The Frontier Wars: An entire posted from Cape Town to England on 21 November 1851 arriving per ‘Royal Mail Steamer Harbinger’. Very rare letter referring to the 8th Frontier War.

In 1798 Edward Jenner inoculated patients, he called this process ‘vaccination’.

A Post Office opened in 1925. Who would have thought this word would be so significant in 2020?
enjoy the advantages of professional advice and ethical trading offered by your **SAPDA** dealer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Cape</th>
<th>Gauteng</th>
<th>Western Cape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Johnson Philatelics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alan Donaldson</strong></td>
<td><strong>Andy Kriegler Stamps</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 041 583 3159</td>
<td>(+27) 011 788 9585</td>
<td>(+27) 028 754 1425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:rj@johnson.co.za">rj@johnson.co.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:frankie@frankie-d.co.za">frankie@frankie-d.co.za</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:landy@global.co.za">landy@global.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.johnson.co.za">www.johnson.co.za</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSA Stamp Exchange</strong></td>
<td><strong>Arcade Stamps</strong></td>
<td><strong>Janssen Stamps</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 072 104 4640</td>
<td>(+27) 011 454 2026</td>
<td>(+27) 021 786 1548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:john@rsastamps.co.za">john@rsastamps.co.za</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:janssenp@iafrica.com">janssenp@iafrica.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stamp's Friend</strong></td>
<td><strong>DM Philatelics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Philatelic Friends</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 082 554 8900</td>
<td>(+27) 083 564 4601</td>
<td>(+27) 072 597 1287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:francois@stampsfriend.com">francois@stampsfriend.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmphilatelics@gmail.com">dmphilatelics@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ken@philatelicfriends.com">ken@philatelicfriends.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.stampsfriend.com">www.stampsfriend.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.philatelicfriends.co.za">www.philatelicfriends.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSA Stamp Exchange</strong></td>
<td><strong>Doesn't exist</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rand Stamps Auctions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 072 104 4640</td>
<td></td>
<td>(+27) 012 329 2464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:john@rsastamps.co.za">john@rsastamps.co.za</a></td>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulvz@mweb.co.za">paulvz@mweb.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stamps Friend</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overseas - Turkey</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.rand-stamps.co.za">www.rand-stamps.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 082 545 8900</td>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:francois@stampsfriend.com">francois@stampsfriend.com</a></td>
<td>Zille22 - Stamps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.stampsfriend.com">www.stampsfriend.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rfresberg@email.de">rfresberg@email.de</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gauteng</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spink</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cosmo Philatelics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Arcade Stamps</strong></td>
<td>(+44) 020 7563 4060/4072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 082 451 4470</td>
<td>(+27) 011 454 2026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dparsons@spink.com">dparsons@spink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dennis@cosmophilatrics.com">dennis@cosmophilatrics.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.spink.com">www.spink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DM Philatelics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+27) 083 564 4601</td>
<td><strong>Overseas - Turkey</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dmphilatelics@gmail.com">dmphilatelics@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Argyll Etkin Limited</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Turkey</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bill Barrel Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>D Morrison Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argyll Etkin Limited</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bill Barrel Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+44) 020 7930 6100</td>
<td>(+44) 0147 659 4698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>argyll@<a href="mailto:etkin@yahoo.co.uk">etkin@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bill@barrell.co.uk">bill@barrell.co.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.argyll-etkin.com">www.argyll-etkin.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.barrell.co.uk">www.barrell.co.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>John &amp; Mark Taylor</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ritchie Bodily</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spink</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Turkey</strong></td>
<td><strong>D Morrison Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>John &amp; Mark Taylor</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ritchie Bodily</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spink</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>D Morrison Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Turkey</strong></td>
<td><strong>John &amp; Mark Taylor</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ritchie Bodily</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spink</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>D Morrison Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Turkey</strong></td>
<td><strong>John &amp; Mark Taylor</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ritchie Bodily</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spink</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas - United Kingdom</strong></td>
<td><strong>D Morrison Ltd</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The South African Philatelist

Contents

The Journal of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

www.sapa.africa

REGULARS

76 & 90  Letters to the Editorial Board
76  Closing dates for future issues
79  Phun with Postmarks
81  The ‘ABC’ of Stamps
82  New Stamp Issues
82  Errors on Stamps
102  Society news

FEATURES

77  Meeting With The Minister by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA
78  Obituaries: Coen Slagt RDPSA, Joh Groenewald RDPSA
83  The Frontier Wars in the Eastern Cape Region with focus on the Seventh and Eighth Frontier Wars - by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Col Sipho Majombozi
88  A Postie Remembers - by Dr Alan Rose
90  The First Coronavirus Stamp - by Denise McCarty
91  An Airgraph from Bulawayo - by Andrew Briscoe
92  Two Interesting Covers - by Nicholas Arrow
94  Georges and Marguerite Reutter - by Sean Burke
96  Corona Post Office - by Johan Joubert
97  Asian Curios - by Chris Mobsby RDPSA
99  The Anti - Vaccination Movement of the Victorian Era - by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith
101  A Bit More Than Postal History - by Dr J.R. Frank RDPSA

ADVERTISERS

74  SAPDA
93  John & Mark Taylor
103  A BIG SHOUT-OUT ‘THANK YOU’ TO ALL OUR ADVERTISING SUPPORTERS
104  Spink

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

THE EDITORIAL BOARD
Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
Moira Bleazard: bleazard@telkomsa.net
Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
Janice Botes Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za
David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FIPS: molens@pixie.co.za

THE EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS
Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FIPS: mobsbychris@gmail.com
Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the PFSA
André du Plessis: andredupfs@gmail.com
Tel: +27 (0) 83 399 1755

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT
Janice Botes: janice@gdb.co.za
Tel: +27 (0) 11 454 5940

All South African stamps are reproduced with the permission of SAPO.
PRAISE INDEED FROM AUSTRALIA

In the APF News of December 2019, the Australian Commissioner, David Benson published this report following his visit to South Africa:

“The East Rand 100 Stamp Exhibition was held in Benoni, which is about 40kms east of Johannesburg.

The Exhibition celebrated the Centenary of the founding of the East Rand Society and was held from 4 to 7 September 2019.

There were 379 competitive frames and many invited displays from members.

The standard of the exhibits was excellent with many attaining high awards.

The quality and variation of the invited displays was of world standard. Judging was conducted over two days and was in the most part amicable under the leadership of the Jury President Emil Bührmann.

The lighting in the exhibition hall was most probably the best I have ever seen at any Philatelic Exhibition especially with the addition of small floodlights focusing on the displays.

Peter van der Molen,
Chairman of the SAP Committee
MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION CAPE TOWN 2021

Former President Kgalema Motlanthe as the Patron of the Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition, facilitated a meeting with the Minister of Communications, Telecommunications and Postal Services, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and members of the exhibition Organising Committee, in Parliament on the 27 February 2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to familiarise the Minister with the planning of this international event. Pres Motlanthe indicated to the Minister that as Patron, he would like to secure the support of the Minister for this important exhibition.

Gerhard Kamffer explained that the theme of the exhibition is ‘The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994’; a theme that is based on his ‘Open Class’ collection where he displays a balanced selection of philatelic and non-philatelic material, related to the struggle against apartheid.

This collection will be displayed in the Court of Honour during the exhibition in Cape Town. This theme was selected with the aim of generating interest for the exhibition amongst all South Africans.

The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Emil Bührmann, added that it was selected with the aim to expose more South Africans to their cultural heritage through the exhibition by means of relevant philatelic items that will be on display. He also indicated that the organisers are planning to transport school children from underprivileged communities in the Cape Town area to attend the exhibition.

It was mentioned that this is an event supported by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). Bührmann also mentioned that the Organising Committee could not do this on their own and would like to partner with the Ministry, especially the Post Office, to make a success of this event. He thanked the Minister for hosting the meeting notwithstanding her busy schedule.

Sipho Majombozi and Siphiwe Ngwenya emphasised the importance of integrated planning with the Department for such a high-level event. A meeting had already been held with the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS), at their Hatfield offices. The DTPS team had identified and mapped out the exhibition’s stakeholders of the event that included the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), and the Departments of Tourism and Basic Education, among others, and had advised the Organising Committee that the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services will play the role of lead department and should also be involved in the planning.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams responded positively by saying that it is an honour for her to host former President Motlanthe as the Patron in her office and that she will give her full support and that of her Department to make a success of this event. She also instructed that officials from the Post Office must be involved in the planning. The Minister wished to see an injection of a Fourth Industrial Revolution element into the exhibition and for participating school children to be drawn from a wider geographic area. It was also decided that quarterly feedback will be given to the Ministry on progress being made.

In a word of conclusion, Former President Motlanthe shared advice on how the participation of schoolchildren could be made fun and yet educational, by documenting the efforts of all those taking part in the stamp design competition in a coffee table book. He recalled an experience he had with street renaming in the North West town of Klerksdorp (Tlokwe) where such an approach generated a lot of excitement among participating schools.

He thanked the Minister, the DTPS team and the Organising Committee and wished them success in the planning and execution of this enterprising event.

by Gerhard Kamffer and Sipho Majombozi

International Philatelic Exhibition
Cape Town, 17-20 March 2021
Road to Democracy
Website: www.capetown2021.org
Coen Slagt’s great passion in life was stamps. He became South Africa’s youngest full time dealer at age 21, having received guidance from his father, Jan Slagt, a senior collector in the dynamic Pretoria collecting environment when the South African economy was strong. Coen purchased the Arcade Stamp Shop in February 1968, neatly located in an arcade between Market and Commissioner Streets (close to Rissik St). He shared this quality retail space with other dealers, such as John Robertson.

In March 1975 he relocated to new premises - Shop No 5 Old Arcade, 100 Market Street. It’s clear, therefore, that Coen had managed to get the key business fundamentals right, namely ‘position, position and position’. It didn’t end there; in co-operation with the popular Pretoria dealer, Glen Carpendale, he set out to study, compile and publish catalogues, which listed both simplified & specialised RSA issues.

This was an important factor in raising and maintaining interest and trust in local issues of the 1960/80s, the peak of South Africa’s collecting era. When the stamp market’s centre of gravity moved eastwards following several decades of East Rand industrial growth, Coen acquired new premises: Shop 10, 47 Van Riebeeck St, Edenvale. This was in an arcade alongside De Bakery, the ‘gesellige’ Dutch Windmill restaurant and deli … a home away from home. Such a pleasant place to visit!

Well before this time, Coen was serving on, and chaired, the SA Philatelic Dealers Association’s Management Committee (SAPDA), helping to build a structure to which collectors could refer, in cases of difference with dealer members; a key reason why he was made an Honorary Member a few years ago. Coen also assisted the Philatelic Federation, receiving in 2013 their Federation Plaque for Exceptional Service over a long period of time. He also served and chaired the Philatelic Foundation and in doing so, popularised First Day Covers, the income from which, forms part of the Foundation’s presently strong capital base. He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists as long ago as 1990, being the youngest person to do so. Coen’s broad range of knowledge also meant that he was much sought after as a Judge at competitive exhibitions and, because he was a dealer, he was always keen to share the evaluation details with an exhibitor.

This photograph here reflects the Coen we’ll remember, a sociable young-in-spirit man, professionally framed by the adapted 1st stamp of the Union. As collectors, we will miss his ability to procure important stamp specimens for our collections, hard-bargained for in a relaxed ambience. Of course, the impact of his loss will primarily fall on his wife Brenda, daughters Eleanor, Ingrid and Karen, and their families. Our thoughts are with them all and we hope to join with them after ‘lockdown’, in their ‘Life Celebration Service’ to commemorate Coen’s life.

---

Elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa (RDPSA) in 1980, and later, in 1992, he became the first Honorary Deputy Life President of the South African Philatelic Federation (PESA). Joh also held the office of Editor of The South African Philatelist from 1978 to 1989 and was, for some years, Chairman of the Management Committee of PFS. He was also President of PFSA in 1998.

Joh Groenewald’s long and distinguished history in philately began at an early age. His hobby was collecting stamps and related items, especially South African and British Commonwealth stamps. He started collecting stamps at the age of six and continued his interest throughout his life. He was a member of many local and international philatelic societies, including the South African Philatelic Society (SAPS), the British Empire Philatelic Society (BAPS), and the International Federation of Philatelic Societies (FIP).

Joh Groenewald’s collection included a wide range of stamps, including commemorative issues, semi-postal stamps, and stamps depicting wildlife and nature. He was particularly interested in South African wildlife stamps, which he collected extensively. He was also a keen exhibitor and won several awards for his stamp displays at local and international exhibitions.

Joh Groenewald was a respected leader in the South African philatelic community. He served on the Board of Directors of the South African Philatelic Federation (SAPF) and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Cape Town Philatelic Society (CTPS). He was also a member of the Judicial Committee of the South African Philatelic Federation (SAPF).

Joh Groenewald was a passionate collector of stamps and related items. He was a respected leader in the South African philatelic community and his contributions to the field will be remembered for many years to come. The SA Philatelist, June 2020.
Catch-up Column
I have had an encouraging response to this column, and in this issue I wish to share the contributions. A special word of thanks to these ardent supporters.

How did airports communicate in the 1920s?
Richard Oliver sent me this fascinating article about his research on the Kimberley Aeradio... “In the late 1920s and early 1930s communication between airports was difficult as many of them did not have radio stations. Kimberley was one such airport which did not have a radio connection. Many aircraft of the time also did not have radios and had to rely on information, such as weather conditions, received at airports before departure. This also applied for aircraft that would land at night.

Correspondence between the Kimberley Airport meteorological officer, Kimberley Postmaster, and the Secretary of Civil Aviation at Roberts Heights, show that the main concern was the communication between the airport and aircraft. This meant that the aerodrome at Victoria West, used as a stopover for refuelling for flights from Cape Town, had to be phoned or telegraphed, and any messages given to aircraft when they landed.

Messages to Kimberley were sent by telegram to the Kimberley Post Office which then contacted airport authorities. Correspondence between the Airport Manager and the Secretary of Civil Aviation on file states that problems occurred when the Post Office was closed after hours and at weekends.

This is clearly shown when, on 12 July 1932, a plane on its way to Cape Town, had to be warned of weather conditions en-route. Telegrams had to be sent from Maitland, Hex River, Tulbagh, Piqueberg and Beaufort West and from the Kimberley Post Office to Victoria West for handing over to the plane on arrival.

This lack of radio communication lasted for some while, and after much correspondence between the relevant authorities an aeradio station was opened in Kimberley in 1935/36 in time for the first South African Airways flight from the Rand to Cape Town, using a Junkers JU 52 aircraft, Jan van Riebeeck.

Most telegram forms seen have the Kimberley Post Office which then contacted airport authorities. Correspondence between the Airport Manager and the Secretary of Civil Aviation on file states that problems occurred when the Post Office was closed after hours and at weekends.

I came across another cachet, shown as Fig.3, used in 2009. The only date stamps were for Pretoria/Tshwane, and since there was no return address it is not possible to identify the office where it was used. The one envelope was a B5 size and the other one a B4, and both only had a single standard mail stamp, clearly insufficient. There was no evidence that the shortfall was paid.

Mail processing Non Conforming Product (NCP) Code
In the April 2020 column I presented examples of NCP cachets used in various centres. I asked for help with the codes for all centres. Talita Fourie, Curator of the SAPO Museum sent me the listing as shown in Table 1. Although the instruction to the Mail Centres/Hubs had been to make rubber stamps, they may not be in use at many centres. Only documenting usage will we be able to determine where the cachets were used. Your help is again requested.
Table 1. Mail processing NCP codes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Mail Centre Hub</th>
<th>NCP NO:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wits</td>
<td>Germiston</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wits</td>
<td>Krugersdorp</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wits</td>
<td>Vanderbijlpark</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wits</td>
<td>Witpos</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>Nelspruit</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>Pietersburg</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>Tshwane</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Bloemfontein</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Kimberley</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Mafikeng</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Potchefstroom</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Upington</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provinces</td>
<td>Welkom</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>Durmail</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>Ladysmith</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>Port Shepstone</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwa Zulu Natal</td>
<td>Richards Bay</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>East London</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>Mthatha</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Cape</td>
<td>Beaufort West</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Cape</td>
<td>Capermail</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Cape</td>
<td>George</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Cape</td>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postal Training Schools part 3

In the June 2018 and August 2019 issues of SAP I started the discussion about the Training Schools. We discovered that in the Cape Province there were schools at Riversdale and Oudtshoorn. I came across a Queenstown date stamp with L at the base, shown in Fig.4 (it is hand drawn, Postmark and Postal History Society Vol 14). Seen used 21.7.1959 to 25.7.1959. It appears as if most of the bigger towns had a training facility, and this will remain a challenge as we do not know whether the date stamps were consistently used on mail.

Fig.4: 1959 Queenstown Learner date stamp.

Phun with postmarks

THE END OF THE WAR

The Second World War in Europe officially came to an end in the early morning of 7 May 1945, when Germany signed a document of unconditional surrender. Public celebrations to mark the end of the war began spontaneously in many places as soon as people heard the news.

ROYAL MAIL REVEALS IMAGES OF NEW STAMPS TO MARK 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

The stamp issue reflects on the end of the war both in Europe and in the Far East and the Pacific, with three concepts: Celebration; Return; and Remembrance.

Eight stamps depict scenes of celebration by service personnel and civilians when news of the conflict’s end was announced, and the subsequent return of personnel from overseas and children who were evacuated.

Originally shot in black and white, all eight images have been brought to life in colour for the first time by colourist, Royston Leonard.

Four additional stamps presented in a Miniature Sheet show memorials built to remember and honour the fallen and victims of the Holocaust.

Royal Mail worked with experts and curators from: Imperial War Museums (IWM); the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; the National Maritime Museum; and the Association of Wrens.

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available at www.royalmail.com/endofsecondworldwar. A full set of all 12 stamps, available in a Presentation Pack, retails at £14.60.

The stamps went on general sale from 8 May.

While war in Europe was over, Japan had yet to be defeated. It was not until 14 August 1945 that Japan also accepted unconditional surrender. A two-day national holiday began with VJ Day on 15 August.

The following experts were also consulted: Professor Richard Overy of Exeter University; and military historian, Iain Ballantyne. Philip Parker, of Royal Mail said: “Our new stamps capture how the end of the War was greeted and the resulting return of service personnel after nearly six long years of conflict. We also pay tribute to those who never returned, and the victims of the Holocaust.”

NEW ISSUES

THE END OF THE WAR

The Second World War in Europe officially came to an end in the early morning of 7 May 1945, when Germany signed a document of unconditional surrender. Public celebrations to mark the end of the war began spontaneously in many places as soon as people heard the news.

ROYAL MAIL REVEALS IMAGES OF NEW STAMPS TO MARK 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

The stamp issue reflects on the end of the war both in Europe and in the Far East and the Pacific, with three concepts: Celebration; Return; and Remembrance.

Eight stamps depict scenes of celebration by service personnel and civilians when news of the conflict’s end was announced, and the subsequent return of personnel from overseas and children who were evacuated.

Originally shot in black and white, all eight images have been brought to life in colour for the first time by colourist, Royston Leonard.

Four additional stamps presented in a Miniature Sheet show memorials built to remember and honour the fallen and victims of the Holocaust.

Royal Mail worked with experts and curators from: Imperial War Museums (IWM); the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; the National Maritime Museum; and the Association of Wrens.

The stamps and a range of collectible products are available at www.royalmail.com/endofsecondworldwar. A full set of all 12 stamps, available in a Presentation Pack, retails at £14.60.

The stamps went on general sale from 8 May.
The SA Philatelist, June 2020.

COLLECTING BASICS

The ABC of stamps
by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

FISCAL STAMPS

In life, so the idiom goes, the only certainties are death and taxes. This cynical proverb refers to the inevitability of death in order to highlight the difficulty of avoiding taxes. The phrase first appeared in Daniel Defoe’s 1726 work The Political History of the Devil.

Fiscal stamps, aka revenue, tax or duty stamps, are used to record the payment of tax, duty or fees rather than the payment for the delivery of mail. Revenue stamps often look very similar to postage stamps but can also be found in a variety of shapes and sizes. Fiscal stamps existed long before the arrival of the Penny Black in 1840. In the UK a tax on wallpaper was introduced in 1712 and a hat tax in 1884. When the tax was paid it was recorded by a stamp embossed on the item. Yet it has only been in recent years that fiscal stamps have been accepted by collectors.

The stamp is applied to a document (or object) to validate that transaction (Fig.1).

Fig.1: Certificate of registration with a 5/- revenue stamp.
Revenue stamps on documents are cancelled either by manuscript (Fig.2) or with a rubber stamp or both (Fig.3).

Fig.2: A revenue stamp cancelled by pen with a person’s initials and the date 30 April 1951. (at right)

Fig.3: A revenue stamp cancelled with a rubber stamp.

There have been occasions when revenue stamps have been used to pay for postage when there has been a shortage of postage stamps (Fig.4). Although this is technically an improper usage, Guyana’s economic crisis required the Post Office to resort to using revenue stamps to pay for postage. Some postage stamps are also valid for the payment of revenue and taxes. An example is shown in Fig.5, which could be applied to receipts as well as pay for postage.

Fig.4: Revenue stamps used to pay domestic postage on this 24 July 1986 Guyana letter from Mabaruma to Georgetown.

Their validity is indicated by the biling inscription POSTAGE and REVENUE in the design.

Fig.5: South African 1c definitive with the words ‘Postage/Revenue’ to indicate the dual usage of the stamp.

Of the 13 stamps in the 1961 definitive series, only the ½c and 1c values had a dual purpose.

Fig.6: Cigarette tax stamp of 3¾d which, because of its shape, can wrap around the pack acting as a security seal.

Tax stamps became progressively less common in the later half of the 20th Century, with the exception of tobacco and alcohol. This makes them a highly collectable item. Today’s tax stamps incorporate numerous security devices akin to those used on bank notes. They are also likely to incorporate a code or number that enables the item to be tracked so that enforcement officers, manufacturers and distributors can determine the origin and destination of the products (Fig.7).

Fig.7: Tax stamp for Kenyan alcohol products showing various security features.
NEW ISSUES

NEW SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP ISSUES 2020 - Part II
by Robin Messenger, Witwatersrand Philatelic Society

12 March 2020 – SA BIRDS SERIES: WOODPECKERS

Denominations: 5 x International Small Letter (R10.70, or R11.60, from 1 April 2020)

Designer: Tobie Beele, featuring the following birds in order:
1. Bearded Woodpecker – Dendropicos namaquus;
2. Ground Woodpecker – Geocolaptes olivaceous;
3. Cardinal Woodpecker – Dendropicos fuscescens;
4. Olive Woodpecker – Dendropicos griseocephalus;
5. Knysna Woodpecker – Campethera notata.

The Latin names shown above are those appearing on the stamps. The reason for this comment is that the names differ from those appearing in WHAT’S NEWS.

Printer: Cartor Security Print, France
Process: Offset lithography
Stamp size: 29 x 38mm
Sheetlet size: 195 x 141mm, comprising five different designs in two rows of five
Quantity: 30,000 sheetlets
Cylinder numbers: 8601 (cyan), 8602 (magenta), 8603 (yellow) and 8604 (black)
Paper: 247gsm self-adhesive stamp paper
Gum: Self-adhesive
Perforation: Simulated serpentine kiss-cut. Stamps are separated by 6mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend through left, right and bottom sheetlet margins and also through the backing paper.
Phosphor: 4mm wide ‘L’ shape on left and bottom margins of each stamp
Printing sheet size: Not yet seen
First Day Cover: No. 8.122 of standard size (190 x 101mm) of which 1,000 will be produced
Canceller: No. 8.119 – ‘KNYSNA’ / ‘12-03-2020’

Acknowledgement:
The above information was collated from SAPO’s Philatelic e-mail newsletter WHAT’S NEWS, dated March 2020, Newsletters of the RSA Stamp Study Group, produced by Jan de Jong and personal observations.

CANNELLERS

In my New Issue article in the April 2020 edition of The South African Philatelist (pages 46/47), information on the cancellers for the four issues featured was incomplete. These cancellers are illustrated below. It should be noted that the SASSA issue also celebrated World Post Day.

Comic Corner

Stamps that make you SMILE
by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek PS & the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town
Episode 58  Errors on Stamps...
‘ONLY THREE ARE IMMIGRANTS’

In 1986 the postal administration of SIERRA LEONE issued a miniature sheet for the 100th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, surrounded by four famous U.S. immigrants and the old skyline of Manhattan.

This is correct for the German author Thomas Mann, the Italian opera singer Enrico Caruso and the Polish electrical engineer Charles Steinmetz, while Walt Whitman was born in Huntington, N.Y. in 1819 and died in New York 1892 as the most famous American poet of the 19th Century.
**POSTAL HISTORY**

**THE FRONTIER WARS IN THE EASTERN CAPE REGION WITH FOCUS ON THE SEVENTH (1846 - 1847) AND EIGHTH FRONTIER WARS (1850 - 1853)**

by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA and Col Sipho Majombozi

Pretoria Philatelic Society

---

For several decades after 1775 the Zuurveld, a coastal stretch of 150km between the Fish and the Sundays Rivers in the Eastern Cape, was a zone of fierce contests. Both the Xhosa and the Boers were cattle-farming societies competing for land and pasture resources on the frontier. Soon after the British government had taken over the Cape in 1795 they were drawn into the frontier conflicts. From a philatelic point of view this provides postal historians with an opportunity to find covers and letters written by British soldiers, stationed in the Cape and deployed on the eastern frontier, back home to the United Kingdom.

---

**Background**

Invariably these conflicts were triggered by internal power struggles within Xhosa and Boer societies respectively. In an attempt to gain control over the border-region the Government erected forts on the frontier. The British had hoped not to become embroiled in a frontier conflict but they were soon drawn in. From 1779 onwards, the so-called Frontier Wars between the Xhosas and the Boers erupted. The lack of land, together with a sense of pervasive insecurity gave rise to large numbers of farmers trekking out of the country in a movement that would become known as the Great Trek (Fig.1).

From the late 1700s, Boer and Xhosa were locked in an intense but inconclusive struggle for control of the rich grazing-lands of the Eastern Cape. They could no longer rely on the forces of the Cape Government for their protection and the Commando or a citizen militia was introduced in 1715 as an extension of the Cape’s military. They were commanded by respected local figures who held the office of veld-kornet and whose area of responsibility was called a veldcornetcy (Fig.2).

The British temporarily occupied the Cape between 1795 and 1803 and although they were determined not to cede it again after reoccupation in 1806, the Cape’s status as a proper British Colony was only finalised in 1814 (Fig.3). But in 1811, five years after they had

---

These photos were taken at different events with the ‘Road to Democracy’ book launches at the Presidential Guest House. At left, Sipho Majombozi with the late Pik Botha and at right, with former President Thabo Mbeki and Pik Botha

---

1 Since 1923, in The SA Philatelist, we celebrate our first black author - Sipho Majombozi, who was born in King Williams Town, Cape Province. In his matric year he was expelled from Healdtown High School near Fort Beaufort and went to complete high school in Port Elizabeth. He studied science at the University of Fort Hare where, as a student leader, he was expelled for being involved in politics, before completing the B.Sc. degree. When his life was in danger for political activities he fled to exile under the auspices of the ANC.

He taught mathematics and science in Lesotho and Tanzania, and has several degrees in education. He spent 14 years in exile in Lesotho, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia and Australia. He is an accomplished businessman, and a director of companies.

He loves science and literature, and is an enthusiast of history and heritage. He chairs the Funding Committee of the National Heritage Council. He is also currently involved in supporting the Organising Committee for the Cape Town 2021 International Stamp Exhibition to liaise with Government about their support for the exhibition.

---

Fig.1: Map of British Kaffraria 1847-1853 in the Eastern Cape. Arrow indicating the Waterkloof area where the campaign during the Eighth Frontier War took place. (Source: Timothy Stapleton, Maqoma, Xhosa Resistance to Colonial Advance, p. 142)
occupied the Cape for the second time, the British introduced a new factor into the frontier struggle: military intervention on the side of the settlers. It was the beginning of the end of Xhosa independence and the start of more tension between ‘Black and White’ over land in South Africa.

In 1834 - 35 fighting erupted again, and for the first time the war encroached on the territory of the Gcaleka Xhosa in the former Transkei, whose paramount chief, Hintsa, was shot while in British custody.

After the failure of several treaties, war broke out again, in 1846 over a trivial incident, and the Xhosa were defeated once more in a bitter struggle. After this war the British Government annexed the old neutral territory as the Crown Colony of British Kaffraria (Fig.4). After the deposition of the Xhosa paramount chief, Sandile, in 1851, this territory was reserved, apart from the British military outposts, for occupation by Africans. Simmering resentment in British Kaffraria however, resulted in the eighth and most costly of the wars. Once again the Xhosa resistance was immensely strengthened by the participation of Khoisan tribesmen, who rebelled at their settlement of Kat River. By 1853 the Xhosa had been defeated, and the territory to the north of British Kaffraria was annexed to the Cape Colony and opened to white settlement.

The Seventh Frontier War or the War of the Axe (1846-1847)
The war of 1846-47 was the seventh of the nine Frontier Wars against the Xhosas in the Cape Colony. Tsili, arrested for stealing an axe, was rescued by his friends, but a Khoikhoi prisoner to whom he was manacled was killed during the rescue. This was the pretext for the war, but the roots of the conflict were to be found in the many unresolved issues from the sixth frontier war of 1834-35. Although Sir Benjamin D’Urban’s annexation of Queen Adelaide Province had been rescinded by Lord Glenelg, a new system of treaties had been imposed on the Xhosa chiefs. Their divided and limited authority could not however always control desperate people who had lost cattle and land to the whites. With increasing impoverishment, any drought only served to exacerbate the situation. The harsh treatment and killing of Hintsa in 1835 was symptomatic of the attitude of many British military and government officials. Most of them were of the opinion that ‘uncivilized’ people like the Xhosa could best be controlled by harsh, high-handed actions. The Tsili incident was used as the excuse for launching a war on the Xhosa. Victory was not as easy as had been expected. Rain quickly bogged down the British wagons and the Xhosa burned all the grass for the oxen and horses; as a result the British attack stalled.

Fig.2: Entire dated 1 February 1826 posted by Fieldcornet Haupt with the scarce Paarl Crown-in-Circle stamp and addressed to the ‘Landdrost van Stellenbosch D.J. van Reyneveld’. Fieldcornet Haupt was a ‘veldkornet’ in the local Commando.

Fig.3: Entire posted from Grahamstown and addressed to ‘Lord Charles Somerset Commander in Chief of his Majesty’s Forces, Cape of Good Hope’. Grahamstown was established as a military outpost in 1812. It is possible that this entire was posted between 1819 to 1826. Lord Somerset was Governor of the Cape from 1814 to 1826. Note the early usage of the Grahamstown 30mm Crown-in-Circle handstamp.
Chief Maqoma

Chief Maqoma was the pre-eminent general of the Xhosa armed forces against colonial settlements for 30 years. He holds the record in history of waging the longest resistance against colonialism, at 55 years. During the struggle between British and Xhosa forces the British changed military commanders 22 times while Maqoma retained command of the Xhosa forces during all that time. He invented the guerilla warfare that was used by the Afrikaners of low pay and low morale and the colonial whites were reluctant to participate. Moreover, the Xhosa had learned to avoid pitched battles. Adopting guerrilla tactics of hit and fading away into the bush country, ensured that the Xhosa had many successes in the early fighting.

Nevertheless, just when they appeared closer to military victory than ever before, many Xhosa chiefs sued for peace. The Xhosa were starving; far from wanting war as the hawkish party among the whites had claimed, the failure of the crops the year before had left them desperately needing peace. Some chiefs adopted a passive stance and refused to fight. They did not admit defeat, but simply attempted to return to normal life. Others eluded British attempts to capture them and continued the fight for about 18 months. However, the systematic destruction of houses, crops and food by British forces eventually made further Xhosa resistance impossible (Fig.5).

Chief Maqoma

Chief Maqoma was the pre-eminent general of the Xhosa armed forces against colonial settlements for 30 years. He holds the record in history of waging the longest resistance against colonialism, at 55 years. During the struggle between British and Xhosa forces the British changed military commanders 22 times while Maqoma retained command of the Xhosa forces during all that time. He invented the guerilla warfare that was used by the Afrikaners of low pay and low morale and the colonial whites were reluctant to participate. Moreover, the Xhosa had learned to avoid pitched battles. Adopting guerrilla tactics of hit and fading away into the bush country, ensured that the Xhosa had many successes in the early fighting.

Nevertheless, just when they appeared closer to military victory than ever before, many Xhosa chiefs sued for peace. The Xhosa were starving; far from wanting war as the hawkish party among the whites had claimed, the failure of the crops the year before had left them desperately needing peace. Some chiefs adopted a passive stance and refused to fight. They did not admit defeat, but simply attempted to return to normal life. Others eluded British attempts to capture them and continued the fight for about 18 months. However, the systematic destruction of houses, crops and food by British forces eventually made further Xhosa resistance impossible (Fig.5).

Later he was imprisoned on Robben Island for 12 years by the British. He was paroled in 1869 and when he attempted to resettle on his stolen land he was banished back to the infamous island where he died in 1873 under mysterious circumstances.

The Khoikhoi troops were mutinous because of low pay and low morale and the colonial whites were reluctant to participate. Moreover, the Xhosa had learned to avoid pitched battles. Adopting guerrilla tactics of hit and fading away into the bush country, ensured that the Xhosa had many successes in the early fighting.

When accommodation and diplomacy failed in the 1850s, Maqoma used his skills as a general and tactician to lead a guerrilla campaign in the mountains and valleys of the Waterkloof that served to frustrate the most skilled of British officers.
theatre of operations, however, that has most captured the imagination of historians is that of the Waterkloof - stronghold of the legendary Xhosa chieftain, Maqoma, and scene of some of the war's bitterest campaigning.

It was in the Waterkloof gorge, in a gigantic overhanging cave of a type that proliferates in the area, that Maqoma had his headquarters. In due course it would be named 'Mount Misery' by the troops who fought in or near there.

Fig.7: Wrapper to Cape Town from Fort Beaufort with oval postmark in black dated 19 July 1865 and an interesting seal of the London and South African Bank which amalgamated with the Standard Bank in 1877. Fort Beaufort was established in 1822 by Lt Col H. Maurice Scott to keep check on the marauding Xhosa tribes and was named after the father of the governor, Lord Charles Somerset, who was the Duke of Beaufort. The town itself was laid out in 1837.

The best known of the Waterkloof campaigns, on which Maqoma’s military reputation largely (although certainly not exclusively) rests, took place shortly after the Kroomie debacle, from 12 October until 10 November 1851. Governor Harry Smith, recognising that the war could not be won until the Waterkloof was decisively cleared, committed a considerable part of his available forces to that theatre.

On 6 November a catastrophe occurred that was probably decisive in Lord Charles Somerset’s decision to call off the operation. That day began with the most concentrated British offensive yet, the plan being for four divisions to make a simultaneous attack from different directions and to converge on Mount Misery. Somerset, with as many mounted troops as he could muster, was to ascend the Waterkloof while divisions of infantry and levies moved in from the Fuller’s Hoek and Kroomie directions. Fordyce, with the 74th, 91st Regiments, two guns and Mfengu, was to advance from the north, across the plateau.

It was on Fordyce’s division that the brunt of the day’s fighting fell. With his men ‘skirmishing in every direction around him … charging and hurrahing’, Fordyce shouted to the straying company to keep to the left, but his voice was drowned in the din of battle. He rushed down the small hillock on which he had been standing and, from an exposed position, waved his cap. It was then that a Khoi marksman shot him through the chest, the ball passing right through him. Within half an hour, he was dead. He was the most senior British officer to have lost his life during the nine Frontier Wars.

The men, presumably from the straying No.2 Company, had succeeded in dislodging the enemy, but at a heavy cost. Lieutenant Carey was shot dead, and Sergeant Diamond and a number of other rank and file killed or wounded. The light company, 74th, coming up as reinforcements, also suffered severely - one man was killed and another mortally wounded by a single bullet fired at point-blank range - before the arrival of Somerset’s men helped turn the tide. Two more guns were brought into the action and two companies of the 12th took over the position won at so high a cost by the 74th. In addition to their popular Colonel, the 74th lost ten other men killed or mortally wounded, with a number of others seriously wounded. Sacks pointed out that by Frontier War standards, these were heavy casualties, and certainly the loss of Fordyce was a crushing blow. There was some more skirmishing on 7 November, but very little on the two succeeding days. On 10 November, the campaign was finally broken off and the various regiments were dispersed to other parts of the country.

Part of the extract below is captured in a letter written on 21 November 1851 by a British soldier who served in the Second Waterkloof Campaign from October-November 1851 during the Eight Frontier War against Xhosa Chief Maqoma:

“The …War is as usual no susceptible of a decline… every Englishmen must feel disgusted… Lt Col Fordyce and three officers were killed and nineteen men shot from behind…and the Col picked off from a tree by one of the Rebel Hottentots - it will require 5,000 more men to squash this war.” (Fig.8).

Fig.8: Entire posted from Cape Town to England and written on 21 November 1851, arriving per ‘Royal Mail Steamer Harbinger’. ‘General Post Office Cape Town’ markings with arrival mark ‘Bradford fa 8 1852’ with reverse showing SHIP LETTER and transit code in red. Very rare letter referring to the 8th Frontier War.

According to Saks, Maqoma indeed emerged on top in the second Waterkloof campaign, but, having said that, the extent of his victory must be put into perspective. In none of the innumerable skirmishes had the British suffered anything like a clear-cut setback; even the costly fight of 6 November saw them hold their ground and successfully storm their opponents’ positions. Overall, their casualties were surprisingly low given the duration of the fighting, being well under a hundred out of the nearly 3,000 men engaged. The official fatality roll shows that only 27 of the regular troops were killed in action or died of wounds (nearly half of these casualties being accounted for in the 6 November fighting) and while King’s and McKay’s memoirs suggest that several names have been accidentally omitted, the real figure was certainly well under forty.

It took only ten days for Harry Smith, now dismissed as Governor and fighting the last campaign of his military career, to storm through the Waterkloof in March 1852. Maqoma’s Den, the location of which had since been discovered, was captured and Maqoma himself was for a time forced to abandon his stronghold. Fewer than a dozen of the regular troops were killed in the operation. Maqoma reoccupied the Waterkloof shortly after the British withdrawal, but his power was largely broken.
Aftermath of the Cape Frontier Wars

The Cape Frontier Wars, (1779-1879) took place over a period of 100 years of intermittent warfare between the Cape colonists and the Xhosa agricultural and pastoral peoples of the Eastern Cape, in South Africa. As one of the most prolonged struggles by African peoples against European intrusion, it ended in the annexation of Xhosa territories by the Cape Colony and the incorporation of its peoples (Figs.9, 10, 11).

The Transkei came into existence as a result of a series of British annexations which began with the incorporation of Fingoland and Griqualand East into the Cape Colony in 1879 and ended with the annexation of Pondoland in 1894. A further most important step was the introduction of a system of district councils - the so-called Bunga system. Rhodes decided to extend to Transkei the council system which was first introduced in his Glen Grey Act of 1894.

Sources:
• Hamilton, Mbenga and Ross, South Africa, Vol. 1, From early times to 1885, p.198.
A Postie Remembers
by Dr Alan Rose, East Rand Philatelic Society

As a sixth-former back in the early 1950s, the last two weeks in December were a time for earning extra pocket money as a temporary Postie, helping out with the Christmas rush. Home was Halesowen, a market town some ten miles west of Birmingham, just outside the city boundary, on the fringes of the Black Country. In the 19th Century it had been the centre of nail-making in England, all hand-made by self-employed artisans working in their back yards. Now it had light industry, a scattering of farms and agricultural holdings and was a dormitory area for Birmingham and the neighbouring conurbation.

The first year I reported for duty ‘at sparrow’s’ as instructed, and was told I was working ‘inside’. Normally temps were used outside as assistants to the regulars on the delivery rounds. ‘Inside’ I found, meant behind the scenes in the sorting office receiving mail from adjacent towns, sorting and cancelling mail collected from local pillar boxes, keeping the front office box clear of mail and stamping and sorting parcels. The Supervisor apologised that the other temps I would be working with were all girls; as if that was something he thought I would complain about!

The first sign of life was cancelled mail from neighbouring towns addressed to Halesowen which had been delivered the previous night or came in early that morning. This was in exchange for local mail from Halesowen addressed to their regions. There was not much the girls and I could do to help with this as it needed the regular staff to sort it first into their rounds and then into routes within each round and finally into the delivery sequence for each street. As inside temps we hadn’t the intimate knowledge of which streets were in which rounds, so we could provide only moral support and tea until the regulars had filled their bags and disappeared out onto the roads with the outside temps.

Our activities started when the early collections from the boxes on the streets and the box in the front office came in. These had gradually been filled by the public overnight. Normally this sorting was done by the regulars before their first rounds, but with the excess of Christmas mail, temps were called in for the inside work as a necessity. Remember now that this was before the days of postcodes and automatic sorting. Facing-up was done by hand and letters were fed manually into the canceller, a machine with a rotating head which carried the cancelling device and the datestamp showing Halesowen as the dispatching office. The date was officially changed each morning by the Supervisor and a sample cancel made for the record.

When we started sorting, we temps were back at school for a geography lesson. Planted in front of a frame with 20 or more yawning mail bags and told “to get on with it” was a little daunting. Bags were labelled for foreign mail and for major cities throughout the country, e.g Manchester, Exeter, London, Edinburgh etc. There were also bags for Halesowen and local towns around the area: Cradley Heath, Brierley Hill, Dudley… These were the easy ones but our detailed knowledge of the rest of the UK was sadly lacking. Where on earth was Pocklington? These were the days of hand written addresses, not always legible, and frequently ending with just the name of the town or village. If lucky we had the name of the nearest big town, or sometimes a county. Fortunately, by this time some of the Posties were back and a shouted query to the office at large was answered by one or more telling us the appropriate bag.

Mail was sent generally to the nearest big town for further sorting and local distribution at that end. The knowledge of British geography the regulars had was really amazing, but it took us a day or two to get up to scratch although we never reached their standard. At least we did learn that Durham and County Durham were not the same and also the location of places like North Elmham and Spithurst.

Work in the sorting office was either feast or famine. Often we sat and chatted, did the crossword or drank tea but when bags appeared from the boxes, the front office, adjacent regional offices or from Birmingham, our major centre, then all hell broke loose. The noise level rose as the cancelling machine screamed, Posties swore, bags were thrown and cries for
a geographical help filled the room. Skills acquired at school for skimming cigarette cards came in handy when sorting, floating letters into distant post bags on the frame. Local rounds were sorted by the regulars and they left for their next round of the day. By late afternoon desks and the front office box had been cleared, bags with mail for delivery to the not-so-local towns or to Birmingham for onward transmission throughout the country and abroad had been sealed and labelled and loaded onto the vans. After standing for most of the day it was good to get home at night.

My second year was spent ‘on the van’. Being surrounded on two sides by agricultural land, there were quite a number of farms and small holdings too spread out for the normal foot delivery. Our little red van made one delivery a day, although this was flexible. Once sorted, mail and parcels were stashed inside for sequential delivery on a complex, devious route, seemingly known only to my driver. Around farms and isolated dwellings, cattle byres, duck ponds - it was never the same. As the temp I was nominated as gopher. Stan drove, and I was delegated to opening gates, fending off dogs, angry poultry and stray cattle, and finally handing over mail and parcels. Recipients were always grateful as I guess on some days we were the only human contact they had. As rationing was still in force, I also took the opportunity to beg half a dozen new-laid eggs under the counter. On the way back the more isolated pillar boxes were emptied, and we frequently returned home almost as laden as we set out.

On my final year I was promoted to an outside temp, on a round. As home was on Annie’s round I was allocated to her as a pack mule to carry the bags. She was crafty; after three days during which she saw I was reasonably competent, she went off sick! I was immediately promoted in the field to Acting Postie and told I was on my own, as all the regulars were occupied with their own already overloaded rounds. Fortunately the home round was not a long one, but it was uphill all the way, and that was the year we had deep snow.

Mail for my round was sorted out by the regulars but after that it was all mine. Thus, two or three times a day I was greeted with a pile of letters a foot high and a rack of pigeon holes; plus parcels. The first thing I learned was to sort out house numbers, i.e. did they run in sequence, was it odds one side and evens the other or had they evolved in a random fashion. Either way, a time and motion study was needed to work out when to cross and re-cross the road to minimise the distance walked. One learned quickly, the benefit in my case being that the older houses at the start of the round were numbered, but toward the end, at top of the hill, they all had names, not numbers, so the sequence of these had to be memorised. Fortunately electricity accounts went out at about the same time and these were parcelled by the Electricity Board in strict house by house sequence so these were a useful guide, both for names and numbers.

Once everything had been ordered in street sequence, pigeon holes were emptied and letters tied in bundles. Posties had a special knot for bundling letters that held fast under all conditions but which could be slipped undone as required. I mastered it at the time but I’m blowed if I can recall it now. Loading the bag was another lesson quickly learned: reverse the sequence or spend time squatting on the pavement in the snow digging around for an out-of-sequence bundle.

Leaving the office in the dark with two loaded mail bags and hung about with parcels, I was always thankful the first part of the round was largely on the level although the snow and slush made walking treacherous. With the first half of a bag gone the uphill climb began. A detour of half a mile along the cart track to the Golf Club was a relief although treacherous, and I was grateful for the mug of hot tea often offered on arrival. When leaving, I could take a short cut across number three fairway, but always with the admonition ‘…to keep off the greens’. This detour seemed a good idea, until I realised it meant wading hundreds of yards through virgin snow often over a foot deep. Though heavy going it did cut quite a bit off the round. As the snow was here to stay I was well muffled up and a good pair of wellies, thick socks and mittens were invaluable.

Back on the road, the middle of the hill was less densely populated but it was an uphill slog and necessitated side tracking a hundred yards at a time down uncleared cart tracks to the odd plots set back from the road. I was thankful that the only industrial address on the hill, Somers Forge, was serviced by the van as there was always at least one bag for them every day.

Over the crest of the hill I could aim for the Stag and Three Horseshoes, our local hostelry and the end of the round: two empty bags and home. After a quick breather and lunch it was on to the bus and back to the office for a repeat performance in the afternoon.

Apart from the geographic knowledge of the regular Posties, I was struck by the variety and depth of the local social scene which they acquired on a day to day basis. Gossip in the sorting office revealed an encyclopaedic knowledge of birthdays, marriages, deaths, divorces and impending births throughout the borough. (A sure indication of a pending arrival was the readily identifiable government correspondence granting supplementary rations to a preggy mum.) This all came from a general observation of variations in the density, senders and recipients of mail, and no doubt, aided by a little doorstep
chatter. Observations of a different kind, e.g. whose car was parked where overnight, and the noting of surreptitious early morning departures, with or without cars, provided an amusing running commentary on the extra-mural social activities of the community.

Reception of the Christmas Postie was always good (except for the guy I knocked up for Postage Due on an underfranked letter!). No sense of humour. The Christmas morning delivery was almost a social event with smiles and good wishes all round, children proudly showing their presents, and offers of a mince pie and the occasional celebratory glass of sherry. (Not allowed on duty, I'm afraid).

Looking back, it's clear that a Postie's job is much easier now. Post codes, automatic sorting and cancelling have, at least in theory, reduced the labour content and speeded up mail delivery services. And, here in SA the do-it-yourself collections introduced by PO Boxes, have reduced the Postie's role. However, the good old days were fun - and the pocket money was useful.

PS: Checking in the New Year I found that Annie had made a remarkably rapid and full recovery the day after Boxing Day!

---

IRAN’S CORONAVIRUS STAMP SALUTES MEDICAL WORKER

by Denise McCarty as first published in Linn’s Stamp Weekly

In mid-March Iran unveiled a postage stamp honoring medical professionals as frontline fighters of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in that country. Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani unveiled the stamp as part of a cabinet meeting. To the best of Linn’s knowledge, this is the first postage stamp in the world related to this coronavirus pandemic. The new stamp from Iran is inscribed ‘National Heroes’ in English on the lower left of the main design. The design of this 18,000-rial commemorative shows four people and includes symbolic images based on electron micrographs of the coronavirus. Three of the four people depicted on the stamp appear to be medical professionals wearing face masks. The fourth person, just to the right of the English inscription, appears to be a soldier wearing a gas mask.

On March 3, Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, announced plans to mobilize 300,000 troops to help combat the coronavirus outbreak. According to information on the website of the National Iranian Postal Company, the new stamp salutes “the sacrifices of the country’s medical staff as front-line efforts to fight the coronavirus.”

The website of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on March 18 that the number of people in Iran infected with COVID-19 was 17,361. It also reported 1,135 deaths and 5,710 recovered and discharged from the hospital.
It has often been claimed that “the two main factors affecting the morale of the soldier overseas are the mail and the female.” During the Second World War, the British government introduced the airgraph postal system as a means of addressing the former of these factors.

The airgraph was proposed in 1938 and revived in 1940 by the Eastman Kodak Company in conjunction with Imperial Airways and Pan American World Airways, as a way of reducing the weight and bulk of mail carried by air. The airgraph form, upon which the letter was written, was photographed, the film processed and then despatched as a negative on a roll of microfilm.

The resulting reduction in weight was astonishing. Approximately 1,000 airgraph letters on film weighed just 3 ounces, whilst 1,000 ordinary letters weighed 13.6kg (30 lbs). At their destination, the negatives were printed on photographic paper and delivered as airgraph letters through the normal postal system. The first Airgraph forms for the UK were accepted in Cairo, 17 April 1941. However, UK-Cairo Airgraphs were only accepted 21 May 1942 as the machinery Cairo needed to reproduce the Airgraphs had to be shipped by sea from the US. Approximately 70,000 airgraph letters were sent in the first batch from the UK to North Africa.

As the system was extended, photographic stations were installed at Johannesburg, Nairobi and other Commonwealth centres. This extended service was initially available only for members of the Forces to send letters to their families and friends, but was soon also available for sending messages to the Forces in the Middle East.

The Rhodesia Connection

The volume of mail did not justify the cost of establishing a photographic station in Rhodesia, but the facilities in Kenya and South Africa acted as relay stations for Rhodesian mail. Airgraph mail for Bulawayo and the Bechuanaland Protectorate was generally received twice per week in Johannesburg, depending on the timely arrival of a flying boat from London carrying the rolls of microfilm. Once processed, the airgraph letters were printed and sent to the South African Post Office for inserting in envelopes and dispatch to Rhodesia. One consignment was then despatched by rail to the Bulawayo Post Office, and the other by air. At Bulawayo, the mail was sorted for delivery to its appropriate destination.

The printed letter forms for delivery to the addressee measured approximately 13.97cm by 10.16cm, and the envelopes in which they were inserted measured 11.43cm by 10.1cm. Before insertion in the envelope, the print had to be folded horizontally backwards so that the address panel appeared in the cut-out panel of the envelope when the print was inserted therein. The folding and enveloping were initially performed by hand, but later a machine was made available for mechanical folding and insertion.

The airgraph service was regarded as supplementary to the normal postal service. It had two main disadvantages: it was not private, and it imposed a pre-determined limit on the length of the message to be sent. In practice, these snags were probably more apparent than real. Although an airgraph letter could not be sent all the way in a sealed envelope, it was delivered sealed to the recipient, and the postal staff who photographed and reproduced the letters rarely had any personal interest in their contents nor the time in which to notice them. The cost of sending an airgraph was 3d for the Armed Services and 8d for civilians, by attaching stamps to the back of the form. Occasionally one sees a letter that is unfinished, with the remainder of the letter sent on a second airgraph. As with other correspondence, most airgraphs were censored by the military authorities before despatch.

The introduction of the lightweight air letter stationery and a general improvement in air transport facilities for postal communication towards the end of the war, resulted in a progressive decrease in the number of airgraphs being despatched. There came a point at which the cost of maintaining the photographic stations was no longer viable and the service was wound up at the end of July 1945.

References

• Editorial, New Airgraph Service, Flight Global, 8 May 1941, London
• Smith, R.C. Rhodesia: A Postal History, self published, 1967, Salisbury, Rhodesia
I was recently able to obtain in a national auction a lot described as ‘Later flights incoming section (6) with mail from Germany to Wilhelmstal, etc...’. At the auction, there had been no postal bids and I was able to acquire the lot at its reserve, £75. There were 6 covers all flown to South West Africa - not bad at £12.50 each hammer price! When the lot arrived, I discovered (rather as I had anticipated) most of the pieces were items from various first flights of new services, but two were apparently not. The piece that had attracted me most from the lot description was the commercial cover from Germany - (Fig.1).

It was clearly taken by train to Vienna, flown to Athens and transferred to flight AS287, and on checking Peter Wingent's listing of Movements of Aircraft on Imperial Airways’ African Route 1931 - 1939, I immediately noted that there had been a delay in Athens.

However, what was even more exciting was that the aircraft had crashed on taking off at Kisumu. The plane (AW-15 ‘Atalanta’) had taken off down a flarepath at Kisumu at 4am, failed to gain enough height, and struck a tree with its port wing, tearing it off the fuselage which came to rest 2-300 yards further on when it ran into some bush. The pilot and flight engineer were ejected through the front of the plane and suffered comparatively minor injuries, everyone else being unhurt. There was an immediate problem, however, because no-one had bothered to tell the starboard engines that things were not quite as they should have been, and they were still roaring away, set at maximum power for take-off!

Exiting the plane, apparently through the windows, must have been a frightening and noisy experience for the cabin crew and passengers.

I could not recall anything about this crash, and on checking my book, it was there all right, but, bliss upon bliss, the entry was in italics, which meant ‘No South African mail recorded’! There is now! Which makes the hammer price of £12.50 an even better bargain!

The other cover provided some problems less easy to solve. I show a copy of the front and part of back of the cover (Figs.2&3).

The envelope was one issued by Imperial Airways to commemorate mail carried on the inaugural flights of the extension of their service east, from Rangoon to Singapore, the return flight of which left Singapore on 31 December 1933. My cover was posted in Bandon, Siam, on 5 January 1934, and so clearly missed the flight - never mind, interesting enough - and was taken to Bangkok, I suspect by surface mail, arriving on 6 January. A second mark is the Windhoek arrival mark of 9 February 1934, over a month later. Why on earth had it taken so long to arrive?
all of sending it on to South West Africa - the roads were impassable, the railway lines had been washed away and the then postal regulations did not permit mail from South of Kimberley to be accepted for the Feeder Service.1

This particular problem was solved when Gordon Store of Aero Services (Pty) Ltd of Cape Town, who was carrying out some survey work in South West Africa, came to an arrangement that, if there was any available space on his plane during any of his trips to SWA, he would take some mail bags with him. And so he did, and my cover must have benefited from this arrangement.

The only thing that slightly concerns me (and for which I cannot account) is that the Windhoek arrival mark is a normal Post Office mark, and not the thimble sized postmark of Windhoek airport as would be expected.

My cup of happiness was still not full, however, as Siamese mail was not accepted for the first return flight of Imperial Airways service from Singapore, but only for the second. Both Stern and Burrell make this claim, although they disagree as to the precise method. Stern refers to a ‘First Flight from Bandon (Thailand)’ [which Peter Wingent has explained is wrong - see Imperial Airways Gazette Issue 55], whereas Burrell claims that, on the second flight, leaving on 5 January 1934, ‘letters from Thailand were sent to Singapore for a connecting flight with the IA and regular’ service to South Africa. I think my cover proves them both wrong, in that the IA service stopped at Bangkok, where my cover was waiting to be collected.

So the use of the special cover is justified, and not someone trying to use up a spare cover, or a simple case of missing the boat (or rather the plane)! It IS a first acceptance cover, and I suspect, being addressed to South Africa, a fairly rare one at that - certainly worth the second lot of £12.50 in the hammer price!

References

1 Mail from (or to) Cape Town was not accepted for the feeder service until September 1935.
Georges and Marguerite Reutter - early missionaries in Barotseland
by Sean Burke <seanburke_1@yahoo.com> Rhodesian Study Circle

About a decade ago, I along with fellow philatelists, the late Alan Drysdall RDP, RDPSA, (from England) and Paul Peggie (from Australia), came together to write a book on the postal history of the Paris Missionary Society (PMS) in Barotseland (now north-western Zambia). We have continued to gather information in this area and a new book is being prepared. In this journey, we have constantly been taken down side-roads of areas of research and discovered many fascinating characters. This article is about a remarkable couple who joined the mission in Barotseland in 1902. They are an important part of the much bigger story.

In 2008, I visited Zambia, and undertook a journey to the Mwandi (Old Sesheke) to visit the mission, school and hospital, originally established by the Paris Missionary Society (Missions Évangéliques de Paris) in 1885 by the Reverend François Coillard, his wife Christina, the Reverend Dorwald Jeanmairet, Elise Coillard (Coillard's niece), William Waddell (an artisan from Scotland), George Middleton (another artisan) and two Sotho evangelists. The church, school and hospital are very much still functioning, although run under different auspices, and play an important part in the lives of the nearby communities.

The hospital has, at its origins, Dr Georges Reutter, from Switzerland, who first arrived in Barotseland with his wife Marguerite, in 1902. Up to his arrival, the mortality rate of PMS missionaries, and especially their infant children, was extraordinarily high. Catherine MacIntosh, the niece of Christina Coillard, was to write on the subject of the number of deaths of missionaries.

All this trouble had one good result. People at home began to realise that the missionary is not sent out to be, as M. Coillard once said, ‘une machine à sacrifices’, but to be efficient, and that a cheap mission in a tropical climate could not be an efficient one. The result was the starting of the Building Fund, which has already provided several hygienic houses for the Zambezi.

Jean-François Zorn much later wrote: Georges Reutter, a Swiss doctor, and his wife Marguerite, settled at Sesheke, where he founded the medical mission of the Lower Zambezi. It was he who, in 1902, made an appeal for special funds for healthier housing. He promoted tropical hygiene, the preventative use of quinine, the wearing of pith helmets and the use of mosquito nets. The results were remarkable with fatality rates dropping dramatically.

In this article we show some items of postal history from both Georges and Marguerite Reutter. There is little around and they are rare. Dr Reutter was also a prolific photographer, and a number of his images were used on various postcards published by the Paris Missionary Society in Europe. Marguerite Reutter was an artist, and a number of her watercolour illustrations are reproduced in this article.
sketches on Zambezi flora and fauna were also used on postcards published by the PMS. We show some examples here as well. These postcards were published by the various support groups (known as auxiliaries or ‘Zambesias’) established throughout Europe to raise funds for the PMS in Barotseland.

So it is easy to see how one gets diverted along different pathways with such a topic.

Fig.4: The next item is unusual; an incoming 1909 Cape of Good Hope card from Kimberley, written by Dr Reutter to fellow missionary, the Reverend Louis Jalla in Livingstone. Jalla, an Italian who arrived in Barotseland in 1887, suffered the loss of his daughter, Marguerite (born and died in Kazungula in 1888), another daughter Anita (again born and died in Kazungula in 1890), son Eduardo (born Kazungula in 1892, died there in 1895), and son Guido (born in Kazungula in 1895, died in Italy in 1900). To compound his losses, Jalla’s wife died in Barotseland in 1899. Reutter, with his mosquito-proof houses arrived too late to save them!

Fig.5 & 6: Again we have the ‘Reutter’ blue handstamp, this time a variation, appearing on the rear of this envelope from Sesheke (5 SEP 1910), Livingstone (9-SEP 1910 – transit) to Geneva, Switzerland.

Fig.7: A PMS published postcard featuring the Reutters in one of the newly erected mosquito-proof houses.

Fig.8: A PMS published postcard using a photograph by Georges Reutter.

Figs.9 & 10: Two postcards published by the PMS and used in Europe in the 1920s, of watercolour sketches from Marguerite Reutter.

**Social Philately**

**Corona Post Office**
by Johan Joubert, AFP Afrikaanse Filatelie Pretoria

Who would have imagined that the name of this small Post Office, (opened as a TtO 31-08-1925; PA opened 25-03-1935; PTA 07-10-1935; PA 06-10-1975; PTA February 1979 and closed after 1980), would have become such a well-known word in 2020?

Corona was a Post Office situated between Rustenburg and Brits, with Brits as its Head Office (Putzel. 1986 (1)356).

The word ‘Corona’, borrowed directly from the Latin word Corōna (garland or a crown worn on the head) as a mark of honour.

In 2020 a virus called Corona, spread like a veldfire from Wuhan (China), infecting millions of people and leaving thousands dead, all over the world. On 26 March 2020, Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa declared national a state of disaster.

This elicited drastic and radical measures that led to a total National Lockdown in South Africa. Post Offices were only allowed to do SASSA (grant) payouts. The core business of the Post Office namely: mail distribution was hampered. The Corona virus had a detrimental effect on the world economic and financial systems, that rolled over to a major negative impact on the South African economy.

**Source:**

*Line 2: TtO denotes Office facilities: T says it has Telegraphic facilities; t means it has telephonic facilities (no postal facilities). O means a Postal Office rather than an Agency denoted by A.*

---

**Bibliography:**

- Burke, S., Drysdall, A., and Peggie P. *Memoir 15: The Early Postal History of Barotseland; The Role of the Paris Missionaries in N.W. Rhodesia.*
- Mackintosh, C.W., Coillard of the Zambesi : The Lives of François and Christina Coillard, of the Paris Missionary Society, in South and Central Africa (1858-1904)
- Coillard, François. *On the Threshold of Central Africa: a Record of Twenty Years’ Pioneering among the Barotsi of the Upper Zambesi*
- www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.wk
- www.defap.fr

Cover send from the Corona Post Office dated 24 September 1957 to Cape Town. Datestamp with a Maltese cross. Nr. 1a (Putzel)
In previous instalments of the present ‘mini-series’, I have discussed covers from my collection that had not been included in any of the previous articles that I had contributed to this journal. In them, I featured material from the Americas, Europe and, most recently, in April 2020, five items of African origin. By the way, I would like to express my gratitude to the Editorial Board of The SA Philatelist for correcting an error in the text that I submitted for that most recent edition. In describing a stamp issued in 1938 for the Somaliland Protectorate, I made the mistake of attributing the portrait thereon to King Edward VII (who died in 1910!). I had, of course, meant to assign the head to Edward VIII but even then I would have been in error. Edward VIII abdicated the throne after only 11 months in 1936 thus vacating it for George VI, the monarch who reigned until his death in 1952. So, the portrait that I had erroneously described as that of Edward VII was, in fact, of George VI. I am sure that readers will be glad to know that the editing of the Journal is in safe hands.

In choosing my first item for the present article, I must admit that I was influenced in part by the fact that it was addressed to Vryheid in Natal. The picture postcard illustrated in (Fig.1) was written by a certain Capt. J.B.L.Noel and franked with the ½-anna and 1-anna values of the King George V set of India that had appeared in 1911 and were only to be replaced in 1937. However, of greater interest is, I feel, the blue Mount Everest stamp. Viewers might assume that this was no more than a label but it was, in fact, a genuine stamp, albeit of only local validity. It was issued to the members of Lt.-Col. Norton’s Mount Everest Expedition of 1924 for mail dispatched by climbers and which was to be carried by runners to the Base Camp situated at the Rongbuk Glacier in Nepal. In this example, a circular cancellation was applied in red. From there, mail was forwarded to Darjeeling Post Office in India. The face of this card shows a view of the mountain and an advertisement for a film of the ‘great exploit’. It also lists the name of General the Hon. C.G. Bruce as leader of the expedition but, in fact, he was to fall sick and yield the responsibility to Norton. Incidentally, the ornament in each of the corners of the Expedition stamp are ‘right-handed’, ‘anticlockwise’ or ‘female’ swastikas as made infamous by Germany during World War II. The ‘male’ or ‘clockwise’ version of the swastika features in Buddhism where it is seen as ‘the path to the inner mind of man’.

However, the ‘female’ version can also be seen as a religious talisman as was the case with the stamp used by the expedition of Capt. Noel’s. As I write this, on 31 March 2020, I have spotted a news-item on the Internet telling me that Mount Everest, on the Chinese side at least, has been closed because of the Coronavirus!

In all, some thirty-five of the so-called ‘Feudatory’ or ‘Princely’ states of India issued stamps of their own. All such issues were suppressed in 1950 with the establishment of the Republic of India. I have always contended that these stamps were ‘locals’ even though most are listed in such catalogues as Stanley Gibbons. In Fig.2, I show the reverse of a cover which, I believe, supports this contention. In 1866, circular postage stamps were issued and used in each of the two adjacent states of Kashmir and Jammu in northern India. In the following year, however, both states printed their own, individual stamps and did so until 1878 when a new issue was to appear in the name of Jammu & Kashmir. Just such a stamp was used to frank a letter in 1888 that was destined for the neighbouring state of Lahore which, quite incidentally, is now in Pakistan. The ½-anna stamp was not valid beyond the borders of the state with the result that double the deficiency, i.e. 1-anna, was levied by a handstamp in Lahore reading ‘Postage Due’ and ‘One Anna’ as illustrated.

In March 1986, a paper appeared in the London Philatelist in support of three Feudatory Indian States that, hitherto, had not been recognised by established stamp catalogues.
issued between 1932 and 1948. The stamps on the reverse of the cover in Fig.3 are believed to have been issued in 1940 and portrayed His Highness Maharawal Shri Sir Lakshman Singh Bahadur, KCSI. The total face value the three stamps of 1½ annas (1x1-anna + 2x ¼-annas) was the local rate for letters up to 1 Tola, with the Tola being the weight of the Indian Rupee (11.66 grams).

The illustration in Fig.4 gave me the opportunity of illustrating two ‘Issuing Authorities’ on a single cover. The original franking of the letter was with two copies of the Indian 3-pies stamps that had been overprinted in 1900 with the letters ‘C.E.F.’ and were provided for the Chinese Expeditionary Force that had been despatched to suppress the Boxer Rebellion.

Similar issues were to appear in 1904-1909 and 1913-1920. The cover also bears an 1898 issue of China surcharged ‘Five Cents’ and overprinted ‘B.R.A.’ indicating the British Railway Administration. (Not to be confused with ‘British Railways’!).

This stamp was used for the collection of ‘late letter fees’ on letters posted in a railway postal van and the special canceler reads ‘Railway Post Office Tientsin’. Other offices were established at Peking, Tongku, Tongshan and Shanhaikwan but the system operated, officially, for one month only – that is to say from 20 April to 20 May, 1901. The wording ‘PASS OFFICE P 10MY.01 8.A.M.’ and ‘F.P.O. No411 MY.01’ appears on the reverse of the cover.

Our last visit in this article will be to Malaya and I must confess that, had my collection been based on a single country rather than the ‘issuing authorities of the world’, Malaya might well have been that country. As it was, the page in my album devoted to ‘Malay States’ included nine single stamps as well as the cover shown in Fig.5. The states of Sungei Ujong and Johore were represented by suitably overprinted 1868 Victorian era issues of the Straits Settlements, while for Perlis and Selangor I showed handsome pictorial issues each including a portrait of their ruler. For Kedah, though, I showed the large $1 issue of 1937 with the portrait of Sultan Abdul Hamid Halimshah in all his glory, a credit to the recess printing of Waterlow. In the case of Kelantan, Trengganu, Negri Sembilan and Pahang, my representatives were in the rather more conventional format of definitives similar to those on the cover from Perak as illustrated.

Returning to that cover, the handstamp of March 1940 reading, as it does, ‘Passed for Transmission’, is indicative of the awareness of the approaching war zone and Ipoh, the capital, was to be overrun by the Japanese by the end of 1941. Interestingly, the cover is addressed to Umtali in, what was then, Southern Rhodesia.

Much of the research that I undertook both in writing up my collection and in composing articles for The SA Philatelist was conducted in the ‘International Encyclopedia of Stamps’, a publication of which the editor was James Mackay and which was to appear in eighty-four weekly instalments in the early 1970s. Living in Swaziland as I did at that time and with my wife being the manageress of the Mbabane branch of the late-lamented Central News Agency, I was able to ensure my acquisition of each and every part. In retrospect, it was with foresight that I had them professionally bound in six hard-backed volumes. The work does appear for sale on Google from time to time and I can heartily recommend it to, in particular, anyone whose interest in philately covers the whole, wide world. I noticed on the web recently that an unbound set was being offered for £125 and bound copies do also appear from time to time.

---

**JUNASS 2020**

**Cancelled**

**Bloemfontein 22 – 23 August 2020**

Entry information posted on the web site: [www.sapa.africa](http://www.sapa.africa)
The Anti - Vaccination Movement of the Victorian Era
by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society

During this worldwide catastrophic pandemic with Covid-19 there has been an unprecedented rush by scientists to develop a vaccine to halt the massive spread, but this may take 12 - 18 months. The whole world is now understanding the importance of having vaccines now and in the future when even more deadly viruses may appear.

There has been much in the news in the last few years about the Anti-Vaccination Movement and the ‘Anti-Vaxxers’ - people who resist having their children vaccinated, particularly with MMR (the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine). This resistance started in the modern era with the belief that it caused Autism - based on a 1988 paper published in the Lancet by Dr Andrew Wakefield - an English Gastro-Enterologist at the time (this study was subsequently shown to be fraudulent and the paper was withdrawn in 2012 and he was struck off the UK medical registry).

There are now very large studies showing no scientific evidence of vaccination being a cause of autism. It was also promoted, predominantly in the US, by well-known personalities and TV talk show hosts - most notably Jenny McCarthy.

In 2019 there was a surge in Measles cases based on this resistance, so much so that the city of New York passed a law preventing unvaccinated children from going to public schools and in the UK the Health Minister tried to control social media fuelled anti-vaxxer propaganda.

The World Health Organisation in January 2019 included the Anti-Vaxxers as being one of the top ten threats to world health, one of the others being a new influenza outbreak!

Jenner has appeared on numerous commemorative stamps and covers around the world including the 350th Anniversary of The Royal Society (Fig.2) and a drawing of Jenner vaccinating a child as part of the pattern on a cow’s hide. (Fig.3).

Fig.1: (at left) A fund-raising ‘stamp’ which is embossed, die-cut with simulated perforations for a German anti-vaccination organisation with a 2 1/2 pfenning value and stating: “Public Health Dr Bilfinger says: meningitis, infantile paralysis and other illnesses are frequently seen following a vaccination”.

Smallpox was one of the biggest causes of child mortality in the 1700s and early attempts to prevent it, included deliberate inoculation of the virus in the hope that a mild infection would confer immunity; this became known as ‘variolation’. In 1798 Edward Jenner inoculated patients with the cowpox virus causing a mild viral illness which conferred cross immunity to smallpox. He called this ‘vaccine’ (from vacca, the Latin for cow) and the process ‘vaccination’.

Fig.2: (at left) Edward Jenner on 25 February 2010 commemorative issue of the Royal Society Anniversary issued by the Royal Mail.

There was some resistance from the clergy to vaccination but also considerable support from the general public and interestingly, from a philatelic point of view, by Rowland Hill and his family who at the time ran schools in Birmingham (Hazelwood) and London (Bruce Castle).

The English Parliament passed the Vaccination Act of 1853 ordering compulsory vaccination of infants up to 3 months old and extended this to children up to 14 years of age with the Act of 1867, which also included fines for non-compliance.

This met with considerably resistance, resulting in the formation of the Anti-Vaccination League and a number of anti-vaccination journals were published.

Fig.3: The 2nd March 1999 Millennium Series Commemorative 20p value.

Fig.4: - Below - The Cow-Pock, or the ‘Wonderful Effects of the New Inoculation’! Publications of the Anti-Vaccine Society Print (colour engraving) published June 12, 1802 by H. Humphrey, St. James’s Street. In this cartoon, the British satirist James Gillray caricatured a scene at the Smallpox and Inoculation Hospital at St. Pancras, showing cowpox vaccine being administered to frightened young women, and cows emerging from different parts of people’s bodies.
Once the interest in the Mulready Envelope and its Caricatures declined in the 1840s, the Pictorial Envelopes began appearing. They frequently dealt with social and political issues of the day and in the 1870s this included the Anti-Vaccination movement.

Perhaps the most vocal anti-vaccinator in the Victorian era was Joseph Abel of Farringdon, Berkshire who was prosecuted 21 times from 1875 - 1878 for failing to pay fines as a result of not vaccinating his children.

Almost all the surviving philatelic anti-vaccination material from the era is either from or addressed to him. The most famous design is that of a skeleton inoculating an infant with a policeman arresting the mother and holding a poster stating ‘Vaccination Act for Jenner-ation of Disease’. It is known both plain and hand coloured.

This envelope (Fig.5) is addressed to Joseph Abel ‘Victim of Magisterial Tyranny’ and sent by Mrs Hume-Rothery, the Secretary of the National Anti-Compulsory Vaccination (NACV) League of which her husband was the President.

Small-pox is a process of cleansing. Vaccination is a process of corruption and death. One comes from God, a remedy for wrong - the other is a wrong to deceive and get plunder. The deceiver of parents and the slayer of infants is the vaccinating doctor - his stock in trade filth and a lancet. “

A second anti-vaccination envelope exists with a blank front with the same wording on the rear upper flap of the envelope (Fig.7):

On the rear of the envelope (Fig.9), obscuring the printed message, is a pasted notice ‘To Parents and Guardians’ scripted by Dr J J Garth Wilkinson which reads:

“Parents and guardians of little children, refuse vaccination and re-vaccination at all costs. God in heaven and posterity on earth will bless you. Remember that if you submit to this accursed thing you will never know what seed of rottenness you have sewn in the blood of your offspring, to spring up in future years. Remember that you are chargeable at the bar of the Most High with having, through base and groundless

Fig.5: A hand coloured envelope from Mrs Hume Rothery of Cheltenham to Joseph Abel. It bears an 1864 1d Red with letters in all four corners cancelled by a Ross duplex dated March 24 1879.

The plate number is indistinct – the 1864 1d issue has the famous Plate 77 - One of the five known used was sold in 2016 for GBP 495,000.00.

Fig.6 (at left): The design for the envelope originates from a drawing in a publication of The London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination.

Fig.7: The rear of the envelope shown in Fig.5 with A CDS of Faringdon dated March 25 1879.

Fig.8: shows the front of one of these envelopes and is addressed to Joseph Abel “The Anti Vaccination Hero” from Mrs Hume-Rothery. On the left on Fig. 8 is a hand drawn banner stating: “Smallpox kills hundreds. Vaccination kills thousands.”

Below the address are the hand written underlined words: “Vaccination has only the evidence of failures- proofs of a gross delusion and fraud. Smallpox is a process of cleansing. Vaccination is one of defilement and death. One comes from God a remedy for wrong - the other is a wrong to deceive and get plunder. The duty of parents is clear spurn the doctors filth and superstition and all filth at home. Read the NACV Reporter and join the League Hon Sec’t Mrs Hume Rothery Tivoli Cheltenham.”

On the rear of this envelope (Fig.9),
to parents and guardians.

1. Parents and guardians of little children, refuse vaccination and vaccination at all costs. God in heaven and posterity on earth will bless you. Remember that if you succumb to this accursed thing you never know what kind of retribution you have forced on the blood of your offspring, to spring up in the future. Remember the scourge is charged at the base of the hour. High with having grown, low with having been employed for the present, submitted your children to abominable diseases in after life. Also remember you are Britons, and are weakening your country by being vaccination slaves.

REMEMBER AND RESIST

For a full exposure of the Vaccination delusion, its impotence for good; its enormous capacity for evil; read the Vaccination Tracts, edited by Dr J.J. Garth Wilkinson and W. Young.

After a massive anti-vaccination demonstration in Leicester in 1885 that attracted up to 100,000 people, a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the anti-vaccination grievances, as well as to hear evidence in favour of vaccination. The commission sat for seven years, hearing extensive testimony from opponents and supporters of vaccination. Its report in 1896 concluded that vaccination protected against smallpox, but as a gesture to the anti-vaccinationists it recommended the abolition of cumulative penalties.

The anti-vaccination campaign has continued through the 20th and into the 21st Century, largely in the US and spearheaded by alternative medicine advocates and practitioners.

Hopefully the current Anti-Vackers will see the light in 2020 and follow scientific advice.

ITEM OF INTEREST

A BIT MORE THAN POSTAL HISTORY

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

The Union of South Africa was established on 31 May 1910.

Pending the introduction of the Union’s stamps the issues of the four constituent administrations; the Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal, were permitted to be used anywhere throughout the country from 19 August 1910 to 31 August 1913. The Natal and Transvaal £1 remained on sale till July 1916, when the Union £1 value was issued.

This contemporary registered advertising cover to Italy shows a mixed interprovincial use.

The envelope produced by the grocers L. Fatti & Co. of Johannesburg induced feelings of nostalgia.

In my schooldays I often visited this long-established leading firm of grocers in Loveday Street, Johannesburg. The address shown is very close to where it was in my youth.

The cover, registered at the Johannesburg post office, to Genoa, bears a 6½d franking i.e. the 2½d U.P.U. postage rate plus a 4d registration fee, and is postmarked Johannesburg 10 July 1911. It is backstamped Turin 30.7 and Genoa 31.7.11. The franking is made up by a Cape Colony 4d stamp, an Orange River Colony ½d and a pair of Natal 1d.

The question is whether this constitutes what was available to the public at the Johannesburg Post Office or whether an astute philatelist produced this attractive combination cover? It does, however, tick the postal history, social philately and interprovincial boxes nicely.
It is important to note that Societies are NOT having their regular meetings as previously listed during this time of lockdown, but they do welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website.
Study Groups

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY
Usual Meet in the Captain’s Table at Woodmead Johannesburg - 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
Pretoria Fair & mini-auction, Greek Orthodox Church, cor Lynnwood Rd & Roper St, Pretoria, 09h00 to 14h00.

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP
Contact: Jan de Jong, djhome606@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE
This society has amalgamated with the EDENVALE Society. See details on page 102.

RHODESIAN STAMP STUDY
The Rhodesian Study Circle holds regular member meetings and events across the world. For more information on meetings, visit http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/engage/meetings or Contact the Secretary, Brian Zlotnick. Email bzo@blueyonder.co.uk or postal address 10 Fortis Green Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 8NA. UK.
The SA representative is Patrick Flanagan RDPSA

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE
Programmes for meetings include displays, talks by visiting speakers and ‘Show & Tell’ exhibits. An Exchange circuit and auctions from time to time. Visitors always welcome! Contact: Marilyn Crawford at 021 689 5050 email: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com

THE CAPE STAMP FAIR
Bellville Valley DRC Hall, Contact: Ken Joseph ken@philatelicsociety.co.za

Postage Due Mail Study Group
For more details, look at their website: http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/ Contact: Bob Medland, Secretary & Treasurer of the Postage Due Mail Study Group, email: secretary.pdmsg@gmail.com

Established in 1974

PHILATELIC SOCIETY
1. Secretary: Aubrey Bowles 082 316 3308, 033 239 2136
36 Amberfield, Private Bag 2010, Howick 3290
E-mail:burncree21@telkomsa.net <aubrey.bowles45@gmail.com>
2. President: Dave Wyllie (all contact details unchanged)
3. Stamp Circuit Book Officer is Russell Bowton
Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.

*PLEASE NOTE:
BACK ISSUES of The SA Philatelist are limited. Requests for any issue should be made in writing to PO. Box 131600, Benoyen, 1504. An electronic PDF file may be requested should a printed copy of the journal not be available.

www.sapa.africa

THESE ARE VERY DIFFICULT TIMES
please support our loyal advertisers

JANSEN STAMPS, P O BOX 404, SIMON’S TOWN, 7995
www.jansensstamps.com  Tel: 021 786 1648 Mon-Thur 10 - 17 / Email: info@jansensstamps.com

Doreen Royan & Associates (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 9885, Stoney Park, Stellenbosch, 7600, South Africa
Tel: 027 11 766 1920
www.doreenroyan.com email: royan@broncom.nl

Stephan Welz & Co
Consign | Sell | Collect
www.stephanwelzandco.co.za

Bill Barrell Ltd
WORTH EVERY PENNY!!
PO Box 1049, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 0HS, United Kingdom
01476 594698
email: bill@barrell.co.uk website: www.barrell.co.uk

Sandafayre
www.sandafayre.com

The Cape Stamp Fair
Bellville Valley DRC Hall Contact: Ken Joseph ken@philatelicsociety.co.za

Marc Taylor
email address: marktaylor@btinternet.com
P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ
Tel: 020 7226 1503
Fax: 020 7359 7456

SPINK INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS
WIESENSTR. 8 - 8032 ZURICH - SWITZERLAND
Telefon +41 44 389 9191
www.corinphila.ch
Corinphila Veilingen BV
Amstelveen - Netherlands
Telefon +31 20 6249740 - www.corinphila.nl

John & Mark Taylor
email address: marktaylor@btinternet.com
P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ
Tel: 020 7226 1503
Fax: 020 7359 7456

Corinphila Auktion AG
Wiesenstr. 8 - 8032 Zurich - Switzerland
Telephone +41 44 389 9191
www.corinphila.ch
Corinphila Veilingen BV
Amstelveen - Netherlands
Telephone +31 20 6249740 - www.corinphila.nl

**The SA Philatelist, June 2020.**
SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

THE LIONHEART
COLLECTION OF BRITISH EMPIRE
PART XII
featuring a fine section of the Rhodesias
15 July 2020 | London

For further information please contact
David Parsons | +44(0)20 7563 4072 | dparsons@spink.com
Ian Shapiro | +44(0)20 7563 4060 | ishapiro@spink.com
Josh Barber | +44(0)20 7563 4080 | jbarber@spink.com
SPINK LONDON | 69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET | United Kingdom
WWW.SPINK.COM / #SPINK_AUCTIONS