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with thanks to Gerhard Kamifer.
NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES – 2018

by Robin Messenger, South African Stamp Study Circle

Readers may be wondering what is happening regarding South African new stamp issues as there was no column in the April 2018 issue of The South African Philatelist.

The issue celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the First Heart Transplant (due on 1 December 2017) has still not appeared. However news from Philatelic Services received on 11.5.2018...

STOP PRESS: information just received, featured on page 88, has details from ‘Whats-Up’ on the new issue program for 2018, but is subject to change.

5/- OX-WAGON ARTICLE IN THE LAST ISSUE

Following the publication of the Ox-Wagon article in the April 2018 edition of The SA Philatelist, Mike Tonkin sent more information to fill a gap in our knowledge of the 5/- ox-wagon stamp: The Issue 2 flaw V3, Bush on the horizon is listed in the handbook as being at R7/6.
I have never seen an example of it, but Mike has a right marginal block of four with this variety.
Mike says the flaw is on R4/6.

This is Mike Tonkin’s scan of the block.
Vic Sorour <vsorour@wol.co.za>

PLEASE NOTE: Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be referred to Jill Redmond RDPSA at pfsasec@mweb.co.za Tel: +27 (0)11 917 5304

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| 5\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | BANKNOTES Worldwide & collections  
scarce banknotes of nearly all countries  
especially outstanding offer French Colonies in Africa |
| 6\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | BANKNOTES Germany  
NUMISMATICS | COINS  
many gold coins, big offer German Empire  
and collections |
| 11\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | MALAYAN STATES  
offer stamps and mainly postal history,  
total 2,800 lots |
| 12\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | ASIA single lots  
including many errors and proofs Arabian Countries  
THEMATICS single lots  
many varieties & proofs  
OVERSEAS single lots  
e.g. postal stationeries,  
stamps, specialties & varieties of all areas  
AIR MAIL, ZEPPELIN MAIL Worldwide single lots  
EUROPE single lots  
e.g. collection Otto Jung – postal stationeries Ireland |
| 13\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | GERMAN STATES single lots  
e.g. huge offer stamps and covers  
GERMANY 1871 - 1945 single lots  
e.g. German Reich stamps and varieties  
GERMANY 1900 - 2000  
e.g. covers single & multiple frankings  
PICTURE POSTCARDS  
special political postcards |
| 14\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | OVERSEAS collections  
THEMATICS collections – huge offer  
EUROPE collections all countries |
| 15\textsuperscript{th} June 2018 | ESTATES and MULTIPLE BOX LOTS  
GERMANY collections before 1945  
GERMANY collections after 1945 |

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IN MEMORIAM....

LAPPE
LAUBSCHER
1945 – 2017

Submitted by Marge Viljoen, Pretoria PS

Lappe passed away on 23 September 2017 at his home in Silverlakes, Pretoria. A walking encyclopaedia, Lappe was a great historian, an outspoken sports journalist and book-lover. A friendly person and not shy to impart his knowledge, he had for several years up until his death written a regular Wednesday column on early history for the Metro-Beeld-Noord.

Lappe joined the Pretoria Philatelic Society in August 1966 and served as President for 1998/1999. He also served as a Vice-President of the Philatelic Federation as representative for the Northern Region. He joined the Postmark and Postal History Society in January 1997 and served as President for 2008. He was also a member of the Postcard Society of South Africa, the Afrikaans Filatelievereniging van Pretoria and the Thematic Society.

Lappe's philatelic interests were sports, the world wars and the SA Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk. He assembled a comprehensive collection of the Olympic Games and put together an exhibit entitled Adolf Hitler and the Olympic Movement, while another exhibit South Africa’s Involvement in WWII received a Gold medal at Pezapex 2007. His other sporting exhibits included the Springbok as a Symbol, Rugby’s Gift to the Nation and Toe Suid-Afrika die Sportwêrld se Gasheer Was.

I would also like to bring the following developments to your attention:

- The Stampshow 2018 Prospectus inter alia states that one frame exhibits will not form part of this exhibition and that potential exhibitors will be encouraged to participate at SAVPEX in Bloemfontein.
- The Organising Committee reviewed this decision and decided that one frame exhibits will be accepted and judged at Stampshow 2018; applicable awards will be made.
- To promote and encourage first timers to exhibit, Federation, in conjunction with Foundation, will sponsor the entry fee and up to three frames for the first five first time entrants (one entry per exhibitor). I therefore request that first time exhibitors enter as soon as possible.
- All level of entries are welcome. Paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of the Prospectus remain applicable.

We look forward to welcoming you to Stampshow 2018. Obtain exhibition guidelines from: Stampshow 2018, PO Box 36473, Menlo Park, 0102 or email Andre du Plessis, andredups@gmail.com cell +27(0)83 399 1755

Our venue: www.kleinkaap.co.za in Centurion

The preferred method of communication is via e-mail.


Buks het die stryd teen kanker op 16 Augustus 2017 al in Silverlakes, Pretoria. A walking encyclopaedia, Lappe was a great historian, an outspoken sports journalist and book-lover. A friendly person and not shy to impart his knowledge, he had for several years up until his death written a regular Wednesday column on early history for the Metro-Beeld-Noord.

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W.P. VENTER
1954 – 2018
deur Riaan Crafford, Sekretaris, Paarlse Filateliste

Savpex 2018 - The South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2018, hosted by the Free State Philatelic Society under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, is to be held later this year in terms of its IREX rules (Individual Regulations for the Exhibition). The closing date for entries was extended to the end of May, then selected exhibits must be uploaded by mid June, with results released first week July 2018. The OFPS will participate in the Bloemfontein HOBBY show in September, where all participating exhibits of the Savpex 2018 exhibits will be shown on TVs for the duration of the Hobby show.
Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society
Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za

Post Office Training Schools
These were training centres where candidate clerks and postal personnel were trained in the intricacies of operating a post office. Amongst others the training included use of a steel date stamp, as special techniques were required to avoid what is commonly known as ‘tennis elbow’. Little is known about these ‘schools’, also known as ‘posskool’ in Afrikaans.

I had been alerted to such training facilities when the Postmaster in Welkom discovered a box with 10 old training cancellers in the safe. Furthermore, amongst impressions of Pretoria cancellers, I found several items inscribed ‘Training’. But the most complete information I received recently was from Joh Groenewald RDPSA, who sent me an extract from the sesquicentennial book *Riversdal 1838 – 1988*. It was written by Boet van Wyk, although his name does not appear as he passed away before the book was published privately.

Let me start with the more complete information of Riversdale. Training commenced at a regional centre in 1959 after the Postmaster-General, A.J.Botes, had inaugurated the new post office building. In the sesquicentennial book it was stated that the ‘posskool’ was closed in 1986. Two 30mm date stamps inscribed ‘L1’ and ‘L2’ at the base were used for training and are shown in Fig.1. The ‘L’ signified ‘Leerling’ or ‘Learner’. Although the training school operated from 1959 to 1986, these date stamps saw service on mail. L1 was seen from 24.9.1965 to 11.12.1998 and L2 was seen from 9.12.1961 to 30.9.1963, although L2 was seen on piece without stamps until 20.9.1978. Both date stamps were also recorded with the 1977/8 reversed date style shown in Fig.1b, and L1 was seen with date inverted.

This now begs the question: “Did the trainees do service at the counters, or was L1 in particular only used occasionally for training and the rest of the time used at a counter?”.

A total of 10 date stamps were in the safe in Welkom. Three styles were used, as shown in Figures 2a to c. The dates were as found in the box. Only one canceller with the style in Figure 2a with counter code ‘1’ at base was found. This one appears to have been used in the 1980s. The style of Figure 2b with small lettering was found with counter codes 2, 3, 4 5 and 6. The style of Fig.2c with larger lettering was found with counter codes 2, 4 and 5. It is not clear whether the dates in 1998 were ever used.

The Pretoria training school was evidently operational in 1978, as the training canceller and Training School cachet suggest which is shown in Fig.3. At least two identical cancellers shown in Fig.3a existed identifiable from the time code letter A or B on the same date.

Filatelistie het omtrent niks gehoor van die posskole wat ‘n belangrike opleidingsfunksie vervul het nie. Toevalig het stempels te voorsyn gekom en die soektog het begin. Drie sentra het posskole gehad, maar dit is waarskynlik dat daar meer was, soos bv die groter kantore soos Kaapstad, Johannesburg, Durban en miskien selfs kleiner kantore soos Port Elizabeth en Oos-Londen. Kan iemand help met enige inligtingsbrokkies?

---

Fig.1: Two date stamps used for training at Riversdale.
Fig.2: Training date stamps used at Welkom training centre.
Fig.3: Training date stamp and cachet used at Pretoria.
Fig.4: Ink jet slogan propagating the Post Office Learning Institute
Moenie Spoeg Nie!

Mrs Anthea Ring, now 81, and living in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, England, became Britain’s most famous baby when she was discovered in August 1937 abandoned in a blackberry bush near Worthing, Sussex. Her hands were bound with a strip of material torn from her dress and she was covered in scratches but otherwise healthy and well cared for.

An attempted murder investigation at the time by the Police revealed nothing and she was later adopted by a family in Surrey.

Since 1994, Mrs Ring has been trying to trace her biological parents. Family history detective Julia Bell established that her father was most likely one of six brothers from the Coyne family in County Galway, in the west of Ireland. The question was, which one? It was stalemate until a 30 year-old letter from one of them, Patrick, came to light. DNA analysis of a speck of saliva from the stamp confirmed a match.

In 2016, experts traced her late mother’s roots to County Mayo, using global DNA bases which identified distant cousins. Records of illegitimate births suggested her mother was Ellen O’Donnell, born 1911, and that her birth name was Mary Veronica, born 20 November 1936. Strangely, this was only five days after the date her adoptive parent had chosen for her birthday. Mrs Ring has since been able to establish contact with her father’s family. (By Jemma Buckley, Daily Mail)

**COLLECTING BASICS**

**BLIND PERF**

Perforations are the tiny holes on the sides of a stamp, created by metal pins, to enable one to separate stamps easily. A blind perforation, (Fig.1), occurs when there appears to be a missing perf. On closer inspection, there is a spot where the perforation is missing (see Fig.2). This is a result of the metal pin becoming worn so it just indents the paper rather than punching right through. To prove the existence of a blind perf it’s necessary to keep the two stamps together. Once separated, the blind perf will disappear.

**BARS**

This term refers to a way of obliterating part of the stamp design by means of a straight line or a set of parallel lines. There are a number of reasons why parts of a stamp are defaced in this way. In the case of Fig.3, an Egyptian stamp, originally issued in 1945, was barred in 1953 to cover the portrait of King Farouk I (1920-1965). He was overthrown in the revolution of 1952, forced to abdicate and went into exile in Italy. In the case of Fig.4 the bars are used to obliterate the original value of the stamp. The Niger Coast Protectorate existed along the coast of what is now Nigeria, an area known for palm oil. In 1894 there was a shortage of ½d stamps. In August 1894 a provisional ½d stamp was created by covering the 2½d value and overprinting the stamp with the new half-penny value in words. (Fig.4)

**Comic Corner**

**Stamps that make you SMILE**

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

**Episode 47 Errors on Stamps...ONE ‘MONK’ MISSING!**

The Emirate of Fujairah issued a number of stamps for the 1972 Olympic Games held in Munich. The 16 Dirham stamp from a large set of 30, shows a rowing boat and flag of Australia to acknowledge that Australian rowers are amongst the best in the world, although they were not very successful in the previous Olympics.

The first error on this stamp is the monk-like outfit of the rowers, which must be most inconvenient for hard working sportsmen in an Olympic competition.

The second error is the fact that there is no rowing boat competition with three rowers, except for the one with two rowers and a cox, but he only does the call and never rows. For the common four-man boat the team is one rower short.
LETTER FROM LONDON

by Dr J.R. Frank RDPSA FRPSL, Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

The trip to Monte Carlo for Monacophil 2017 was the final event on my philatelic calendar for 2017. While Monaco was no warmer than London in December, my wife and I enjoyed the exhibition. The exhibition theme for 2017 was the Centenary of the Death of P. De La Renotiere de Ferrari, the most renowned philatelist of all time. Items from Ferrari’s incomparable collection, sold by the French in 1920s as war reparations, and now in contemporary collections, were on display. These invited exhibits included items from the British Royal Collection, the British Library, the Smithsonian in Washington and from private collections; wonderful material in surprisingly good condition for its age.

An adjoining hall was host to a large number of dealer’s stands. The majority of the dealers were Continental and concentrated on the high end of the market. This ‘trade fair’ was well patronized, but once again the clients were almost exclusively senior philatelists. A number of receptions enabled participants to socialize. A new approach was that a group of ‘serious’ young philatelists from various countries had been sponsored to come to Monte Carlo and attend the social events at no charge.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London has purchased a new home, as the present one is no longer suitable. It is being refurbished and the move to the new premises at 15 Abchurch Lane, EC4 is expected to take place by June 2019. The building, conveniently situated across the road from Bank tube station, has a splendid façade and five stories above ground and a lift!

Exhibits at the RPSL meetings have been varied and impressive. Maurice Hadida’s Morocco Postal History display in January 2018 covered the scarce local post issues in great detail. A combined display by the Russian Academy included many aspects of Russian philately, but not the major rarities. Zemstvo issues were of particular interest though.

February brought an exhibit of Belgium by the RPS President, Patrick Maselis. Iconic items such as an unused block of eight of 1849 20 cents value and a full pane of fifty of 1869 5 francs were of note. The unique mint pair of the 1920 Termonde 65c with inverted centre was the highlight of an amazing display. There are only twelve examples of this variety recorded.

The East Africa Study Circle also presented a fascinating combined display, with an exhibit of the Uganda Missionary issue being eye-catching. Fine Zanzibar exhibits were displayed. In all, there was a strong postal history bias.

Bryan Kearsley’s Discovering Seahorses was memorable. As the author of the definitive handbook on the subject, the display and lecture drew an audience of 217. Plate varieties, special usages, diplomatic mail and airmails were included.

In a group display by the South-West Region, member Mike Tanner mounted two frames of South West Africa Native Revenues. This unusual display commenced with a 1913 German SWA card carrying a strip of four Windhoek Native Tax stamps. He has made an extensive survey of the later Mandate Tribal Trust Funds issues and showed a number of the rare cards to which they were applied. Indian Boer War POW camp mail was shown by Peter Webb, but the highlight for me was Rodney Frost’s one-frame Watercolour Drawings by Boer Prisoners in Ceylon. A number of artists produced a variety of local scenes, patriotic designs and designs from their own experience. These illustrated covers were sold at the camps by licensed businesses.

Spring Stampex 2018 featured displays by the Channel Islands Philatelic Society. Thematic, postal history and traditional exhibits covered the field, and included the French Channel Island of Mont St Michel. This was the first time exhibits of Ephemera, defined as “a transient document of everyday life”, were part of Stampex. It apparently includes bus and stage coach tickets, as well as invoices and dinner menus etc. Not really my cup of tea, but it did appeal to others.

The National Class featured important exhibits, such as Alan Holooyeke’s The British Post Office from its inception to 1840, Simon Richard’s Dominica Postage Stamps 1874-1933 and The Double Head Issue of the B.S.A. Company-Rhodesia by Patrick Flanagan.

Where the auction scene is concerned, rare and outstanding material continues to attract record prices and strong competition, while ordinary and second rate material does not do well.

Spink’s January sale featured some choice classic Indian material. The 1856-64 2a dull pink in an unused imperforate block of four realised its full SG catalogue price of £14,000, against an upper estimate of £10,000. The 4a black of this issue in an o.g. block of four made £8,000. The ex-Ferrari 1866 6a Tall Postage o.g. strip of five sold for £12,000.

Argyll Elkin’s March sale had some scarce Cape of Good Hope postal history material offerings. Three items from the 1819 Fifth Frontier War fetched £1,700, three times upper estimate. A lot of five 1822-33 items related to the slave trade, with one addressed to the Chief Guardian of Slaves Cape Town (!!), realised £2,500, against an upper estimate of £800. The auction houses all add ± 20% commission.

In spite of a long winter, things have not been dull here and we look forward to the events being planned for the sesquicentenary of the RPSL in 2019. An application has been made to the postal authorities to issue a commemorative stamp for the occasion.

Best Wishes
JRF
Celebrations started when Mandela was inaugurated as President of the Republic of South Africa in 1994 and his face appeared on the 45c value of the inaugural set of four stamps. Thereafter he appeared on one of the stamps issued in 1996 honouring South African Nobel Laureates. In 1999 he appeared on a miniature sheet issued for the 900th Anniversary of The Order of St John. In 2001 a souvenir booklet was issued with ten stamps and two post cards honouring Nelson Mandela. In 2008 two miniature sheets were issued for his 90th birthday. A post office called Nelson Mandela was named after him in Port Alfred in the Eastern Cape. His Robben Island prison number, 46664, is used for the global HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention campaign.

He then appeared on a stamp for the Rivonia Trialists in a booklet with miniature sheets. In February 2014 a set of stamps was issued for the World Design Capital Cape Town, with a quote from Nelson Mandela. Finally, to honour his legacy to the world, the South African Post Office issued a special commemorative miniature sheet and souvenir folder on 11 February 2014 (Figs. 1 to 4).

In his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on 16 February 2018 President Cyril Ramaphosa stated the following: “In just over 150 days from now, the peoples of the world will unite in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. It is a day on which we, as South Africans, will remember the life of one of the most remarkable leaders this country and this continent - and indeed, the world, has known. We will have an opportunity to recount Madiba’s long walk to freedom, his wisdom, his unfailing humility, his abiding compassion and his essential integrity. We have dedicated this year 2018 to his memory and we will devote our every action, every effort, and every utterance to the realisation of his vision of a democratic, just and equitable society. Guided by his example, we will use this year to reinforce our commitment to ethical behaviour and ethical leadership. In celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela we are not merely honouring the past, we are building the future and particularly the future that Mandela envisaged.”

No other statesman in the history of South Africa has been honoured on so many postage stamps as has Nelson Mandela. It is therefore appropriate for us, as philatelists, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela in 1918.
We are continuing the long walk he began, to build a society in which all may be free, in which all may be equal before the law and in which all may share in the wealth of our land and have a better life.

We are building a country where a person’s prospects are determined by their own initiative and hard work, and not by the colour of their skin, place of birth, gender, language or income of their parents.”

Nelson Mandela was born on 18 July 1918 in a place called Mvezo deep in the heartland of the Transkei, a vast land between the Cape and Natal and home of the Xhosa nation. He spent the first ten years of his childhood in Qunu (Figs.5&6) His ancestral roots are in the Thembu people and the Madiba clan. When Mandela turned sixteen, the Regent decided it was time for him to undergo the traditional rite of passage and circumcision ritual. After this ceremony he had a new name too: Dalibunga, meaning Founder of the Council, the bunga being the traditional ruling body of the Xhosa. According to Fikile Bam: “Mandela has always been Xhosa. More than other politicians, more than Sisulu and a lot more than Govan Mbeki. He really was an Eastern Cape person with a very heavy Xhosa accent and a tremendous respect for Xhosa history and traditions”.

The Transkei (meaning the area beyond the Kei River), officially the ‘Republic of Transkei’ was a Bantustan or Homeland - an area set aside for members of a specific ethnicity group in accordance with the National Party policy at that time. This would later cause tension between Nelson Mandela and his nephew K.D. Matanzima, homeland leader of the Transkei.

Not long after his initiation, Mandela was admitted to a highly regarded school, Clarkebury, the oldest Wesleyan mission and the biggest educational centre in Thembuland. After Clarkebury, he enrolled at Healdtown, a Wesleyan College in Fort Beaufort and after graduation in 1938, went on to Fort Hare, the only black university in South Africa and the Alma Mater of the revolution to come.

Mandela and Tambo Law Firm

Mandela and Tambo was the name of the law firm run by Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo in South Africa. At the time of its founding in 1952, it was the only all black African law firm in the country. The firm ceased to exist after politics and the anti-Apartheid struggle began to consume most of both men’s time. These offices
were destroyed and burned down in 1960.

In August 1952, the law firm opened in Chancellor House, situated in the same building as the ANC headquarters (Fig. 7). It was a move that proved to be decisive as during that time most lawyers were white and against the idea of an all-African law firm. Mandela and Tambo had two small rooms on the second floor of the building, with the words ‘Mandela & Tambo Attorneys’ sandblasted on the windows (Fig. 8). Chancellor House was designed by architect Frank Jarett and built around 1948.

Oliver Tambo would do much of the paperwork in the office whilst Mandela would represent the clients in the court room. Soon, news of the two lawyers spread fast to Transkei and both lawyers would have so many clients that they would be moved to corridors. Mandela and Tambo’s office operated for eight years, from 1952 to 1960 (Figs. 9 & 10). Both were arrested in 1956 and tried for treason. The Treason Trial ran for four years before the charge was dismissed against the remaining trialists in 1961.

Nelson Mandela and Kaiser Matanzima

Among the first people Mandela befriended at Fort Hare was Kaiser (K.D.) Matanzima. Matanzima was his nephew from the Thembu family although K.D. was four years older than him. Unlike Mandela, his lineage descended through the ‘Right Hand House’ and he was destined to be a king or paramount chief. Mandela hero-worshipped Matanzima and the two became inseparable. K.D. even shared his allowance with Mandela as the Regent did not believe in sending pocket money to his ward. Despite their friendship, politics would drive them apart as Matanzima’s later alliance with the apartheid government drew him into the Bantustan policy of separate development and homelands for blacks. Resistance against the apartheid policies of the National Party government continued and in 1962 an attempt to assassinate Kaiser Matanzima was foiled. When Transkei was declared self-governing in 1963, K.D. Matanzima became the Chief Minister.

Also in 1963 ten accused, including Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki, appeared in what subsequently became to be known as the Rivonia Trial on charges of sabotage, attempting to start a guerrilla war and the promotion of communism. At the trial Mandela chose to make a statement from the dock as opposed to the witness stand and ended his statement with an exposition of his personal point of view:

“During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people...It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die”.

This statement would remain for decades as the definitive expression of liberal African nationalism, cementing Mandela’s iconic status both in South Africa and internationally.

In the same year that Matanzima became the Chief Minister of the Transkei, the court sentenced Mandela and seven others to life imprisonment on Robben Island. A world campaign was launched for the release of Nelson Mandela which lasted for years (Figs. 11 & 12). The Transkei represented a significant precedent and historic turning point in South Africa’s policy of apartheid and ‘separate development’ in that it was the first of four territories to be declared independent. Furthermore the fact that Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, as the two most prominent leaders in the struggle against apartheid came from this region, contributed to the prominence of the Transkei. Walter Sisulu, six years older than Nelson Mandela, was also born in Thembuland in the Transkei. Sisulu was Mandela’s closest ally in the turbulent years before their imprisonment and for more than 25 years on Robben Island as well. The scene was set for the Transkei region to play a pivotal role in the politics in South Africa.

Years later in 1984, after he was moved from Robben Island to Pollsmoor Prison in Tokai, the two nephews were involved in correspondence whereby Matanzima tried to convince Mandela to be released to the Transkei (Figs. 13, 14 & 15).

Nelson Mandela defied any attempt to release him and restrict him to the
Transkei. He also stated that he rejected the homelands policy and was committed to the Freedom Charter and the then banned African National Congress.

Kaizer Matanzima also attempted to meet two other jailed ANC leaders, Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki. Both refused to meet him. The South African Government denied any knowledge of a freedom offer to Mandela by the Transkei leadership in 1984.

Mandela's position was clear from the contents of a letter he wrote: “We will under no circumstances, accept being released to the Transkei or any other Bantustan. You know fully well that we have spent the better part of our lives in prison exactly because we are opposed to the very idea of separate development which makes us foreigners in our own country and which makes the Government perpetuate our oppression up to this day”.

Throughout its existence, the Transkei as an independent homeland remained an internationally unrecognised, diplomatically isolated, politically unstable de facto one-party state, and at one point even broke relations with South Africa, the only country that acknowledged it as a legal entity.

Mandela was not released in the Transkei but walked out the front gate of the Victor Verster Prison in Cape Town.

Fig. 12: Letter posted from Senegal to Switzerland on 17 October 1988 with a label affixed campaigning for the release of Nelson Mandela.

Fig. 13: Part of the letter in Nelson Mandela’s handwriting from Pollsmoor prison to Matanzima addressing him as ‘Ngubengcuka’ which was his traditional Xhosa name. Note the manuscript at the top in Matanzima’s handwriting to his secretary: “Acknowledge receipt. Contents noted. K.D. 5-2-85”. Mandela probably deliberately addressed his nephew on his traditional name to remind him of his Xhosa roots and traditions and in the meantime he (Matanzima) was endorsing the ‘bantustan policies’ of the National Party government.

Fig. 14: Last part of the letter where Mandela is indicating to Matanzima: “We accordingly request you to desist from this explosive plan and we sincerely hope that this is the last time we will ever be pestered with it”. Mandela signed the letter as ‘Dalibunga’ which was the name he acquired after initiation.

Fig. 15: In honour of this global icon the South African Post Office issued a special commemorative miniature sheet and souvenir folder on 11 February 2014. It is printed in silver to reflect the richness of Mandela’s wisdom, his legacy and his stature with the phrase “Aah Dalibhunga” printed on the outside. (Editorial note: this issue retailed at R50.00)

Fig. 16: Sheet of 10 stamps commemorating South Africa’s Nobel Laureates including Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk.
on the sun-splashed afternoon of the 11 February 1990, arm-in-arm with his then-wife, Winnie. Each raised a fist in triumph. Several hours after his release from prison, he made his first speech on the balcony of Cape Town’s City Hall.

Here he uttered the first words most South Africans had ever heard him speak: “Comrades and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom. I stand here before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant of you the people. ...Today, the majority of South Africans, black and white, recognise that apartheid has no future. It has to be ended by our decisive mass action.” He said in a speech frequently drowned out by roars from the crowd “We have waited too long for our freedom.”

On that summer’s day in 1990, South Africa entered a new era, and Nelson Mandela was the man who led the way. In 1993 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk “for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa” (Fig.16). In 1994, the Transkei was reintegrated into its larger neighbour and became part of the Eastern Cape Province within South Africa. Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the President of the Republic of South Africa on 27 April 1994. He later retired to Qunu in May 2012. In his autobiography Long Walk to Freedom, Mandela describes Qunu as where he spent the happiest moments of his childhood.

**Nelson Mandela’s global HIV/AIDS awareness program**

The Nelson Mandela HIV/AIDS awareness campaign called ‘46664’ takes its name from the prison number (prisoner number 466 of 1964) given to Nelson Mandela when he was incarcerated for life on Robben Island. He gave his prison number to the organisation as a permanent reminder of the sacrifices he was prepared to make for a humanitarian and social justice cause in which he passionately believed (Fig.17).

In creating 46664 initially as a global HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention campaign, Mr Mandela realised that to reach the youth all over the world specifically, he needed to engage the support of the people who most appealed to them.

Nelson Mandela died on 5 December 2013 at his home in Houghton in Johannesburg at the age of 95, leaving a rich and unique legacy not only to South Africa, but also Africa and the rest of the world (Fig.18).

His body lay-in-state at the Union Buildings from 11-13 December 2013. The Union Buildings hold extreme significance for South Africa as the official seat of the Government and houses the Presidency as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs. It was also the place where Madiba was sworn in as the first democratically elected President of South Africa nearly two decades earlier. On the 16 December 2013 a Mandela-statue was unveiled at the Union Buildings by President Jacob Zuma.

After a State Memorial Service was held on 10 December 2013 at the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg, Mandela’s body was moved to his home town Qunu for his official State funeral on Sunday 15 December 2013. On this day following a period of mourning the world said its final goodbyes to South Africa’s global icon. Watched by millions of viewers on television screens throughout the world, Madiba was laid to rest in the small village of Qunu.

**Sources:**

There was something about this item, (Fig.1) that puzzled me - where are the stamps? How was the postage paid? There’s not even a computer-generated label. The reverse (Fig.2) only contains the customs declaration and the South African incoming international registration barcode. As the item was registered, it must have been handed over at a post office counter in Arenys de Mar, a small town some 40 kilometres northeast of Barcelona. It’s highly unlikely that the post office clerk forgot to apply the stamps as the cover has been cancelled (Fig.3). Would a post office employee cancel an item sans stamps? Highly unlikely. It is possible that stamps were stuck on, but fell off, as suggested by the missing gap in the cancellation, indicated by the red arrow. Except that the cover shows no sign of any gum residue. Besides, the small mark, indicated by the blue arrow, looks like it was made by the canceller and would have appeared on any stamp, if there, indeed, was a stamp there. Truly a philatelic enigma.
PART I:

THE POST OFFICE AT LADISMITH

The Swartberg mountain range, spanning 230km from west to east, is the longest and highest mountain range in the Western Cape.

Towerkop, 2198m, famous for its split peak and seemingly unclimbable summit, is well-known in the Klein Swartberg range and is situated near the town of Ladismith. In 1885, an 18-year old local, Gustaf Nefdt, became the first person to climb the split peak. He had no experience of rock climbing but completed his mission successfully, with pure determination, in bare feet and without a rope.

PIONEER DAYS

Geographical circumstances in this mountainous area made exploration difficult. Trek farmers would have had to penetrate their way into the later named Ladismith area, through Kogmanskloof near Montagu. It is difficult to determine when the first farmers obtained grazing rights in the area, but by 1743 the Great Brak River had been established as the eastern border of the Cape Province.

Dr Robertson, a Dutch Reformed clergyman at Swellendam visited congregations at Langeberg, Rooiberg and Swartberg during 1835, but could only do so on horseback, as the passage through the Langeberg Mountains was at Sparrebos by way of the Bruidegomsvoetpad (Bridegroom’s Footpath). Church services were held on the Elandsvei farm of B.J. Kloppers. It was always Robertson’s vision to have a travelling missionary teacher in this vast area and on 1 April 1848 the Church Council of Swellendam asked the Church’s ‘Kommissie voor het Zendingwezen’ to place someone at Swartberg. A young German missionary, the Rev Johan Kretzen, was appointed to Groot Swartberg to look after the spiritual needs of the people living between the Lange- and Swartberg mountains.

In 1845, the Drostdy district of Swellendam was proclaimed. At first, the field-cornetcy of Groot Zwartberg (later Ladismith) fell under the jurisdiction of Swellendam. The establishment of the small town and congregation at the foot of Towerkop occurred at the same time. A village Board and Church Council were appointed on 10 February 1851. The Board’s members were J. Kretzen, A.J. van Tonder, J.W.

POST OFFICE HISTORY

DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES ALONG THE FOOTHILLS OF TOWERKOP

by ds Pauw Steyl RDPSA, George Philatelic Society

van Tonder, J.A.B. van Zyl, D.J.A.G Crafford, A.C. de Wet, J.F. Zievogel, and D. Vrey. More than 700 morgen of land from the farm Elandsfontein of B.J. Kloppers were purchased for £1,000. Municipal regulations were accepted on 27 December 1861 and through a Government proclamation on 29 January 1862 by Governor Wodehouse, the town became a municipality with J.F. Zievogel as the first Mayor.

From old correspondence it seems that the new congregation’s name was Lady Smith in honour of the wife of Sir Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape. Soon it was spelled ‘Ladysmith’. To distinguish it from Ladysmith in Natal, the spelling was changed to Ladismith on 10 March 1857 in the deed of transfer of the congregation. In the Civil Establishment List of 1 August 1861 the post office was listed as Ladismith and for the purpose of this article I am going to stick with the spelling Ladismith.

THE START OF POSTAL SERVICES

It is difficult to ascertain when official postal services started along the foothills of Towerkop. The first letter I could find in the Cape Archives regarding postal activities was written by Mr Zievogel, presumably the village board member, J.F. Zievogel.

Swarteberg, 28 January 1852

The Postmaster, Cape Town

Sir, I am at a loss how to act with regards the duty of Postmaster at Lady Smith, up to this moment there is no one appointed yet and it is impossible for me.
to attend the duty as Postmaster as I am one hour of Lady Smith, and there is no one fit for the purpose than Mr Van As but he won't have anything to do with it until he is appointed by you. Therefore I beg to request you will please appoint him so that we can prepay our letters here.

– Ziervogel.

Another archival letter gives some very interesting information. J. Kretzen wrote to Civil Commissioner R. Southey at Swellendam on 11 February 1852.

Dear Sir,

Last Saturday, the 7th instant I received from the PMG (Postmaster General) the appointment of temporary postmaster. However, it would have been better if Mr Christian van As, whom I Sir put before you, received the appointment immediately...

I asked Mr Christian van As if he would be interested in the work of postmaster he answered “Yes you can let the civil commissioner know that he may introduce me to the PMG but the salary must not be too small in case there is not much to do.”

... Meanwhile I will carry on to perform the office until Mr C. van As is appointed. According to the ‘Instructions’ I see that the postmaster has to contact the civil commissioner in connection with any shortcomings. What is falling short in this office are: 1.Postal stamp, 2.Scale and weights, 3.Paper and writing books, sealing wax and thick paper or as the ‘Instructions’ requires. Kindly send me the first post the remuneration he would resign at the end of June 1852. He had also not received the stationery, paper, sealing wax, etc. that he ordered on 21 May. His next letter to the PMG was on 18 June 1852:

...Lady Smith’s postal station becomes week by week a more central and busy office. Seeing that there is a route through Seven Weeks Poort to the interior the importance of the post office would always grow. The interest of the public must always be served at best.

Not only is the amount of stationery put to insufficient but also the remuneration. So with all respect I want to say that if an allowance of £15 per annum is granted to me for the handling of the mails as well as an additional £3 per annum for stationery I will accept the instruction of the mail at Lady Smith until the end of the year. However after the end of the year I reserve myself the right to reconsider the matter.

On 30 July 1852 Van As requested a handstamp for Lady Smith from the PMG. As he was leaving Ladismith, Postmaster van As resigned in writing on 19 November 1852 but only left office three months after 1 December 1852, that is, on 1 March 1853. On 4 February 1853, he notified the PMG that he could find no one else except perhaps for a Mr Koenig.

F.W. Koenig was appointed in place of Van As. He informed the PMG on 7 June 1853 that he had only just received the paperwork and would send his answer shortly. He was appointed postmaster from 1 March 1853 and ran the post office from his house for almost four years and resigned on 2 January 1857. During this time the Ladismith Post Office received its first postmark. It was the Dated Town Oval (DTO) issued in 1853. (Goldblatt’s earliest recorded use for Ladismith is 28 April 1855. However, an earlier letter dated 11 January 1854 was found during the author’s personal research in the Cape Archives.)

During Koenig’s term, a second post office was opened in the area at Zoar on 3 November 1853 with a Mr January as the first postmaster. In 1858, the Cape of Good Hope Statistical Registers (Blue Books), listed the Post Office Zoar (Amalienstein) to indicate the transfer of the office to the neighbouring mission station. (The SA Philatelist June 2000, pp 55-59). Koenig’s successor was Jan Nefdt who recognised his appointment in a letter to the PMG on 22 January 1857. When a postmaster was appointed he was required to provide a guarantee of £20, duly signed by himself and two witnesses, to the PMG in Cape Town. Postmaster Nefdt did not do this and was requested by the PMG in a letter of 13 August 1957, to do so without further delay. Nefdt responded to the PMG that he did not know he had to give a guarantee of £20 for his salary of £15 p.a., and asked that another postmaster rather be appointed.

On 2 March 1852, Kretzen wrote another letter, this time to the PMG in Cape Town telling him that he quite recently handed the office of postmaster over to Mr C. van As. Kretzen was the first official, but temporary, postmaster at Lady Smith.

By 27 May 1852 van As was in charge of the postal affairs at Ladismith. He wrote to the PMG that if he did not receive a better remuneration he would resign at the end of June 1852. He had also not received the stationery, paper, sealing wax, etc. that he ordered on 21 May. His next letter to the PMG was on 18 June 1852:

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By 27 May 1852 van As was in charge of the postal affairs at Ladismith. He wrote to the PMG that if he did not receive a better...
for Ladismith because he had to travel 1½ hours on horseback to the nearest Justice of the Peace to sign all the documents.

Nefdt was followed by Josef Bobbert on 29 August 1857. It seems there was little love lost between Messrs. Nefdt and Bobbert, as on 24 September 1857 Bobbert faced charges of irregularities laid by Nefdt before the PMG. Nefdt was dissatisfied with the fact that the post office was being run from Bobbert's business. Bobbert informed the PMG that he ran the post office from a room connected to his house by a passage, and that he had already ordered a post box from the town's cabinet maker, for posting letters.

According to Bobbert, when he took over the post office he discovered a major irregularity. When mails arrived at Ladismith, many residents were present and as soon as the bag was opened everyone started sorting mail instead of the postmaster doing this. The habit was immediately stopped with the following notice. ‘Notice is hereby given that according to regulations, the mails will in future be sorted behind closed doors and delivered half an hour after its arrival’.

According to Bobbert, a few respected residents like Rev van Velden from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Justice of the Peace were all willing to testify that the post office was in good hands.

On 25 October 1859 Bobbert was succeeded by Frederick Brink, but initially only for about a month. On 20 April 1861 he wrote to the PMG telling him that Bobbert was going to resign and that in his place he was quite possibly going to recommend a young German. Brink then presented himself as Bobbert's successor. He said: “…that he who has a big family to care for, is convinced that the PMG would be more inclined to help on a member of a dignified Afrikaans family than to favour a foreigner.”

Bobbert finally resigned on 15 May 1861 as he had been elected to the Divisional Council. He recommended Heinrich Wilhelm Becker as his successor. Becker applied in writing, mentioning that he was already connected for one year to Bobbert's business and was thus familiar with the handling of mails. Testimonials were available from Mr Bobbert and a Mr J.D.K.Reitz from Swellendam. The office of postmaster, however, was not given to Mr Becker.

A written statement by 34 residents declared that Brink had been an uncertified insolvent for the past eight years and the undersigned believed that the Governor was unaware of his bankruptcy. By no means did Mr Brink enjoy the trust of the community, and an earnest appeal was made for the PMG to reconsider the appointment.

It seemed that Brink was in dire straits but there was a lone voice in his favour. Mr J. Ziervogel gave his support to Brink in a letter of the same date as that of Brink who also wrote for support to Dr Robertson at Swellendam asking him to recommend him to the PMG. In reply, Robertson wrote back on 13 June 1861 stating that Brink and the local clergyman, Rev van Velden, had not been on good terms for some time. Brink's wife, however, was an ambitious and respectable woman who did everything to bring up her children in a respectable way. On 14 June Dr Robertson forwarded a letter from the Swellendam Bank stating that Brink was about to be rehabilitated. Thus, despite the protests, the Blue Books indicate that Brink was permanently appointed on 1 August 1861.

On 22 May 1869, Civil Commissioner Garcia investigated Frederick Brink's handling of the post office at Ladismith. Brink was again in trouble as his children frequently tampered with the mail and had been caught reading letters. The PMG, Mr Charles Piers, stated in his findings of 27.
The SA Philatelist, June 2018.

EARLY POSTMARKS USED AT THE LADISMITH POST OFFICE:
May 1869 that, "...as regards Frederick Brink I find that he must be acquitted of having either opened or read the letter in question but there can be no doubt from the evidence...that Johanna Brink, who was instructed to do his work, was guilty on that occasion of a grave offence against the Post Office Regulations. If there was any truth in the statement made by Johanna and her father in regard to bags, packages and letters arriving at the office broken or loose I consider that the Postmaster has been grossly neglectful in not reporting the matter. Brink was ordered to handle the incoming and outgoing mail himself, and his daughter prohibited to be in the post office on the occasion of the arrival or dispatch of mails. Brink’s post office was in a small annexe to his home. The first deed of transfer of this house dated from the year 1854 was in favour of Cornelis Vrey. In 1860 J.S.F. Brink bought the property for £11 2s and sold it on 15.12.1874 to Postmaster Brink for £65. By 1964, the building became dilapidated but has since been restored by Mr and Mrs. Kallie van der Berg and is today known as Eerstpos. What about some humour from the post office? On 10 May 1873 H.W. Becker wrote a letter to the PMG in Cape Town questioning why several letters written to him from Victoria West had been forwarded to Bloemfontein. To illustrate his frustration he provided the PMG with an envelope on 19 May 1873, which was forwarded on 26 April 1873 from Victoria West via Colesberg (29 April), arriving in Bloemfontein on 1 May 1873. On 3 May 1873 the letter was received back at Colesberg! Another letter by Becker of 22 May 1873 was referred to postmaster Hogan at Murraysburg who delivered the following commentary on 26 May 1873: "My acting postmaster thought that Lady Smith was in the Freestate, thus the mistake in both cases. Seeing that he had received only £15 p.a. for the past 13 years, Postmaster Brink applied on 2 November 1874 for a salary increase. With his return for the 1875 postal articles to the PMG on 27 December 1875 he again asked for a raise. As motivation he writes in his letter that a salary of £15 p.a. is nothing for a postmaster who runs a post office that handles £10,000 p.a. From a letter by a certain Herman Henoch on 18 May 1880, in which he made application for the situation as postmaster at Ladismith, it appeared that Brink had died. By 29 June 1880 F.E. Almond was named as Postmaster. At this time there were only two post offices in the Ladismith district: Ladismith and Amalienstein. (Unfortunately the Archival records of postmasters’ activities are not listed after 1879.) Part 2 - Conveyance of the Mail to be published in a future issue

STAMPS of SOUTH AFRICA

Modern mint SOUTH AFRICA 1961 - 2018: STAMPS, BOOKLETS, SHEETLETS, MIN.SHEETS Also G-SWA, SWA and NAMIBIA up to 2018.

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The SA Philatelist, June 2018.
NEW STAMP ISSUES PROGRAMME - 2018

Information extracted from the ‘WHAT’S NEWS 02/2018
* DTPS: Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services
** RASN: Requested at short notice   *** PAPU: Pan African Postal Union

50 Years since the First Heart Transplant

The stamps commemorating 50 Years since the First Heart Transplant have finally been delivered to the Post Office after a long delay.

Orders can be placed with SAPO and should also be available at selected post office branches with effect from 21 May 2018.

The 2017 stamps Year Pack

The 2017 stamps Year Pack is not available due to the delay in the delivery of the 50 Years since the First Heart Transplant issue but should also be available from 21 May 2018.

2018 Stamp Programme

The 2018 stamp issuing programme has been released. The provisional stamp programme listed here may still be subject to change by the SAPO.

• 1. Joint issue with India
  - 20 Years of Strategic Partnership, featuring Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Oliver Tambo
  Issue date: RASN** for 6 June 2018 (Ad-hoc stamp requested by DTPS*)

• 2. National Parks
  Part 4
  Issue date: 31 May 2018

• 3. Joint issue with Germany – Nelson Mandela 100
  Issue date: 18 July 2018 (Ad-hoc stamp requested by DTPS*)

• 4. Joint issue with India – Nelson Mandela 100 and 125th Anniversary of the Mohandas ‘Mahatma’ Gandhi Pietermaritzburg incident.
  Issue date: RASN** for 18 July 2018 (Ad-hoc stamp requested by DTPS*)

• 5. Joint issue PAPU***
  - Nelson Mandela 100
  Issue date: RASN** for 18 July 2018 (Ad-hoc stamp requested by DTPS*)

• 6. Innovative Bridge Design
  Issue date: 6 September 2018

• 7. President Cyril Ramaphosa
  Issue date: 28 September 2018 (Ad-hoc stamp according to Stamp Issuing Policy)

• 8. World Post Day: Digital Revolution
  Issue date: 9 October 2018

• 9. The Big 5
  Issue date: 26 November 2018

SETEMPE:
It is noted that the last copy of SETEMPE issued was electronic and it was for September to December 2017. There will be no new issue of SETEMPE for the 1st trimester of 2018 as there have been no new issues available.
Details of the 50 Years since the First Heart Transplant issue appeared in the last copy of SETEMPE.
In the Cape of Good Hope, carriage of the post by mail carts started circa 1838. As the carts gradually became more sophisticated, their owners began to advertise their availability to carry passengers in addition to the mail. By 1856, this means of transportation was recognised in the government’s Cape of Good Hope Almanac and Annual Register, but with the following proviso: “This species of conveyance is only resorted to by travellers in cases of emergency, the rapidity with which they are driven rendering them neither very convenient nor very safe. They are much made use of, however, for the transmission of parcels ….”

The cover illustrated in Fig.1 was carried by a passenger cart from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown in 1865.

In the Bechuanalands, following the disbanding of the Warren Expeditionary Force in August 1885, the mail was collected at Barclay West in the northern Cape by the newly established Bechuanaland Border Police and transported to Vryburg.

From there, the Border Police transported the mail to Mafeking and northwards into the Protectorate. Following persistent complaints that the Police were opening the mail bags and removing items such as registered mail, the Postmaster-General decided in early 1887 that they should cease to carry the mails between Vryburg and Mafeking, and tenders were invited to operate this service. Mr Geeringh, the proprietor of the Passenger Cart Service, was awarded the tender for conveyance of the mails from Kimberley to Mafeking with effect from 1 March 1887. Little is known about the service offered by Geeringh, except that he abandoned the contract in July 1888, and the Border Police were instructed to resume their postal duties by carrying the Protectorate mail by post cart from Mafeking to Tati in the far north Trans-Protectorate.

The conditions under which the Police operated their service were bleak and arduous. In March 1889, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Vaughan-Williams, on a journey to Gubulawayo to meet with Lobengula, Chief of the Amandebele, described conditions on the road near Palapye:

“We passed numbers of old dilapidated wagons trekking along the road to Palapye. Many of their oxen were very poor and I saw more cruelty to animals in those few miles than I have ever seen, the drivers beating their oxen most unmercifully until the poor things could pull no more. If an ox lay down, the driver would pull its tail around, and if that did not help he would bite it. I actually saw one driver make a hole in the sand under a fallen ox and light a small fire to make the exhausted beast get up ….”

The road (up north to Macloutsie) had been badly worn by so many wagons, and trekking to the first river we came to, the Lotsani, was a regular nightmare. Two or three miles of it were like going down huge rocky stairs; great slippery slabs of stone and then a drop of a couple of feet or so. It was very hard on the wagons and oxen. Some of our animals were showing signs of sickness, and on this trek one died ….”

By 1889, it became clear that the Border Police had little appetite for carrying the mail, and in September, the Post Master General despatched the following report by telegram to the Colonial Secretary:

“Postmaster Mafeking reports that Protectorate mail arrived there this morning Wednesday at 8 am. Trooper in charge reports cart broke down at Crocodile River. O.C. has informed P.M. that they cannot take mails to Protectorate this week as mules are unfit to travel and they cannot supply fresh ones – mail will consequently be delayed at Mafeking as Police cart has broken down - we must revert to native runners between Mafeking and Shoshong to avoid collapse to the Shoshong to Gubulawayo service. Kindly communicate with His Honour on this subject.”

The last police postcard to carry the mail reached Mafeking on 22 October 1889.

The Bechuanaland Exploration Co

The mail contract was awarded at short notice to the Bechuanaland Exploration Company and provided for conveyance of the mails from Kimberley to Shoshong, the main settlement in Chief Khama’s country, a distance of 450 miles. The prospect of this contract was favourably greeted by the main newspaper of the day, the Bechuanaland News and Vryburg. Mafeking and Malmani Chronicle. Under the heading ‘New Post-Carts’, the edition dated 7 November, 1889, it announced:

“The Bechuanaland Exploration Company have put admirable energy into all their undertakings so far, and their contract to carry Her Majesty’s mails from Kimberley to the Protectorate is evidently to be no exception. Their first new cart went up last week, and its sound, comfortable appearance drew forth expressions of approval. It was brand new, with ‘Bechuanaland Exploration Ltd’ added to the usual mail-cart declarations, and the covers and fittings are a credit to the maker, Mr W C Cooper of Capetown. Passengers now enjoy as much comfort as a post-cart can possibly afford.”

The SA Philatelist, June 2018.
In 1890, a formal tender for the mail contract was announced by a Notice dated 16 October 1890 from the Postmaster-General in Vryburg:

**Tender for the Protectorate Mails:**

“Tenders, marked and addressed as above, are invited for and will be received until noon on Tuesday 9 December, for the Conveyance of Mails between Mafeking and the Camp of the Bechuanaland Border Police at Macloutsie River, along the telegraph line via Ramathlabama, Ramoutsa, Mochudi, Palla Camp (near Notwani Junction) and Palachwe (Karma’s Town) in covered carts with not less than four horses or mules, once a week each way, in 115 hours.

The weight of mails to be limited to 1,500 lbs. Tenders to state at what rate per lb excess Mails will be conveyed.

Persons tendering for this service must also state at what rate per annum they will be prepared to carry a light mail on horseback, once a week each way, between the Main Route and the Post Office at Kanye, distance about 30 miles, and also between the Main Route and the Post Office at Molepolo, distance about 35 miles.

The contract to commence at Mafeking on Wednesday 11 February 1891 for the up journey and at Macloutsie on 11 February 1891 for the down journey, and to terminate on 28 February 1894, but either of the contracting parties will be at liberty to terminate the same upon giving four months notice in writing to that effect. The names of two good and sufficient sureties to be furnished …”.

This tender, for a much more elaborate service than had previously been required, was won by the Bechuanaland Exploration Company, which employed different types of mail carts for the various stages of the journey, as described in December 1891 by J.D. Symons who had been appointed as Postmaster at Macloutsie.

The first coach, operating from Vryburg to Mafeking was “the American coach with eight spanking horses,” which was replaced at Mafeking by “a square box on wheels with a couple of springs and eight mules. This box, dignified by the name of coach, is a very emphatic concern; it has not the lazy, easy roll of a well-made coach, but a sharp sudden jerk that almost dislocates one’s limbs, and throws one against the roof and then back again in a heap among portmanteaus, parcels, rugs, broken pipes, and burning ends of cigars.” At Palla, “we changed again, and took on a two-wheeled cart on springs, drawn by oxen, as the horse-sickness is too bad for horses or mules to go further. The two-wheeler turned out to be easier and more comfortable than the small four-wheeled coach we left behind; the oxen were put into a trot, at which they were kept by the application of a long wagon whip, and a leader ran in front to keep them in the road.” Symons summarised the journey as “one of the worst I have ever had, travelling as we were night and day for nearly a week, over roads that were by no means light, and there being but few houses of accommodation, our meals were very unsatisfactory and irregular”. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the front and reverse of a Passenger Ticket issued by the Bechuanaland Exploration Company for a journey from Mafeking to Macloutsie, close to the north eastern boundary of the Protectorate.

Contracts for the carriage of mail contained provisions for the contractor to be fined in the event that the agreed timetable for the delivery of the mails was not achieved. A letter to the Receiver General in Vryburg from the Bechuanaland Exploration Company dated 9 March 1893 regarding a fine imposed on the Company for delays in the conveyance of the mails for February complained that the delay had been caused by “exceptionally heavy floods … which are entirely due to an act of God, and beyond our power and control …” [letter] refers to the special clause in our contract which states that such fines can only be imposed on us in cases where negligence can be proved against our company …”. In support of its appeal, the Company attached a confirmatory report that there had been heavy floods in the Protectorate “when the Notwane was at times in certain places half a mile wide.” This appeal was successful and testifies to the challenges faced by the mail cart contractor.

**Wissing Bros**

The Wissing Brothers were awarded the tender to carry the mails from Mafeking through the Protectorate to Bulawayo with effect from 15 July 1894, at total cost of £8,300 per annum. The section from Mafeking to Macloutsie was to be completed in 150 hours with a weight limit of 1,500 lbs, at a cost of £6,000 per annum. On the Palapye to Macloutsie section, the weight limit reduced to 500lbs.

The contract also permitted the Post Office to terminate the service from Palapye northwards and award it to the British South Africa Company, in which event the contracted sum would be diminished by £1,000 per annum. Provision was further made for a reduction to be made in proportion to the lesser distance over which the contractor conveyed the mails by cart as the railway from Mafeking was
extended north towards Palapye.

By October 1894, the Wirsing Brothers were under severe pressure from the Post Office to abide by the contracted times of arrival and departure, and wrote the following letter to the Officer Commanding the Bechuanaland Border Police in Gaborones:

"Dear Sir,

We as postal contractors wish to bring to your notice the difficulty we have in running Her Majesty’s Mails up to time along the Protectorate roads when they are (as now) filled with transport wagons, many of which will not turn out or in any way give way for the mail coaches, when the bugle is blown giving them warning of its approach.

We now beg of your assistance in this matter, & should suggest that the Police, acting as custom house officers & examining Way Bills etc should be instructed to inform carriers to turn out on hearing the bugle to allow the mail coach to pass."

In January 1895, the PMG gave the Wirsing Brothers three months notice of termination of their contract, and Messrs J. J. and C.J. Zeederberg were awarded the contract. Figure 4 illustrates an advertising cover for Wirsing Brothers, Proprietors of the North East line of Royal Mail coaches, Vryburg to Macloutsie.

Zeederberg Company

The Zeederberg Company took up the service from 1 May 1895. The Zeederberg contract introduced the carriage of mails by mule coaches in place of ox wagons. Mules were changed every 10 miles or so. This accelerated means of carriage obliged the company to operate the mail service from Mafeking to Bulawayo via Ramoutsa, Gaberones, Mochuli, Palla, Palapye and Tati in 144 hours (6 days) twice per week instead 183 hours once a week as previous. The mail coaches now left Mafeking on Sunday and Wednesday mornings, shortly after the arrival of the train from Cape Town and Port Elizabeth carrying the European mails. The weight of mail to be carried on each coach under the new contract was 2,000 lbs as compared with 1,500 lbs weekly (with any excess above that weight charged at 1s 6d per lb) under the previous contract.

On 18 May, 1895, the Bechuanaland News and Vryburg, Mafeking and Protectorate Chronicle published a letter from an ‘onlooker’ dated 11 May at Gaberones:

"To anyone who has heard of the reputation which the Zeederberg Co have as post cart contractors, it was rather a surprise to see their first mail cart on the way to Bulawayo coming in here. Many of the inhabitants had been watching the event with great interest, but were kept waiting about six hours longer than usual. At last the driver’s bugle sounded from the post office and everybody looked forward to seeing a fine car and a lively team of mules coming down the rise, as one was used to seeing from the old contractors’ teams, but it was rather a disappointment for the onlookers when a big vehicle approached, heavily loaded with mail bags and parcels and sometimes a weary passenger’s head appearing in the window to wonder how much it should take to reach that place Gaborones. The mules were perspiring all over and fairly knocked up and could only keep up a slow pace down hill, which they slackened in such a way that the driver and his assistants had all their work cut out by shouting and lashing them up, to make the poor animals drag the cart the few hundred paces to the stores.

Considering that the Zeederberg Company had a new stable erected between this and Ramoutsa, so that their teams had only nine miles to go, it was rather striking that the arrival of this first coach proved to be such a poor show. How they were progressing on their journey, and when they reached Bulawayo, we have not heard yet, but we know since that their cart from Bulawayo
In the early months of 1896, the mail coach service between Mafeking and Bulawayo was considerably affected for several months by the ravages of rinderpest and the disturbances associated with the Matabeleland revolt. It also became necessary on several occasions to utilise the mail coaches for the conveyance of arms and ammunition, food supplies, and medicine, to Bulawayo. The full contracted mail service between Mafeking and Bulawayo was resumed on 17 May 1896.

In 1896, a journey through Bechuanaland by mail coach was described as follows: “Our road from Mafeking ... lay along the old coach road .... On this road ... coaches, with their spans of twelve mules apiece, used to travel with passengers and mails. Such coaches were huge ‘Buffalo Bill’ affairs, swinging on enormous leather springs and carrying twelve passengers, the driver, and a Cape boy to assist him. Teams were changed every seven or ten miles. A journey in one of these conveyances meant days of trial and tribulation. Passengers were of all sorts and conditions. Ladies of doubtful reputation, commercial travellers, prospectors, business men, and parsons were packed like herrings for days on end. Inside there were no room to move or stretch one’s legs; one was also choked with dust. Outside one was surrounded by mail bags, and exposed either to glaring sun or torrents of tropical rain.”

The Zeederberg contract was terminated in 1897 following the opening of the railway line which brought the days of the mail and passenger cart to an end.

Bibliography

Sketches of South African Life, Series III. In the days of the Mail Coach, No. 6 Forging a River
INTRODUCTION

Johannesburg hosted the South Africa Empire Exhibition from 15 September 1936 to 15 January 1937, staged at the Milner Park showground. This was the first Empire Exhibition to be held outside the United Kingdom and it coincided with the city’s Jubilee year; it had been 50 years since gold was discovered on the farm Langlaagte, which later became Johannesburg. Over two million people visited the Exhibition during the four months that it was open and as a result of the huge success, it was referred to as South Africa’s Wembley (Fig.1) recalling the famous Empire Exhibition held at Wembley, UK in 1924.

In conjunction with the Empire Exhibition, the Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition (JIPEX), organised by the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, took place from 2 to 14 November, 1936 (Fig.2). It was envisaged that holding a philatelic show concurrently with a general exhibition would secure a large audience, especially amongst non-stamp collectors. This was the second International Exhibition hosted in the Union of South Africa, following the one held in Durban from 2 to 12 July 1928.

The stamp exhibition drew worldwide interest and was held in two parts; a Non-Competitive and a Competitive Class with 29 sections. In the former, 48 invited exhibits were shown, of which eight were official. The scope of the Competitive Class was limited to that part of Africa, which was more or less in direct contact with South Africa. It was called ‘Africa South of the Equator’ by the Organising Committee. In only one section was the scope widened to ‘The World’.

The Competitive Class attracted 82 entries, of which ten were also entered into the Research section. Five junior exhibits were on display, as well as five literature entries. Exhibitors in the Non-Competitive Class were presented with a paperweight made from gold-bearing rock, while the Championship Cup was sponsored by the City Council of Johannesburg (Figs.3 & 4).

Several philatelic societies in the Union had raised the question of having special stamps issued to commemorate the exhibition. This was communicated to the relevant authorities, but their initial response was non-committal. However, it was later decided that specially overprinted stamps could be supplied, and although not ideal, the decision was taken to accept this offer, rather than have nothing at all.

The then current form of booklets (B10) was to be discontinued and a quantity of complete sheets of the ½d and 1d denominations was still on hand (Fig.5). These sheets consisted of 21 panes, each with an arrangement of six advertisements appearing on the top and bottom margins. Besides adverts for the telephone and telegraph, there were also some for tobacco and pipes and one for a Union stamp dealer.

Rather than wasting the stamps, it was decided to overprint them for the Exhibition. The overprinted stamps were issued on 2 November 1936 and were on sale at the special Exhibition Post Office only for the duration of the stamp show. They could also be obtained on written application to the Postmaster of the Johannesburg Post Office. The stamps were distributed by the printer in packets of 100 sheetlets; the sheetlets in each packet being identical.

A pair of sheetlets was given to each purchaser of a JIPEX entrance ticket. Numbers provided for the ½d value were 105,189 of which 60,108 sheetlets had a first English inscribed stamp and 45,081 a first Afrikaans stamp. A total of 127,554 sheetlets of the 1d were supplied with 72,888 English and 54,666 Afrikaans inscribed first stamps.
SPECIAL DATE STAMPS

In total, five special date stamps were produced for the exhibition. Two double-circle handstamp cancellers reading: EMPIRE EXHIBITION / RYKSTENTOONSTELLING at the top with JOHANNESBURG at the bottom. The date appears in one line using Roman numerals for the month. The sizes of the two are different from each other and for ease of reference will be described as Type 1 and Type 2 (Fig.6).

**Type 1:** Diameter is 30.5mm and in both cases the internal rings are 17.5mm. The letters of RYKSTENTOONSTELLING are 2mm high. The letter ‘I’ of RYKSTENTOONSTELLING lies under ‘IO’ of EXHIBITION.

**Type 2:** Diameter is 31mm. RYKSTENTOONSTELLING is 2.5mm high. The letter ‘I’ of RYKSTENTOONSTELLING lies under ‘O’ of EXHIBITION. The ornament (x) in the double circle is also further away from the ‘E’ than in Type 1.

A special machine canceller operated from 15 September 1936 until 16 January 1937, to publicise and handle the expected large quantities of mail (Fig.7). Two cancellation date stamps of the same size were designed, one in English and the other in Afrikaans. Date stamps are of the double circle type, with the outer circle measuring 40.5 mm in diameter and the inner circle 32.5 mm. The lettering was placed between the two circles – English 2.5 mm high and Afrikaans 2 mm due to the extra letters. The date slug across the centre shows the date in figures and varied between 2 XI A36 and 14 XI A36 (Fig.8).

THE STAMPS

Sheets of stamps printed for the B10 booklets (Fig.9) were used for the overprinting. These sheets consisted of 7 rows of 3 columns, producing 21 different panes for each denomination.

1d CHARACTERISTIC

A characteristic appears on all even numbered English inscribed stamps. It takes the form of a small white ‘protrusion’ on the top left hand outer edge of the ‘O’ in SOUTH (Fig.10).

PRODUCTION

A Goebel 830 printing machine was used for the printing in rotogravure. In rotogravure printing, the stamp design is drawn larger than the required image and is then photographed. The negative is placed in a step-and-repeat camera that reduces the photographed design to the exact size of the required stamp. It is then duplicated as many times as required to make a complete sheet on a glass plate.

PERFORATION

The Goebel Printing machine, with its eleven-row perforation comb, perforates the whole width of the printing paper and approximately half the length of the final length of the cut sheet with each stroke. A figure ‘8’ perforation is produced at the perforation join for both values as follows (Fig.11):

- Either on the first perforation row or between stamps on row 1 and 2 – Panes 1, 2 and 3.
- Another figure ‘8’ (or a slight perforation shift) is found 11 perforation rows down, below the first figure ‘8’ perforation – Panes 10, 11 and 12.

OVERPRINT

Stamps were overprinted JIPEX placed above 1936 and in the side margins.
vertical spacing between JIPEX and 1936 is 4.5mm. The ½d stamps were prepared from the same multi-positive used for Issue 4. The 1d stamps were printed from the multi-positives that printed Issues 10 and 11.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The next step was to print the advertisements on the top and bottom margins. This was done by ordinary letterpress printing, after which it was cut into booklet panes and bound into booklets. In typograph printing, also known as letterpress, the stamp design is transferred onto a metal plate using a greasy ink, with the rest of the plate being etched away, leaving just the raised design from which to print (think of a rubber stamp method). Older typograph stamps can best be identified from the reverse side because the design often feels raised to the touch, due to the metal plates and heavy pressure applied. Nowadays, plastic plates are used for this process and these tend not to leave the raised reverse.

BOOKLET PANES LAYOUT (Fig.13)

The 1st, 5th and 9th columns were masked to provide for the binding margins. Rows 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 were also masked for the printing of the advertisements, each half the size of a stamp.

SHEETLET PANES LAYOUT (Fig.14)

For the JIPEX sheetlets, the sheets went back to the letterpress to print the words JIPEX placed above the date 1936 horizontally on each stamp. The following was printed in the side margins: ‘Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition 1936’ reading upwards in two lines: ‘Johannesburg Internasionale Filatelistiese Tentoonstelling 1936’.

When comparing the Booklet and JIPEX panes, the difference is that with the JIPEX issue, the panes (sheetlets) have margins all round, whereas the booklet sheets had the right margin removed. The seven JIPEX panes on the right retained the right margin and have it imperforated, whilst the remaining fourteen have all the margins perforated.

Four basic types of sheetlets were produced with an English or Afrikaans inscribed stamp as the first stamp on the sheetlet and with or without the right-hand margin perforated.

PLATE PROOF

Figure 15 shows a part plate proof on thin paper of the overprint for four settings of the sheetlet. These are positions 7, 8 and 10, 11 taken from the proof form of 21.

½d SHEET LAYOUT

When the printing was done, some of the columns and rows were masked to print 21 panes – 7 rows of 2 x 3 columns. Twelve panes have an English inscribed stamp as the first stamp with nine an Afrikaans stamp. Eight different advertisements were used to create the ten different advertising settings (Fig.16).

1d SHEET LAYOUT (Fig.17)

The 1d stamps were printed from the multi-positives that printed Issues 10 and 11. Twenty-one panes were printed in 7 rows of 3 columns. In contrast to the ½d, different advertisement settings were prepared for each pane, 21 settings in total. No individual stamp flaws/errors need to be identified because sheet positions can be determined by the different advertisement settings.

Twelve panes have an English inscribed stamp as the first stamp with nine an Afrikaans stamp. All 3 panes in a row have the same language-headed first stamp. Twenty advertisements were used to generate the 21 different advertisements settings. Of these, eight were regarding telephone and telegraph – four English ones translated to Afrikaans – were re-used (A1 to D2).

OVERPRINT ERRORS (Fig.18)

On three of the panes on the sheet for both values, the spacing between the upper and lower rows of overprint is wider than on the other 18 panes. The error occurred in the setting of the letterpress where in the forme a space filler was transposed. Thus the piece of lead was placed above, instead of below, the bottom overprint. Panes 5, 7 and 8 of both values are affected.

Fig 12: JIPEX sheetlets cancelled with an Afrikaans and English exhibition date stamp and posted at the Exhibition Post Office

Fig 13: Booklet sheetlet

Fig 14: JIPEX sheetlet

Fig 15: Part plate proof

Fig 16: Advertisement settings
by this error; for the ½d, sheetlets 5, 3(a) and 7, and 5, 7 and 8 for the 1d.

**FORTUITOUS TRANSFER – PANE 18, SHEETLET 6(b)** (Fig.19)
A fortuitous transfer appears on Row 17/10 of pane 18, sheetlet 6(b).

**OVERPRINT ON STAMP GUTTERS**
The overprint may be found misplaced in any direction on both values JIPEX sloping downwards to the left; left and downward shift, left and upward shift, right and downward shift, right shift. In some instances, the marginal inscription is printed on the stamps (Fig.20).

**½d SHADES**
In the ½d stamps the vignette varies from grey to black and intense black. The frame varies from light green to green and a deep green.

**1d SHADES**
In the 1d stamps the vignette varies from grey to black and intense black, the same as with the ½d. The frame varies from pale carmine to carmine and deep carmine.

A complete list of all references will accompany Part Two of this article.

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Fig 15: Plate Proof of four panes
Courtesy N. Zerbst

Fig 16: ½d Sheet layout, sheet format with advertisement positions:
Twelve panes have an English inscribed stamp as the first stamp with nine an Afrikaans stamp. Eight different advertisements were used to create the ten different advertising settings.
The SA Philatelist,  June 2018.

Fig 17: 1d Sheet layout format with advertisement positions:

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Fig 18: Overprint errors - Wide spacing and Narrow spacing. Panes 5, 7 and 8 of both values are affected by this error. For the ½d, sheetlets 5, 3(a) and 7 and for the 1d 5, 7 and 8.

Fig 19: Fortuitous transfer. Row 17/10 – Left stamp on bottom row shows an accidental printing: ‘X’ on left of stamp and ‘JIPE’ on the right through right margin.

Fig 20: Misplaced marginal overprint on stamps. The overprint may be found misplaced in any direction on both values; JIPEX sloping downwards to the left, Left and downward shift, Left and upward shift, Right and downward shift, Right shift. In some instances, the marginal inscription is printed on the stamps.
In October 2016 the above titled exhibit won a Silver medal at the National SAPDAPEX 2016 Exhibition in Johannesburg and was displayed at the Tatham Art Gallery in Pietermaritzburg from 14 to 25 February 2017. Our first version of Pietermaritzburg - The History of a City proved to be very popular especially the supporting talks given by one of our members, Dr Michael J. O’Connor, an expert on the red-brick buildings in the city. Media coverage was excellent, with articles in The Daily News, The Mercury, The Witness and Maritzburg Sun, as well as in the Gallery’s own Outline magazine.

We also enjoyed excellent post-exhibition coverage in The SA Philatelist journal.

The Directors at the Tatham Art Gallery knew that we intended expanding our exhibit to 128 pages (8 frames) for the SAPDAPEX 2017 National and again agreed to display it for 30 days at the beginning of 2018, providing we won a substantial award, preferably gold! Sadly we did not achieve Gold but a Large Vermeil was good enough for the Gallery and so the show was on! It was agreed that our award-winning story would be displayed from 13 February to 11 March 2018 with talks by Dr O’Connor on 17 February (Pietermaritzburg schools) and 10 March 2017 (Pietermaritzburg churches.)

We enjoyed MASSIVE publicity for this winning story would be displayed from 13 February to 11 March 2018 with talks by Dr O’Connor on 17 February (Pietermaritzburg schools) and 10 March 2017 (Pietermaritzburg churches.)

We enjoyed MASSIVE publicity for this exhibition including a full page story in the Natal Mercury which is widely distributed in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, as well as a full page in The Witness, the oldest newspaper in KZN with a wide readership. This was followed by further coverage and eight inserts in their ‘What’s Happening in Pietermaritzburg’ section.

We again featured in the Gallery’s own magazine as well as in their newsletter and our exhibit was supported by a PowerPoint presentation for children, accompanied by philatelic hand-outs kindly supplied by Joh Groenewald. The coverage brought in numerous visitors including Exchange students from Germany currently studying at the DUT University in Durban, a group of art teachers and their pupils and 22 learners from New Hannover Preparatory School, to name but a few. Incidentally, Pat Izaaks attended the same school during the late 1950s and he has been invited to address the learners at an assembly early next term. We are certain that Pat will find a way of introducing stamps into his talk!

Many visitors who viewed our exhibition said that it was ‘marvellous’ and worth visiting. Most could not believe the amount of information obtainable from a mere postage stamp and felt they had learnt a great deal about the history of their City. They were also impressed by the old postcards and envelopes some of which had been posted before the advent of postage stamps in Natal, and some folk were even inspired to dig-out their old stamp collections!

The Tatham also serves as an educational centre for artists and, on three consecutive Fridays, the art class was transferred to the Lorna Ferguson Room where our exhibit served both as a back-drop and an inspiration for artists in training. The Art Students were invited to enter a competition organised by the Maritzburg Philatelic Society on the theme of a Baobab Tree. Competition was fierce and First Prize went to Simoso Shelembe with Siyabonga Ngcobo coming second. Judging was done by Janet Kimmince, S

Fig.1: Poster advertising the exhibition.

Fig.2: Members of the MPS hard at work on the expanded version of the exhibit now known as ‘PIETERMARITZBURG - The Philatelic History of a City’, L-R: Heather Wyllie; Janet Kimmince; Joyce Hub; Mike O’Connor; Aubrey Bowles, Val de Jager and Dave Wyllie President of the Maritzburg Philatelic Society and PFSA Vice-President, KwaZulu-Natal.

Fig.3: Exchange students from Germany visiting the exhibit.

Fig.4: Art Class in the Lorna Ferguson Room where our exhibit was displayed.

Fig.5: Art students showing their competition entries. Simoso Shelembe (left) came first with Siyabonga Ngcobo being a close second.
one of our Club Members, and the prizes were sponsored by Stuttaford Van Lines. Stuttaford Van Lines also generously transported the frames donated to us by Federation, from Benoni to Pietermaritzburg, free of charge. Transporting frames is always a problem so we would also like to thank Richard Paine of Premium Pool Services in Pietermaritzburg for moving our frames to and from various exhibition sites i.e. for National Stamp Day; the Hobbies Fair and now to/from The Tatham Art Gallery.

Our main exhibit was complemented by various philatelic publications and ephemera as well as other Club and National exhibits such as My Golden Horn depicting rhinos by Tony Evans; The Upside-down Tree featuring Baobabs by Aubrey Bowles; Nyasaland by Fred Handman and Olympic Sport by Mike Hemmings.

It took 12 months of hard work to plan, collect and write-up the story but, mostly, it was good fun, which helped to strengthen friendships and camaraderie. For this reason we hope that our story will encourage other Clubs/Societies to put together a Club Exhibit.

We consider our exhibition to have been a great success for the following reasons:

1. All members of the MPS contributed to the exhibit in one way or another - by donating stamps/philatelic material or helping to write the story. Some hosted meetings in their own homes; others visited schools to obtain information and material that we could use to enhance the exhibit. Most were on duty at the Tatham Art Gallery and all this has created a strong bond amongst the MPS members.

2. Publicity for our hobby. Many visitors have contacted us about their stamp collections and have been invited to attend a Club meeting.

3. We gained one new member (Ian Horrell) whose interest is Forestry. He has already enthusiastically attended two of our meetings. Membership Application Forms were handed out to visitors and a couple have expressed a keen interest in joining our Society.

4. We have created an awareness of our hobby in Kwa-Zulu Natal and hope that other Clubs throughout the RSA and Namibia might attempt a similar joint venture. Some of the material on display was quite rare and a few examples are illustrated here (Figs. 8 - 11).

The Gallery loaned us the use of the Lorna Ferguson Room for thirty days at no charge; they also supplied free posters and let us use their Lecture Room and projection equipment also at no cost. The Education Officers were always available to assist visitors and our members on duty. We are truly grateful to them.

What of the future?

This image might tell you that ‘Happy Feet’ is in the formation stage and we are looking forward to another fine Club Effort!

Fig.6: Visitors to the exhibition

Fig.7: PowerPoint presentation by Pat Izaaks, a MPS member.

Fig.8: Envelope showing the first Natal Postage Stamps. 1d and 3d Chalon issue of 1859. Berri-type Crown canceler Pieter- Maritzburg Sep 22 1881 and Numeral 1 at the triple inland rate to D’Urban.

Fig.9: Used postcard showing the Victoria Club – ‘The Grand Old Lady’ – before it closed down. Cecil John Rhodes stayed here when visiting Pietermaritzburg from his brother Herbert’s cotton farm. Rickshaws parked outside were the most common form of transport.

Fig.10: Tatham Art Gallery, formerly the Supreme Court with a back room serving as the Post Office. The postcard depicts a mail coach leaving for Richmond.

Fig.11: A copy of the rare cancellation by Aubrey Bowles, Secretary, Pietermaritzburg Philatelic Society.

The following team:

Brendan Bell: Director and Bryony Clark: Assistant Director, Pinky Madlabane- Nkabinde: Education Officer and Art Teacher, Reena Bhoodram: Education Officer, Kobie Venter: Education Officer, Phumlani Ntshangase: Technical Officer and Ntuthuko Nkabane: Assistant Technical Officer.

Thank you to the following team:

Brendan Bell: Director and Bryony Clark: Assistant Director, Pinky Madlabane- Nkabinde: Education Officer and Art Teacher, Reena Bhoodram: Education Officer, Kobie Venter: Education Officer, Phumlani Ntshangase: Technical Officer and Ntuthuko Nkabane: Assistant Technical Officer.

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The Rhodesian Stamp Album, published by Peter Bale Philatelics of Johannesburg, South Africa, covers the reign of the Rhodesian Study Circle, from 1891 to 1952.

It has spaces for all the stamps of British South Africa Company Territory, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, British Central Africa and Nyasaland Protectorate.

All the catalogue listed, main number, shade of the Rhodesia Admirals and Double Heads are included as are ordinary and chalk-surfaced papers.

Spaces are included for changes of watermark, paper and perforation, die and type changes but excluding inverted and/or reversed watermarks, errors and shades.

Stanley Gibbons has kindly approved the use of their catalogue numbers and additional images have been provided by Tracinda publications.

The publisher also provides a "custom page" service to customers who want to add their special items such as pairs, blocks, varieties, postal history and postal stationary on pages using the same type face, spacing etc. as the main album to produce a more professional presentation.

There are 5 blank pages accompanying each album for a similar purpose and a sample custom page.

Hingeless with clear mounts.

Rhodesia Stamp Album (1891-1953) R3500 R4000

2018 GREAT BRITAIN CONCISE STAMP CATALOGUE

32nd Edition 2018

The ever-popular Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Catalogue continues to provide the perfect guide for the collector seeking more comprehensive information on Great Britain stamps than provided by the Collect British Stamps checklist, without the highly-detailed coverage of the five-volume Specialised series.

R2887-18 R625

KING GEORGE VI

9th Edition 2018

The King George VI Commonwealth colour stamp catalogue provides detailed listings and prices for all used and mint stamps issued by Great Britain and British Commonwealth countries between 1936 and 1952. In the nine years since publication of the 8th edition, prices have risen considerably in many areas and a number of new plates and watermark varieties have been added; the surcharges issued during the British Occupation of the Faroe Islands are also now included, as well as Telegraph Stamps and Telephone Stamps under Burma and the Indian States of Patiala and Jammu and Kashmir, ideal for all collectors of Commonwealth stamps from this popular era.

R2996-18 R1000

Our representative is our Southern African distributor Peter Bale of Peter Bale Philatelics (cell: 082 330 3925) to contact for all of your requirements.
LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

Exhibition news invited for all future local events

BELLEVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly meeting, 2nd Wednesday. Auditorium of the Bellville Library, Charl van Aswegen Rd, Bellville. 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; wernerb@axcess.co.za

Secretary: Reenie de Villiers; 082 567 0353; philately.netpoint.co.za

Website: http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com

Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8.00pm at the Athenaeum, Camp Ground Road, Newlands. Visitors are always welcome.

Contacts: Mary Rogers 0729461767 or 021 5582662

President: Victor Millard

Vice-President: Francois Friend

Secretary Treasurer: Rodney Maclachlan (akatzef@mweb.co.za, +27 (21) 4615134)

Contact for details: Aubrey Katzef: akatzef@mweb.co.za, +27 (21) 4615134

Meetings 19h00 starting time for monthly evenings: Monday always on a [underline]date[/underline]

 Mei, 30

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

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson Jan de Jong djhome606@gmail.com; Secretary Eugene du Plooy eugeneduPlooy@gmail.com

Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 09:00am for 09:15am at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair. Corner Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Hillcrest, Pretoria – right opposite the entrance to the University of Pretoria

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Vergader elke 2e Woensdag van elke newe maand (Januarie, Maart, Mei, Julie en Julie) by Filateliedienste in Silverton. Kontak: djhome606@gmail.com Doen uitekende studie en navorsing en publiceer ‘n gerealiseerde maandelikse mausbrief, 10vm.

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 2626, 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 meetings, visit [http://www.rhodesiastudycircle.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/](http://www.rhodesiastudycircle.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 member’s ‘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

PLEASE NOTE: Back Issues of The South African Philatelist are limited. Requests for any issue should be made in writing to The Editor of The Philatelist, PO Box 131600, Benoyr, 1504. An electronic PDF file may be requested should a printed copy of the journal not be available.


**PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG**

President: Clive Carr, Tel: 011 789 6357.

Meetings: 19h30, Third Wednesday of the month, at Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie. Postal address: PO Box 131037, Bryanston 2021, South Africa.

Jun 20: Invited talk by Gerhard Kamffer
Jul 18: Second Competitive Evening
Aug 15: Southern Africa
Sep 19: Preview of National Exhibits,
Oct 17: My favourite – (Maximum of one frame)
Nov 21: Intersociety quiz and invited exhibits
Dec 5: President’s Evening

**WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meet on the 5th Wednesday of every month at 19h30 at Panorama Sports Grounds, Cornelius St, Weltevreden Park, PO Box 198 Florida Hills 1716. Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374. Chairman or Ian Walker, Secretary. Tel: 011 4721161. Email: iwalker@vodamail.co.za

**EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meet at the Victorian Secret coffee shop, corner Russel / Woburn Ave, Benoni, 14h00 every last Saturday of the month. Exhibits, talks and workshops by members and invited guests. Questions of interest, quiz, general networking. Free entrance, refreshments and safe parking. President: Jimmy Mitchell; jimmymitchel18@gmail.com Secretary: Paul Hammerton, hampaul@ananzi.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 second Saturday of the month. Contact: Zbigniew Kawecksi, (President) 082 968 6888 Ted Brown, (Vice-President) 083 284 6554 Trevor Harris, (Secretary) 082 377 8465 email zeptepi@3i.co.za

Kraft von Avlock (Treasurer) 031 2629162 'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success...

All are welcome’

**HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

HHPS, Durban, meets at the German Club, 7 Barnham Rd, off Essex Terrace, Westville. 09h00 - 11h00 every 2nd Saturday of the month. Open invitation to other Philatelic Societies 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, iamajaranismcn@gmail.com Secretary: Brown Edwards, edwards@worldonline.co.za Membership: Barry Lissey, lissey@netsolutions.co.za

**SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meet on the 5th Monday of the month (Feb to Dec) Venue: Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane (off Susman Avenue), Blairgowrie. Time: 7:30 for 8:00 PM. The society has an active exchange packet circuit and has members with a wide range of philatelic interests. Visitors are welcome. For further information contact: Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 6732229 / ccarey@icon.co.za

**DE POSBOOM FILATELIEVERENIGING**

Twede Maandag van elke maand om 7nm Posbus 10647, Danabaai, 6510. St Peter's Kerksaal, Marsh Straat, Mosselbaai, jaarlike Algemene Vergadering: November.

President: Japie de Vos 082 767 5004 / 044 695 0705 epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za Sekretariesse: Gerrie Conradie 082 952 6708 Tel: 044 698 1074 epos: gajocon@gmail.com

**AFRIKAANSE FILATIELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA**

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by Glen Carpendale se seelwinkel in Klinerpark. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief ‘Die Posdruil’ verskyn maandeliks. Vorstsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontakt: arnot@telkomsa.net

**KONTAK**

**PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Meet on the first Monday evening of the month at 19h30 at Statech Centre, St. Albsana College, Clearwater Street, Lynwood Glen. 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, Kliner Park Galleries, 6 Wilkinson St, Kliner Park, Pretoria. Stamps displays, talks and socialising. Contact: André du Plessis. andreopus@gmail.com 083 399 1755

**AFRIKAANSE FILATIELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA**

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by Glen Carpendale se seelwinkel in Klinerpark. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief ‘Die Posdruil’ verskyn maandeliks. Vorstsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontakt: arnot@telkomsa.net

**THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER**

Meeting 1st Saturday monthly at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair @ 10:00 for 10:15. Vibrant & active group of attendees – 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.

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Meeting 1st Saturday monthly at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair @ 10:00 for 10:15. Vibrant & active group of attendees – loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

**AFROPHIL STATENES**

Meet on the first Monday of the month following the first Monday in Glen Carpendale’s shop, Kliner Park Galleries, 6 Wilkinson St, Kliner Park, Pretoria. Stamps displays, talks and socialising. Contact: André du Plessis. andreopus@gmail.com 083 399 1755

**AIRAFIKANSE FILATIELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA**

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand om 10:00 by Glen Carpendale se seelwinkel in Klinerpark. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief ‘Die Posdruil’ verskyn maandeliks. Vorstsitter is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontakt: arnot@telkomsa.net

**THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER**

Meeting 1st Saturday monthly at the Greek Orthodox Church Pretoria Stamp Fair @ 10:00 for 10:15. Vibrant & active group of attendees – loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

**OFFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein. President: Neil Cronjé and Vice president: Garry Osthoff email: OsthoffG@ufs.ac.za

**MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY HARARE ZIMBABWE**

Meetings: 9am, 3rd Sunday monthly at the Orchid Society Hall, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Hillside Rd (off Glenora Ave South), Harare. Stamp displays, talks, advice, auctions, swapping and socialising. Contact: Max Fox, telly@mongo.landline 495408; cellphone 0772 376994

**ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO**

Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe meets the second Saturday of each month (Except December) - 2:00pm for 2:30pm. at the National Natural History Museum, Park Road, Suburbs, Bulawayo. E-mail: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com
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