth of stamps had been added to the envelope before posting there would have been no surcharge.

The cover then had the little-seen instructional marks of POSTED OUT OF COURSE and T/4d (to signify the tax of 4d) applied. It was formally registered with the unique Bloemfontein GPOw registration marking applied along the top, then given the registration number 1666 and posted REGISTERED BLOEMFONTEIN -1- 24 NOV 10. After arrival at REGISTERED LETTER SECTION 25 NO 10 CAPE TOWN the 4d penalty had to be collected before delivery to the Imperial German Consul-General.

If a reader has any additional information to add to our knowledge of these registration markings would they please advise the writer at kevinwprice@bigpond.com.

References
- Kevin Price, *The Orange Free State, its Postal Offices and their Markings 1854 -1910*, Ebook available online to Orange Free State Study Circle members on their website.
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Stunning usage of KGV 1d with SIX King Edward V11 issues. SP 9 1911 die 1. £750.00

"Welsh Division" bundle label cancelled SP 16 1911. A very rare survivor used "to bag" Aerial post mail addressed to Wales. £400.00

"Missent letter etc" bundle label cancelled SP 16 1911. A very rare survivor used "to bag" missent and other miscellaneous Aerial post mail. £450.00

Superb privilege envelope, Windsor to Kent SP 16 1911. Within letter ex Windsor Castle. Stunning. £1250.00

Superb unused privilege envelope, circa 12 believed to exist. £950.00

PO Box 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
01476 594698

e-mail: bill@barrell.co.uk  website: www.barrell.co.uk
Series 4 (1943-1946) The Bantam issues and Series 5 (1946-1952) the last King George VI issue of the REVENUE STAMPS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

SERIES 4 BANTAM WAR ISSUES (1943-1946)
The overprinting of the Native Tax 2/6 revenue stamp with the words REVENUE and INKOMSTE as a provisional stamp issue was an indication that the shortage of paper was causing concern to the Government Printer in Pretoria. By 1943 the paper shortage had become so acute that Series 4, the so called ‘Bantams’ were printed (Fig.1). These stamps were similar to the ones issued for postage, postage due, railway parcel and savings bank stamps (Fig.2).

A total of sixteen values from 3d up to £25 were issued. The stamps were perforated 14 divided by rouletting (6½) on the one side (Fig.3). The design for this series was similar to the third series and the language setting was the same on each stamp but switched with each rise in value. However, an error occurred with the first printing of the 5/- of 1943 where the language setting appeared in the wrong order with the English inscription top left and the Afrikaans top right instead of vice versa (Fig.4).

Another variety has been noted namely the 10/- value which was printed from a new die in 1946 where the main difference is that the ‘0’ of ‘10’ is rounder and the lines of the background of the numerals are closer and thinner. According to Barefoot it is uncertain if the 9/- with date 1943 has been issued. The author also has not seen this issue.

The watermark was Multiple Springbok head sideways facing left from 1943-1945 but right in the 1946 issues. There is real difficulty in reading the date printed on these small stamps which were issued up to 1946. This raises an interesting challenge to the seasoned philatelist in identifying the different dates on the stamps based on the watermarks and the screening. Tony Howgrave-Graham published a table in The Springbok journal of November 2016 to assist with the identification of some values by classifying the three types of screening used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type 'a'</th>
<th>Type 'b'</th>
<th>Type 'c'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coarse cross-hatch screen</td>
<td>Fine cross-hatch screen</td>
<td>Fine irregular screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d with date 1944</td>
<td>9/- with date 1946</td>
<td>1/- with date 1943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bantam stamps were used on a variety of documents (Figs.5, 6 & 7) and also overprinted for Consular (Fig.8) and Assize (Fig.9) purposes.

SERIES 5 THE LAST KING GEORGE VI ISSUE (1946-1952)
Due to the easing of paper supplies after the ‘bantam’ issue, a different type of revenue stamp was considered. The stamps were printed in two colours up to and including

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3d</th>
<th>6d</th>
<th>1/-</th>
<th>1/6</th>
<th>2/-</th>
<th>2/6</th>
<th>3/-</th>
<th>5/-</th>
<th>9/-</th>
<th>10/-</th>
<th>15/-</th>
<th>£1</th>
<th>£2</th>
<th>£5</th>
<th>£10</th>
<th>£25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xb</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>xc</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type 'a' - Coarse cross-hatch screen. Type 'b' - Fine cross-hatch screen. Type 'c' - Fine irregular screen. ? - Type of screening not identified.
the 5/- denomination, but from the 10/- upwards the stamps are in one colour. The stamps were printed unilingual, alternate stamps in the sheets being Afrikaans or English. This was done in the interests of linguistic equality. The top left hand stamp in the sheet was English or Afrikaans for the different values.

A new feature introduced with this series was that the head plate carried the inscription ‘Union of South Africa’ or ‘Unie van Suid-Afrika’; whereas the frameplate had the words ‘Inkomste’ or ‘Revenue’. Incorrect language combination of plates produced ‘transposed plate’ printings detailed later on.

There were fifteen values from 3d to £25 and they should be collected in pairs for the reasons mentioned earlier (Fig.10). The perforation was 14 and the size of the stamps 27,5mm wide 21,5mm high, printed by the Government Printer in Pretoria with the Multiple Springbok head watermark. The stamps were unscreened in 1946 and 1947 and all screened from 1948 onwards. The date is indicated below the vignette (Fig.11). The stamps of 1952 were printed from a redrawn die, slightly smaller, measuring 26,75mm wide and 21mm high. A finer type of

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**Fig.5:** Mortage Bond for £310,000 lodged on the 21 February 1947 and stamped with 31 x £25 and 1 x 15/- (£775/15/0) Bantam revenues to pay the required stamp duty. Extremely rare usage of a block of 28 x £25 Bantam revenue stamps (Image reduced).

**Fig.6:** Bantam 5/- stamp used on a marriage certificate (partly illustrated) in 1948.

**Fig.7:** A variety of Bantams used on the cover page of a mortgage bond (partly illustrated).

**Fig.8:** Bantam stamps overprinted Consular/Konsular.

**Fig.9:** Example of a Bantam 1/- overprinted for Assize purposes (Collection: Werner Barnard).

**Fig.10a.**

**Fig.10b.**

**Fig.10c.**

**Fig.10d.**

**Fig.10:** (a to f) A selection of values illustrated in pairs.
screening was also employed (Fig. 12).

In the J. Barefoot British Commonwealth Revenue catalogue of 2012 the following ‘transposed plate’ printings were recorded:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp value</th>
<th>Date on stamp</th>
<th>Job no</th>
<th>Imprint no</th>
<th>Date printed by Government Printer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6d</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>5617</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>March 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/-</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>5620</td>
<td>8725</td>
<td>March 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/-</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>9602</td>
<td>6755</td>
<td>April 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6d</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>9596</td>
<td>3784</td>
<td>April 1951</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSIZE/Yk OVERPRINT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp value</th>
<th>Date on stamp</th>
<th>Job no</th>
<th>Imprint no</th>
<th>Date printed by Government Printer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6d</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>5304</td>
<td>8459</td>
<td>June 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/-</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>2212</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>July 1949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 6d of 1952 had the error again in redrawn state where the new die was slightly smaller. Based on research done in the Post Office Museum archives in Pretoria, a number of the so-called ‘transposed plates’ or ‘language errors’ and the dates of printing can be traced. The details of the various printings were found in the inventory record details of loose pages received from the Government Printer in Pretoria. The consignment from the Government Printer can easily be handled and referred to by researchers.

Assize/Yk:

Revenue stamps and postage/revenue stamps have been overprinted bilingually in English and Afrikaans ASSIZE/YK for use by the Assize Division of the Department of Commerce and Industries. In addition to the overprint the stamps are divided into two parts, marked ‘A’ and ‘B’. Traders who use containers for liquids, measures of length or scales, were obliged by law to have these examined for accuracy every year. The ‘A’ portion of the half of the stamp or stamps for the amount due for checking was attached to the receipt issued. The ‘B’ portions were attached to the duplicate which was sent to the Assize Head Office for audit purposes. The make-up of the receipt book required the left half of the receipt to carry the ‘B’ and the right half the ‘A’ portion of each stamp. These stamps were in use from 7 May 1923 to 31 August 1956.

The stamps of Series 5 were used on a variety of documents (Fig. 16) and were overprinted for Penalty, Consular (Fig. 17) and Assize purposes.
Fig. 16: A Mortgage Bond (partly illustrated) drawn up during 1954 with 35 x £25 and 1 x 15s revenue stamps (£875 15s) affixed to the document. The Mortgage Bond was for the amount of £350 000. According to the Stamp Duties and Fees Act the rate for Mortgage Bonds was as follows: “Where the total amount of the debt secured exceeds £2,000 – for every £100 or part thereof is …5/-. Date printed on the stamps: 15/-, 1948 and the £25 stamps – 1951.

Fig.17: Part sheet of 60 x £1 Revenue stamps of Series 5 overprinted ‘Consular/Konsulair’ in June 1949. Note the sheet no. 2253 (Source: Post Office Archives, Pretoria).

Sources:

The author would like to thank Tony Howgrave-Graham for permission to use the table regarding the identification of the Bantam-issues. The author would also like to thank Dr Louwrence Erasmus from Pretoria for his assistance to identify the various types of screening as illustrated.
Botswana’s Night Sky
by Andrew Briscoe, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

In 1972, Botswana issued a set of four commemorative stamps with the theme of the Night Sky, showing four constellations: Orion (on the 3 cents stamp), Scorpius (7 cents), Centaurus (10 cents) and Crux (20 cents). The stamps were designed by the American artist and stamp designer R. Granger Barrett, and printed by Questa Colour Security Printers. Barrett designed stamps for several countries including Anguilla, the Bahamas, Grenada, Guernsey, and the New Hebrides. The purpose of this feature is to illustrate the progression of Barrett’s art and graphic work, focusing primarily upon the designs for the Centaurus and Crux stamps. To this end, little text is needed; the illustrations tell the story, which begins with photographs of the relevant constellations taken from Paul Hamlyn’s book ‘Constellations’ that were used for the rough sketches.
MEDALS
For the first time in many years medals will be awarded in Pretoria. In the competitive class, each accepted exhibit will receive a medal, a certificate, one copy of the exhibition catalogue together with a copy of the award listing. It will be a generic participant medal, engraved STAMPSHOW 2018 with the exhibitor’s name at the back.

DEALERS in ATTENDANCE
A big thanks to dealers who responded to the invitation to attend Stampshow 2018. Positive response was received and there are still a few stands available. Any interested dealers should please respond to the invitation.

ACCOMMODATION
The Organising Committee hopes to arrange accommodation on the premises and are negotiating the cost thereof. Arrangements will be circulated as soon as available.

SPECIALIST SOCIETIES
Specialist societies interested in meeting during the duration of the Stampshow are invited to send their particulars to André du Plessis. The earlier the better as it will assist in arranging venues and time for the meetings. Except for the Saturday, meetings can be held up to 20:00 if desired.

THE PALMARES
The Palmares will be held in the Rust & Vrede Hall at Kleinkaap on Saturday 20 October 2018. Bookings for this event are open.

THE PROSPECTUS
The Prospectus, Entry Forms and Exhibition Guidelines may be obtained from: Stampshow 2018, PO Box 36473, Menlo Park, 0102 or email André du Plessis, andredupfs@gmail.com cell +27 83 399 1755. The preferred way of communication is via e-mail.

Our venue: www.kleinkaap.co.za

Last but most important Remember to enter! We are looking forward to receiving your entries.

JURY MEMBERS
This is the provisional list and may change depending on all the final entries submitted:

- Emil Minnaar RDPSA, Chairman
- Michael Wigmore RDPSA, Vice Chairman and Expert Committee Consultant
- Jan van Beukering, Secretary
- Davis Parsons, Consultant - UK
- Gerald Bodily, Consultant - UK
- Ian Matheson, RDPSA
- Neil Cronje, RDPSA
- Howard Green, RDPSA
- Frank Li ZhiFei, Exchange Juror - China
- Tim Bartshe, Exchange Juror - USA
- Francois Friend, Learner Juror
- Jannie Hofmeyr, Learner Juror

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TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

The 5/- Ox-Wagon Stamp
by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

INTRODUCTION
The 5/- stamp, with the design of an ox-wagon outspanned, was first issued in March 1927 as part of the Union of South Africa’s second definitive series, 15 months after the first stamps in the series were issued on 1 January 1926. They were printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. of London, and produced by the recess process. The only other Union stamp produced by this process was the 1910 Commemorative. Subsequent printings in similar designs by the Government Printing Works in Pretoria, using the rotogravure process were first issued in 1930. However the first rotogravure printing of the 5/- value only appeared in October 1933, by which time ‘SUID-AFRIKA’ was hyphenated. This stamp design had an extremely long life and was replaced by the second issue in September 1949. The third and final issue occurred in January 1954, being finally replaced in October 1954 by the Giraffe stamp.

Because the design was modified on each occasion, the stamps fall into two groups.

### Table 1. Summary of the 5/- Ox-Wagon printings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Printing</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Mar 1927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rotogravure</td>
<td>Pretoria</td>
<td>Oct 1933</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 1949</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 1954</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDENTIFICATION OF THE GROUPS

Step 1  Is the Afrikaans stamp hyphenated?
- No = Group 1, Recess Printing
- Yes = Group 2, Rotogravure Printing

There should be no difficulty in distinguishing between these groups.

The London Pictorials are of a very high quality with finely etched lines, free of the blobs of the rotogravure issues. The colour in the London stamps is a more intense green compared with the blue-green in the rotogravure stamps. However the main difference between the two groups is the hyphen in the country name on the Afrikaans inscribed rotogravure stamps.

Step 2  The Afrikaans stamp is hyphenated = Rotogravure
Is the stamp screened?
- No = Issue 1
- Yes = Issues 2 or 3. Go to step 3

Issue 1 is unscreened. Issues 2 and 3 are screened. This can best be seen by looking to the left of the wagon. In the unscreened, a series of unbroken lines is visible, in the screened stamps the lines are replaced by dots.

Step 3  The stamp is screened = Issue 2 or 3

- Colour  In Issue 2, the frames are a blue-green colour. In Issue 3, the frames are yellow-green.
- Cylinder Numbers  The cylinder numbers are printed on the right margin opposite the last two rows of stamps. In Issue 2 the cylinder numbers are 6925 (exterior) and 36

Fig.1: London pictorial above. Rotogravure below.

Fig.2: At right the hyphen in ‘SUID-AFRIKA’ in the rotogravure stamps. A single English copy can be identified by the presence of a pattern of tiny squares between ‘SOUTH AFRICA’ and the top of the frame.

Fig.3: Pattern of tiny squares between the country name and the top of the frame in the London stamps.

Fig.4: Unscreened image on the left. Screened on the right.

Fig.5: Blue-green frames of Issue 2 (left). Issue 3 with yellow-green frames (right).
In Issue 3, the numbers are 72 (exterior) and 8 (interior).

- **Side Arrows** In Issue 2, the sheets were divided into two prior to distribution to the post offices, resulting in half arrows. Issue 3 did not have side arrows.

![Fig. 6: Half side arrows are found in Issue 2.
There are no side arrows in Issue 3.](image)

- The letters ‘U’ and ‘A’ in the English inscribed stamps.
  For some unknown reason the letters ‘U’ and ‘A’ in ‘SOUTH AFRICA’ were changed in Issue 3. As there was no change in the Afrikaans lettering, this led to result that the ‘A’ and the ‘U’ in the country name are different on adjacent stamps - Fig.7.

**GROUP 1. THE LONDON PICTORIALS, RECESS PRINTING**

![Fig. 8: Ox-Wagon. Group 1. London Pictorial.](image)

- **Perforations** A single row comb was used for perforating the sheets, but the gauge and manner of operating were not always the same. Three groups can be recognised:
  - **Perforation Group I** The perforation gauge was 14.0 and the sheets were fed in from the right margin which was thus imperforate and the left margin perforated. The top and bottom margins were imperforate except for a single hole at the end of each vertical row. As the centre gutter (16 mm wide) was always perforated through, it followed that the stamps on the left side of the gutter were perforated twice for about 14mm of their length, away from the gutter. When the perforations did not exactly coincide, ‘oval perforations’ occurred. The perforation holes at the corners of the stamps are always equidistant from one another (Fig.10).
  - **Perforation Group II** The perforation gauge was 14 x 13.6 and the sheets were fed in at their upper margin, leaving it imperforate and the bottom margin perforated. The side margins and the centre gutter were imperforate except for the single perforation at the end of each horizontal row of perforations. When there are two perforations close to each near the bottom corner, the stamps belong to Group II (Fig.10).
  - **Perforation Group III** The perforation gauge was the same, but the sheets were fed in from the bottom margin, resulting in this margin being imperforate and the upper margin perforated. The side margins and the centre gutter were imperforate except for the single perforation at the end of each horizontal row of perforations. This group can be recognised by two perforations close together near the top corner of the stamp.

- **Watermark:** Multiple Springbok heads.
- **Colour:** Black and green.
- **Frame Size:** 27 x 21.75 mm

**GROUP 2. ISSUE 1, ROTOGRAVURE PRINTING**

![Fig.11: Rotogravure. Issue 1.](image)
**Issue 1** can be identified by the hyphen in ‘SUID-AFRIKA’ and the unscreened cylinders. A single English stamp can be identified by the absence of the pattern of tiny squares between the country name and the frame (Fig.3).

**Date:** October 1933  
**Printer:** Government Printing Works, Pretoria. Rotogravure  
**Cylinders:** 6929 (interior) and 41 (exterior).  
**Sheets:** 120 stamps (20 rows of six stamps). The sheets were divided into two prior to distribution to the post offices. First stamp inscribed in Afrikaans.  
No arrows.  
No cylinder numbers on the sheet margins.  
Four figure numbers on the right margin; these were initially black then blue and finally red in colour.  
**Perforations:** The perforation gauge was 14.0.  
The top and bottom margins are perforated through and there is a single perforation in the side margin at the end of each horizontal row of perforations.  
**Watermark:** Multiple Springbok heads.  
The first printings had the watermark inverted, but in the later printings it was upright.  
**Colour:** The first printings had a grey-black centre and myrtle-green frames, but in the later printings the frames were green, bluish-green and lastly grey-green. The myrtle-green stamps with inverted watermark are not as common as the later stamps.  
**Size:** 27 x 21.75 mm

**Varieties** **Group 2, Issue 1 - Listed Varieties**

- **V1** R1/4 Green blob in the right value tablet.
- **V2** R9/1 ‘Broken bucket’ on wagon.
- **V3** R12/2 ‘Window’ in tent.
- **V4** ? ‘Broken Yoke’ See notes below.
- **V5** R18/5 ‘Broken yoke-pin’. See notes below.
- **V6** R18/6 ‘Black dot’ left of top yoke-pin (M-P). and ...  
  Green spot right of ‘POSSEEL’.
- **V7** R19/5 Green spot below ‘L’ of ‘POSSEEL’.
- **V8** R20/6 Green blob above ‘OS’ of ‘POSSEEL’.
- **V9** ? Error of vignettes misplaced.

**Unlisted Varieties**

Row 19/1. This stamp shows three constant flaws:  
1. A green blob below the last ‘A’ of ‘AFRIKA’  
2. A small green curl to the right of the canopy.

---

*Fig.12. R19/1. The three constant flaws.*
iii. Fine curved lines, reminiscent of the ‘barbed wire’ flaw on the 1d Victory issue to the left of the ox-wagon. Robin Messenger (4) reported that David Crocker had noted two examples of this flaw, but was unable to determine the sheet position. These flaws should now be considered as constant, as I have identified this flaw in a positional block from my own collection.

**Offset**

![Fig.13: Offset error on reverse. Row 12/1 + 2.](image)

**NOTES**

**The Broken Yoke Flaw**

This flaw is listed as V4 in the *Union Handbook*, but no position is given. Many collectors confuse this flaw with the ‘Broken Yoke-Pin’ flaw which is listed as V5, but the two are very different. The ‘Broken Yoke’ flaw is probably a non-constant flaw. Jack Hagger (2) showed a photostat of his copy in the *Springbok* and stated that he had not seen another copy. Robin Messenger posed the question at a meeting of the SA Stamp Study Circle and in *The SA Philatelist* (3), and invited comment from the readers. Mike Tonking responded with a scan of a used copy. Peter Pannall (5) reported an example of the flaw at R19/5, but this is not constant (Fig.14)

![Fig.14: The ‘Broken Yoke’ shown by Peter Pannall.](image)

**The ‘Broken Yoke-Pin’ - V5**

A well-known flaw and many copies of the flaw have survived. It is almost as difficult to find a ‘normal’ copy of the Ox-Wagon Issue 1 stamp as it is to find the ‘Broken’ Yoke-Pin. However, what makes this flaw interesting are the two adjacent flaws.

![Broken Yoke-Pin. Black mark above ‘5’. Dot to left of yoke. Row 18/5 Row 18/5 Row 18/6](image)

Two cylinders were used to print this stamp. If there was any slight misalignment of the cylinders, one or both the adjacent flaws were no longer visible. It is thus possible to find three variations of the flaw. Jack Hagger felt that the black mark in the top of the left value tablet above the ‘5’ was a gelatine shift.

**GROUP 2. ISSUE 2, ROTOGRAVURE PRINTING**

Issue 2 stamps can be identified by the hyphen in ‘SUID-AFRIKA’, the screened cylinders and the bluish–green colour. Date: September 1949. Printer: Government Printing Works, Pretoria. Rotogravure. Cylinders: 36 and 6925 Sheets: 120 stamps (20 rows of six stamps). The sheets were divided into two prior to distribution to the post offices. The first stamp was inscribed in Afrikaans.

There were four arrows, one in the centre of each margin, but because the sheets were divided prior to distribution, only half side arrows exist. Four figure, red sheet numbers were printed on the right margin. Cylinder numbers: 6925 and 36, were printed on the right margin opposite rows 19 and 20. Perforations: The perforation gauge was 14.0 The top and bottom margins were perforated through and there was a single perforation in the side margin at the end of each horizontal row of perforations. Watermark: Multiple Springbok heads. Only upright watermarks have been recorded. Colour: Black and blue-green. Frame Size: 27 x 21.5 mm

**Varieties Group 2, Issue 2**

- **V1** R1/3
  - R2/4 Line through ‘R’ of ‘AFRICA’.

- **V2** R8/3 ‘Thunderbolt’ above tent.

- **V3** R /6 ? ‘Bush’ on horizon, left of wagon. This is included for the sake of completeness, as it was listed by Hagger (1), we ask readers for further information as no one has yet to see an example.
GROUP 2. ISSUE 3 - ROTOGRAVURE PRINTING

Fig. 17. Rotogravure. Issue 3.

Issue 3 stamps can be identified by the hyphen in ‘SUID-AFRIKA’, the different style of ‘U’ and ‘A’ in ‘SOUTH AFRICA’, the screened cylinders and the yellow-green colour.

**Date:** January 1954

**Printer:** Government Printing Works, Pretoria.

Rotogravure.

**Cylinders:** 8 and 72

**Sheets:** 120 stamps, in two panes of sixty each (10 rows of six stamps), separated by a horizontal gutter the depth of a stamp. The panes were separated prior to distribution.

The first stamp in the two panes differed. In one, the stamp was inscribed in Afrikaans, in the other, in English. The one commencing with the English stamp has been called Pane A and the other Pane B. In Pane A, all the key pieces (if they are in blocks of four) will have the top left stamp inscribed in English, and the same principle applies to Pane B, where all the key pieces in blocks of four will have an Afrikaans stamp at the top left of the block.

There were four arrows, one in the centre of each horizontal margin. There were no side arrows. Four-figure red sheet numbers were printed on the right margin.

**Cylinder numbers:** 8 and 32, appear on the right margin opposite rows 9 and 10 of each pane.

**Perforations:** The perforation gauge was 14.0.

The top and bottom margins were perforated through and there was a single perforation in the side margin at the end of each horizontal row of perforations.

**Watermark:** Multiple Springbok Heads.

Only upright watermarks have been recorded.

**Colour:** Black and yellow-green.

**Frame Size:** 26.75 x 21.5mm

**Varieties Issue 3 Pane B**

**V1**

R4/3

Extended first limb of ‘A’ of ‘AFRICA’

**V2**

R10/1

Black smudges on left front wheel of wagon. Only in the later printings.

**V2**

R10/2

Black smudges on left rear wheel of wagon. Only in the later printings.

I would like to thank Robin Messenger for his encouragement and helpful suggestions in the preparation of this article.

**References**

5. Pannall P. *The SA Philatelist.* Feb 2013. p10

**ATA News Release**

JERRY HUSAK (1932-2018)

Jerome D. Husak, visionary founder of the American Topical Association (ATA), the second largest philatelic organization in the US, died on February 22. He was 86.

As a teenager in Milwaukee in 1949, he envisioned a society for topical collectors. He later wrote, “There must be others like myself. Why don’t we get together and share our information through a united body of topical collectors?” The ATA was born. “Who knows,” Jerry thought, “perhaps as many as 200 topical collectors might come together.”

In its 68 years, the ATA has had close to 60,000 members from more than 100 countries. It is the largest topical/thematic association in the world.

When the ATA affiliated with the American Philatelic Society in 1987, it became its largest affiliate. The Thematic Award at APS StampShow is named for Jerry. Jerry was ATA member #1 and the first recipient of the ATA’s Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award. He worked full time for the ATA, as editor of its journal, *Topical Time,* until 1977, and as executive secretary until 1984. He retired from the association’s Board of Directors in 2008. Jerry died in Arizona, where he lived since moving there from Milwaukee in 1984. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sally, who was a tremendous support in his ATA endeavors. Contributions in memory of Jerry Husak may be made to the ATA.
Guernica is a small provincial town in Northern Spain some 17 kilometres east of the port of Bilbao on the Bay of Biscay and is referred to by the local Basque people as the ‘holy city’.

The town was one of the provincial strongholds of the Republican Government at the time of the Spanish Civil War that broke out in July, 1936 and lasted until April, 1939. The revolt was instigated by a junta of army commanders who were opposed to the policies of the so-called ‘Popular Front’ that had governed the country since 1931. In the course of the conflict, both sides issued postage stamps for the areas under their control. However, conditions in the country were in such a state of turmoil that the distribution of stamps to the numerous provincial towns was frequently impossible. As a result, both of the opposing factions permitted the use of ‘local’ stamps in the areas under their control. While many of these were issued deliberately as postage stamps, a large number were in fact fiscal or charity stamps that were adopted for use on the mail. In all, stamps of various origins have been identified for more than eight hundred towns and villages across the country.

Guernica, however, was not destined to have stamps of its’ own because, on 26 April 1937, the town was virtually obliterated in the course of an aerial bombardment by planes of the German Condor Legion, under the command of Colonel Wolfram von Richthofen, that was stationed in Spain in support of the Nationalists under Generalissimo Francisco Franco. It was at a later date that the infamous Minister for Aviation under the Nazi regime, Field Marshall Hermann Göring, claimed that he had urged Hitler to support Franco in order, on the one hand, to check the spread of communism and, on the other, to assess the efficiency of the newly-formed Luftwaffe. It has, in fact, been suggested that Hitler saw the exercise as a practice run in anticipation of similar raids on London during World War II, the outbreak of which was, by then, only two years away. Additionally, it was thought not to be a coincidence that the date chosen for the bombing was, in fact, Market Day, when some ten thousand or more visitors would have been in the town. It should also be mentioned that it was not only German forces that were involved on the Nationalist side during the Civil War. Three divisions comprising 50 000 fully-equipped troops were supplied by Italy and even Ireland joined the anti-communist cause. Some 600 troops constituted General O’Duffy’s Irish Battalion. However, the only ‘action’ that they saw was a brief skirmish near the town of Ciempozuelos with a unit that turned out to be on their own side!

The world at large was, naturally, appalled when news of the tragedy of Guernica became public. (Franco himself blamed the attack on Republican forces!). Incidentally, one of the first reports came from Captain George Lowther Steer (1909-1945) who was a war correspondent for the ‘Times’ of London and had been born in East London in South Africa. He was educated in Grahamstown and at Oxford. With the World’s Fair of 1937 due to be held in Paris in May, the Spanish Government hit upon the idea of commissioning none other than Pablo Picasso, the celebrated artist, to create a mural exposing the atrocities of General Franco.

Using oil paints and, it is said, inspired by George Steer’s reports, Picasso created a mural in oils measuring 3.5 metres by 7.8 metres, no less than 27.3 square metres! It has been described as “A Portrait of the Pain and Horror of War”. Personally, I find it quite amazing that a painting of that magnitude can be accurately reduced to the size of a postage stamp. The 60-haleru Czech stamp of 1966 illustrated here (SG 1592) was issued to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the International Brigade’s War Service in Spain where they lent support to the Republican Government. Czechoslovaks were among the troops who formed that International Brigade, so-called because it included significant numbers of French, German, Austrian, Italian, American, British, Yugoslavian, Canadian, Hungarian and Belgian volunteers, many of whom supported Communism. The stamp was printed in sheets of fifteen together with five labels as shown, the label bearing a reproduction of Picasso’s signature and a hand grasping a broken sword. Many attempts have been made to interpret the symbolism embodied in the painting. Picasso himself always appeared loath to do so.
FREE FRAMES

These exhibition frames are designed to display 15 x A4 sized pages in 3 rows of 5 pages, positioned in clear strips on each side of the frame, and mounted behind perspex for protection. These frames have been replaced by 16 page frames which conform to the international standard of 4 rows of 4 pages. The now surplus but perfectly usable 15 page frames, complete with legs, are offered for free to societies and individuals, including schools, institutions and anyone who can make use of them, on a first come basis, provided the frames are collected from our store located on the Great North Road, Brentwood Park, Benoni.

There are 231 frames available, with outside dimensions of 1300mm wide by 930mm high and weighing approx 17kgs each. A small number of wooden pallets can be provided for larger quantity collections but please bring strapping.

These frames need to be disposed of by about May 2018. Contact Peter van der Molen at 011 849 4822 or molens@pixie.co.za to arrange for collection or for further information.

• World Stamp Championship Israel.
Les Glassman advised that this would be held in May 2018. The contact address is https://youtu.be/FsWq0APSsfU Scanning the website at this address is well worth the effort.

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BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8.00pm at the Athenaeum, Camp Ground Road, Newlands. Meetings start at 19h00 to 21h00 and consist of club cup competitions, workshops and fun evenings with specific themes. Members from other societies are regularly invited. Chairperson: Werner Barnard; werner@access.co.za Secretary: Reanie de Villiën; 082 567 0353; philately@netpoint.co.za Website: http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com Contact the Secretary for further Programme details. Sat. 21 APRIL EXHIBITION SEMINAR - Full-day exhibition seminar at the Bellville Library, to assist exhibitors on the interpretation of FIP rules.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 19:00 in the ‘Deep South’ of the Cape Peninsula. Circa 20 – 30 members and often a few guests gather once a month. FHPS reaches a wider audience on the internet since launching their website. Please have a look and maybe get ideas or inspiration for your own society. The society meets every 1st Tuesday at 19h30 at Civic Centre, Minor Hall, Recreation Road, Fish Hoek. President: Dave Young, e-mail: daval@telkomsa.net Secretary: Volker Jansen.

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the ‘Deep South’ of the Cape Peninsula. Circa 50 members and often a few guests gather once a month. FHPS reaches a wider audience on the internet since launching their website. Please have a look and maybe get ideas or inspiration for your own society. The society meets every 1st Tuesday at 19h30 at Civic Centre, Minor Hall, Recreation Road, Fish Hoek. President: Dave Young, e-mail: daval@telkomsa.net Website: www.fhps.infoFHPS

GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, in the Minor Hall, Presbyterian Church, 8 Caladon St. President: Nick Zerbst; 0836255804, Secretary: Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337, email: robrita@nweb.co.za

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

• Francois Friend President, Cell: 082 554 8900 email: francois@sheep.co.za
• Dave Brown (Vice President), 041 360 4025
• Rodney Maclachlan (Secretary Treasurer) 079 619 5409. P.O. Box 15558, Emerald Hill 6011 Society meets at Bible Society House 31 Cotswold Ave, Cosbtold. MEETINGS always on a Monday evenings: starting time for monthly meetings 19h00

PAARLSE FILATELISTE

Sedert 1951

Die Paarlse Filipatiste vergader elke maand op die tweede Donderdag van die maand om 19h30. Filipatiste, selversameelraars en besoekers is baie welkom. Vergaderings is baie informeel en daar word lekker gekueier en daar is altyd iets te leer (en te eet). Vir meer inligting oor die program en vergaderplek konfront korper vir: Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410 gayehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford: 022 4824005 n/ u craffies@telkomsa.net

PAARLSE FILATELISTE

Sedert 1951

Die Paarlse Filipatiste vergader elke maand op die tweede Donderdag van die maand om 19h30. Filipatiste, selversameelraars en besoekers is baie welkom. Vergaderings is baie informeel en daar word lekker gekueier en daar is altyd iets te leer (en te eet). Vir meer inligting oor die program en vergaderplek konfront korper vir: Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410 gayehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford: 022 4824005 n/ u craffies@telkomsa.net

JUNIOR PHILATELIST: Alexander is an aspiring philatelist looking for local stamps and FDGs. Narberengaya28/4, Krasnaya Polyana, Vyatsko-Polynsky region, Kirovskaya oblast, 612950, Russia. Aleksandr Bolschakov

DURBAN AREA AEROPHILATELISTS

If you are interested in starting an association please contact me - Norman Prince at norman@pilothry.co.za

EXCHANGE: Italian / Canadian collector, including exchanges FD covers SA used stamps. Contact: Vittorio Zanoncelli. 20 St Marks Road, Southernwood, East London, 5201 Zanoncelli@telkomsa.net

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Meetings in the Captain’s Table at Woodmead last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December).

SBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson: Jan de Jong, 011 839 2031 djhome@iburst.co.za Secretary Eugene du Plooy, editor of the Newsletters TBA. Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 09:15am at the Adami Stamp Fair in Pretoria. email: eugene@umalusi.org.za PO Box 8727, Centurion 0046.

RSA SEEULSTUDIEGROEP

Vergader elke 2 woensdag van elke enawe maand (Januarie, Maart, Mei, Julie ens) by Filateliedieensie in Silverton. Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publicere in gereelde maandelike nusbrief, 10vn. Contact: Jan de Jong 011 839 2031, djhome@iburst.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Meetings: First Saturday of month at 13h00 at the Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall, Modderfontein. Contact: Secretary, Keith Perrow 083 379 6262, email: keith.perrow232@gmail.com

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY

The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information on upcoming meetings, visit http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/ engage/meetings or Contact Us (http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/)

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meets on the last Wednesday of every month (except December) at 19h30 in the Activities Hall of Pinelands Library, Howard Centre, Western Cape. The Circle caters for all those interested in stamp collecting - from beginner to the more experienced philatelist. Programmes for meetings include displays of stamps, talks by visiting speakers and members ‘Show and Tell’ exhibits.

The Circle operates an Exchange Circuit and holds auctions from time to time. Visitors are always welcome! Contact Marilyn Crawford at 021689 5050 or email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com

TIMELAPSE STAMP CIRCLE

First Saturday of month at 13h00 in the Captain’s Table at Woodmead, Johannesburg. The meetings include displays of stamps, talks by visiting speakers and members’ ‘Show and Tell’ exhibits. The Circle operates an Exchange Circuit and holds auctions from time to time.

Back Issues: of The South African Philatelist can be obtained by writing to: The SA Philatelist, P.O. Box 131600, Benoni, 1504, or email: The SA Philatelist, P.O. Box 131600, Benoni, 1504, or email: <email@manvaa.org.za>
**Society News**

**Venue:** Country Club Johannesburg, Napier St, Auckland Park. For info-contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA 082 722 7604.

**Dates for Society Meetings 2018 always on a Wednesday at 20h00**

- **11 April** 1st Competitive Evening
- **9 May** Invited Exhibitor
- **13 June** One Frame Evening
- **11 July** Grand Challenge Match
- **8 August** Second Competitive Evening
- **12 Sept** Annual Auction
- **10 Oct** Favourite Covers
- **14 Nov** Third Competitive Evening
- **5 Dec** President's Evening

**EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY**

For 2018 the meetings - Bishops at Woodmead. The second meeting of each month, except December, is held on the last Wednesday of the month. This is effectively a study group.

**EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meets first Saturday of every month at Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall, Modderfontein at 1pm. Meetings consist of club competitions, workshops, themed events and many other fun activities. Membership is varied and mainly consists of general stamp collectors. Light refreshments are served. All are welcome - from the novice to more advanced collectors. Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7 - search for Edenvale Philatelic Society - all welcome to join.

Contact: Colin Boxfield 082 309 8656

**AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENING VAN PRETORIA**

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00. Aanwezigheid is gevorderde geskenke aan boeke. Items of interest, talks and workshops by members and invited guests. Items of interest, quiz, general networking. Free entrance, refreshments and safe parking.

Meeting 1st Saturday of every month at 11h00. The venue is St Mathews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Pinelands, Pretoria. Stamp displays, talks and socialising.

President: André du Plessis, andreudp@gmail.com Tel 083 399 1755. Vice-President: Alex Visser, alex.visser@up.ac.za

**POLOKWANE PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meets last Tuesday of every month at Peter Gutsche, Box 11933, Bendor Park 0713. Tel 083 276 1124. Contact: pmgutsche@mweb.co.za

**THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL**

Meetings are held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban at 10h00 on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Contact: Zbigniew Kawecki, (President) 082 968 6888. Ted Brown, (Vice-President) 083 284 6554. Trevor Harris, (Secretary) 082 377 8465.

**HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

South African Stamps, Philately, Postal History, Collecting, and One Frame Evening Meetings consist of club competitions, talks and workshops by members and interested visitors - from beginners to seasoned collectors. Youth encouraged to attend. "Theme" Exhibits & "Show-and-tell" Frames by Members, Instructive talks and general networking. Free entrance. Teas/coffees available. Safe parking. German Restaurant open for lunch. The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join us and get involved in this wonderful social hobby of Kings.

President: Ian McMurray, ianjarvismcm@gmail.com Secretary: Bronwen Edwards. edwards@worldonline.co.za Membership: Barry Lissey, lissey@netsolutions.co.za

**WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meet on 1st Wednesday of every month at 19:30 at the Victorian Secret coffee shop, corner Russsel/Woburn Ave, Benoni, 14000 every last Saturday of the month. Exhibits, talks and workshops by members and invited guests. Items of interest, quiz, general networking. Free entrance, refreshments and safe parking.

President: Jimmy Mitchell, jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com Secretary: Paul Hammerton, hammpaul@ananz.co.za

**DOMINION PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meet on the 1st Monday evening of the month at 19:30 at Statech Centre, St. Albans College, Clearwater Street, Lynnwood Glen. Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. Day meeting meets every first Thursday of the month following the first Monday in Glen Carpendale's shop, Kilner Park Galleries, 6 Wilkinson Street, Kilner Park, Pretoria. Stamp displays, talks and socialising.

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