

*******FORERUNNERS*******

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From the Editor...



Well here it is, the first issue of our periodic publication "Forerunners"!! Congratulations to founding member Ralph Myerson, Merion Station,

Pennsylvania for **his winning suggestion** It certainly seems a most appropriate title given our group's area of interest ... The majority of this inaugural issue will be devoted to the survey results and related organizational matters.

Ca// For Papers t 1 /



Please note that we have two excellent articles. It is hoped that these first contributions will motivate other members to get out *your* writing tools and send in contributions for the next issue. Sharing of knowledge is the hallmark of success for study groups. It is in this fashion that each of us expands our horizons of enjoyment and expertise.

Who are we?



Enclosed is a current membership roster. New members will be listed

in future issues. Also enclosed is a membership application. Please use it to make copies and send to other collectors who may have an interest in joining our study group.

Raison de etre.....



Based upon the survey results, the following Study Group mission statement is proposed:

"The Pre-Union South Africa Study Group's purpose is to promote appreciation, greater understanding and increased knowledge for the benefit of its members. The Study Group's focus is primarily upon the Pre-Union states of the Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand West, Natal, New Republic, Orange Free State, Stellaland and Transvaal, as well as the geographically related entities of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, The Rhodesias, Rep. of South Africa, South West Africa, Swaziland

and Zululand prior to 1913."

The survey findings indicate that a majority of respondents have collecting interests in all of the above states and colonies. Broadening our focus to include Bechuanaland, et. al., would also seem appropriate because of geographic, economic, political and historical ties. The enclosed survey includes an item for each member to comment and make suggestions concerning the proposed mission statement. In addition to the Pre-Union States and other geographically related colonies, members also collect the following speciality areas: railways, telegraphs, revenues, forwarding agent labels, **local posts, squared circles, postmarks, numeral obliterators and Boer War postal history.** Finally, the survey data indicate that members collectively belong to twenty-eight different societies, study groups and circles.

"Readers Write"



Every newsletter has the equivalent of a "Letters to the Editor" department. This is your publication. Members are invited to submit their opinions, etc., for publication. (Brevity would be appreciated.)

"Questions & Answers"



Founding member Syl C. Tully has volunteered to research answers to queries from study group members. Please submit your questions to Syl at the following address:

P.O. Box 5627
Hamden, CT 06518

All questions and answers will be published in **Forerunners**. If, through his research, Syl is unable to answer a question, a "Can you help" notice will be placed in *Forerunners* requesting assistance from the general membership.

Transvaal.....

By Chuck Lupo

During the period from 1869 to 1913, this former Boer republic which is now a province of the Republic of South Africa, issued its own postage stamps. This area known as The Transvaal, lies

in north-east South Africa. It was originally colonized by Boer farmers from the Cape who trekked across the Vaal River in 1836 to escape from British rule. Their independence was recognized 16 years later, but Britain retained vague rights of suzerainty over them. The Boers established the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (South African Republic) with its capital at Potchefstroom and postal markings are recorded for this capital from 1864 onwards.

Adhesive stamps were introduced in the Transvaal in 1869. The first stamps consisted of 1d, 6d and is values, featuring the coat of arms in a rectangular frame. The word

Postzegel (postage stamp) appeared at the top of the stamp while the name of country, in its abbreviated form-Z. AFR. REPUBLIEK, appeared at the foot. The values were inscribed in the side panels and the currency was written in English. The stamps were typographed by Adolph Otto of Gustrow in **Mecklenburg-Schwerin**.

A 3d stamp, in a similar design, was added to the series in April 1870, and the 6d design was redrawn in 1874. These stamps were used until 1877 and during that period they underwent numerous changes in paper, method of separation, cum and shade. Four different printers produced these stamps and, in addition, reprints and forgeries exists, some of them from Otto's printing works.

The Transvaal was on the brink of total bankruptcy by 1877 and the Boers appealed to the British Government to take over the administration. Sir Theophilus Shepstone annexed the South African Republic in April 1877 and changed its name to The Transvaal. The contemporary stamps were overprinted *V. R. TRANSVAAL*, as a result, and a large number of different types of overprint were applied between 1877 and 1879. The overprints were followed in August 1879 by a series portraying Queen Victoria, recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson in **denominations from 1/2d to 2s. A** shortage of 1d stamps was filled by surcharging quantities of the 6d value with *f PENNY*. Seven different types of surcharge were used.

The Boers were dissatisfied with British rule and war broke out in December 1880, ending in the disastrous British defeat at Majuba Hill.

South African Republic was re-established in **1881 and the Queen Victoria stamps were** retained while a new republican series was in preparation. New penny provisionals were *created by surcharging the 4d stamp EEN PENNY*. T. F. Celliers of Pretoria typographed a version of the original arms series in 1833, in denominations of 1d, 3d and **1s**. The re-issues can be recognized by their distinctive shades and the perforation, gauging 12.

A new set, designed by Vurtheim and typographed by Enschede of Haarlem, was released between 1885 and 1893, in denominations from 1/2d to £S. The highest denomination, intended for the prepayment of postage on gold bars, is very rare in fine used condition but the rest of the series up to the 10s in value, is still fairly common because Enschede **remaindered stocks of Transvaal** stamps in 1911.

A new design, with the coat of arms in an octagonal frame was introduced in 1894. Two versions exist, differing in the wagon shown in the coat of arms. The earlier version showed the wagon with two shafts, but the later version, released between 1895 and 1896, *showed the single disse/boom*. A new *printing* appeared between 1896 and 1897 with the value tablet in green. Reminders of these sets were sold to dealers.

Numerous provisional surcharges were made between 1885 and 1895 to produce 1/2d, 1d, 2d, or 2 1/2d stamps. A 6d fiscal stamp, inscribed *ZEGELREGT*, **was overprinted POSTZEGEL** in 1895, to convert it for ordinary postal duty.

The introduction of penny postage in the Transvaal resulted in the country's only commemorative stamp, released in September, 1895.

The double-sized horizontal design showed the coat of arms flanked by a locomotive and a mail coach, representing the old and new methods of transportation. This stamp was lithographed by the Printing Press and Publishing Company of Pretoria, South Africa.

The Transvaal declared war on Britain in 1899 but after an initial series of victories, the Boers were forced to go on the defensive. Vast contingents of British and Imperial troops were sent to South Africa and by the middle of 1900 the Boers had been driven out of Natal and Cape Province. The war lasted a further two years as Boer guerrillas continued the struggle, but the British were in control of most of the territory of the Boer republics. The Transvaal definitive stamps were overprinted with the royal monogram, either *V. R. /.* or *E. R. /.* (after King Edward VII ascended the throne in 1901). These Overprinted stamps were bought in large quantities by the British servicemen who attempted to sell them on the philatelic market *after the war*, so *Mat even today the Boer War overprints of the Transvaal are fairly*

De La Rue typographed a series for the Transvaal between 1902 and 1903, portraying King Edward VII. The stamps, in denominations from 1/2d to 2s, were printed in two-color combinations on Crown CA paper, with the

inscription *POSTAGE REVENUE* in the side panels. Higher denominations of 2s6d, 5s, L1 and 15 denominations were inscribed *POSTAGE* in both panels and subsequently the 1s, **2s, £1 and £5** denominations were inscribed in this way also. The watermark on the stamps up to the L1 value was changed between 1904 and 1909 to Multiple Crown CA, while new printings of the 1/2d, 1d, 2d and 2 1/2d were made between 1905 and 1909 in monochrome. A series of postage due labels for the Transvaal was released in 1907 in values ranging from 1/2d to 1s.

The Transvaal stamps continued in use until 1913 when superseded by the general series of South Africa. They were valued for postage in the other three provinces of the Union - Cape, Natal and Orange River Colony - between 1910 and 1913. Examples of these stamps are found with the postmarks of the other provinces or in combination with other stamps. Listed below, are some examples of Transvaal postage.

Stamps of Transvaal, 1870 to 1902. 1 1870 6d printed by typography and showing the coat of arms. 2 1885 5s typographed at Haarlem in Holland. 3 1894 6d also typographed at Haarlem. 4 6d fiscal overprinted *POSTZEGEL* in 1895 for postal usage. 5 1895 1 d issued to mark the introduction of penny postage. 6 1d definitive overprinted with the royal monogram *V.R.I.* in 1900. 7 1902 1d King Edward VII definitive inscribed *TRANSVAAL*



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Interprovincials

By: Louise Van Ingen

On May 31st, 1910, four colonies in South Africa joined to become the Union of South Africa. These colonies were Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal.

The two British protectorates, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, and the Crown Colony of Basutoland were not in the Union, even though their geographical, commercial and industrial ties were closely related to those of the Union. Basutoland and Swaziland postal services were administered by the Union Post Office, so there is some connection philatelically.

New stamps for the Union were not available until September 1913. Pending the production of these stamps, those of the four colonies remained in use. The period May 31, 1910 to August 18, 1910 was an unofficial "interprovisional" period, since no official regulations existed. Stamps on piece and on cover from this period bring a premium.

The official notice of August 15, 1910 stated that after August 19, 1910 the stamps of the four colonies would be valid postage throughout the Union, thus establishing the official "Interprovincial Period" which was from August 19, 1910 to August 31, 1913. There were some exceptions, however, such as the use of Transvaal postage dues being extended to December 1914, because none of the other colonies had issued postage dues. Another exception were the L1 stamps of Transvaal and Natal for which the closing date was July 1916 because the Union stamp of the denomination was not issued until that date.

Even after the first definitive set of Union stamps was issued on September 1, 1913, the stamps of the colonies were valid, alone or in conjunction with the Union stamps. A notice published in the Government Gazette of October 15, 1937 stated that all pre-Union stamps would be demonetized January 1, 1938. Even though the colonial stamps were used during this period, it is not considered part of the "Interprovisional Period".

The "Interprovisional" cover illustrated here, is very colorful and somewhat unusual. It is a Transvaal embossed Registered Letter further franked with a blue Orange River Colony 2 1/2d, a pair of black and dark green Natal 1 1/2d, and a light green Natal 2 1/2d for postage and registration to San Francisco where it was backstamped May 25, 1912. To add to the color, there is a red-brown London Registered

marking, a red "Bypassed Liable to U.S. Customs duties", a light blue manuscript carrier number ...,35,x,} and the very special marking in the

upper left corner. The purple "PER MAIL STEAMER" marking, reportedly, one of only two known used in South Africa. The fact that the cover has postage of three of the four colonies is further enhancement. We have yet to find one with all four.

