



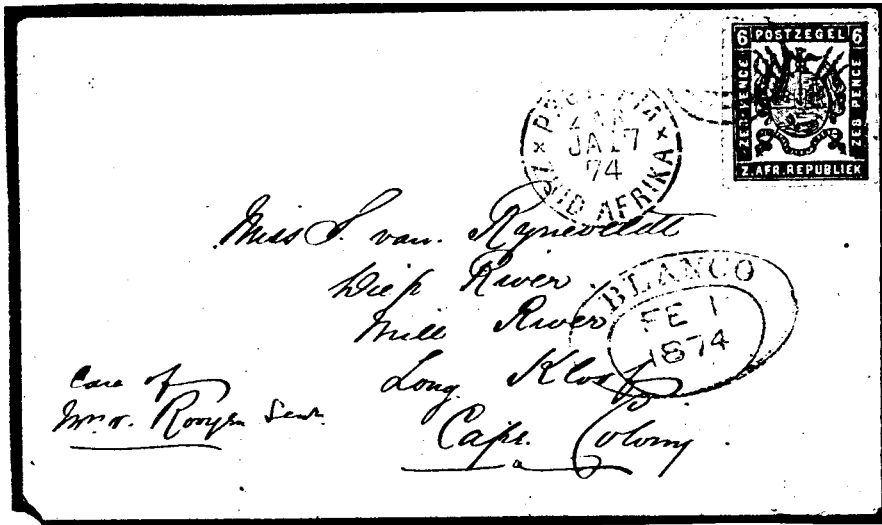
# \*\*\*\*\*FORERUNNERS

Journal Of The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa

Affiliated with The American Philatelic Society & Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa

Volume XII, Number 3, Whole #34

Mar/Jun 1999

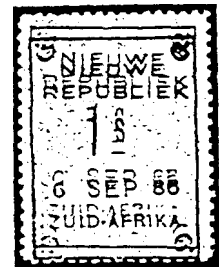
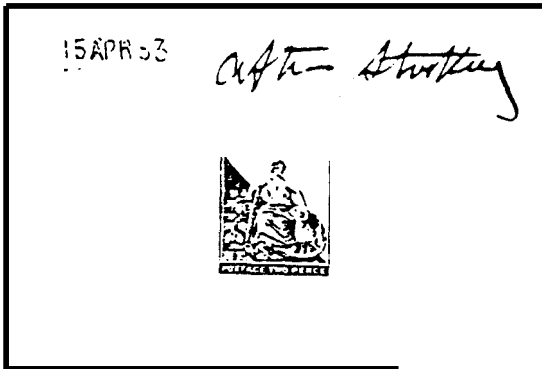
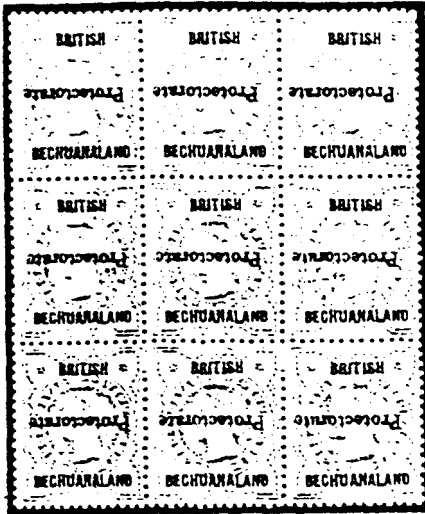


## The Early Postal History of Transvaal

### Other Highlights of This Issue

- \* Botswana Tourism Year 1991
- \* Italian P.O.W.'s in South Africa
- \* The Postal History of Graaff-Reinet
- \* **Editor's Address Change**
- \* News of the Membership
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- \* **Aerophilately** (New Feature)
- \* The Bechuanalands
- \* The Boer Republics & Back of YOUR Book
- \* Modern Times
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- \* The 1999 Mail Auction Catalog

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A more detailed description of the Panel and how it operates is printed in the "Question & Answer" section. Members desiring to serve on the Panel are to

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Membership in the Society is available at the following subscription rates: *surface worldwide* - \$25US, *1st class North America* - \$30US, *Europe air mail* - \$38US, *Africa/Pacific air mail* - \$40US. Payment options: (1) **check drawn on a US bank**, payable to "PSGSA"; (2) LSterling bank drafts at current exchange equivalent **with "payee" left blank**; or (3) \$US, Rands, Sterling or Dmark currency, **sent via registered mail**, using current exchange rates at local major bank. Membership fees are to be mailed directly to the Society Treasurer, Mr. Robert W. Hisey, 7227 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33872, [e-Mail: bobhisey@strato.net](mailto:bobhisey@strato.net).

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PSGSA holds an **annual mail auction** that is open to members and non-members alike, both as vendors - lot submission deadline 31 May each year - and bidders. Lot submission guidelines available from the Auction Manager. Catalogs normally become available during July/August each year with the traditional closing date of 31 October. Non-members may order the catalog from the Auction Manager: R. Timothy Bartshe, 13955 West 30th Avenue, Golden, CO 80401 USA, FAX: 303-987-8671, or [e-Mail: timbartshe@aol.com](mailto:timbartshe@aol.com) (**MEMBERS: ALL ADDRESSES ARE TO BE SENT TO THE TREASURER.**)

## Editorial Notes

Bill Brooks, Editor & Founder

**READERS AND OTHER SPECIALTY GROUPS PLEASE NOTE MY CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS AS OF THIS ISSUE - PLEASE CORRECT YOUR RECORDS TO: P.O. BOX 4158, CUCAMONGA, CA 91729.** Letters, inquiries and such are encouraged - especially reader feedback. After all, this is your publication. e-Mail is: [bbrooks@dpss.co.san-bernardino.ca.ts](mailto:bbrooks@dpss.co.san-bernardino.ca.ts).

**FORERUNNERS joins winner's circle again.** . .After a lengthy absence from the literature competition circuit, your journal received a silver medal at COLOPEX 99 - there were only two other philatelic periodicals which did better! This speaks well for all you that continue to contribute content. We now await to see the results of our entries in the APS and South Africa annual nationals.

**Specialty columns to grow to 12.** . .At the time of this writing, commitments for three additional specialty columns have been received - "Aerophilately", "Fakes & Forgeries" and "Perfins". Kendall Sanford/Switzerland and Paul Magid/USA have submitted their first installment of "Aerophilately" which appears in this issue. Their "bios" appear in the "Society News" section. Still looking for one to begin focusing on the philately of the Cape - any takers?

\* \* \*

**Q & A Panel seeking additional volunteer specialists.** . .If you have knowledge and experience in the following areas, please volunteer to join the Panel: Griqualand West, New Republic, Stellaland, Union/SA and RSA.

**Entries for future issue may be devoted to Anglo Boer War (ABW) philately.** . .Our Director/Int'l Affairs has suggested that we devote an issue to the philately of the ABW. This year celebrates the 100th Anniversary of this historic and philatelically important conflict during the pre-Union South Africa period. In deference to its significance, the next major philatelic event in South Africa, ABOPhil 99, focused them is "The Anglo-Boer War Centenary, 1899-1902."

I think that Jan's suggestion has merit and we should work towards that end. To achieve this result, it will be up to you the readers, a number of whom have a serious interest in the ABW collecting area. In this regard, there are as number of ways in which readers can provide enjoyable and instructive ABW content - a feature article; short entries for "Bits & Pieces", ". . .And Other Stories", "A Philatelic Favorite", "Cover With A Story", and so on.

If sufficient entries are received, the plan is to have the Winter (Nov '99/Feb '00) issue serve as an ABW Special Edition. Toward this end, submission must reach me **NO LATER THAN 15 NOVEMBER** next. Where practical, I am requesting that each of our specialty column editors do their individual best to cover the topic in some fashion.

**A journal historical overview.** . . This issue closes the last complete volume of *Forerunners* for the 20th Century. Appearing in "And Other Stories" is an interesting read for the literature buff, if one is interested in the evolution of the journal from its beginning as a four-page newsletter. What will the New Millennium hold in store for your journal?

**New Q & A Panel Chair and expanded coverage.** . . Our outgoing President, Dr. Frederick Lawrence has volunteered to serve as Chairperson the Panel which has remained vacant since the passing of Robson Lowe. We also welcome the following new members and their respective fields of expertise: Kendall Sanford/Switzerland - "Aerophilately", Will Ross - "Bophuthatswana" and Brian Dennis/South Africa - "Perfins".

\* \* s

**PSGSA on the WEB** ...see the story in "Society Affairs".

**Housekeeping matters.** . . e-Mail addresses are being included in the journal ...A larger font size is now being used for readability purposes ...I still receive mail at P.O. Box 2698 which has not be in use for at least 3-4 years! **Readers and Advertisers, please correct your records...**How do you readers feel about the grey scale background for headings?

### *Correspondance Received*

First, I would like to let you know that *Forerunners* arrived this week at last. My personal airmail copy arrived together with the FVZA surface mail copy. I was very pleased with the first installment of "Postage Dues". I am very much looking forward to seeing the appearance of the next installment. As usual, you did a great job and I enjoyed every page. I have already received some comment on the inaugural installment - **Jan Stolk**, The Netherlands.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

Receipt of articles accepted on an ongoing basis. The individual issue submission deadlines are the 15th of January (Mar/Jun issue), May 15th (Jul/Oct issue) and September 15th (Nov/Feb issue). Articles are to be submitted in double-spaced, typewritten form. Maximum length should be held to five pages, NOT including illustrations. Lengthier works should be submitted in serialized form. Each illustration must be titled and properly referenced in the text. Authors are encouraged to include references, footnotes and a list of suggested reading for readers who may be interested in pursuing the subject of the article further.

Whenever possible, black/white photographs are recommended for illustration purposes. In the case of photocopies, they need to be the clearest copy possible. Photocopied illustrations should show a black border around covers and individual stamps. Illustrations which copy poorly will be excluded by the Editor. Originals of charts, graphs and tables are preferred.

### The Early Postal History of Transvaal: The First South African Republic . . . Alan Drysdall, England

In 1852, the South African Republic (ZAR/Transvaal) instituted a regular monthly service between Potchefstroom, then the capital of the Republic, and Kroonstad to link with the Orange Free State (OFS) Kroonstad to Winburg service and the interstate ("overberg") service between Natal and Cape Colony *via* Harrismith, Winburg, Bloemfontein and Fauresmith in the Free State and Colesburg in the northern Cape (Fig. 1).

The service went to a weekly schedule in 1858. However, few covers dating from these early days survive. That illustrated as Figure 2 was addressed to Potchefstroom and posted in Cape Colony in 1858, passing through Colesberg on the loth November. It bears as large figure '6' in red to record that the sender paid 6d, the Cape interstate rate, and is annotated 'prepaid' and '1/- to pay'. The latter is assumed to record that the addressee was required to pay the ZAR rate of is for a half-ounce letter to, and presumably from, the OFS.

The cover illustrated in Figure 3 was posted in Potchefstroom on 'DEC. 16 / 1867' and is addressed to Cape Town, where it was received three weeks later. It is annotated 'Prepaid to Colesberg' and the figure '6' in pencil at top-left was almost certainly written in the OFS to record that the inland transit rate had been paid in addition to the ZAR rate. The larger figure '6' written in ink records that the addressee was required to pay 6d - the Cape interstate rate and also the Cape rate for an unpaid letter.

Forwarding mail with cash was and unsatisfactory procedure, as apart from occasional misappropriations there was also the problem that ZAR bank notes were not acceptable outside the Republic. The ZAR purchased its first supply of Cape stamps in 1859, and in 1868 the OFS insisted that their stamps, first place on sale on the 1St January, 1868, should be used to receipt payment of the appropriate rates. Cape triangulars on ZAR mail addressed overseas are extremely rare and may be

limited to a single cover; examples of loose Cape stamps cancelled at Potchesfstrom are not quite so hard to find but are still rare.

before the first ZAR stamps were issued, stocking the stamps of the OFS, Cape Colony and Natal. It also resulted in the few known triple combination covers.

It was this situation that resulted in ZAR post offices, even

Figure 1. The overland interstate routes in southern Africa in the 1870s.

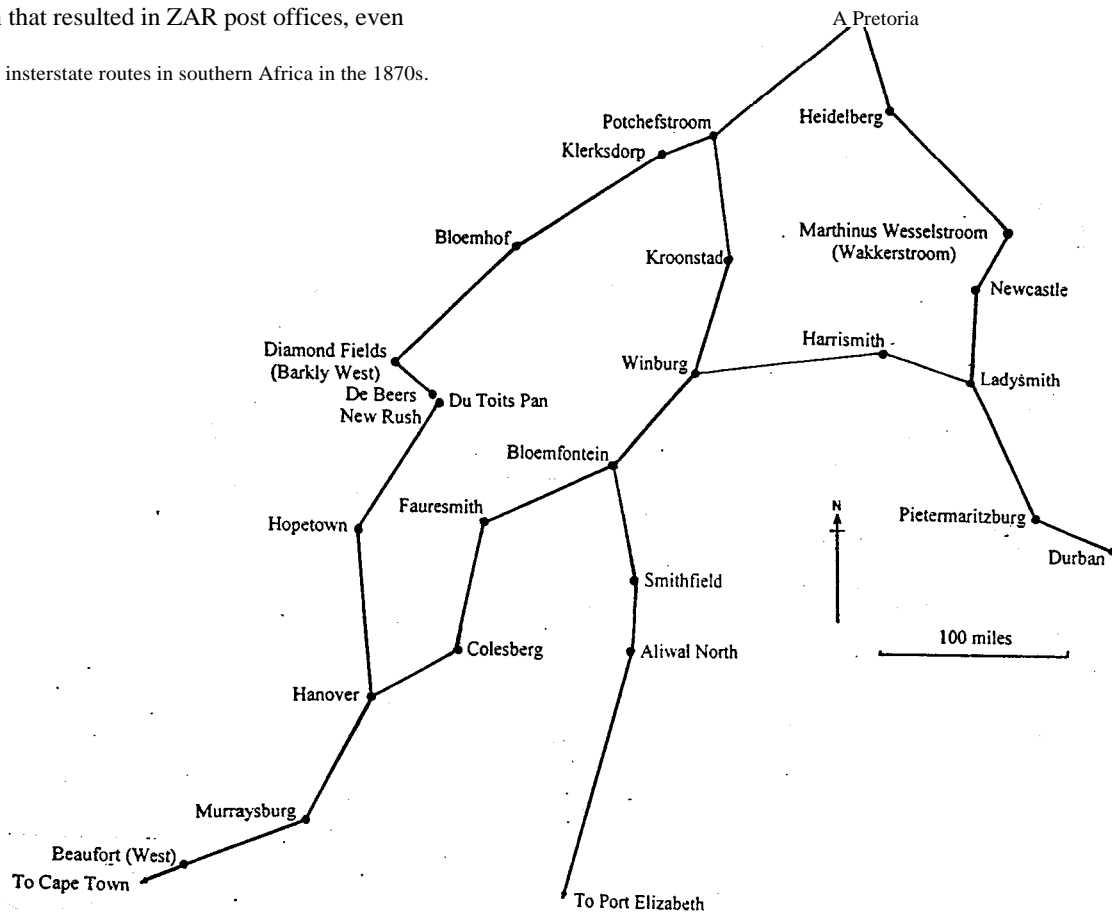


Figure 2. An early example of incoming mail which passed through Colesberg on "NO 10 / 1858" (backstamp).

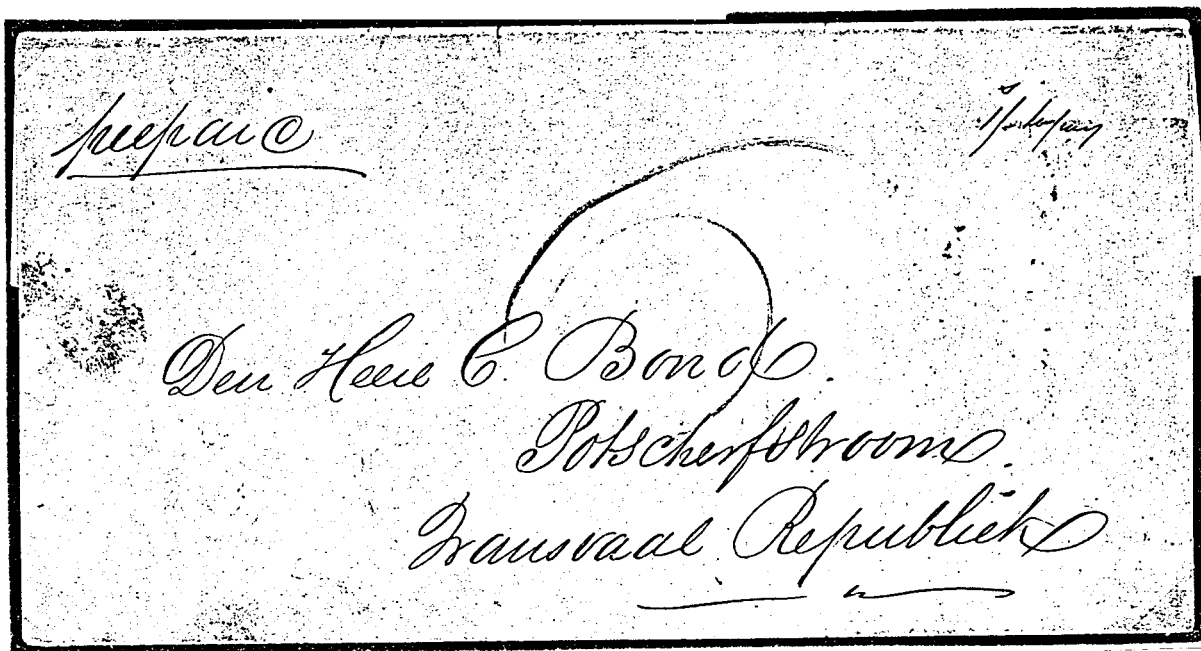
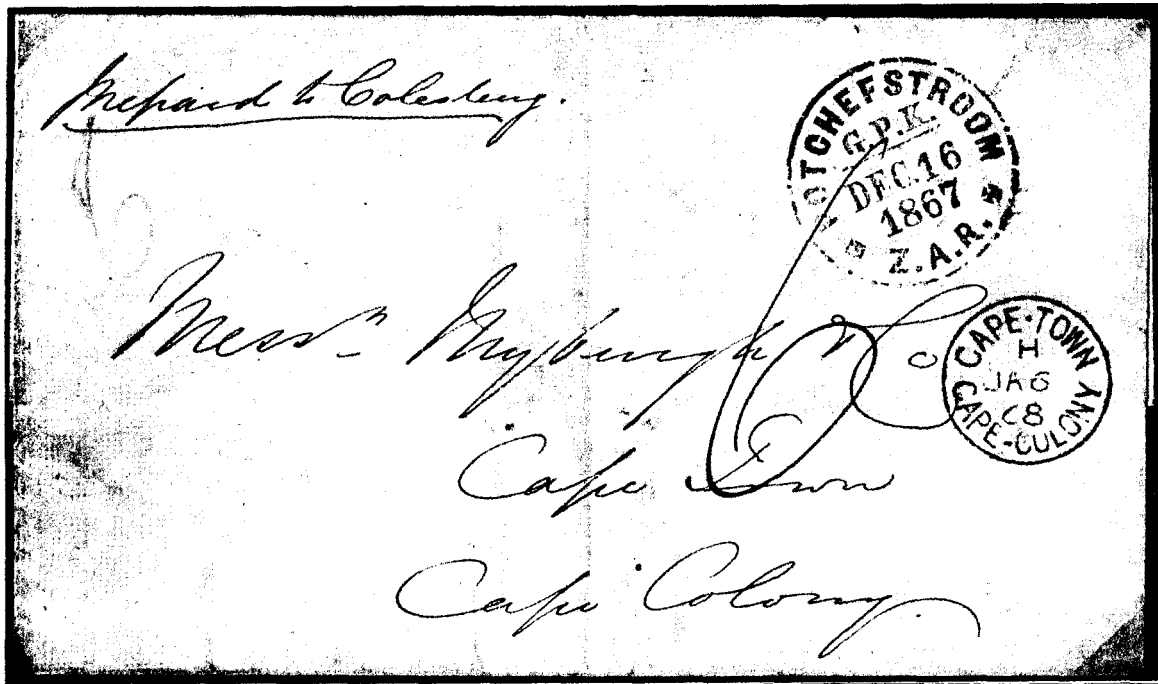


Figure 3. Outer sheet of a letter posted in Potchefstroom in 1867 and forwarded to Cape Colony via the OFS.



ZAR stamps were on sale in the Republic from the 1st May, 1870, and from the early 1870s postal conventions with the neighboring territories provided for the exchange and delivery of fully prepaid mail without further charge. (Mail addressed overseas via Cape Town or Durban and incoming overseas mail was subject to different regulations - see below.) The earlier (4A) of the two covers illustrated as Figure 4A/B is franked with a combination of ZAR and Cape stamps in accordance with the rates in force prior to the postal

the ZAR and Cape Colony, though it was posted after the convention was in force (1st March, 1872).

The later cover (4B) from the same correspondence is correctly franked. There is documentary evidence that in the first instance the ZAR failed to implement all the provisions of the 1872 convention with Cape Colony, and the earlier of the two covers illustrated as Figure 4AB would appear to provide further evidence of this.

Figure 4A. An incorrectly franked combination cover addressed to Cape Colony forwarded via De Beers New Rush (later Kimberley) and Du Toits Pan (later Beaconsfield).

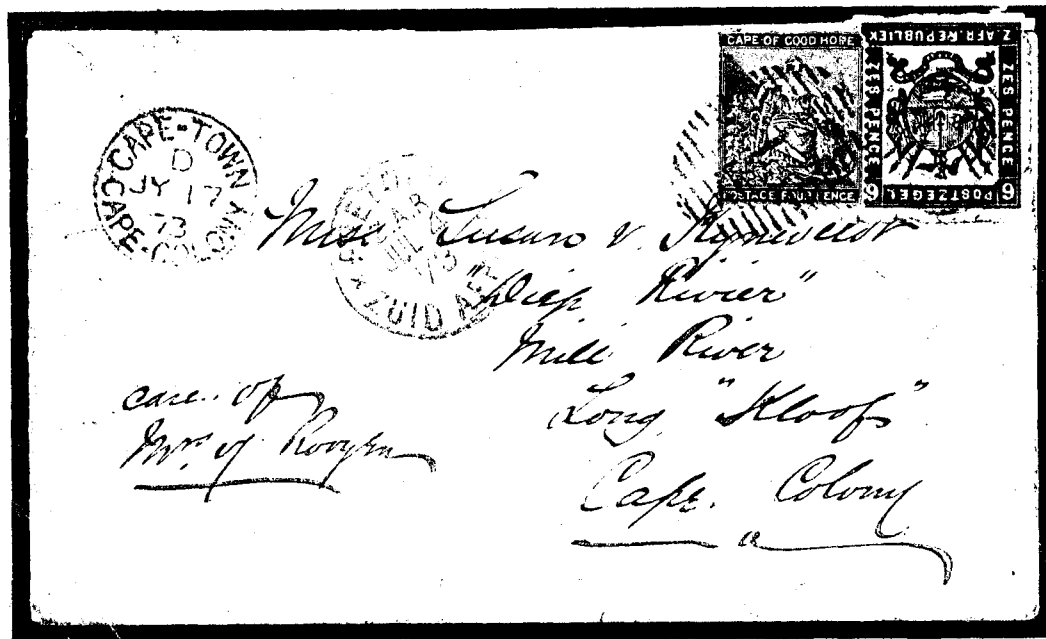
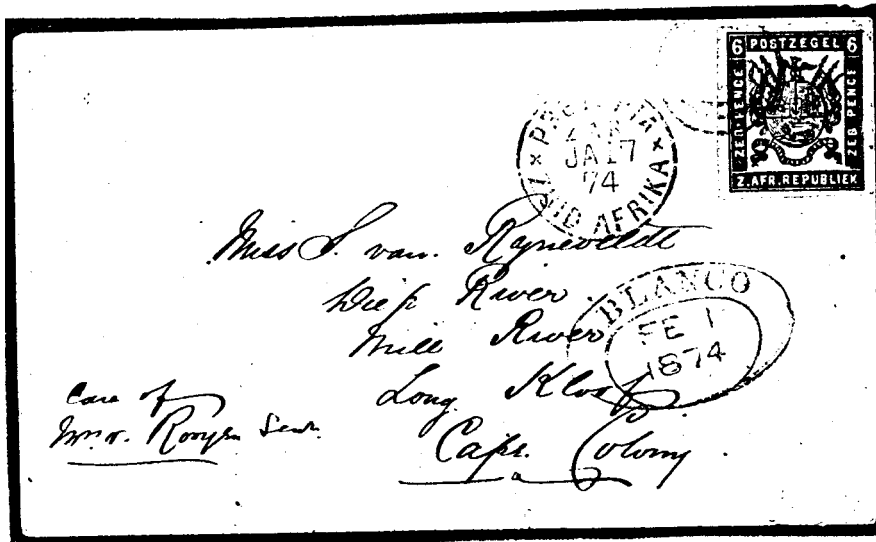


Figure 4B. The later cover correctly franked and forwarded via the diamond Fields - De Beers New Rush (later Kimberley) and Du Toits Pan (later Beaconsfield).

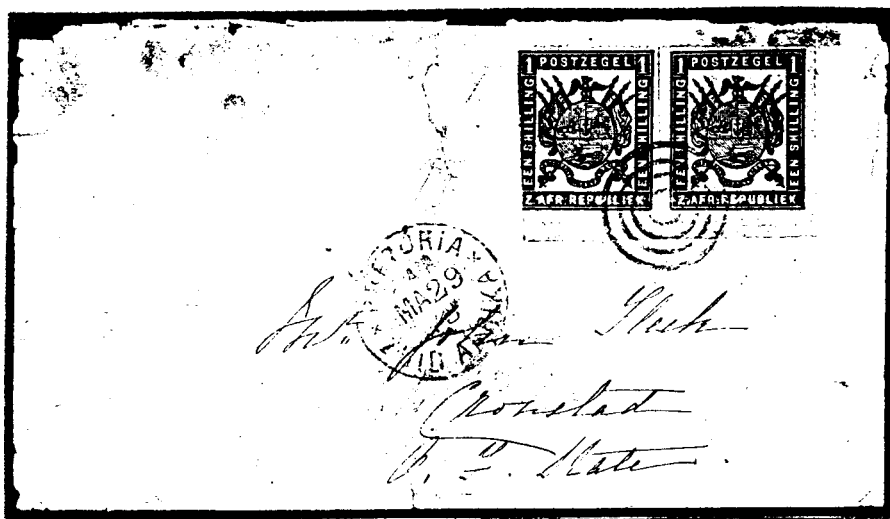


It is known that in 1877 there was a late fee of "double postage", i.e., the fee was equal to the ZAR element of the postage, and it is almost certain (see below) that this was in force much earlier. This then may be the reason for the occasional cover franked at as very high rate, such as the one addressed to the OFS franked with a pair of is stamps - an apparent quadruple rate - illustrated as Figure 5. Alternatively such covers may be a further result of the failure to implement

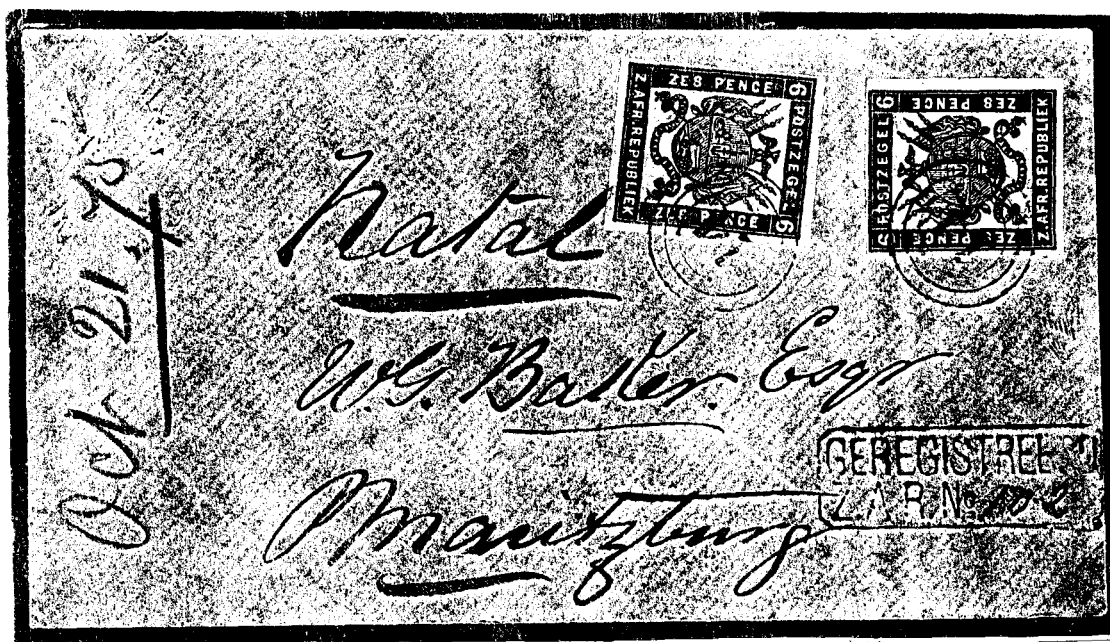
the 1872 conventions, in this case with the OFS, which resulted in one newspaper correspondent complaining that despite these conventions he was still being charged "double postage".

There are a very small number of covers demonstrating that the registration fee was 6d. An example addressed to Natal is illustrated as Figure 6.

Figure 5. A cover addressed to Kroonstad in the OFS franked at quadruple the half-ounce letter rate (4 x 6d), but this probably receipts payment of a double rate (is) plus an equal amount as as late fee (Is).



**Figure 6.** A registered cover addressed to Pietermaritzburg, Natal, franked to receipt payment of the postage (6d) and registration fee (6d), the franking being cancelled with a target-type mark coded "14" at Pilgrim's Rest.



**Mail addressed overseas**

Following the introduction of the ZAR's first stamps and prior to the postal convention with Cape Colony referred to above, mail addressed overseas *via* Cape Town had to be franked to receipt payment of the ZAR inland rate (6d), the OFS inland/transit rate (6d), the Cape inland/transit rate (4d) and the Cape packet rate (1s to the UK and is 2d to a destination ....

*via* the UK). Cape Colony introduced the transit charge c1870, but there was an outcry in the Boer Republics as a result and it was not always paid. Surprisingly there is cover evidence, e.g., Figure 7, that such underpaid mail was forwarded and not returned to the sender. (The overseas addressee could not be charge for an underpaid colonial rate.)

The cover addressed to the UK illustrated as Figure S is

**Figure 7.** A triple combination cover addressed to the UK posted in February 1871 and forwarded via Potchefstroom and the OFS franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 6d (OFS) + 1s (Cape) rate.

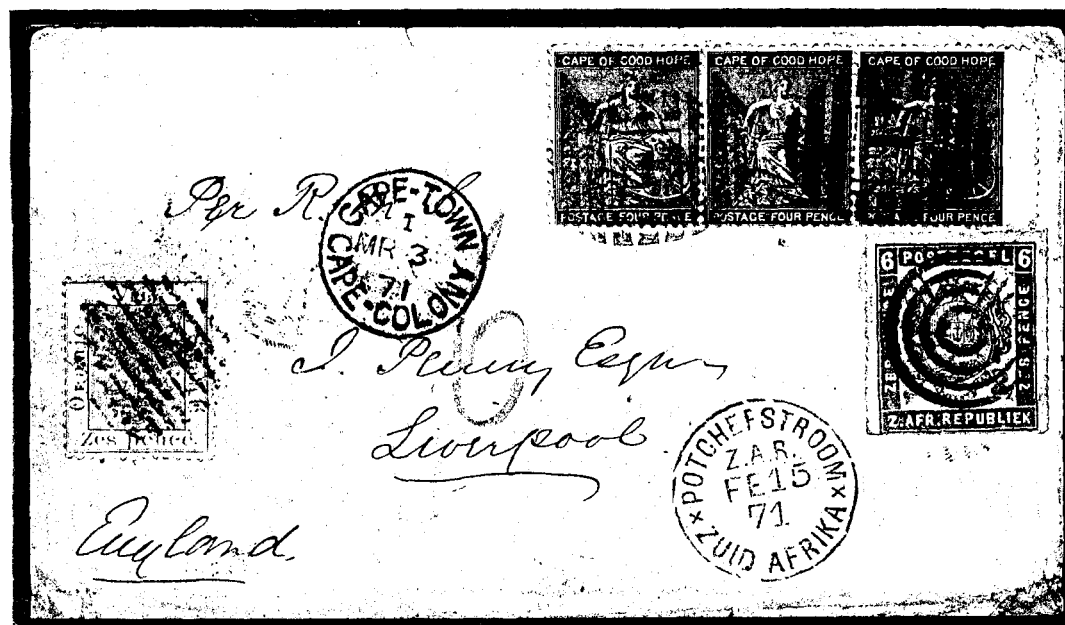


Figure 8. A Davis postal stationery envelope addressed to the UK posted in Pretoria on the 13th January 1872. The figure "6" written in red crayon is evidence that it was forwarded via the OFS and that the transit rate had been paid by the sender.



remarkable in two respects. It is a Davis postal stationery envelope posted in Pretoria on the 13th January, 1872, exactly one month before the date quoted by various authorities for the first delivery of these envelopes. In the present context it is more significant that since it was posted prior to March 1872 it would have been forwarded *via* the OFS, and the figure "6" written in red crayon is evidence that indeed it was, and that the appropriate transit rate had been paid by the sender. There must therefore have been times when the ZAR offices had no OFS stamps. (The letter would have been forwarded from Pretoria *via* Potchefstroom, and these were by far the two most important post offices in the Republic at this time.) The sixteen Cape 1d stamps receipt payment of the Cape inland/transit rate (4d) and the packet rate (1s).

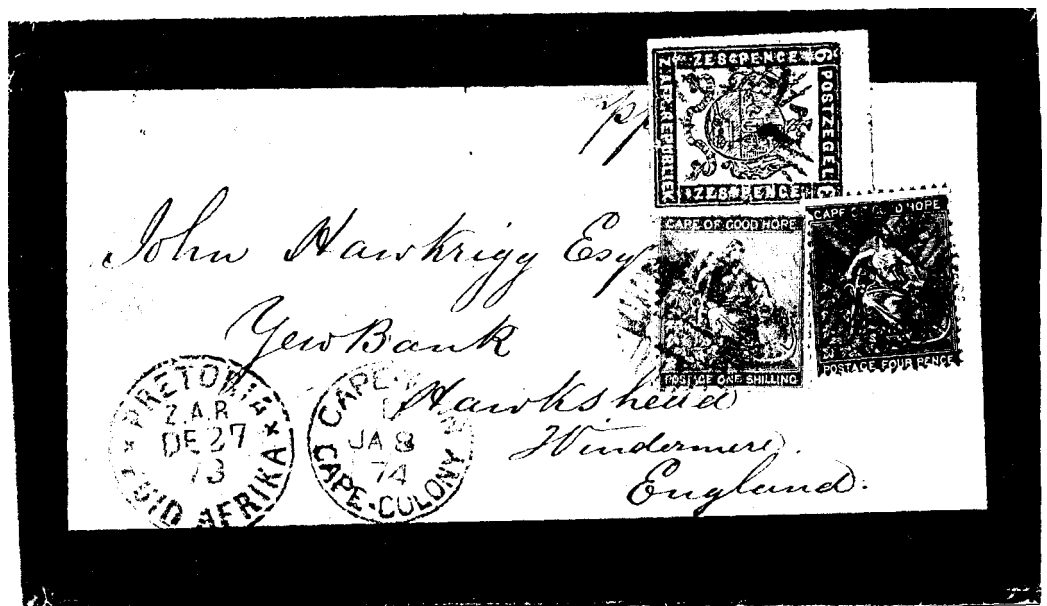
Under the 1872 convention, Cape Figure 9. A mourning envelope addressed to the UK, posted in December 1873 and franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 4d (Cape inland/transit) = 1s (packet) rate.

Colony and the ZAR - including overseas mail - should be forwarded *via* Diamond Fields<sup>1</sup> (Griqualand West), thereby by

passing the OFS. Thus, from this date ZAR mail addressed to or *via* Cape Colony no longer had to be franked to receipt payment of the OFS transit rate. There is, however, at least one triple combination cover posted in 1873 to prove that the old route was occasionally used. Cape Colony also now insisted that their inland/transit rate (4d) was payable on mail addressed overseas.

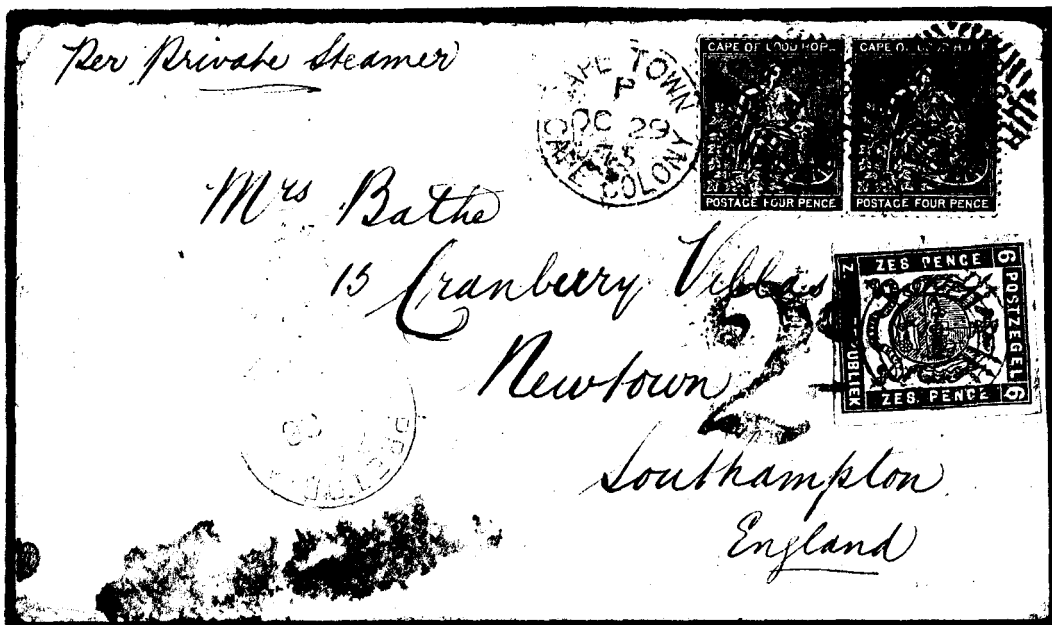
Thus the rate on mail addressed to the UK from 1872 was 6d (ZAR) plus is 4d (the Cape inland rate plus the packet rate - see Fig. 9). There was, however, an alternative. Provided the sender annotated the envelope "per private ship" (or the equivalent), a letter addressed to the UK could be forwarded at the 4d private ship letter rate, that is by a Donald Currie ship rather than a Union Line packet. This was a considerable savings compared with the is packet rate, but there are surprisingly few covers originating from the ZAR franked at this rate. An example is illustrated as Figure 10. The large figure "2d" struck in red (at Cape Town) is an accountancy mark recording the amount due to the UK GPO.

Figure 11 is a cover addressed to Switzerland, posted in April



of 1872. The Cape franking receipts payment of the appropriate half-ounce letter rate (4d inland/transit rate plus is 2d, the packet rate for a destination *via* the UK), but the ZAR franking is rather than 6d. It would seem, therefore, that a late fee equal to the Transvaal element of the postage was paid for this letter. The manuscript annotation in red crayon, "1/1", is an accountancy mark written in Cape Town to record the amount due to the UK GPO (1s 1d), who placed and subsidized the packet contract and received 11d of the is Cape to UK half-ounce packet rate plus an additional 2d for letters forwarded *via* the UK.

Figure 10. A cover addressed to the UK annotated "Per Private Steamer" and franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 4d (Cape inland/interstate) = 4d (Cape private ship letter) rate (courtesy of Gerhard Kamfer).



From 1865 there were two routes from the ZAR to Natal. The first was from Potchefstroom *via* Kroonstad, and Winburg in the OFS to link with the Cape-OFS-Natal route (see above), and the second from Pretoria *via* Marthinus Wesselstroom (Wakkerstroom) and Newcastle. The former route required that the OFS transit rate be prepaid. However, very few covers addressed to Natal franked with a combination of ZAR and OFS stamps are known - an example is illustrated as Figure 12 - and there are no known covers addressed overseas franked with a combination of ZAR, OFS and Natal

Figure 11. A cover addressed to Switzerland franked with a 1s ZAR stamp receiving payment of the ZAR inland/interstate rate (6d) plus a late fee (6d), and Cape stamps receiving payment of the inland/transit rate (4d) and contract packet rate (is 2d) to a destination *via* London.



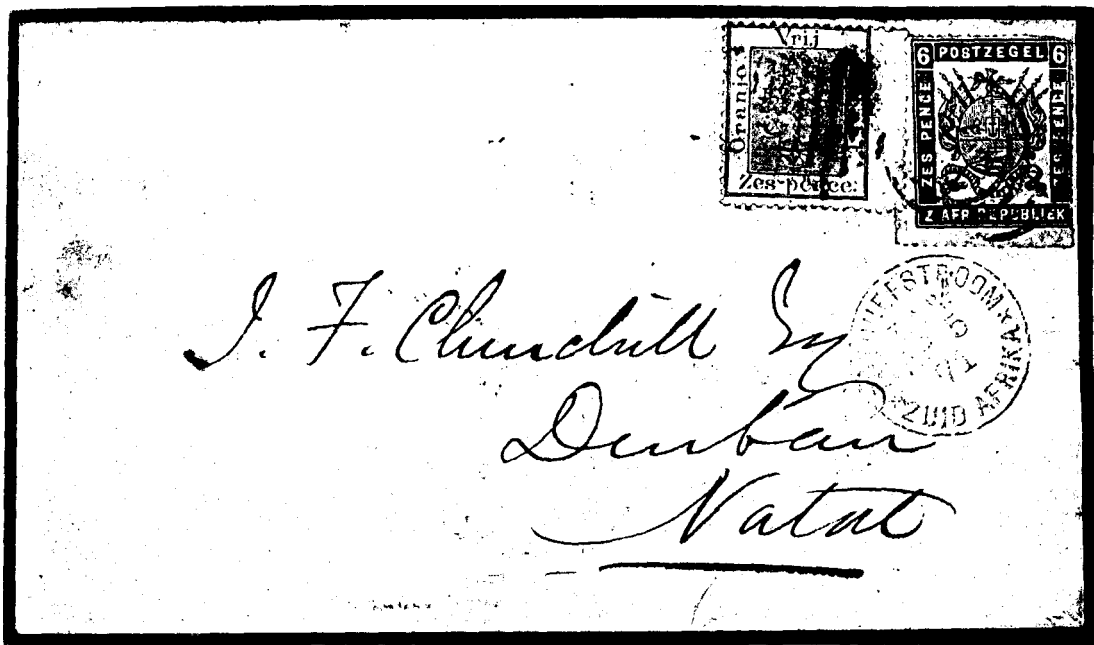
Following the signing of a postal convention by the ZAR and Natal in 1873, ZAR mail was forwarded *via* Newcastle. Mail addressed overseas had to be franked with Natal stamps to receipt payment of the appropriate packet rate - Natal packet and ship letter rates at this time were the same as Cape rates - but Natal did not levy a transit charge. Examples of covers addressed overseas *via* Durban rather than Cape Town are far

from common, and the majority were posted in the eastern Transvaal, usually Lydenburg or Pilgrims Rest (see Fig. 15). Most are franked at the packet rate, but there is at least one cover franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 4d (Natal) private ship rate. When the Cape-UK mail contract was renegotiated in 1876, on this occasion by the Cape Government which had assumed the

† The Diamond Fields office opened as Klipdrift, and was eventually renamed Barkly West. Other transit marks found on mail forwarded *via* Griqualand West include De Beers N.R. (New Rush), now Kimberley, and Du Toits Pan, now Beaconsfield.

responsibility previously held by the UK Postmaster-General, the Union Steamship Co. and the Castle Packets Co., - Donald Currie's company - were awarded identical seven year contracts, and from October 1876 tained a weekly service operating alternatively. There was no subsidy, but the companies were given all the postage on mails they carried. There was, therefore, no need to write accountancy marks on mail addressed to the UK during this period. The packet rate for letters addressed to the UK

**Figure 12.** A cover addressed to Durban forwarded *via* the OFS and franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 6d (OFS) rate. The ZAR stamps is an Otto printing, one of the few known examples of Otto's first stamps on cover. The OFS stamps is cancelled with the same "dumb" barred circle mark as was used on the triple combination cover (Fig. 7) [courtesy of Gerhard

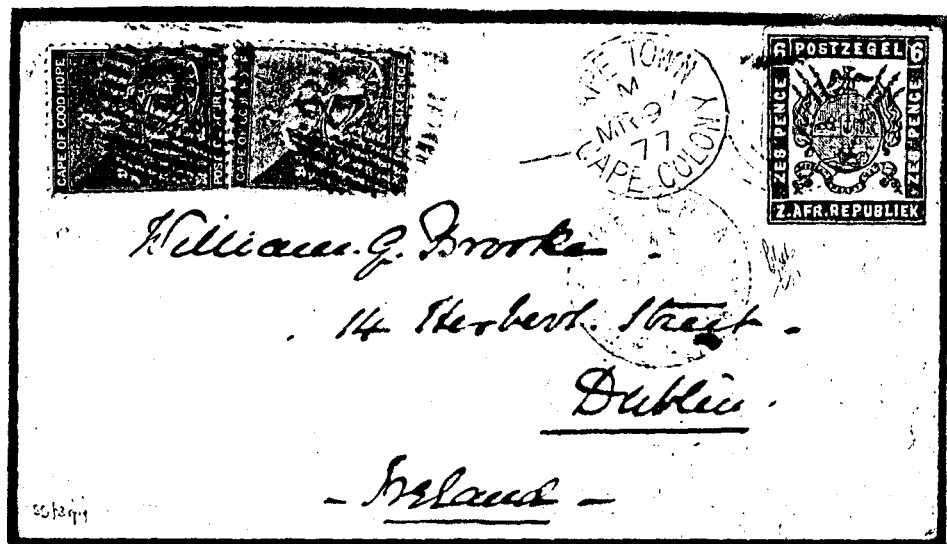


**Figure 13.** A cover addressed to Ireland franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 4d (Cape inland/transit) + 6d (Cape packet) rate, which was in force for only eight months.

was reduced to 6d per half ounce with effect from the 1st July to the 30th September, 1876. Nevertheless the two companies continued to keep the agreed schedule, and mail was forwarded as ship letters. As the rate for a ship letter addressed to the UK had been increased from 4d to 6d per half ounce with effect from the 1st July, 1876, and was therefore the same as the reduced packet rate, such ship letters are identifiable only from the date of posting.

Thus with effect from the 1st July, 1876, the rate for a letter originating from the ZAR addressed to the UK *via* Cape Town was 6d (ZAR) plus 4d

(Cape transit rate) plus 6d (Cape packet rate). Natal should have implemented the change in the packet rate at the same time, but was notified too late to do so and the new rate only applied to outgoing mail from the 1st of August, 1876. With effect from the 1st March, 1877, the Cape dropped the transit charge, and the rate *via* both Cape Town or Durban then became 6d plus 6d. Only six weeks later, on the 12th April, 1877, the Republic was annexed by the British. Subsequent changes of rates date from the First British Occupation. The important points to bear in mind are that the 6d (ZAR) + 4d (Cape transit) + 6d (Cape packet) rate was

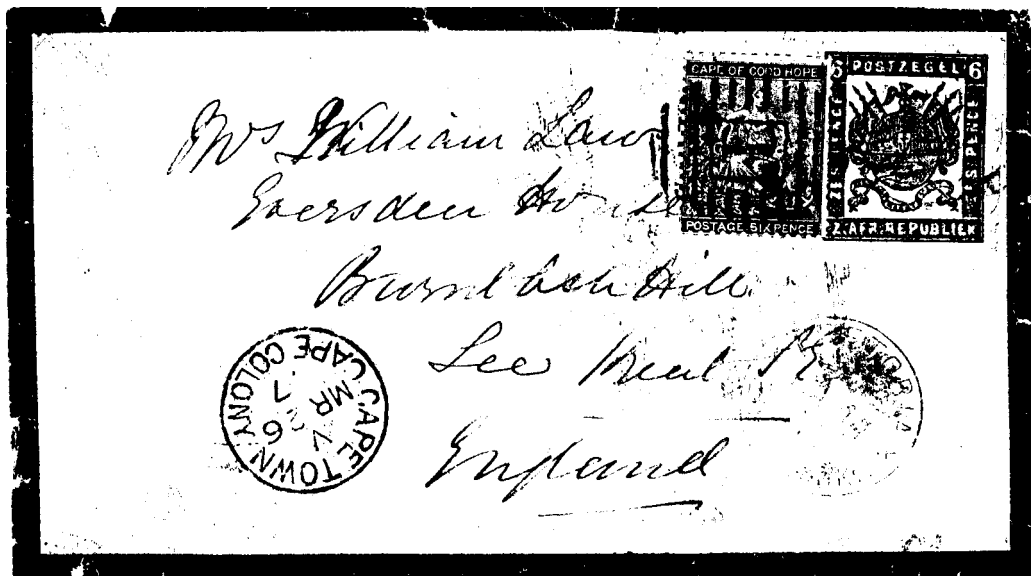


was in force for only eight months, and the 6d (ZAR) + 6d (Cape packet) rate, with payment of the latter receipted with stamps that are not overprinted "V.R. / TRANSVAAL" or "V. R. / Transvaal", was in force for only six weeks.

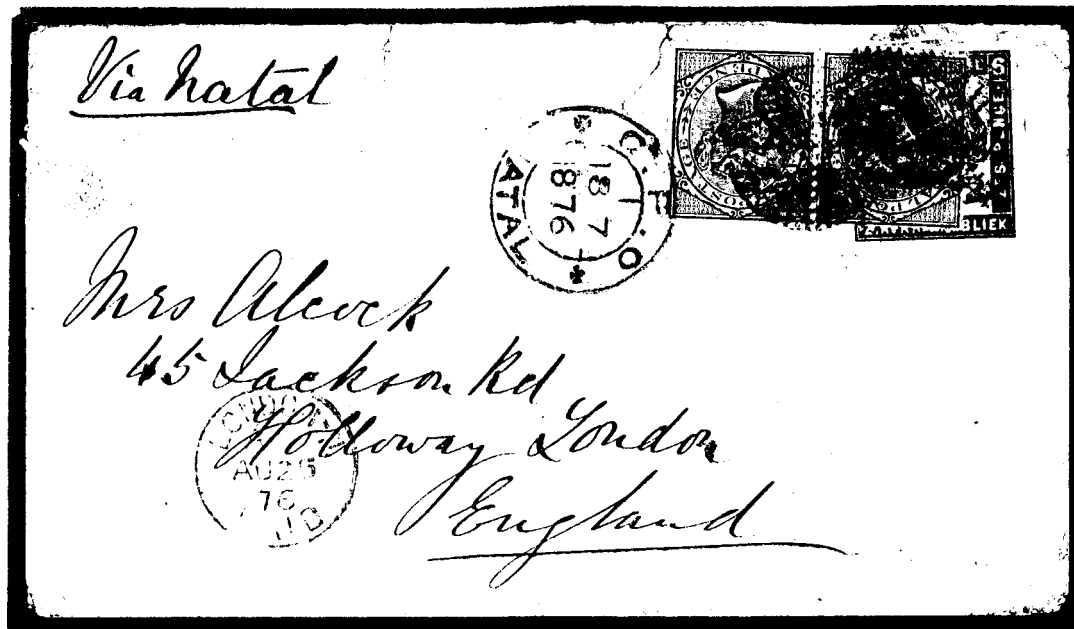
A cover posted during the eight months that the 6d (ZAR) + 4d (Cape) + 6d (Cape) letter rate for mail addressed to the UK was in full force is illustrated as Figure 13. The Potchefstroom datestamp is incompletely struck but the letter appears to have posted there on the 24th February, 1877, only four days before the rate was reduced. It reached Cape Town on the 9th March. This cover was therefore carried aboard the *Dunrobin Castle*,

which sailed from Cape Town **Figure 14**. A cover posted during the six weeks that an unoverprinted ZAR stamp could be used to receipt payment of on the 13th March and off-loaded the mails on the 3rd April. The official voyage time of 20 days, 10 hours and 10 minutes was a record.

Figure 14 is a mourning envelope posted at Potchefstroom on the 14th March, 1877, that is during the six weeks prior to the annexation of the Republic that an unoverprinted ZAR stamp could be used to receipt payment of the 6d + 6d packet rate for a letter addressed to the UK forwarded *via* Cape Town. figure 15 is a cover posted during the month (July 1877) when the packet rate from the UK had been reduced to 6d but the Natal rate remained at 1s. The Natal GPO required that Natal stamps on such mail should only be cancelled when the letter reached Natal. In order to conform with this instruction the Pilgrims Rest P.O., where this letter was probably posted, occasionally cancelled the ZAR stamp on a letter addressed overseas and then affixed Natal stamps over it. The Cape packet rate for mails addressed to a destination *via* the UK was 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per half ounce.



**Figure 14.** A cover posted during the six weeks that an unoverprinted ZAR stamp could be used to receipt payment of the 6d + 6d packet rate for a letter addressed to the UK forwarded via Cape Town.



**Figure 15.** A cover posted during the month (July 1877) when the packet rate from the UK had seen reduced to 6d but the Natal rate remained at 1s.

For some reason, possibly because halfpenny Cape stamps were not always available, this is stated in official ZAR publications, such as, for example Jeppe's Transvaal Book Almanac and Directory for 1877, as 8d:

*"In addition to the inland rate as specified under Tariff 1[6d per half ounce]. a uniform rate of 6d is now charged on letters to England, and 2d more on letters to Germany, Holland and all countries comprised in the General Postal Union, to be affixed in Cape Colonial stamps. .. The registration fee of the Cape Colony or Natal on letters to England is 4d. "*

At least some members of the public appear to have been

informed as there are a few covers, franked at the 6d (ZAR) + 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d (Cape) rate. However, all of them date from the first British Occupation (when, in the first instance, overseas postage rates remained unchanged). No First Republic registered covers addressed overseas and franked to receipt payment of both the ZAR (6d) and Cape or Natal (4d) registration appear to have survived.

# Botswana Tourism Year 1991

Peter Lodoen, Botswana

*Editorial Note: This is the second of a series of articles by guest author, Mr. Lodoen, a designer of modern day Botswana stamp issues. We have our journal Coeditor to thank for bringing this interesting and informative series to the pages of Forerunners. It is not often that a specialty group journal has the privilege of hearing directly from stamp designers.*

The preliminary design for a Tourism Year issue came into my possession about mid-1990. It was a sketchy but well conceived pen-and-ink drawing of ducks, elephants and eagles in their Okavango habitat. Its designer, Alec Campbell, proposed a painting of an Okavango delta ecosystem, with a double pair of se-tenant stamps carefully worked into its

A miniature sheet, as described above (Fig. 1), would be a first among the stamp issues of Botswana, the design from the selvage blending in with the stamps themselves.

At the time I had not yet become a wildlife artist, but I thought, painting elephants' wrinkles and eagles feathers could more difficult than painting steam engine's pistons and drive gear. So, I put brush to canvas and easily established a comprehensive design: sky at top, reeds left, three's right and water below.

The placement of the four stamps, without the perforations running through the trunks of elephants and birds' beaks, was the difficult part. The upper stamp pictures two fish eagles perched and one in flight. The lower stamp portrayed a kudu bull, looking the observed in the face, in front of the flock of white-

faced ducks. At center right a vertical stamp showed elephants nearing the water's edge. At center left a dugout canoe with its polesman held nattily attired tourists pointing their long-lensed Nikons at the elephants.

With wee scissors, I cut out tine ducks and miniature elephants

to fit them into the 30x35mm and 80x24mm strictures of the stamps. At last the A4-size canvas was covered, and I submitted the work to the stamp selection committee which was in essence approved. However, the committee requested several improvements, chief among which were crocodile in place of the kudu, and a Botswana Air ways aircraft in place of

**Figure 1.** Initial submitted design suggestion for Botswana Tourism souvenir sheet.



the airborne fish eagle (Fig. 2).

Imperforated preliminary proofs of the miniature sheet were produced, and smartly lettered according to Alec Campbell's original instructions: "Tourism in Botswana" above, and "Conserving the Wilderness" below. Even I will admit that the miniature sheet looked very good.

Evidently the finished product looked a little too good, apparently, for the printers' quotes were higher than Poso

House was willing to pay.

Time passed and as the issue date of 30 September 1991 (Fig. 3) approached, it appeared that the miniature sheet idea may regrettably have to be scrapped.

At the last minute Andy Andersson stepped to the front and saved the day. By telephone conversation with Pretoria, Andy described dimensions for three 36x20mm horizontal stamps, and a jum-

bo-size 26x43mm design. The latter would encompass the designs of the first three. It became in its state of issue, a miniature sheet in miniature. Still it was chosen by a leading UK philatelic journal as stamp of the month.

Figure 2. Final design for a miniature sheet with text overlay done by the printer.

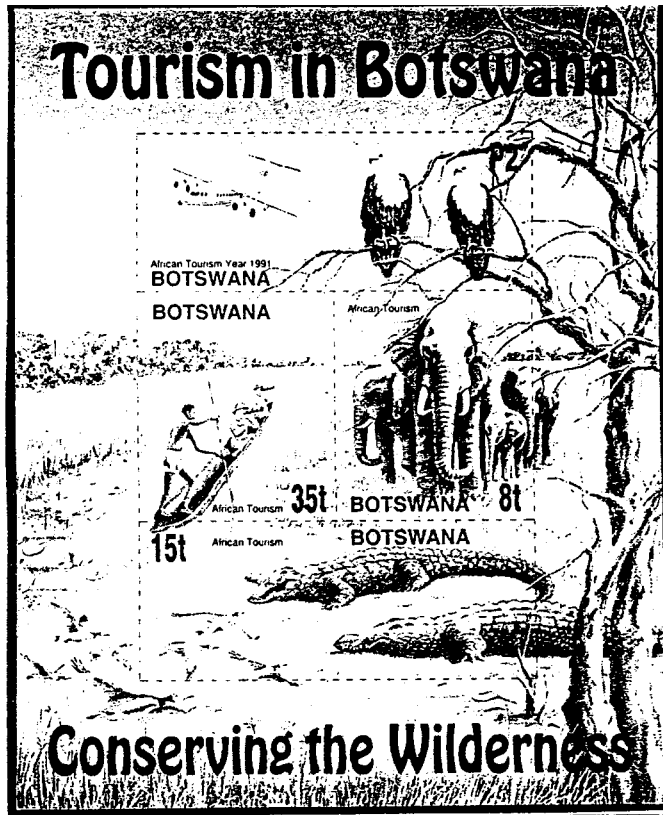
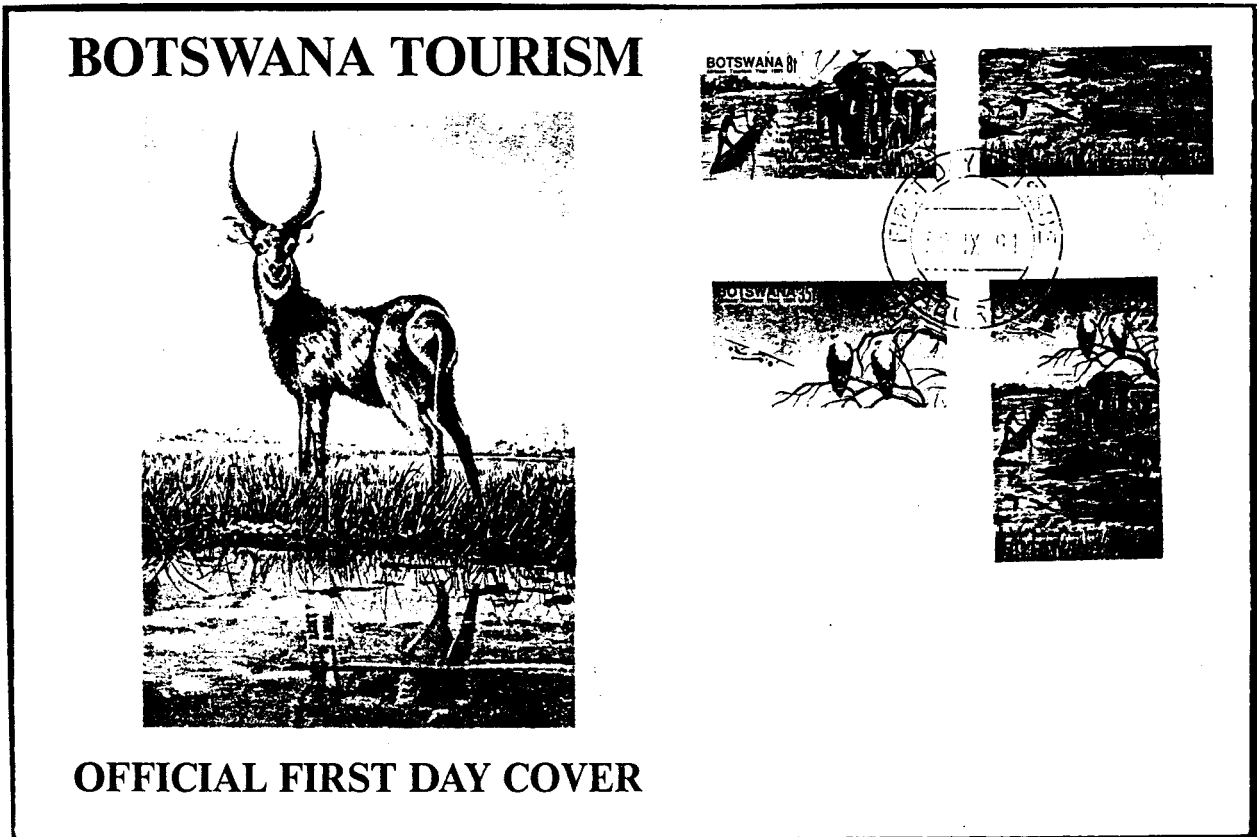


Figure 3. The four tourism stamps on an FDC issued on August 31, 1991.



# Italian P.O.W.'s in South Africa

Charles W. Thrower, USA

*Editorial Note: This article first appeared on pages 61-63 in the March April issue Postal Stationery, official publication of the United Postal Stationery Society. Regretfully, I was unable to determine the identity of the member who sent it in from my records. In any event, my thanks to him for bringing this interesting piece to our attention. As mentioned in the past, readers are urged to send in articles appearing in the publications of other specialty groups which fall within the scope of our interests.*

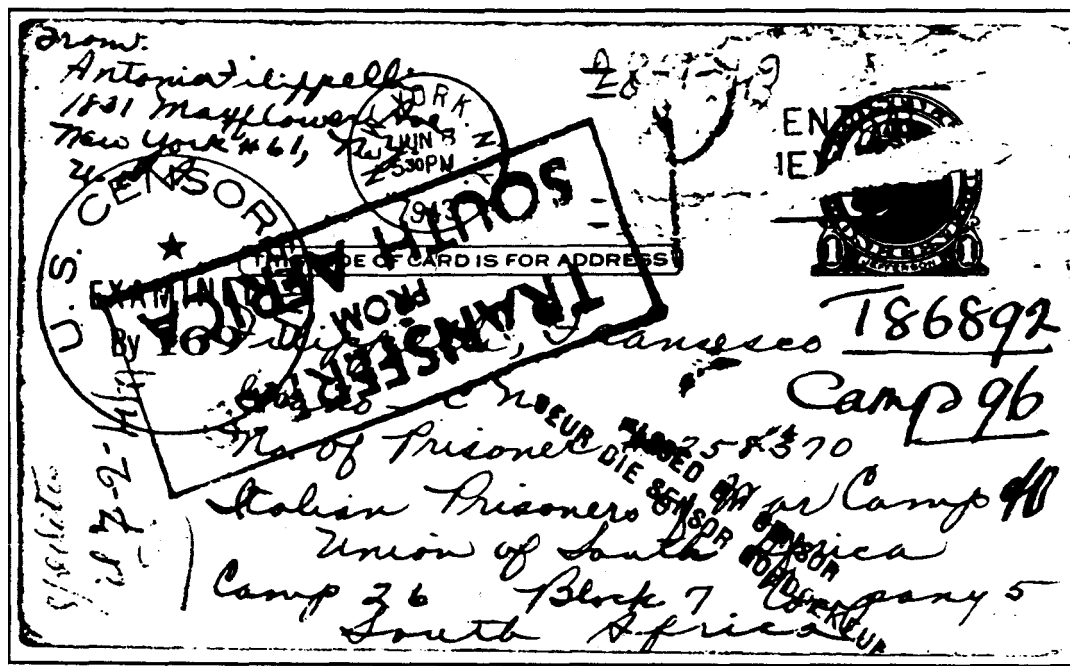
Most postal history tells a story, or is part of something larger that gives the researcher many pleasurable hours of investigation. Illustrated in Figure 1 is an S37E (Scott UX27) postal card which was mailed to an Italian P.O.W. in South Africa by his brother in New York City. The message, typical of one trying to continue contact with his brother, reads as follows:

"Dear Brother, I am so happy to hear from you that you are all fine. I am too, as I am much better now, so is my wife and all the others are fine. But I can tell you that it takes 3 or 4 months to get any news. I wrote this card to see whether you received it or not. I will write you a letter later. Greetings from everyone. My wife and I send you warm greetings  
Your Brother Antonio F."

Censor" - DEUR SENSOR GOEKEUR" by the Chief Censor's Office in Pretoria which had a unit that handled mail to and from South Africa P.O.W. camps.

The card was addressed to the Zonderwater prison camp located some 23 miles from Pretoria on the grounds of the Cullinan Diamond Mine. Zonderwater had 11 blocks and 44 camps. Each block had about 2000 P.O.W.'s or 500 P.O.W.'s per camp. Francesco (the addressee) was in Block 7, Camp 26, Company 5. Early guards for the P.O.W. camp were native Africans armed with spears and knives. When the card arrived he was not there and a rectangular "TRANSFERRED FROM SOUTH AFRICA" handstamp was placed on the card.

Figure 1. This S37E (Scott UX 27) postal card mailed from New York City to an Italian P.O.W. in South Africa.



The card was sent June 8, 1943 with an added adhesive, probably a 2c stamp. One can see that the stamp was removed July 28, 1943, and based on the numerals it was done in South Africa. Stamps were removed to destroy any possible message carried under the stamp which would harm the war effort. In 1943 we processed mail to enemy P.O.W.'s through New York. The U.S. Censor, #169 in magenta has no stars, circles, V or -in it and was used for international mail to or from P.O.W.'s.

The card was censored in South Africa "PASSED BY

Some time later, on the card's lower left, the manuscript marking "expedite it 7-2-44" (Feb. 7, 1944) was written. This would seem to indicate that a bit of time was taken in transit.

The P.O.W. camps in South Africa housed mostly Italian prisoners of War. The first arrived in February 1941, and were followed by 80,000 more until 1943. These soldiers were captured by South African troops in Italian Somaliland, Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania campaigns. German prisoners were in separate camps along with intern-

ees and others.

Eventually there were 13 Italian P.O.W. camps in South Africa. These are shown on the map in Figure 2. One camp, named Senekal, is not on the map which may have been due to its very small and insignificant size (author's speculation).

The P.O.W.'s were either trucked down from northern Africa through British territory, or sent by ship to Durban, a seaport in Natal. The South Africans treated the Italian P.O.W.'s very well. Thousands were sent out to work on farms and road

projects. The camps had schools for further education as a great number of prisoners could not read or write. There were workshops for wood and metal work; they grew their own fruits and vegetables, played sports of all kinds; had their theater groups and their own newspaper called "Behind the Barbed Wire".

Figure 2. Map showing 13 Italian P.O.W. camps in South Africa.



A now, non-secret tabulation of the Italian prison population is shown in Figure 3. All the camps seemed to be near populated areas and thus in close proximity to farms and farming. As per Figure 3, about 70% of the Italians were in labor detachments. To be eligible for a labor detachment, the P.O.W. had to sign a statement that he would not escape and he must obey the laws of South Africa.

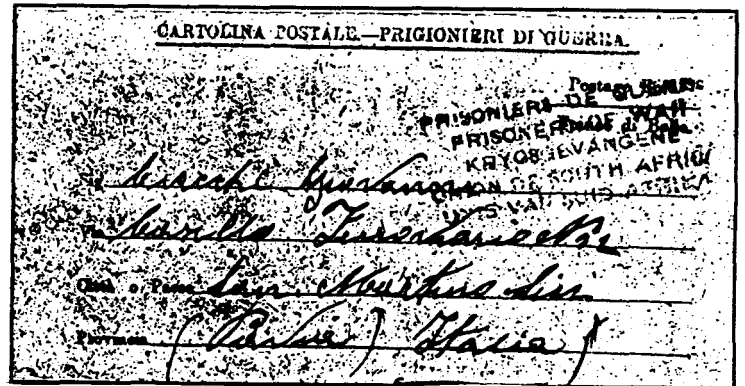
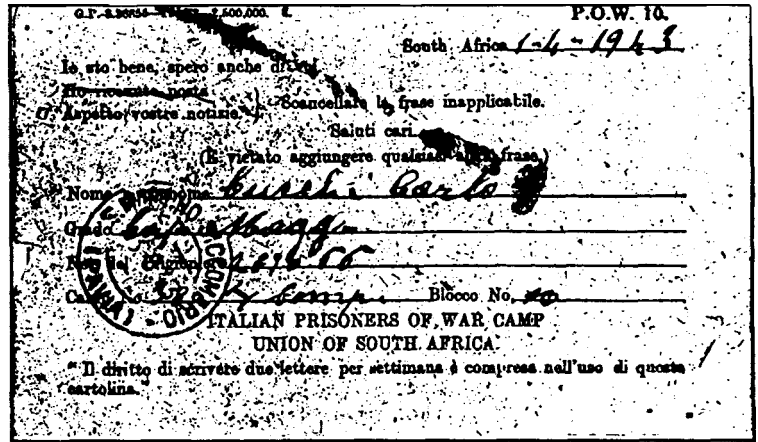
Figure 3. A tabulation of the Italian prisoner population.

ITALIAN P.O.W.		Officers	C/aa	Labour Detachments	Total
		Officers	C/aa	Officers	C/aa
1.	P.O.W. Camp, Zonderwater	141	15597	3573	16511
2.	P.O.W. Camp, Pietermaritzburg	12	4377	640	4729
3.	P.O.W. Camp, Worcester	2	427	1	2954
4.	P.O.W. Camp, Du Toit's Kloof	4	1059	21	1093
5.	P.O.W. Camp, George	3	695	3	1240
6.	P.O.W. Camp, Vreza	1	285	7	291
7.	P.O.W. Camp, Tropicatid	4	755	1	1358
8.	P.O.W. Camp, Ottosial	2	302		927
9.	P.O.W. Camp, Cookhouse	1	235		743
10.	P.O.W. Camp, Stenderion	3	357		743
11.	P.O.W. Camp, Warmbath	12	1275		770
12.	P.O.W. Camp, Bultfontein	1	210		271
13.	P.O.W. Camp, Genakal	2	207		431
Total Italian P.O.W.		188	25551	5	13557
Grand Total		188	25551	5	13557

In 1947 when the last of the P.O.W.'s had been released, the South Africans found that thousands of them wanted to remain in their country. Provisions therefore were made for them to become South African citizens.

Figure 4 is an illustration of an "I am well" card from Zonderwater" written by an Italian P.O.W. to his family in Italy, dated April 1, 1943. The card indicates that this particular prisoner was in Block 10, Camp 38 at Zonderwater. The reverse only contains the address in Italy, and shows the South African magenta censor mark.

Figure 4. Address side (top) and message side (bottom) of "I am well" card.



This is a short summary of the subject of the Italian P.O.W.'s in South Africa. Further information is available from the Military History Museum, 22 Erlswold Way, Saxonwold (Johannesburg) South Africa. I spent several days researching

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# The Postal History of Graaff-Reinet: Part I

the late Ken Baker

*Editorial Note: This reprint comes by way of our Director/Programs, Bob Taylor. Bob indicates that the late author was a keen scholar of early Cape postal history; that Baker's work in this area will prove to be invaluable to those our readers with an interest in this area. This is the first of eight parts. It first appeared in Vol. 26, No. 3, pages 15-20 of The Post Office Stone, official publication of the Postmark & Postal History Society of South Africa.*

**Introduction** find no direct evidence of particular journeys to either

It is interesting to note that the Government officers who were probably concerned originally with the acceptance of the occasional letter amongst their despatches, orders, etc., for distribution in the outlying areas of the Colony, were the Landrosts (District Magistrates), and these functionaries may be considered as the precursors of the Postmaster in the Cape Colony.

There were supported in their employment by Veldwachters (Field Cornets) whose business in those early days might in some degree be said to be similar to a Postal Agent and/or a Postman. However, it cannot be categorically stated that this was so - it can only be assumed to have been the case. I have as yet not seen any early correspondence of the 18th-19th centuries endorsed as having been despatched "by favor" of the Landrost or the Field Cornet.

When Graaff-Reinet was established in 1786, Landrosts had, for a number of years, served the public in the Colony, the first evidently being Johannes Mulder at Stellenbosch in 1685. Field Cornets, according to Spilhaus, were first recruited in 1693.

The first Landrost at Graaff-Reinet was Mauritz Woeke, and I can find evidence of only two Field Cornets, Pienaar and Bothma. The area under Woeke's control was huge and, as far as I can judge from my research, lay from above the Sneeuwberg in the north to east of the Gamka River in the west; from above the Zwartbergen in the southwest to Klippen Point near Cape St. Francis; thence along the coast to the fish River, up to its boundaries, and north to the Stormberg.

According to Spilhaus - and she appears to have done her homework in an exemplary manner - there were in the Graaff-Reinet District within reasonable travelling distance to the newly built Drostdy, 805 men, 596 wives, 910 boys and 761 girls, this being the Boer population. Spread over the remainder of the District Korannas, Griquas, Bushmen and Xhosas made up the rest of the population.

I would imagine that at this time few of the white burghers were educated enough to be able to write, except perhaps their names, and few private letters made their way between Graaff-Reinet and Cape town. However, proclamations, orders and officials letters were exchanged and whilst I can find no

Swellendam (via the Drostdy) and Cape town, there had to be made conveying written communications; and no doubt the occasional letter passed between these places. These would be carried by a Field Cornet, official messenger or in some cases, by visitors, explorers, etc., and there is a fair amount of evidence to support this latter method.

As the 18th century drew to a close, a number of Graaff-Reinet residents would by now be able to read and write, and more letters would be despatched and received.

With the opening of the first Post Office at Cape Town in March, 1792, no provision had been made for an inland postal service.

The only service offered the public dealt exclusively with mail to and from overseas. However, more and more private mail was arriving from overseas, some of it for persons living in the Cape hinterland, and arrangements had to be made for the despatch of these letters but not through the post office. The obvious arrangement was surely with the Field Cornet.

The rise in communication would mean that now local letters would be despatched and received from farms within easy distance of Graaff-Reinet, these being despatched from farm to farm, usually by the Hottentot servants of the farmers, some probably using the "Briefstok" noted by Goldblatt.

To comment on this period, it can be said that from the original conception of the duties of Field Cornets, as one source notes, "a military post created ... to raise Commandos". Further, as Spilhaus states: "Assist District magistrates in supervision in carrying out Government orders", their duties were now bring them closer into the field of postal communication.

## Lord Macartney's Tenure of Office

With the first British occupation, and following upon the end of Military Government, Lord Macartney was appointed as the Governor of the Cape. Two important moves concerning postal communications were made by him, the reopening of the Cape Town post office and the reestablishment of the overseas postal service.

Macartney was also very much concerned with the duties of the Field Cornets. Spilhaus refers to his proclamation concern

concerning them, wherein he states in a long eulogy that "They were postmen sharing with the farmers the duties of passing on messages and letters in the right hands."

At Graaff-Reinet, on 20 June 1807, Macartney appointed Reinhardt Bressler as Landrost in that "he is the only capable man within reach." Of the 45 Field Comets appointed by him I have been able to find only a few names of these officers in the Graaff-Reinet District: Visser and Ouw who were in charge of the Middel Roggeveld and Hantam and Lower Bokkeveld Field Comets respectively; J. van der Walt at Traka; P. Erasmus probably Zuurveld and Schalk Burger, Sneeuwbergen.

From 1798 the so-called siege of Graaff-Reinet occupied the time of the Government and Graaff-Reinet Burghers. I was unable find any interesting information concerning the posts during this period. However, in the Algoa Bay area, which at this time still formed part of the Graaff-Reinet District, some postal activity was probably carried out by Field Comet van Rooyen.

On the 18th of March, twelve Dragoons were sent to cover communications between Swellendam and Graaff-Reinet. In 1809 Colonel Collins commented that under the first British Government at the Cape the post carried by Dragoons "was then as expeditious as possible, despatches being received in five days (from Cape Town) if not impeded by the swelling of rivers". If Lord Macartney's statement above is accepted, then it shows that the Field Cornet was more actively employed in this work than were any other persons.

While there were only one or two official routes in operations, the Field Cornet travelled over many areas of the Cape, these later being developed as essential routes of the Cape Postal System.

### **The Batavian Republic and the Development of Official Post Routes**

The British evacuated the Cape on 20 February 1803 and, under the Treaty of Amiens, the Batavian Republic became the Government of the Territory.

The *Government Gazette*, which had been established under the first British occupation, was found to be of great value in enabling inhabitants of the Colony to understand government policy, and bringing proclamations, ordinances etc., to their attention.

This publication was continued in the Dutch language as the *Courant* which was made freely available to most people in the Republic. Few issues were published without some news as to the Field Cornets, and the *Courant* was conveyed to most parts of the Cape by the same persons.

### **Governor Janssens' Visit to the Graaff-Reinet District in April 1803**

Leaving Commissary-General J. M. de Mist assuming responsibility for the most important affairs of the Colony the Governor-General J. W. Janssens, accompanied by the a large party, departed Cape Town on Sunday, 3 April 1803 for Algoa Bay en route to Graaff-Reinet and other outlying areas of the Colony.

The purpose of the visit was noted by de Kock who stated that Janssens "...found that during his first month's sojourn at the Cape, that it was hardly possible to judge the interests of the colonists of the different districts and to reach decisions on the same without a reasonable knowledge thereof..."

The party, apart from including a troop of Dragoons and several important Cape personages, was accompanied by a Captain Paravicini de Capella, of whom we shall hear more later.

Algoa Bay at this time was still included in the District of Graaff-Reinet. Fort Frederick had been build at the Bay in August 1799 and occupied by remnants of the the British Army until 1803. At the time, communications with Cape Town were maintained by the Dragoons via Swellendam. On the Batavian take-over a small force of the Waldeck Regiment came into occupation. Governor Janssens and his entourage arrived at Algoa Bay on 5 May.

"De Verwachting", a small vessel (hooker) from Cape Town brought mail and news papers for Janssens and his party and took letters from Janssens for Batavia. Official and private letters were also despatched by courier to Cape Town.

A number of farms were situated in this particular area of Algoa Bay with the Field Comet being Gabriel Scholtz. While the Governor stayed at the Bay he also appointed Ignatius Muller as a Field Comet.

After spending some time visiting the surrounding area, the party left Algoa Bay en route for Graaff-Reinet on Wednesday, June 1st. On the following June 8th they passed in the vicinity of Bruintjeshoogte. The Field Cornet there was Georg Geeres. On 10 June letters from Cape Town and Holland were brought to Janssens - no by the Field Comet but by one of the sons of a a local Burgher, Prinsloo by name. Also near the Bruintjeshoogte area another Field Cornet named Erasmus was stationed.

Following a search for Gaika, the party finally arrived at Graaff-Reinet on Sunday the 3rd of July. They were met by the Commandant, F. C. D. Gratz, the Heemraden and the Field Cornets, the latter were unfortunately not named in records. Paravicini noted in his diary: "The town consists of a single street with houses and gardens on either side and the church at

the head of it.

The party left Graaff-Reinet Sunday, 10 July, travelling part of the way with J. Venter, Field Cornet. On the 18th they reached the Orange River. From there the party returned to Cape Town, and on 22 June Governor Janssens hurriedly returned to the capital, leaving Paravicini in charge of the wagon train whereupon they reached Cape Town the following 13 August. (During the last days of the journey the party evidently travelled through Tulbagh territory which, as the record indicates was very monotonous and of little interest here. On the otherhand, I hope that the reader gains an appreciation of the area under the charge of the Graaff-Reinet Landrost and the distances which were undertaken by the Field Cornet in carrying out all of the various duties which came with the title.)

### **The First Batavian Republic Post Route**

On 13 June 1803, during Governor Janssens' absence from the capital, the first official post route between Cape Town and Algoa Bay, which the inhabitants could use for sending their letters was announced in *The Courant*. However, except for passing through the territory of the Graaff-Reinet District (later the Uitenhage District), the route went only as far as Fort Frederick. There was no information available as to who actually carried the mail - was it dragoons, mounted couriers or the Field Cornet? The postal route evidently took effect a few days after *The Courant's* announcement.

### **The Revised Service**

It would seem that the service of June was merely a stop-gap arrangement, or else the service, unsatisfactory or inadequate as an entirely new service came into force by notice in *The Courant* dated 21 July 1803. This service came under the control of Army officers, with the body of the service recruited directly from the inhabitants, although subject to military discipline.

### **The Formation and Administration of the Field Cornet Posts**

Like the original service, the revised service was unsatisfactory. Therefore, Janssens announced on 19 October that it had been determined that the postal system should operate without interruption; and, as the Secretary of the Political Committee was unable to attend to its problems Paravicini was given the task of putting things right.

Paravicini's aforementioned recent journey now came in very useful. It had given him the opportunity of seeing the state of the roads and rivers over which the post was carried. It had brought him into contact with the Field Cornet and farmers along the route. He could not improve the old service and nothing less than a complete overhaul of the system was

necessary. As a consequence, entirely new plans were drawn-up.

On 3 January, 1804, in an announcement in *The Courant*, Janssens publicly admonished the Landrosts, Heemraden, Field Commandants, Field Cornets and the inhabitants of the Colony. They were instructed to give every assistance to postal messengers. A list of 20 instructions was issued as to the duties of the "Postbodens" now under the control of Paravicini, who was responsible for their employment and behavior.

Among the instructions given were that messengers, if delayed, were required to obtain certificates from the Field Cornets when employed on internal postal routes; they were obliged to keep times of departure and arrival at Field Cornet stations; they were required to report washaways, swollen rivers with no divergence of route unless in emergency situations whereupon they must seek the advice of the Field Cornet; on arrival at towns, messengers must report to the Landrost, irrespective of whether or not they carried letters for the place.

Field Cornets were required to see that despatches and letters were sent on their way with speed and efficiency; fresh horses had to be made available at each station; they must make certain that messengers recorded their arrival and departure, and see to it that Hottentots or slaves and horses were available to convey *The Courant* to neighboring Field Cornet stations.

The farmers (Post Boers) also had a role to play and selected farmers were required to collect from their nearest Field Cornet letters and copies of *The Courant* for delivery to adjacent farms and villages. Fines could be inflicted on field Cornets who failed to report breach of the regulations; Post Boers were paid R2 per hour for feeding Hottentots and slaves. The general public, as a form of taxation, were expected to pass on *The Courant*, government despatches and orders from house-to-house.

During 1804, the postal route from Cape Town served three areas: Graaff-Reinet, Plettenberg Bay and Algoa Bay. All three follow the same course from Cape Town: Hottentots Holland, Swellendam to Mossel Bay. Near here the route branched off to Graaff-Reinet. Plettenberg Bay and Algoa Bay mail travelled on via Outeniqua, for Plettenberg Bay thence Avontsuur, Lange Kloof and Algoa Bay. The route from Attquial Kloof to Graaff-Reinet has not been fully determined and it could have been either crossing the Groote River to Graaff-Reinet or Hazn Jagt, Buffels Klip, Schilpad Been, etc., as in 1807 (see below).

### **The Uitenhage District**

In 1804 a large part of the Graaff-Reinet district was excised, thus forming a new District which was named Uitenhage

which was provided with its own Landrost and Field Cornets. Uitenhage then came on the postal route as above, following the Lange Kloof and preceding Algoa Bay.

The area removed from the Graaf-Reinet District was roughly 60 miles northwest of Klippen Point to Zwartbergen, the northeast to the Gamtoos River, and again northeast to the Little Fish River and then down the west side of the mouth.

### **Comment**

The postal routes devised by Paravicini laid the foundations of the important eastern frontier mail route established later by the Colonial Government which lasted nearly to the end of the 19th century. Paravicini's choice of the stages as the Field Cornets stations was again brought into use later in the century over the remote and inaccessible areas of the Colony.

### **The Second British Occupation 1806**

On 10 January 1806, the Cape of Good Hope was again occupied by British forces. Sir David Baird, commander of the occupying force, eventually became the Governor of the Colony.

Sir David did not take long in making his views known as to the establishment of postal services in the colony. On 14 February he publicly announced that he desired the continuance of the country posts "on their present footing".

He gave instructions that the Landrosts were to pay the in-arrears allowances due to the Post Boers "and to defray in future all charges incurred by this establishment". He further reminded Landrosts and the Field Cornets to see to it that his instructions were carried out.

William Caldwell was appointed Deputy P. M. G. on 3 May 1806. In his letter of appointment he was informed that "as soon as you are able to undertake the conveyance of the public despatches to the different Drostides". For this he would receive his salary and any arrears due (and early example of payment by results). The letter also gives a list of priorities for the conveyance of the posts, Graaff-Reinet being number eight on the list.

It is clear from letters and from the report of later inquiries that Caldwell had been placed in a difficult position, not only in regard to his instructions but also concerning the relations between the Post Office and the Landrosts. On the one hand he had been instructed to go ahead and build an efficient post office, while on the other, he had been given little or no authority over the postal services which were under the control of the Landrosts.

### **Reopening of the Cape Post Office**

The Cape Post Office reopened at the Castle towards the end of May, 1806, under the charge of the clerk, Mr. Berrange.

### **Graaff-Reinet Posts**

While Caldwell was carrying out his reorganization for the country posts, a temporary service was evidently in operations, probably following the previous route organized by Paravicini. The *Cape Almanac* for 1806 lists six sections of the Graaff-Reinet District over which this post was operating with the names of the Correspondentie-Postern in charge: HazeJag - E. Kleinhaus, Buffels Klip - S. van der Merwe, Schilpad Been - M. Booyens, Dasjes Fontein-B Zuydenhaus, and Brakke Fontain - C. Naude.

### **Postal Charges Cape Town to/from Graaff-Reinet 1806 Onwards**

Postage in respect of letters to and from Cape Town and Graaff-Reinet: single sheet - 4 skilling, double sheet - 6 skilling, a packet or parcel 21b maximum - 1 Rixdollar. All charges in respect of postage had to be paid at Cape Town and this obviously led to a number of difficulties. How long this instruction lasted is not known but judging from what happened at Simons Town Post Office, in all probability as soon as a post office was opened at that location, charges for letters to Cape Town, as well as to towns with post offices would be paid for in Graaff-Reinet on despatch.

### **The First Official Post Route to Graaff-Reinet, 1807**

This route came into operation 1 August 1807 and all mails for the country districts, including Graaff-Reinet, were despatched from Cape Town G.P.O. every Saturday morning at 8:00 visa Stellenbosch by Burgher Senate Wagon. From Stellenbosch two mounted orderlies conveyed the mail, one from Stellaland to about half way, the other meeting the first orderly and conveying the mail the rest of the way to Swellendam. From Swellendam four post stages came into use to Attaquas Kloof (near Mossel Bay). From here the old route to Graaff-Reinet direct came into use (see above).

In this year the appointed P.M. General, Mathew Gall, arrived and Caldwell the Deputy retired. Gall give little attention to the posts, and when he went on leave in April 1839 Robert Crozier was appointed Deputy P.M.G.

### **Graaff-Reinet 1807**

Andries Stockenstrom was the Landrost at Graaff-Reinet in 1807 having 10 Field Comets under his charge.

### **The Collins Report**

From 1807-1808 it became clear that the Colony's mail service was not operating as it should, and mails were being greatly delayed. As a consequence, Lt. Col. Collins was asked by governmental authorities to investigate and report back as to the truth of the situation. He made one immediate change, which he did not refer to the Government - to abolish the

Attaquas Kloof and Graaff-Reinet stages, and despatch the Graaff-Reinet mail on to Uitenhage and thence Graaf-Reinet. (This was immediately confirmed by the Government.) He criticized the Postholders who had delayed the return mails considerably, sometimes as long as a month on the road, though he agreed they were underpaid.

The Collins Report, dated August 1809 (Cape archives), is well worth consulting, but far too long to be reproduced here. His criticisms were in the main general, and considerable, and as a result the Government was more or less compelled to make far-reaching changes.

### WANTED

WORLD WAR II MILITARY COVERS  
USED IN AFRICA FROM THE FOLLOWING  
AREAS WITH THE VARIOUS CANCELS:

Indian FPOs, **East African APOs**,

APO/U Postmarks, Sudan,

**British Somaliland** (1939-1940),

and Italian Posta Militaire.

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### *Dialogues & Updates*

*Dialogues* provides readers with the opportunity to share their reactions to written materials appearing in this journal. Updates to published information is also encouraged. Comments are to be sent directly to the Editor. A copy will then be sent to the original author for a response before publication herein. Corrections from authors also appear in this feature.

The following comments were received from long-time South Africa member, Richard C. Knight, regarding "MashonolandBSAC Not Accepted in the Cape of Good Hope" by Dr. Lawrence: "I have read Dr. Lawrence's story of a Mashonoland postcard used at Mafeking with interest. As Dr. Lawrence observes, the card was posted at Mafeking and taxed. With all due respect to him, I suggest that his explanation for the reason the card was taxed is a shade elliptical. The reason is quite simple: Mashonoland was nto part of the Cape Colony and its postal stationery was, therefore, not valisd for postage if the card was posted in the Colony (unless, of course, a Cape stamp paying the correct postage was applied). The Breiitish South Africa Company's postal stationery was valid for used from January 1893 and the 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d rates for postcards to addresses in southern Africa (not only the Cape and O.F.S.) applied from 1 August 1892 to 14 July 1900; from 15 July 1900 to 30 June 1903 the rate was 1d, whereafter it was reduced to <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. These cards were fairly requently ised with a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d or 1d adhesive added to pay the postage to the United Kingdom or Rest of the World, respectively.

The cards were replaced during the 1902 - 1903 period by different designs and values to suit the postage rates then in force. The BSAC cards (of all designs) were almost certainly demonitized in 1924s, not after the formation of the "Southern Rhodesia Company" but ratherw after the creation of the *CoJnny* of Southern Rhodesia. As far as I am aware, there is no evidence that the "Mashonaland" cards were demonitized before that date - they m3erely faded away as supplies ran out and the new designs were issued.

Again, with due respect, I suggest that the card was addressed

NOT to Lt. Col. Bryce, but to Lance Corporal Bryce - the normal abbreviation for Lieutenant-Colonel is 'Lt Col'; that for Lance-Corporal is 'L/C'- a much lowlier rank!

I am unable to add anything to the comments on the Censor cachets, except to say that the one over the stamp on the card is similar to that found on mail which emanated from Rhodesia - possibly this was applied at Mafeking. The 'NPR' handstamp presumably indicates 'Norvals Pont Refugee (Camp)'.

It is of interest, if without profit, to speculate on the identity of the writer. 'Bryce's Store' was situated on the Tuli road to Rhodes Drift, north of the drift, where a road branched eastwards to Macloutsie Junction (A.S. Hickman, *Rhodesia served the Queens* (Government of Rhodesia, Salisbury 1970, Vol. I, p 141). It was being used by imperial forces as a depot for supplies to both Macloutsie and Rhodes Drift and was occupied by Boer forces on 2 November 1899 after a conflict with British/Rhodesian forces.

Hickman continues to remark that There is nothing to indicate what happened to Bryce himself; I doubt if he would have abandoned his store ... yet the Boers do not record his capture.' On the card, Bryce remarks 'I have rec'd no compensation yet...'

Based upon the above, It therefore appears possible that the writer was the owner of the store and was hoping for compensation for the destruction of his store." - R.C. Knight

### ***YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!!***

Make certain to complete the enclosed ballot and mail as instructed as soon as possible.

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**NEWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP****Welcome Aboard****Jacques Preiss** - Moreleta Park, Pretoria, South Africa**Member Biographies**

**Walter** Herdzik/Canada. Walter has been collecting for some 30+ years with a serious interest in the Rhodesias followed by general British Africa. He is an accountant by trade whose birthday falls on January 8th. Walter received a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. His other credentials include Certified General Accountant and Chartered Secretary. His birthplace was Prince Albert in Saskatchewan Province. His other hobbies include cars (1966 and 1968 Mustangs), travel, reading, hiking and motorcycle riding. During 1973 to 1976 he worked in Lusaka, Zambia and travelled to Rhodesia and South Africa. He was involved in a number of volunteer projects during the 1980s in Calgary. Walter moved to Drayton Valley in 1994 and hopes to have a great deal more time for philately and travel. In addition to stamps and postal history, he collects books on eastern and southern Africa. One of Walter's desires is to complete his collection of "Northern Rhodesia Journals" from the 1950s and 60s. His most recent journeys have taken him to Zimbabwe and South Africa.

**Helmut Hartmann/Namibia.** Helmut was born in Murnau, Bavaria, his birthday being the 19th of February. He is married to Ingeberg the union of which resulted in the couple having two children - Ulrike and Burkhard. Helmut, now retired, was a salesman for over 40 years, 30 of which was on a self-employed basis. Collecting now for over 50 years his primary philatelic interests involve the postal history of German South West Africa and Netherlands Automaal Beokies. Helmut's other pursuits include travelling, hiking, skiing

cycling, gardening, skiing and snooker. He loves to receive letters from around the world. Previous travels have taken him to Germany, Denmark, Czech Republic, Poland, Switzerland and Austria.

**David G.** Mordant/South Africa. David was born in Johannesburg. His birthday falls on the 28th of March. He married to Anne Lize and they have two children - Charmaine and Nicole. He is a veterinarian by profession, having received his B.V. Sc. and M.R.C. V. S. degrees. David's primary collecting interests include Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal, Orange Free State, Great Britain pre-1950 and Anglo-Boer War material. His other pastimes include Africana documents, sculpture, tennis and the stock market. He loves to read non-fiction books, e.g., history and biographies. David also enjoys movies, the theater and opera. He describes himself also as a television addition but only educational, historical and non-fiction programs. He also is an animal lover. His business is that of an agricultural commodity trader - corn, soya, oilcanes, fish meal, wheat, etc. As for travel, David has visited England, the US, Chile, Brazil, Canada and most African countries south of the Equator.

\* \* \*

**The Honor Roll**

This feature acknowledges Society members and publications for notable achievements such as exhibits, philatelic judging and publishing. Members are encouraged to notify the Editor of their achievements whether or not they fall within our scope.

**Tim Bartshe** - Gold at ARIPEX 99 for "Orange Free State: Early Setting of the V.R.I. Overprints, 1900; **Forerunners** - Silver at COLOPEX 99; **Regis Hoffman** - Show & GPS Vermeils at ARIPEX 99 for "Allied Forces in East Africa".

# THE FORERUNNERS FORUM

## The Society Publications Program

Through this activity, PSGSA provides assistance in the development and publication of occasional papers, monographs, books and multi-volume works. Authors submitting written drafts receive valuable technical support in all phases of publication development. This is accomplished through the Publications Program Committee (PPC). Inquiries, submission of drafts, etc., are to be made to Peter Thy, PPC Chair, P.O. I&x 73112, Davis, CA 95616 USA, [e-Mail: thy@jade.ucdavis.edu](mailto:thy@jade.ucdavis.edu)

### Works In Progress

"To research in isolation with a view towards publication is akin to reinventing the wheel." - the late Alec Page, FRPSL  
 Researcher/authors are encouraged to "advertise" for collaborators and/or additional information through this feature. If you are researching an area and have yet to use "Works...", please consider doing so. You might be pleasantly rewarded at the response you receive. Entries will be run for three consecutive issues (and may be renewed if written confirmation is received). Submit your entry to the Editor. The alpha-numeric following an entry identifies the last issue in which it appears. No new "Works" have been received this reporting period.

### Questions & Answers

As a service to the general collecting community, your Society makes its Panel of Experts for greater southern Africa available to answer questions submitted by members and non-members alike. To access this service send you questions to the Panel member covering the area of interest (see listing opposite inside front cover page).

For a greater southern Africa area not presently listed, send your question to the Panel Chair, Dr. Lawrence. Also, British Africa questions pertaining to areas outside PSGSA's scope, e.g., British East Africa, are to be sent directly to the Editor. The question will then be forwarded to the appropriate specialty group for a response.

Clear copies of cancels, covers (front/back) and a detailed written description of the item(s) should be included with all questions. The Panel member will forward his response, the question(s) and any illustrations to the Editor for publication in the journal. The Panel member will also return a copy of their response directly to the questioner. Certain questions will require an extended period for research and/or collaboration with other scholars.

Membership on the Panel is open to members in good standing. We are presently seeking knowledgeable individuals to cover one or more of the following areas: **New Republic, Griqualand West, Stellaland, Union/SA and RSA.**

*No questions & answers were received this publication cycle.*

### Unanswered Challenges

This feature lists: (1) questions for which the Panel has indicated it has no definitive response; or (2) questions about a subject for which there is no coverage on the Panel. The listed "Challenges" begin with the latest received and remains until solved. Responses to a "Challenge" are to be sent directly to the Editor.

**Challenge #1.** Does anyone have a non-philatelic use of the Bophuthatswana inland and overseas aerogrammes that were issued in 1977? - Will Ross/USA

**Challenge #2.** Do any of our readers know of a tabulation of the "OFFICIAL FREE" cachets appearing on "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE" official SWA envelopes (see page 102, #21)? - Dr. H.U. Bantz/South Africa

**Challenge #3.** I have two South African postal orders, one of 6d uprated to 9d by affixing a 3d stamp, and the second in the amount of R120. Both were used in SWA, the first in Windhoek (22/1/42), the second in Aroab (3/9/43). When did the SWA postal orders get issued? - Jack Harwood/USA

### Dealer Member Press Release

Dickon Pollard, our Question & Answer Panel member for KGVI issues announced that Murray Payne Ltd. is delighted to announce that the firm's web site is up and running.

The site covers a range of subjects and services, from publications and reviews, to items for sale, and other relevant information to the reign of King George VI.

This project has been under careful construction for some time. However, they feel that their production team has done a fine job. Murray Payne looks forward to hearing what your reaction is!

Murray Payne Ltd. can be contacted either through the web site at [murraypayne.com](http://murraypayne.com) or you may e-Mail directly at [urraypayne@dial.pipex.com](mailto:urraypayne@dial.pipex.com).

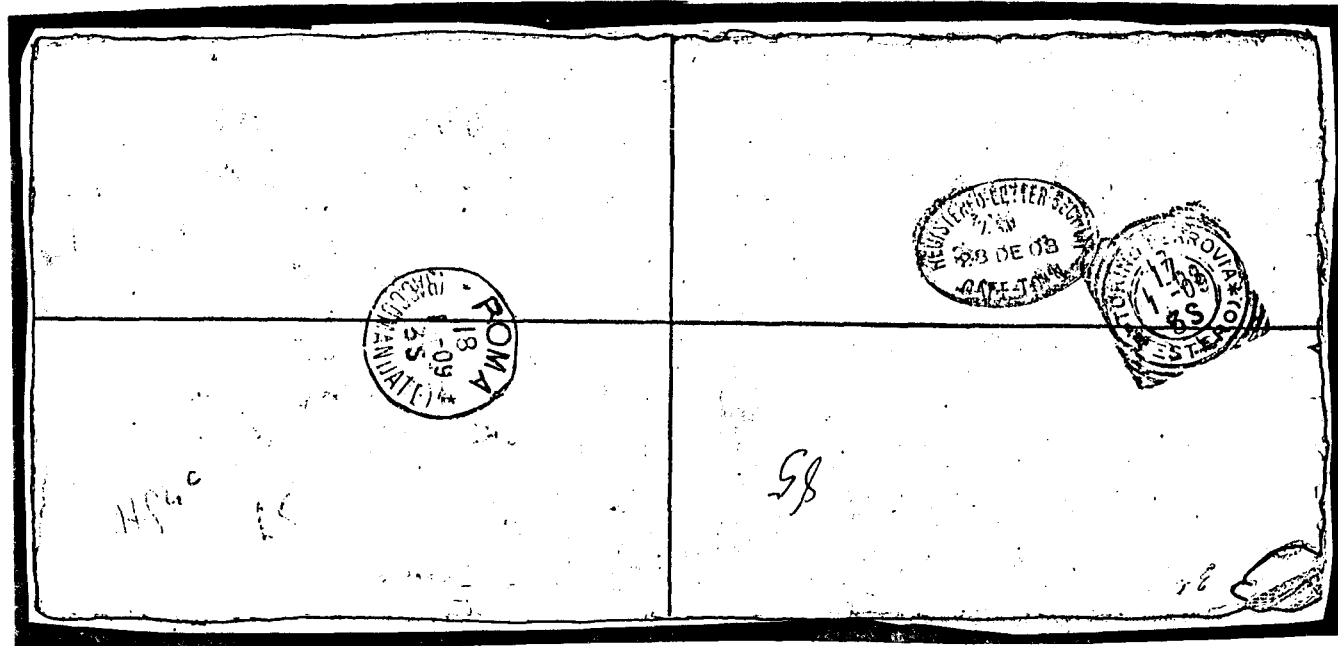
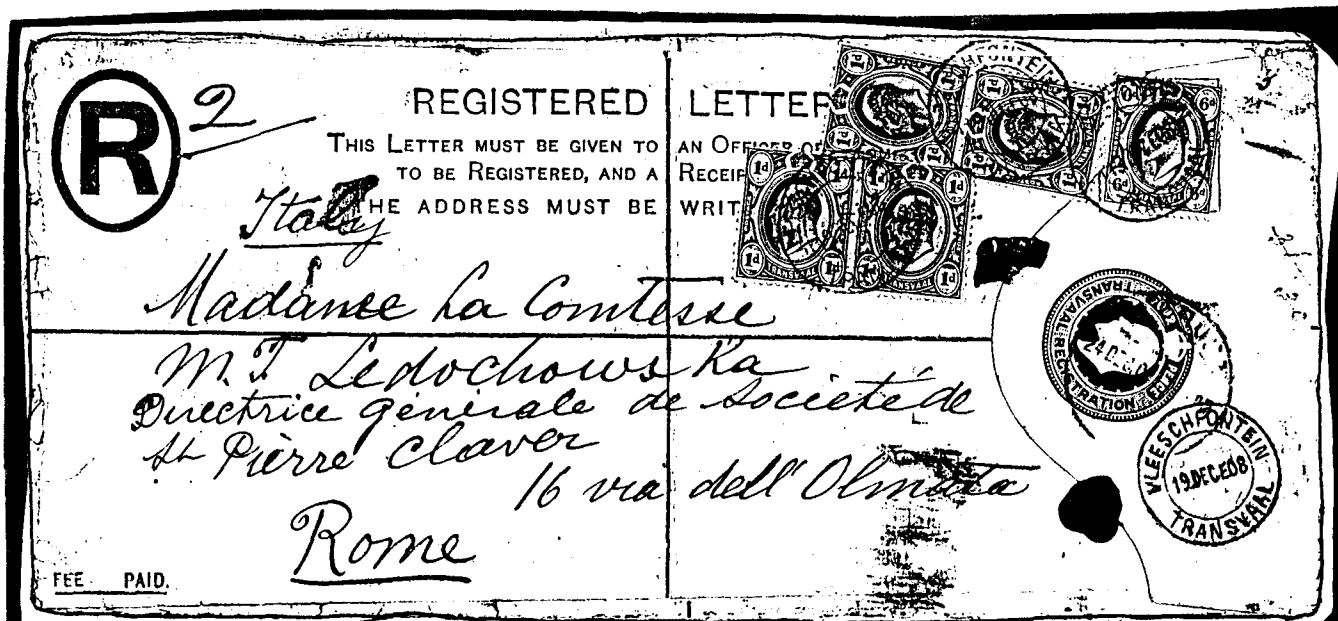
For those not connected we can still be contacted at the usual address: P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2EW, England - phone: 01934 732511 or FAX: 01934 733498.

Bits & Pieces

"Bits..." provides readers with the opportunity to present information in a short order format. If you have an interesting cancel, rarity, unknown, cover, cachet, etc., then this is the place to share with your fellow members. Please provide some detailed information when sending your entry to the Editor - PLEASE NOTE MY CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS.

Our first exciting entry this issue comes from our Director of International Affairs, Jan Stolk from out Netherlands way. Illustrated below is the front and reverse of a registered cover from Vleeschfontein, Transvaal dated 19 December 1908. This is two years earlier than as listed in Putzel's Encyclopedia of South African Post Offices. Does the Registration No."2" indicate that is was the second registered cover from this office (perhaps in the first days of the opening of this office)?

Illustration. Front/back of early (1908) registered cover from Vleeschfontein, Transvaal.



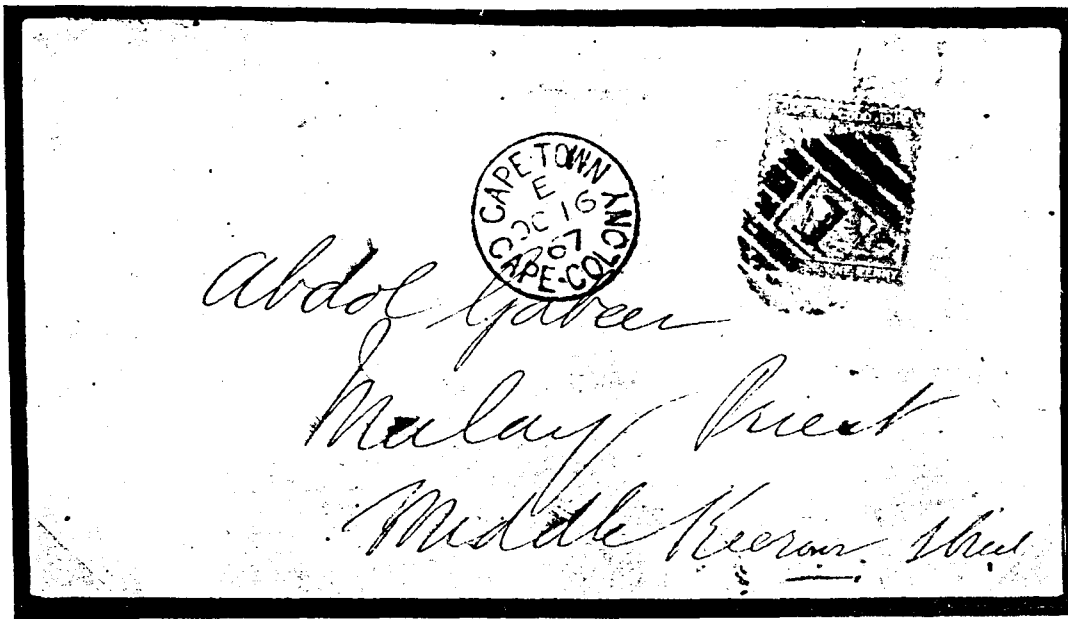
Our International Representative/Germany, Werner K. Seeba, recently sent in some "snippets" regarding the **CGH local penny** post. It occurred to me that perhaps this "bit" just might be an interesting entry for the general British Africa collector. The following explanatory text is from Robert Goldblatt's 1984 work, *The Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, and reads as follows:

"A local penny post was authorized by a proclamation of 12 February 1846, but was only put into effect on 15 September 1860, by Proclamation No. 50 or 30 August that year. It enables anyone living within the municipal boundaries of Cape Town to benefit by the reduction of the postal rate from 4d to 1d (Ill. 1).

pillar boxes "near the Castle bridge"; at the corner of Long and Bloem Streets, as well as the corners of Strand and Bree, Buitengracht and Church, Somerset Road and Napier, and Caledon and Tennant Streets; in Orange Street "at the top of Government gardens"; at Mr. Hazell's Apothecary on Harrington Street; at Mr. Rose's, bookseller on Long Street; Hickfang's, St. John's Street; and the Cape Town railway station. Early in the 1870s the number of deliveries in Cape Town was extended to four a day.

From 1 February 1864, the privilege of the reduced rate on letters was not exceeding half an ounce was extended to letters between Cape Town and the following suburbs: Claremont, Diep River (Rathfelders), Green Point, Mowbray,

**Illustration 1.** An 1867 local Cape Town envelope franked with 1d stamp cancelled with BONC 1 (ex-Murray).



A prerequisite for the extension of the penny rate to other post offices was that there should be postal communication at least twice daily between such office and another office or offices to which the reduced rate applied. The reason for the reduced rate is not known, but it probably had to do with encourage people to make more use of post office facilities, thereby increasing revenue. Certainly the younger fraternity seems to have taken advantage of the reduced postal rate. On 16 February 1861 *The South African Advertiser and Mail* records: "Valentine's Day was duly observed by the youth of both sexes in Cape Town on Thursday last. By means of the Penny Post the delivery of the Valentines was comparatively ease, and as many as 748 letters were thus circulated during the day."

Letters for delivery within the limits of the Cape Town municipality could be mailed at the General Post Office; at

Plumstead, Papendorp (Woodstock), Rondebosch, Wynberg, Montagu Bridge (Maitland) and Robben Island.

On 28 November the same year the Penny Post was extended to placers beyond the municipal boundaries: Bellville, D'urban (Durbanville), Eerste Rivier, Somerset West (Hottentot's Holland), Stellenbosch, Bennettsville (Klapmuts), Paarl and Wellington.

By 1876 the penny post was also reaching as far as Ceres and a number of other outlying areas. The post was further extended in 1878.

Port Elizabeth also enjoyed the privilege of the penny post from 1 May 1861 onward by virtue of a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of 23 April 1861. The extension of its operations to the environs followed the Cape Town pattern."

## And Other Stories

With this issue, Volume XII, Number 3, Whole #34, we close out the last complete publication cycle of the Journal for the 20th Century. I will get to The New Millennium later in this discussion. First, though, let us take a journey back through time, beginning with Whole Number 1.

Your journal had very humble beginnings. The first issue came out for the Sep/Dec '87 period (III. top - masthead). It consisted of two, 2-sided, letter size sheets which were stapled together. (For you "techies", the first issue was produced on an old 8086 IBM compatible 6mhz Packard Bell with a 20MB hardrive and 640K RAM. The software was Newsmaster. Final printing was don on an early model 24-pin Panasonic dot matrix printer.)

The journal name, "Forerunners", appeared on the first issue cover and reflected the scope and former name of the society - The Pre-Union South Africa Study Group. The founding members (n=12) selected the title from a ballot of member suggestions. The name candidate selected was submitted Ralph Myerson, MD. Ralph presently serves in the capacity of our USA/International Representative.

The earliest rendition of our present logo appeared on the cover page masthead of Whole #2 (Jan/Apr '88) [III. middle -

masthead). This issue had a total of five 2-sided pages which was as 250% content increase over the first issue.

The means by which the logo was selected makes for a nice little story in and of itself. You see, the founding members decided to hold a logo contest. George van den Hurk, then of Switzerland, now of South Africa, combined two of the submitted logo candidates which had been offered by Louis.Christian/California and our very first President, Syl C. Tully of Maine. For a contest prize, the founding group donated items for a "prize packet" which consisted of stamps, postal history and back-of-the-book material.

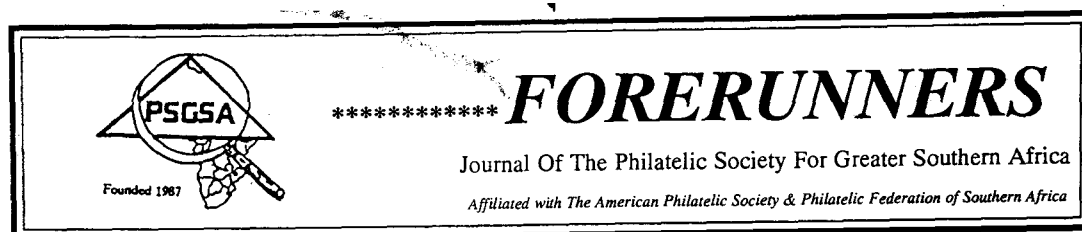
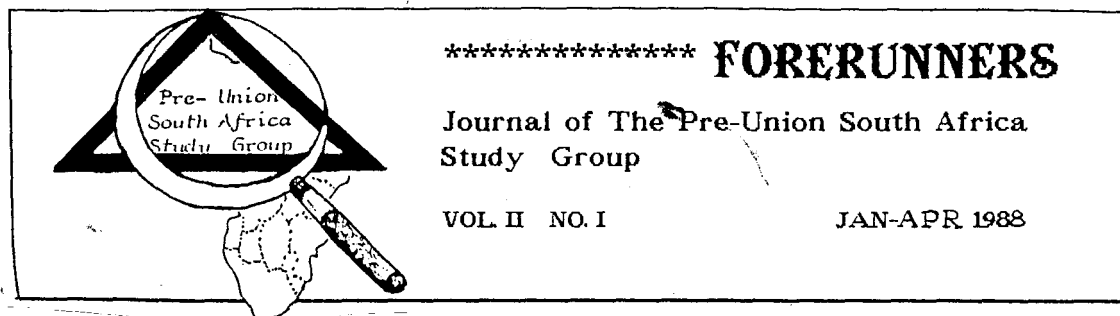
As a result of membership growth and the gradual widening of our scope of coverage, the official name of the group was changed (by membership vote) to its present designation as The Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa. The first journal issue to reflect this name change in the masthead was Whole Number 6 (May/Aug '89). Two major additional cover: appearance changes have followed: (1) the first use of illustrations on the cover page which began with Whole Number 16 (Nov '92/Feb '93) ; and (2) the use of a glossy, heavier bond paper for the cover which first appeared on the cover of Whole Number 18 ( Jul/Oct '93). The bottom of the accompanying illustration shows the masthead as it now appears.

**Illustration.** Evolution of journal masthead: top - first issue, middle - first use of logo, bottom - present configuration.

\*\*\*\*\***FORERUNNERS**\*\*\*\*\*

JOURNAL OF THE PRE-UNION SOUTH AFRICA STUDY GROUP,  
VOL I NO. 1  
SEP - DEC 1987

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EDITOR: BILL BROOKS, 3032 N. STODDARD SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405, USA (714)\*882-3946  
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In addition to journal appearance changes, there has been a significant content evolution over the past 12 years of publication. Below is a brief summary, by issue, of the content changes beginning with the first issue's baseline content structure. Of the total of 34 issues to date (**1,714 pages cover-to-cover**), there have been only eight issues which did not appear with content changes - Whole Numbers 8, 17, 20-22, 24, 26 and 31. The discussion will then close with a summary count of major articles by stamp-issuing entity/era. I believe that you may find some surprises here.

### Content Evolution

**#1 - Sep/Dec '87:** baseline content consisting of "Editorial Notes", correspondence, "Questions Answers", "Feature Articles", member adlets.

**#2 - Jan/Apr '88:** added "Welcome Aboard" and literature reviews.

**#3 - May/Aug '88:** added officers' columns, "Member Bio's" and "Dialogues & Updates".

**#4 - Sep/Dec '88:** added listing of officers and Int'l Reps, "Forerunners Forum" and "Unanswered Challenges for the Scholar".

**#5 - Jan/Apr '89:** added "Bits & Pieces", announcement of first annual mail auction.

**#6 - May/Aug '89:** added Table of Contents and "The Reciprocal Listings Exchange".

**#7 - Oct '89/Jan '90:** added "The International Scene" and "The Honor Roll".

**#8 - Feb/May '90:** no changes.

**#9 - Jul/Oct '90:** added Panel of Experts listing, beginning of current publication cycles.

**#10 - Nov '90/Feb '91:** Charles Lupo Award established for best article appearing in journal during each publication cycle of one year.

**#11 - Mar/Jun '91:** added saddle stitching as journal binding method as opposed to hand stapling.

**#12 - July/Oct '91:** added annotated listing of feature articles on content page, "Publication Program", "Trading Box", "Bookie Reports", "Events of Note", first announcement of Society's "Best Exhibit Award", "Society Trust", "Modern Issues".

**#13 - Nov '91/Feb '92:** added "Society Translation Service". #

**14 - Mar/Jun '92:** added "Zulu Notes".

**#15 - Jul/Oct '92:** PSGSA's Fifth Anniversary Edition consisting of 16 feature articles.

**#16 - Nov '92/Feb '93:** added illustrations to cover.

**#17 - Mar/Jun '93:** no changes/additions.

**#18 - Jul/Oct '93:** added "The Rhodesias" and glossy cover. #

**19 - Nov '93/Feb '94:** added "Other Highlights" to cover. #**20 - Mar/Jun '94:** no changes/additions. #**21 - Jul/Oct '94:** no changes/additions. #**22 - Nov '94/Feb '95:** no changes/additions. #**23 - Mar/Jun '95:** added "Back of YOUR Book". #

**24 - Jul/Oct '95:** no changes/additions.

**#25 - Nov '95/Feb '96:** standard of five articles per issue since inception reduced to a standard of three per issue.

**#26 - Mar/Jun '96:** no changes/additions. #**27 - Jul/Oct '96:** added "Cover with a Story".

**#28 - Nov '96/Feb '97:** 10th Anniversary Special Edition in honor of THE Celebration of British Africa Convention at PACIFIC 97, combined with #29, contents consisted of one article each from 15 British Africa related specialty groups; two supplements - British Africa bibliography and listing of the major known British Africa related specialty groups.

**#29 - Mar/Jun '97:** as above, combined with #28. #

**30 - Jul/Dec '97:** added "The Bechuanalands". #**31 - Jan/Jun '98:** no changes/additions.

**#32 - Jul/Oct '98:** added "A Favorite Philatelic Item", "The Boer Republics" and "Postage Dues".

**#33 - Nov '98/Feb '99:** added "Modern Times" and "SWA/Namibia".

**#34 - Mar/Jun '99:** added "Aerophilately".

**Rank Order Count of Feature Articles by Country(ies) or Era or Topic (does not include specialty columns): #**

1 - Transvaal - 28 articles

#2 - Union of South Africa - 27 articles

#3 - CGH & ABW - 15 articles each

#4 - OFS/ORC - 9 articles #5 - Bechuanalands - 7 articles

#6 - Rhodesias, Swaziland & South West Africa - 6 articles each

#7 - Natal - 5 articles

#8 - Pre-Union States and Aerophilately - 4 articles each

#9 - Basutoland, Bophuthatswana, Botswana - 3 articles each #

10 - Interprovisionals, Mauritius, Namibia, RSA, Zululand - 2 each

#11 - British Central Africa, East Africa, Goshen Republic, Griqualand West, Homelands, New Republic, Nigeria, Nyasaland, Republic/SA, Southern Rhodesia, Stellaland, Tristan, Zimbabwe - 1 each

## My Favorite Philatelic Item

Bill Brooks, Editor

Send one or more of your "favorites" to me at P.O. Box 4158, Cucamonga, CA 91729-4158 USA.

As mentioned before, each of us have one or more "favorites" in our respective collections - perhaps a cover, ephemeral material, a document, back-of-the-book, a particular stamp, cachet, etc., etc. Please share yours!

This issue's enjoyable installment comes from my friend and coeditor, Peter Thy. He calls this one:

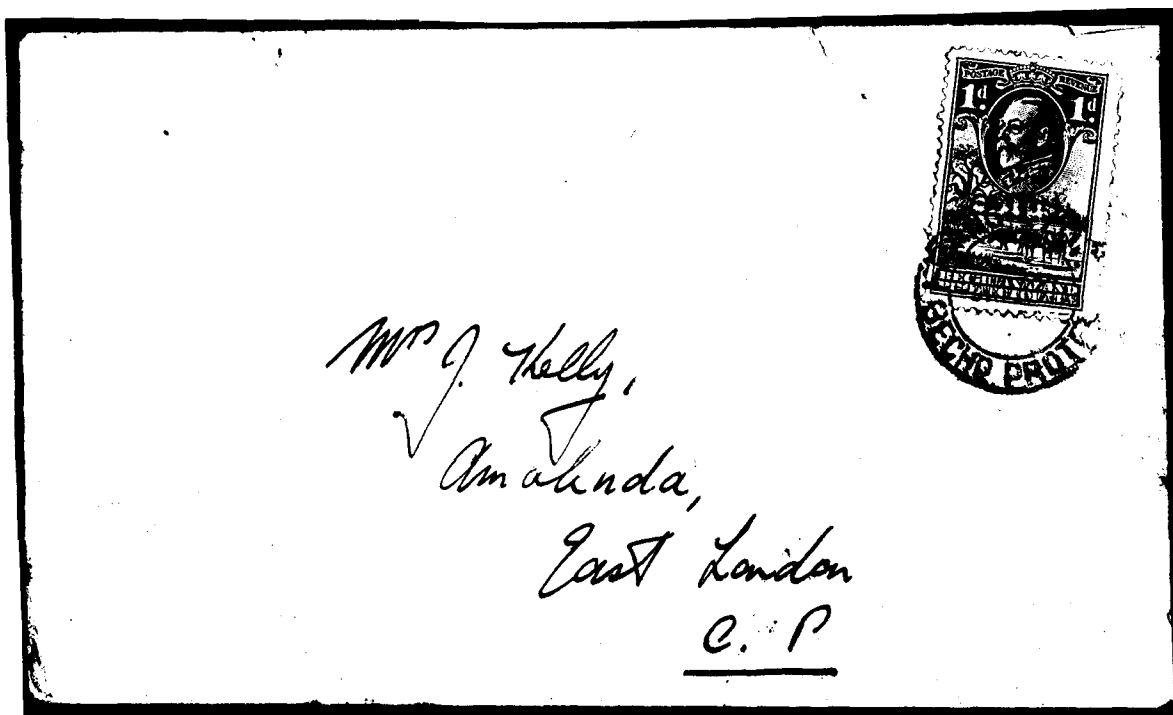
### My Favorite Cover

My favorite cover (see Ill.) was mailed from Francistown, Bechuanaland Protectorate, on April 5, 1937. The cover is torn at the flap as Mrs. J. Kelley in Amalinda, near East London, Cape Province, eagerly opened it to read the enclosed letter from her dear son Basil that may for the first time have been away from home. The cover paid the basic letter rate from the Protectorate to South Africa with the simplest possible combination of stamps (1d per <sup>1</sup> oz). It illustrates the intended usage of the King George V definitive 1d stamp current between 1932 and 1938. This is the kind of cover I love to include in my collection of Bechuanaland stamps. There is absolutely no attempt to overfrank, to use excessive numbers of stamps (could have been franked by two <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d stamps), to use commemorative and out-of-circulation stamps (such as Queen Victoria issues only available to the collector), to upgrade the letter by paying the 4d registration fee, or to pay the airmail additional fee of 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d in effect since 1935 (may

have secured airmail transport only between Johannesburg and Cape Town). It is also gratifying that the sender and the receiver are not one and the same person. Too many of these philatelic types of covers already clutter my collection. This is a philatelic gem and the kind of illustration of usage I am looking for, but finding so difficult to locate, particularly from the modern era.

There is another good reason why this cover is my favorite one. Not only has it a philatelic appeal, it also has strong postal history merits. The cover shows no return address, transit, and/or arrival markings. However, the preserved letter gives Basil Kelly's return address as "B.S.A. Police, Mphoengs, via Francistown, B.P." My 1935 Ordnance Survey map of Bechuanaland Protectorate locates Mphoengs on the Rhodesian side of the Ramaquabane River, only 20 kilometers east of Francistown and about 60 kilometers south of Plumtree. My map also indicates a British South African Police post at this location. Basil commanded a small border police camp whose main purpose was to guard the Bechuanaland-Southern Rhodesian border. Because Francistown was the closest large city, the camp received mail from the Bechuanaland side of the border and not from Plumtree-Bulawayo despite that the latter was the "line of command". As Basil writes: "There is not much to write about here it is very quiet and lonely but spend a lot of my time reading ...I hope to be back at my old station P'tree within the next month. I am expecting Sgt. Roy down any time now with the boy's pay and I will try to go to P'tree with him for a day as I have a cycle in P'tree. I can ride it back. Not a very pleasant journey but well worth a day back in civilization. We had a bit of rain about a week ago and I

**Illustration.** My favorite cover, mailed from Francistown, Bechuanaland Protectorate, dated April 5, 1937.



think it is the end of the rainy season. It is getting very not here and the grass is beginning to die off and soon it will be bare and lifeless and water only obtained by digging in the river bed (written April 2, mailed in Francistown on April 5)."

A week later he continues "I have retired to my office to attend to my mail which has been rather neglected owing to the fact that I have been on patrol for the last four days. I got back this morning at about 1 am. I left the Santchohwe (tributary to Shashi River) at about 4 this morning on foot and got the 20 miles walk over ... Well, the elephants have come back to their old (ground) along the Shashi River. They travel up and down the river and during the day they go into the thick bush away from the river while looking for marulas and other wild berries. Although they leave their track all over the place it is difficult to see them as they only come out into the open during the night. Early Tuesday morning I saw fresh spoor close to where I was camping on the Santchohwe so I followed it with a boy. Just about 12 o'clock I heard a noise ahead in the bush but I had lost the spoor and wasn't quite sure whether it was elephant or not. I found the spoor again and continued to follow. All of a sudden I heard a sound like a might pour of bellows and the part of the kopje near where I was standing detached itself from the surrounding and began to move out into the open. I had a camera which the boy was carrying so I

quickly turned around to get it from him. He was of course telling me ... the very obvious thing that it was an elephant. I had to ask again for the camera and he then handed me the shotgun, then he handed me his stick so I eventually had to grab the camera from him. His eyes were glazed on the advancing mass all the time and when it waggled its huge ears and picked up its trunk he came to life again and ran. My camera happened to have as lot of gadgets about it and by the time it could be opened and set to take a snap the elephant would be too close to be comfortable so I ran around the kopje and climbed a top, but by that time an elephant couldn't be seen within miles. It was a very big one and must have been expecting us as it had been standing behind a huge rock and the wind was blowing directly towards it. They are very deceiving and seem to advance slowly and seem not at all interested in you when all of a sudden you realize that it is quite close. We later tracked it down to the Shashi River and into Bechuanaland so I left it. I am still expecting Sgt. Roy down here with the pay and the change of lift to P'tree. I have only seen one white person during the last month (written April 7, mailed Francistown April 13)."

My favorite cover combines my philatelic and postal history interest. It also tells an interesting story about the person sending it and the place of origin.

*Editorial Note: Welcome to this introduction to the wonderfully interesting and challenging world of Aerophilately, greater southern Africa style. You are invited to become acquainted with the coeditors in "Society Affairs".*

This is the first installment of a column on the aerophilately of southern Africa. Your Editor, Bill Brooks, asked me to edit a column on the subject which I have agreed to do, as time permits.

The aerophilately of southern Africa is quite fascinating and interesting to me. My interest started with my collecting crash covers of Imperial Airways. Imperial was the first long range international airline which operated to and from South Africa and the British colonies in Africa, starting in the early 1930s.

A good friend of mine was Dawie Uys, the South African Airways Boeing 747 captain, who died in the tragic crash of the "Helderberg" on 28 November 1987 in the Indian Ocean, near Mauritius. Dawie and I were collaborating on a book on the crash mail of southern Africa, which was nearly finished

when this tragedy happened. In respect to his wife, I have not published the book, but I have used some of the data which we compiled for an article on African crash mail.

If you are interested in the air mail of southern Africa, then: are a few basic books and catalogs that you need. The following is a brief list of some of them.

*The Airposts of South Africa*, by L.A. Wyndham, originally published in 1936. Reprinted by the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa in 1980. This was the first listing of the early flights and covers of South Africa.

*The Airpost of South Africa*, compiled by N.C. Baldwin and Capt. M.F. Stern. This was a checklist of South African flights up until the end of 1956, and was based on th., Wyndham book. It was published by Francis J. Field, Ltd., the well known British Aerophilatelic dealer. Reprints of this book are still available for which I can provide the source to anyone interested.

*South African Airmails*, by Captain M.F. Stern, date unknown.

This was published by the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa over 20 years ago. Captain Stern was the foremost aerophilatelist in South Africa at that time, and published many articles and books on the subject.; I met him on my first trip to South Africa, shortly before he died. A good basic reference, but *Par Avion* which was based on this book provides more detail on the various events and flights.

*Par Avion in Southern Africa*, by John T. (Jack) Burrell, published in 1986 by the author. Only a small number of copies were printed and it is now very scarce and hard to find. While there are a few errors in it, it is the most comprehensive listing of the pioneer flights, special flights, first flights, crashes and all aspects of southern Africa aerophilately.

*Fifty Years of British Air Mails - 1911-1960*, compiled by N.C. Baldwin. Originally published in 1961 by Francis J. Field, and reprinted in 1969 by REDA S.A. in Geneva, Switzerland. This work includes some South African aerophilatelic content. Later reprints of this book are still available for which I can provide the source to anyone interested.

*Imperial Airways (and Subsidiary Companies) - A History and Priced Check List of the Empire Air Mails*, compiled by N.C. Baldwin. Originally published in 1950 by Francis J. Field, which he later reprinted. This work includes a complete chapter on the Imperial Airways services to South Africa. Later reprints of this book are still available and I can provide a source.

*The Airmails of Gertrude L. Collins*, publication date unknown. This work was based upon a series of articles published by Miss Collins in the 1930s, and includes a brief article on the early flights to South Africa.

*British Air Mail - 1784-1946*, publication date unknown. Compiled by N.C. Baldwin, published by Francis J. Field, and *British Air Mail - 1946-1951* which is an illustrated and priced supplement to the first work. These include some South African airmail content. Later reprints of these books are still available, for which I am able to provide a source.

*Airmails of the Republic of South Africa - 1961-1981*, by Captain D.J. Uys. This was published in 1982 by the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa which later published supplements to it. This was a chronological listing of the first and special flights to and from South Africa, including Southwest Africa. A few copies of this books are still available for which I can provide a source.

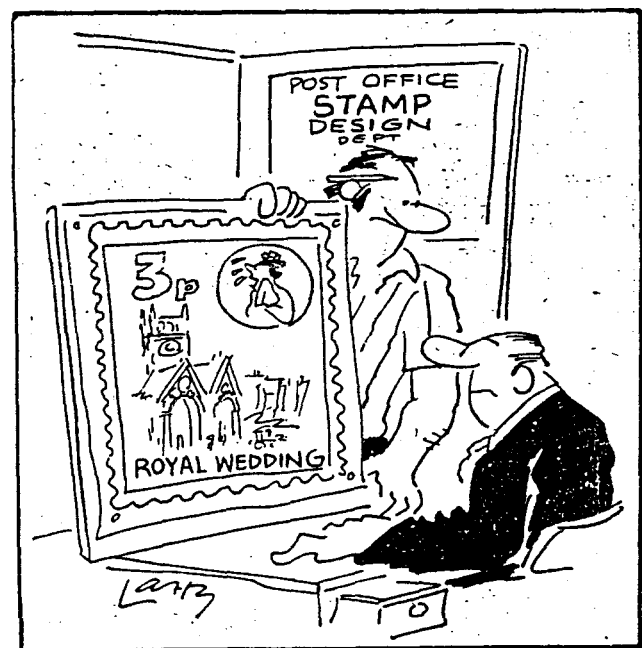
*Wartime Airmails - The Horseshoe Route*, published by Chavril Press, Abernethy, Scotland in 1992. This work provides basic information on the so-called Horseshoe Route which was the lifeline between England and the Middle East and Asia during the Second World War. Southern Africa was as major part of the of the route in question. Contact me for a copy source.

*Wartime Airmails - The Locally Registered and Foreign Air Services of British Africa*, published by Chavril Press, Abernethy, Scotland in 1988. This work provides information on the various airline services connecting British Africa during the wartime period. Copies of the book are still available - contact me regarding source.

*The Time Shrinkers - The Development of Civil Aviation Between Britain and Africa*, by David Jones. Published by David Rendel Ltd., London, 1971. This is an excellent book on the development of air services to Africa. Not philatelic but a necessary reference to the aerophilatelist. It has been long out of print, but I do know where a copy or two are available.

*Winged Courier*, by Harry Klein, published by Howard B. Timmins, Cape Town, South Africa, 1955. This is an excellent book on the development of aviation in South Africa. Also not philatelic, but a useful reference for the aerophilatelist. Long out of print, I have never seen a copy other than my own.

I would appreciate it if readers will let me know what they would like to see in this column and any comments, feedback, etc. If you have air mail covers which you cannot identify, please send a good clear photocopy and we will show it in this column. If I cannot identify it, then perhaps one of our readers will be able to do so. I also invite members to submit short items or articles on the aerophilately of Southern Africa. If you know of exhibits with southern Africa aerophilatelic items, please give me the details and I will report them in this column. Include the name and dates of the exhibition, name of the exhibit, name of the exhibitor and the award(s) won. Until next time.



# The Bechuanalands

Peter Thy & Dave Wessely, Coeditors

Your comments invited, as are installments for future columns as a guest author. Send to Peter Thy, 581 9th St. Davis, CA 95616.

## Sources of Postal History Information

This installment will continue our survey of important sources of information for the collector of Bechuanalands and Botswana. We will first focus on postal history monographs and will present our findings in the form of an annotated bibliography. Again, we do not claim that the discussion is complete. Finally, some important primary sources and their availability to the North American collector will be discussed.

### Secondary Sources

Several of the monographs mentioned in our previous discussion on philatelic sources also contain important postal history information. In particular, this is the case for Jurgen's and Holmes' monographs that both are indispensable. Another generalized monograph is E.B. Proud's *The Postal History of Basutoland and Bechuanaland Protectorate* which is a postal history source book. As implied by the title, it does not include British Bechuanaland. Despite this shortcoming, the main problem is the book's disjointed and disconnected assemblage of available information obtained from many sources. No attempt is made to tell the complete story and to fill in the gaps. Further, it is very unfortunate that Proud choose not to add sources and references to his assemblage of information. This limits the usefulness of the book.

Of a more limited scope is Ken Baker's *The Early Postal History of the Griqualands and the Bechuanalands* (The Postmark and Postal History Society of Southern Africa, 1983) that discusses the early missionary mails. Another specialized study from 1986 by the same publisher, is Andries van der Walt's *Mafeking: A Study of the Development of the Postal History of Mafeking From 1881 to 1910*. Other detailed studies can be found in *The Runner Post*, official journal of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society, as well as other philatelic journals.

Ralph Putzel's monumental series *The Encyclopaedia of South African Post Offices and Postal Agencies* and *The Postmarks of South Africa and Former States & Colonies* cannot be avoided. They both contain a wealth of information on Bechuanaland postal offices and postmarks. However, it should be remembered that they are based on official records in South Africa that may not always be accurate. The encyclopedia was published in four volumes between 1986 and 1990. The postmark study is in the process of completion with Volume I appearing in 1992 and Volume VI, containing the letters Ma-Mo, appearing 1997. Both series may still be obtained

obtained from Ralph F. Putzel, P.O. Box 30085, Tokai 7966 (Cape), south Africa. Another important survey of the postmarks has been published by Brian Trotter in *The Runner Post* and has just been completed. The Bechuanalands and Botswana Society is preparing this study for publication as a monograph. A typology of postal markings is already available from the society. (B. Trotter, *Bechuanalands and Botswana. Postal Marking Classification [Typology]*, 1995). The listing of postmarks in Proud's Bechuanaland book is to a great extent based upon Trotter's work. An additional valuable source of information on town and village names are the *Reports of the Place Names Commission* of Botswana of the third report was published in September 1984.

The postal rates of both the Bechuanalands and Botswana have been treated in a series of studies published in *The Runner Post* by yours truly. However, it still awaits much needed revisions and updating. The postal rates of the early period are covered in Alan Drysdall and Jim Catterall's *The Sitwell Correspondence and Bechuanaland Protectorate and Mashonaland Postage Rates 1890-92* (Rhodesian Study Circle, Monograph 1, 1995). There is at present no detailed study available giving details of opening/closing of postal offices and the postal routes of the Bechuanalands. The available information can be extracted from Putzel's and Proud's monographs, but otherwise require archival work and access to primary sources.

The Postal Services published two booklets that may be useful. One is the rate tariffs that is published at each new rate-revision and can be obtained for a small fee. The other is the postal guide which may still be available (last edition seen is from 1982).

There is one important fact than any student of the Bechuanalands sooner or later will realize. This is that it is nearly impossible to understand the history (and postal history) of the Bechuanalands without a detailed knowledge of the surrounding states and territories. Just to mention a few, the books by Richard Knight and Dave Mitchell, *The Postmarks, Postal Routes and Principal Postal Rates of Southern Rhodesia to 1924* (published by the authors, 1984), Robert Goldblatt's *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope* (Reijger Publishing, 1984), Richard Smith's *Rhodesia. A Postal History - Its Stamps, Posts and Telegraphs* (published by the author, 1967), and Eric Rosenthal and Eliezer Blum's *Runner and Mailcoach* (Purnell, Cape Town, 1969) will soon clutter the bookshelf of the interested collector. Philip Cattell's *The ....*

*Union Castle Ocean Post Offices* (Proud-Bailey) contains the sailing lists of the mail packets between Cape Town and Southampton than can be used to determine departure and arrival of mail to and from southern Africa.

With the risk of overlooking something important, we will close this brief survey of the Bechuanaland literature with Alan Drysdall and Dave Collis' *Mashonaland. A Postal History 1890-96* (The Rhodesian Study Circle and Christie's Robson Lowe, 1990). This monograph covers the early period and development of the postal services related to the pioneer column and the invasion of Mashonaland. Because the pioneer column passed through Bechuanaland, the monograph also presents the singlemost important study of the development of the postal services in Bechuanaland prior to the arrival of the rail road. This book will likely be the first acquired by the student of Bechuanaland postal history. The reason is not only the factual content of the book, but also because it is, by any measure, the best researched, written, and presented book on the postal history of southern Africa. To show us how it should be done, this book will be on our bookshelves.

### Primary Sources

We will continue with a summary of some of the most important primary sources that may be available to the postal history collector. Most important of these is the various government gazettes or official newsletters (see Ill. below). *The British Bechuanaland Government Gazette* was published in nine volumes until 1895. So far we have only been able to inspect volumes 4 to 9 (1890-1895). This gazette contains detailed information on postal tenders, regulations, rates, postal routes, and notices on the opening and closing of postal offices. Next is the *Official Gazette of the High Commissioner for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland* which we have so far only seen from 1951 (or as the *Bechuanaland Protectorate Edition* of the same gazette). The *Bechuanaland Protectorate Government Gazette* first appears in 1963 and after independence is replaced by the *Republic of Botswana Government Gazette* that is still published by the government Printer in Gaborone. A source of the early history of the area is the *Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette* that was published until 1910. Collections of the most important acts and notices were regularly published in book form and still are published today on a yearly basis by the Government Printer, Gaborone. It should also be noted that the various editions of the Laws of Bechuanaland and Botswana contain the detailed postal regulations (last edition in 1987).

The *Annual Colonial reports for British Bechuanaland* and later *Bechuanaland Protectorate* often contain useful postal service summary sections. These reports were in various forms published until independence, the latest by the Commonwealth Relations Office. The postal guides of the Cape of Good Hope

and later the Union (and Republic?) of South Africa contain listings of postal offices and postal route maps of neighboring territories, including Bechuanaland. Other listings of postal offices and rates appear in the telephone directories of Bechuanaland and later Botswana until 1980. The various official year books (blue books" ) from the Cape of Good Hope and the Union of South Africa may be another valuable source as the system development of the Bechuanalands (these include the *Union-Castle Year Book & Guide*). Annual reports were made by the Postmaster-General of the Cape of Good Hope (and later the Union) to the Bechuanaland Protectorate administration. These are not published but rather deposited in the National archives of Botswana.

### Availability

The monographs mentioned above are widely available from most philatelic literature dealers and literature auctions. However, they may also be obtained from the American Philatelic Research Library. Many of the official gazettes are available on microfilm, although we so far have been unable to locate the British Bechuanaland Gazette and the High Commission gazettes between 1895 and 1951 in North American libraries. It is very likely that these exist in South Africa and British libraries and may be available via interlibrary loan. The annual colonial reports may be available in British libraries, but sporadic copies may appear in many North American libraries. The post office guides of the Cape and the Union are probably best located in South African libraries and archives. To locate a long looked-for documents and publication is akin to finally finding the unique cover that is missing in your collection. You may not have to travel to London, Cape Town, and Johannesburg to find it.

The next page shows examples of a number of publications discussed in this installment. Please join us in the hunt! \* \* \*

### Society Affairs Require Your Attention In This Issue

- Vote for the candidate of your choice in this year's biennial election. There are two write-in positions to consider: President & Director of Marketing. Please complete and return the enclosed ballot.
- Your 1999/2000 dues notice is included with this issue. Delays in overseas mailings are a serious problem for some countries. The air mail subscription rate is recommended.
- Welcome to this year's Annual Mail Auction. The catalog appears as a supplement following "The Market Place". The bid sheet is a separate insert in this issue.

Illustration. Examples of various Bechuanaland/Botswana government gazettes, official newsletters, and directories as information sources.

**JUNE, 1966**

**BECHUANALAND TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

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7th Edition

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Vol. IV—No. 168.

**THE BRITISH BECHUANALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.**

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1960.**

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**Postal Notice.**

It is hereby notified for general information that the Bechuanaland Government has decided to issue the new Bechuanaland Postal Orders for use from 1st October 1960. The new orders will be in accordance with the provisions of the Postal Order Act, 1957, and will be issued in denominations of 2/6, 5/6, 10/6, and 20/6. The old orders will continue to be valid until the end of the month of September 1960.

**Government Notice.**

WHEREAS the Bechuanaland Government has decided to issue the new Bechuanaland Postal Orders for use from 1st October 1960, and whereas it is necessary to provide for the issue of such orders, the following is hereby notified for general information that the Bechuanaland Government has decided to issue the new Bechuanaland Postal Orders for use from 1st October 1960. The new orders will be in accordance with the provisions of the Postal Order Act, 1957, and will be issued in denominations of 2/6, 5/6, 10/6, and 20/6. The old orders will continue to be valid until the end of the month of September 1960.

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**Notice.**

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NAME OF THE DONOR	AMOUNT	DATE
Mr. J. H. Smith	100	1st Aug 1960
Mr. K. Brown	200	2nd Aug 1960
Mr. L. Green	300	3rd Aug 1960
Mr. P. White	400	4th Aug 1960
Mr. R. Black	500	5th Aug 1960
Mr. S. Grey	600	6th Aug 1960
Mr. T. Blue	700	7th Aug 1960
Mr. U. Gold	800	8th Aug 1960
Mr. V. Silver	900	9th Aug 1960
Mr. W. Copper	1000	10th Aug 1960

**NOTICE**

THE Bechuanaland Government has decided to issue the new Bechuanaland Postal Orders for use from 1st October 1960. The new orders will be in accordance with the provisions of the Postal Order Act, 1957, and will be issued in denominations of 2/6, 5/6, 10/6, and 20/6. The old orders will continue to be valid until the end of the month of September 1960.

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY**

OF THE  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR BASUTOLAND, THE  
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND.

**DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY  
KING GEORGE THE SIXTH**

THE following obituary notice has been received from the High Commissioner for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, dated 1st February 1960:

His Majesty the King George the Sixth passed away peacefully at his residence at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, London, on the 6th February 1960.

The following obituary notice has been received from the High Commissioner for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, dated 1st February 1960:

His Majesty the King George the Sixth passed away peacefully at his residence at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, London, on the 6th February 1960.

**BOTSWANA POSTAL SERVICES**

**TARIFF BOOK**

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

PUBLISHED BY THE

**BOTSWANA POSTAL SERVICES GUIDE**

**1982**

Price P1.20

AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES IN BOTSWANA

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**

No. 168 of 1960

GAZETTE

6th August, 1960

Number of Pages and Sales Office: £8.00 by 200 copies  
 Number of Pages and Sales Office: £8.00 by 200 copies  
 Number of Pages and Sales Office: £8.00 by 200 copies  
 Number of Pages and Sales Office: £8.00 by 200 copies

**BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE EDITION**

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY**

OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
BASUTOLAND, THE BECHUANALAND  
PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND

No. 168 of 1960

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

**COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL**

No. 2

**BRITISH BECHUANALAND.**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1980—1990.**

(An continuation of Colonial Report No. 97, 1981 Series.)

Available in both English and Afrikaans by Government of the Bechuanaland, 1980.

**BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE**

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY**

OF THE  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR BASUTOLAND, THE  
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE AND SWAZILAND.

**CONTENTS**

**THE CARE OF GOOD WORK**

**Government Gazette.**

Published by Authority.

PUBLISHED, SEPTEMBER 1960

## Back Issues Available

The following issues of Forerunners are in stock and available for purchase. They are listed in order by whole number. Price per copy includes shipping by surface class/printed matter rate. The number in parenthesis indicates the number of copies remaining in inventory.

#1 (2) - \$2.00, #2 (2) - \$2.00, #3 (3) - \$2.00, #4 (4) - \$4.00, #5 (1) - \$3.00, #6 (4) - \$3.00, #7 (2) - \$3.00, #8 (2) - \$3.00, #9 (3) - \$3.00, #10 (1) - \$3.00, #11 (7) - \$3.00, #12 (4) - \$4.00, #13 (14) - \$4.00, #14 (8) - \$5.00, #15 (5) - \$5.00, #16 (10) - \$6.00, #17 (6) - \$6.00, #18 sold out, #19 sold out, #20 sold out, #21 sold out, #22 (15) - \$7.00, #23 (26) - \$7.00, #24 (2) - \$7.00, #25 (5) - \$7.00, #26 (45) - \$7.00, #27 (30) - \$7.00, #28/#29 (39) - \$10.00\*, #30 (43) - \$7.00, #31 (45) - \$7.00, #32 (45) - \$7.00, #33 (48) - \$7.00

\*Combined as a British Africa anthology with articles from 15 specialty groups celebrating PSGSA's 10th Anniversary and honoring THE Celebration British Africa Convention at PACIFIC 97.

### Back Issue Payment options:

\*US bank draft in dollars payable to "PSGSA".

\*Pound Sterling cheques at current exchange rate as published by a major bank in local area **WITH "PAYEE" LEFT BLANK.**

\*Sterling, Rands or Dmark currencies at current exchange rates **sent via registered mail.**

Send payment along with list of back issues desired to The Editor, P.O. Box 4158, Cucamonga, CA 91729-4158

## The Boer Republics & Back of YOUR Book

Tim Bartshe, Editor

Questions and comments regarding this column are invited as are installments for future issues as a guest author. Send to Tim at 13955 West 30<sup>th</sup>, Golden, CO 80401 USA or e-Mail at [timbartshe@aol.com](mailto:timbartshe@aol.com)

To continue the tone of this issue as it relates to my writing, I will beg the forgiveness of the readers by asking them to indulge me in the following presentation. After all, between ROMPEX committee work, the PSGSA auction and putting together exhibits for my own pleasure, I really did not have the time to adequately think through and create two new columns that might be of interest.

Not too long ago, I wrote an article dealing with the forgeries of the a Orange Free State Commando Brief Franks, a companion to one I wrote about 10 years ago describing the original emissions. Viewing my material related to the subject, I decided to create a one-frame exhibit to be debuted at ROMPEX this year. A one-frame exhibit is a very special one, requiring a complete story within 16 pages, the treatment being adequate to describe in detail the subject at hand. I felt this

was a perfect subject, seeing as how it had such a limited life and a very localized area of usage yet held enough variety and historical interest to fill the frame. This exhibit was very well received by the judges, being awarded platinum medal and best one-frame out of 13 competitive exhibits. As it relates both to the BOB and Boer Republic topical aspects of my column, I will serialize the 16 pages, with the permission of the Honorable Editor, over the next few issues of *Forerunners*. For those of you who have never exhibited a one-framer before, this is an example of what one MIGHT look like. (Editorial note: *Beginning with this issue's installment, we begin with the first of four, 4 -page installments, thus serializing the author's 16 page exhibit as requested.*)

# ORANGE FREE STATE COMMANDO BRIEF FRANK 1899-1900

## BACKGROUND

Upon the opening of hostilities 11 October 1899, thousands of Free State Commandos were called to the different fronts of the war. Most of those forces were involved in the invasion of the Cape Colony to the south and west.

Upon orders of Acting Commando General Barend, A.F. Hochapfel, head of the Commando field post offices printed a stamp to be used specifically for the Commando forces. This was used to indicate free-franking privileges, eliminating potential confusion at receiving post offices. Thus the Commando Brief Frank came into being on 15 October 1899. Use of these issues continued throughout the Free State until capture of Kroonstad in May, 1900 long after the fall of the capital Bloemfontein.

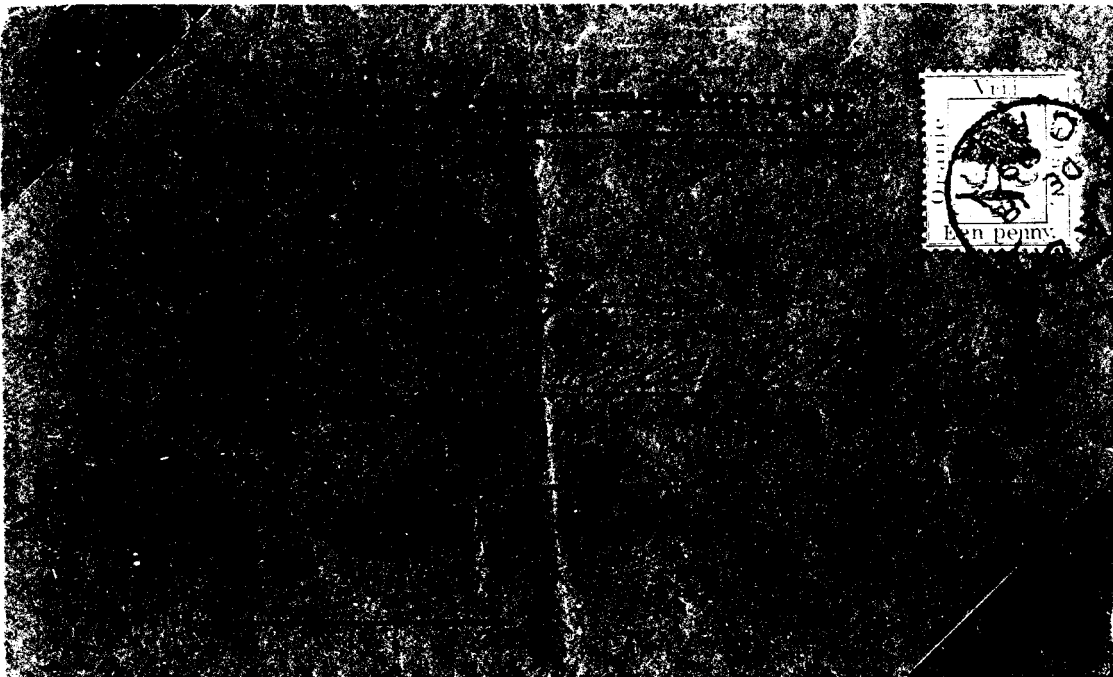
Sources estimate 10,000 of these issues were produced, though they appear much scarcer than that. With less than 50 covers recorded, any usage other than in and around Modder River are extremely scarce.

## EXHIBIT PLAN

What herein presented is a traditional display of mint and used examples showing postmarks and covers from the major centers of conflict along the southern and western fronts. The invasion of Natal is not covered in this exhibit. Maps showing routes and locations of battle sites are displayed.

The exhibit is organized in the following sequence.

- (1) Printing layout, varieties and examples of the five formes used in the setting. (2) Eight covers from seven different towns.
- (3) Used stamps showing different postmarks from areas of troop concentrations. (4) Detailed display of forgeries showing original research.



Not all Commando mail utilized these franks, some used Free State postage stamps to pay the 1d 1/2 oz rate. Captured OHMS official Post Office envelope from Lady Grey to Aliwal North a few miles to the west. Free State Commandos occupied northern Cape Colony from the onset of the war until February, 1900.

# COMMANDO BRIEF FRANK

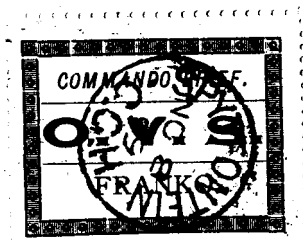
TYPES 1 & 2

Exact reasons for stamp issuance remain hidden in time. Possibly for easy recognition of Commando free-franking privilege and need for writing "In Veld Dienst" on each letter. Stamp was typeset from five cliches reproduced to yield four identical rows possibly via electrotype process which was quick and cheap. Printed in black on deep yellow gummed paper comb-perforated 12. Five distinct positions are recognized and described below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	
1	2	3	4	5

Distribution of five types in sheet.

## TYPE 1



Row 1, position 1 used at Spytfontein NO 8 99

Flattened 1st *O* of *COMMANDO*

*COM*

Break in top left frame



Inverted center ornament top frame



Bottom ornaments (pearls) all facing down, away from central design

0044

Short left leg 1st Min *COMMANDO*

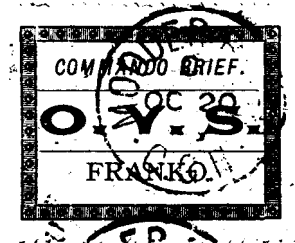


Damaged stops *O* & *Y*



Break top right ornament

## TYPE 2

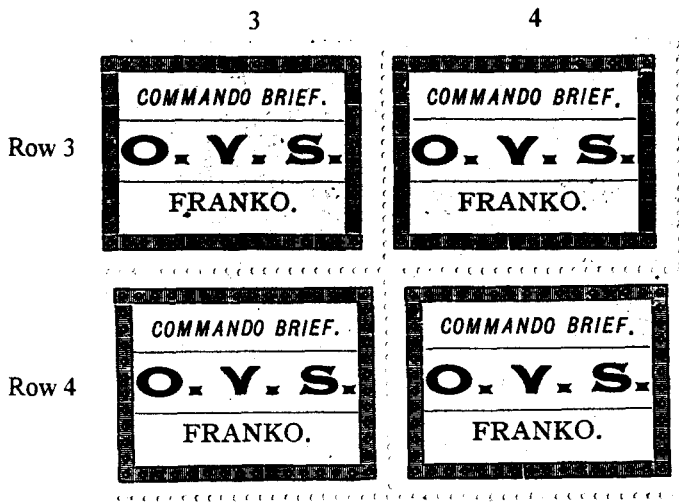


Earliest recorded date  
OC 20 99, Modder River

COMMANDO BRIEF FRANK

TYPES 40, 4 & 5

TYPE 3



Blotch 5th pearl top right



Damaged stop Y Dot



bottom right pearl



TYPE 4

Dropped stop BRIEF



Damaged inner frame top left



4 Damaged outer frame bottom center



TYPE 5

Damaged frame left of O



Damaged stop O



Oval stop FRANKO



Row 3

Row 4



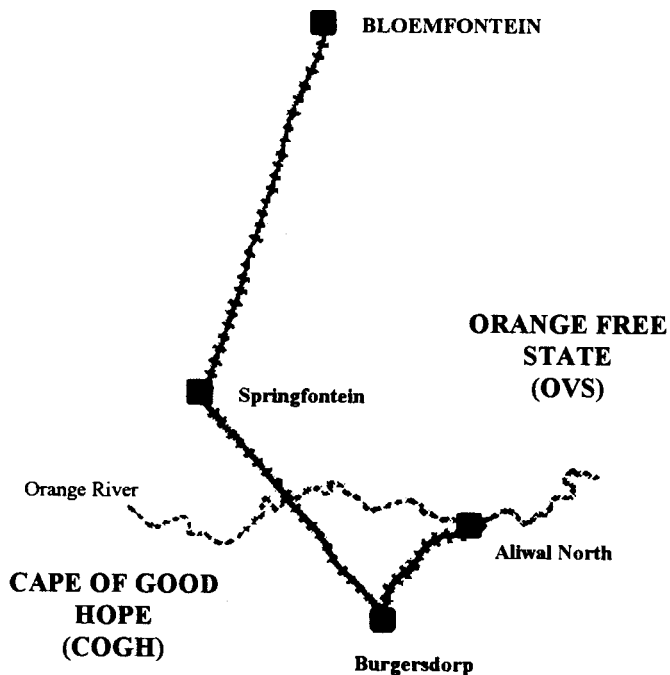
*Mr. W. A. Wright*

*Bookseller*

*Bloemfontein*

*O.F. State*

**Type 1:** Aliwal North to Bloemfontein 13 January 1900 arriving 15 January.  
Letter traveling via rail south to Burgersdorp and from there north across Orange River at Bethulie Bridge to Springfontein, then on the main line to Bloemfontein.



Bloemfontein arrival cancel

# Modern Times

Will Ross, Editor

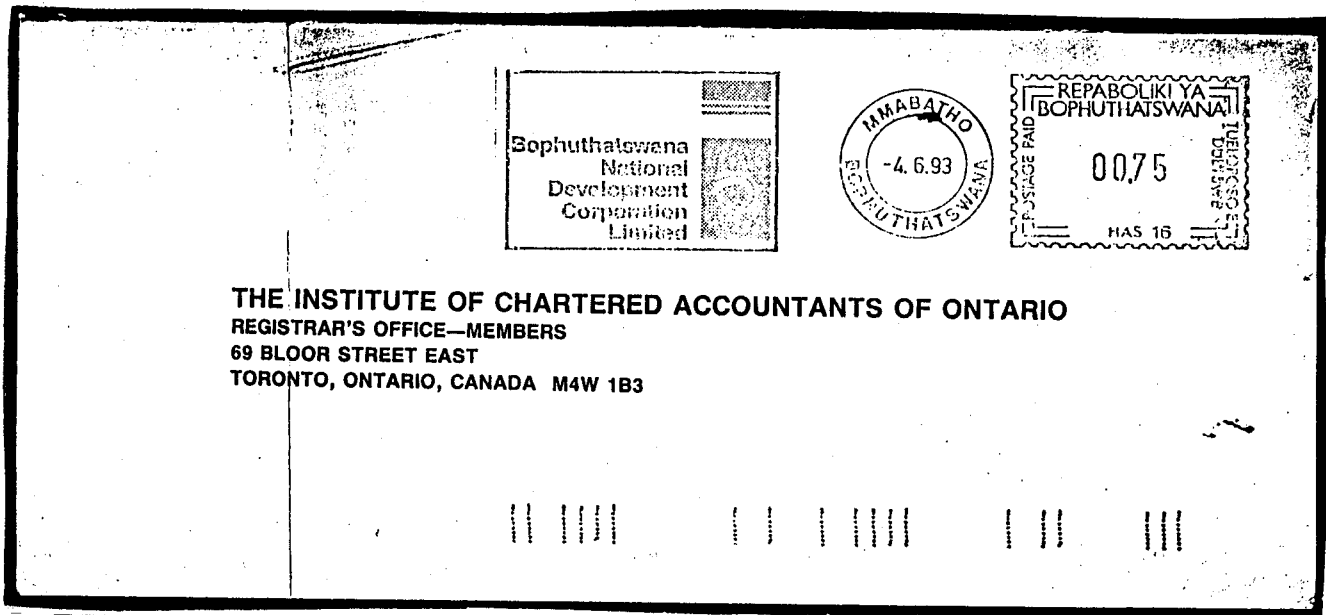
Comments, updates and installments as a guest editor for future issues are encouraged. Contact Will at 4120 Schuykill Drive, Calabasas, CA 91302 or e-Mail him at [rosskw@earthlink.net](mailto:rosskw@earthlink.net).

This installment will be a little bit about this and that. Work has kept me away from the computer, and my stamps, for the last couple of months.

## Meter Update

My article on Bophuthatswana meters received several comments. Tony Davis in Canada sent me an additional meter (Fig. 1) used by the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation. This one was used in 1993, ten years after my last known example.

Figure 1. Meter used by Bop's National Development Corporation Limited.



Reader Richard Peck contacted me by e-mail and suggested I contact Rick Stambaugh in New Jersey. Rick is preparing a worldwide meter catalog and graciously sent me a copy of the Homeland pages of his work-in-progress. His work is very impressive. I hope he will agree to let me share his findings with you in a future issue. What I can say is that meters were used to a greater or lesser extent, by each of the Homelands. This is obviously an area that deserves further research.

## Postage Dues

I read with great interest Jan Stolk's article on this topic in the last issue. In the course of my collecting Bophuthatswana I have seen that the RSA government was pretty stern about not letting letters be posted in the Republic with Homeland stamps. Figure 2 shows a cover with the post office sticker saying "Invalid Postage". The reverse was also true. Figure 3 is a cover from Bophuthatswana showing a red manuscript marking

marking because an RSA stamp was used. I also have covers with the "T" stamp and with manuscript notations. The last are almost always in red ink. What I have not seen, and would be interested in seeing, are postage due labels from any of the Homelands. Did they even exist, or were they content with "T" markings? I know this is more in Jan's field than mine but the answer would be of interest to us all.

## Return Receipts

A recent column in *Linn's Stamp News* concerned international

return receipts. That got me to wondering if the Homelands had pink (or other colors) international return receipts? In return receipts. That got me to wondering if the Homelands had pink (or other colors) international return receipts? In fact, it led me to wonder what other kind of postal ephemera may exist from the Homelands. So, dear readers, another challenge for you. If you have postal ephemera from any of the Homelands (domestic and international return receipts airmail etiquettes, etc.), please send me copies. This is the real guts of postal history. The time to record them is now, while the items are still relatively fresh and easy to obtain.

## Final Words

I hope you will forgive the rather hurried nature of this column. Please send me your comments, suggestions, covers, bouquets, brickbats or other pertinent scraps. Future columns will focus on revenues, postal stationery and last issues.

Figure 2. A cover illustrating RSA's attitude towards the use of Bophuthatswana stamps on an external basis as indicated by the "Invalid Postage".

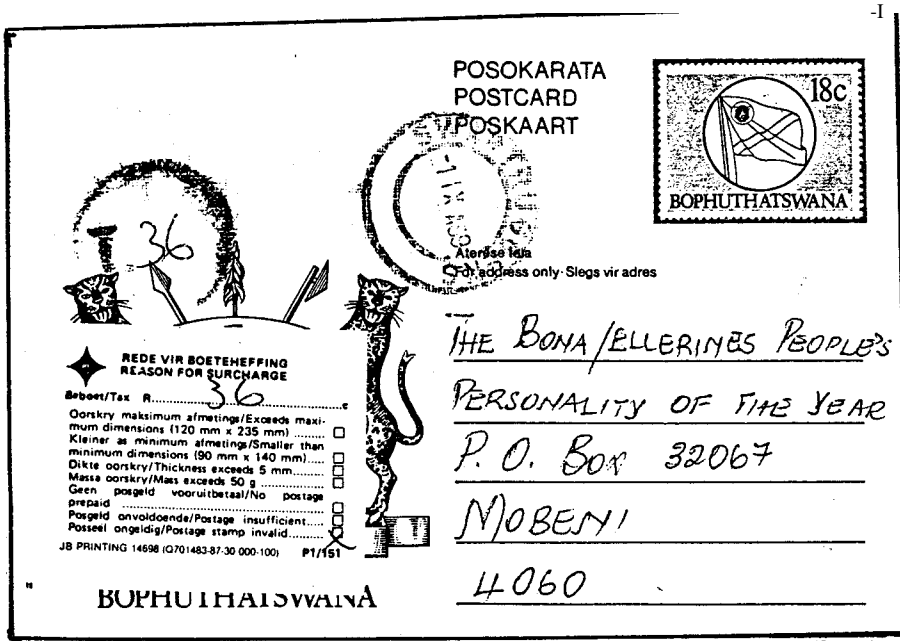
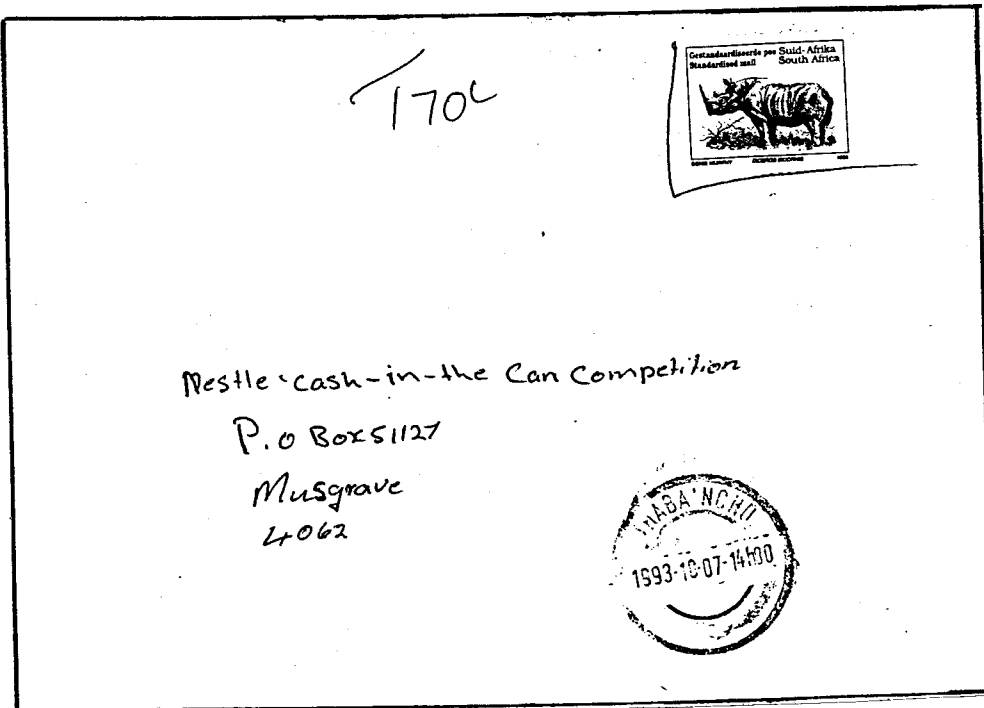


Figure 3. Cover illustrating Bop's attitude towards the use of RSA stamps internally, as evidenced by postage due marking of "T70c".



## My Apologies

As your Editor, I had to decide to "cut this issue short" for several reasons, including a disastrous computer malfunction, a serious physical health condition which is now thankfully cleared up, a move to a new address and my marriage which, at the time of this writing, will take place in just a few short days. My sincere apologies to columnists Tim Bartshe ("From the Archives"), Jan Stolk ("Postage Dues"), Alan Hanks ("The Rhodesias"), Ulli Bantz ("SWA/Namibia") and Tony Davis ("Zulu Notes") whose contributions **will not** appear this time around for the reasons indicated above. In addition, the following sections will also not be appearing: "Cover With A Story", "Society Affairs", "The International Scene" and "The Market Place". The remainder of this issue consists of "The President's Corner" - PLEASE READ THIS, and this year's annual mail auction catalog. It was painful for me to excise in this fashion, however ... Bill

# The President's Corner

Frederick P. Lawrence, Ph.D.

For the last time I am sitting at my personal computer, composing this message as PSGSA President. When you receive the next issue of the journal, the 1999-2001 term of office of the Board of Officers will have begun, and a new President will be at the helm of the society. Now, however, it is just early June, two weeks before the start of summer. Already here in the Phoenix Arizona area - the "Valley of the Sun" - temperatures have soared above the century mark (100 degrees Fahrenheit), while there is barely any humidity. Our "winter visitors", or "snowbirds", have departed, not to be seen again until the late fall, when the weather again turns inhospitable in the northern, eastern and midwestern United States. Freeway traffic is noticeably lighter, the high-end hotels and resorts have empty rooms and are running summer vacation specials, restaurants tables can be had without outrageous tips to the maitre d', and golf green fees are affordable to local residents and tee times available without having to be booked days or weeks in advance. School is out, and kids spend their days at water parks or in the big, air-conditioned malls and multiplex theaters. Since it is too hot to be outside for any length of time during the day, stamp collecting activities are an attractive diversion on weekends away from the work-a-day world. Such is the cyclical nature of life in the desert southwest.

Our 1999 international meeting will be held at the APS STaMpsHOW, August 26-29, in Cleveland, Ohio. Elsewhere in this issue is a report of the plans for that meeting and other society activities at the show. If you can attend, it should be quite a fun experience. I regret that I will be unable to join you, as I will be an FIP apprentice judge (traditional class) at CHINA 99 in Beijing, which takes place at the same time. I look forward to meeting many of you at one or both of our two meetings next year.

Plans continue for our two meetings in 2000. The first will be held at Stamp World 2000, May 22-28, at Earls Court in London; this will be an FIP World Philatelic Exhibition. We will participate in a joint meeting with some of the UK-based southern Africa specialty groups, such as the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, the OFS/ORC collectors, the Rhodesia Study Circle, the Transvaal Study Group, and others. Tim Bartshe and Bob Hisey are coordinating this meeting with our sister societies. In addition, some society members have applied through their national commissioners for frames to exhibit; acceptances are expected to be released in August. Look for details in the Jul/Oct '99 and Nov '99/Jan '00 issues of the journal. For our US members who will not be able to attend the London show, we will have a second meeting at the World

Stamp Expo 2000 USA, an event which will be put on by the US Postal Service (USPS), July 7-16, in Anaheim, California. The USPS has been slow to disseminate information about this event; however, we still expect meeting facilities to be available to societies at no charge. I have been working with the USPS to schedule a PSGSA meeting at the Expo, and will turn this over to the new President at the end of the summer.

This year is an election year. We will be choosing the Board of Officers for the 1999-2001 terms of office, which begins July 1, 1999.

Elsewhere in this issue there is a report from Will Ross, Chairperson of Elections, which presents the candidates and details the procedures for voting. You will find the elections ballot and the dues notice on a combined insert in this issue of the journal. There are candidates for seven of the nine positions on the Board of Officers, including three of the positions which were vacant during the 1997-1999 term of office: Vice President, Secretary and Director/Publications. With the filling of these positions, we can expect some exciting initiatives in expansion of member services, membership recruiting and retention, and the Society's publications support program. Unfortunately no candidates have stepped forward for the President or Director/Marketing, so these offices will be filled by "write-in" voting. (I am not a candidate for reelection as President, so please do not "write-in" my name.) I urge you to complete and submit your ballot as soon as you receive it with this issue of the journal. Since the new President and Director/Marketing will be chosen by "write-in" voting, every member's vote is important. This is your opportunity to directly influence the course of the society for the next two years.

It is traditional, when a president leaves office, to look back on the highlights of his terms of office. When I came into office in 1997, Dr. Guy Dillaway, the society's second President, had just stepped down because of unexpected family responsibilities. The society was running a deficit budget: journal expenses were outstripping member dues and journal ad revenues; and there were expenses for "THE Celebration of British Africa Philately" at PACIFIC 97 which were not covered by donations. Later that year, Founder/Editor Bill Brooks also experienced unexpected personal and professional difficulties, and the journal suffered as a result. It has taken us the bulk of the last two years to recover from these difficulties and to "right the ship" of the society.

Today, our financial situation is stable, though not as strong as we would like. All the credit for our financial turn-around goes

goes to Treasurer Bob Hisey, who put us on a strict pay-as-you-go budget Dues have not been increased and we have not had to dip into our reserves since 1997, although we have not been able to replenish those reserves as rapidly as we had hoped when we built our 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 fiscal year budgets. Increasing journal ad revenues and generating additional funds through other means remain on-going challenges, if dues are not to be increased.

The journal has been back on schedule, with three issues per year, since late 1998. Founder/Editor Bill Brooks recently changed to a new printer, a move which has reduced journal publications costs. A southern California volunteer "lick and stick" crew, including Will **Ross** and Bill's fiancée Patti, has been stuffing and mailing the recent issues of the journal, which has contributed to further savings. "Hats off" to these volunteers whose efforts can easily go unseen.

My major disappointment was that four officer positions remained vacant for the last two years, despite extensive recruiting efforts to fill them.; With only five of nine officers, we were only able to stabilize the society and keep it on a steady course; we did not have sufficient manpower to launch new initiatives in expansion of members services, increasing membership, supporting publications, and others. A recruiting blitzkrieg this spring netted candidates for seven of the nine officer positions, though we were denied the accomplishment of fielding a full slate, when no candidates could be found for President and the Director/Marketing.

I wish to sincerely thank the four officers - Treasurer and acting Secretary bob Hisey, Director/Library & Archives, Director/International Relations Jan Stolk, and Director of Programs Bob Taylor - all of whom are candidates for reelection - and founder;/ Editor Bill Brooks, who served with me during the last two years, for their selfless contributions and dedication to the society. And thanks in advance to the five new incoming officers - President (to be selected), vice Presidents Regis Hoffman, Secretary Ron Strawser, Director/ Marketing (to be selected), and Director/Publications Peter Thy - for their commitment to the society for the next two years. As I leave office, the society is in good hands, and our future looks bright.

### **1999 International Meeting**

The society's 1999 international meeting will be held on Friday, August 27, 1999, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, in room 203, Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio in conjunction with APS STaMpsHOW, August 26-29, 1999. The meeting will open with the announcement of the election results by Chairperson of Elections, Will **Ross**, immediately after which the new officers will assume their duties. The President-elect will preside over a series or short

presentations, including a financial report for the recently completed 1998-1999 fiscal year and the projected budget for the upcoming 1999-2000 fiscal year, expansion of member services, membership recruiting and retention, start-up of the society's publications support program, and plans of the two international meetings in 2000. The business meeting will conclude with a question and answer session, during which society members may inquire of the Board of Officers about any aspect of society business. Then, Director/Library & Archives, R. Timothy Bartshe will present a program on "Classic Transvaal". Representatives of the society, including Director/Programs Robert F. Taylor, Director/Library & Archives and our USA/International Representative, Ralph Myerson, MD, will periodically be present at the APS Affiliates Table to promote the society. If you will be in attendance at any time during STaMpsHOW and would like to volunteer one or more hours to promote the society at the Affiliates Table, or for additional information about the 1999 international meeting, contact Director/Programs Robert F. Taylor, 274 Chelsea Drive, Sanford, NC 27330 USA.

### **Elections for 1999-2001 Board of Officers**

Will Ross, Chairperson of Elections, has compiled nominations and announces the candidates for the 1999-2001 term of office of the society Board of Officers which appear on the enclosed ballot with this issue.

Since there are no candidates for President or Director of Marketing, voting for these offices will be by "write in". You may "write in" the name of any current members of the society for these positions; and you do not need to have the member's permission to vote for him. The members who receive the highest number of "write-in votes" for the positions, and who are willing serve, will assume the office.

The election ballot accompanies this issue of the journal. It is on one-half of a sheet of paper, the other half of which is the dues notice for 1999-2000. Mail your completed ballot along with your dues payment to the Treasurer, Bob Hisey, 7227 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33872 USA. He will tally the ballots and forward the vote totals to Will Ross. **If you do not owe dues - you are a Life Member and/or have sufficient credit in your membership account - mail your completed ballot directly to Will Ross, 4120 Schuylkill Dr. Calabasas, CA 91302 USA.** All ballots must be received by the Treasurer or Will no later than August 15, 1999, or 30 days later you receive this issue of the journal, whichever date is later. The new officers will assume their duties immediately after the election results are certified by the Elections Chair, the results being announced at PSGSA's meeting in Cleveland and the Jul/Oct '99 journal issue.

**PLEASE VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Welcome to PSGSA's 11th Annual Mail Bid Auction R.  
Timothy Bartshe, Auction Manager [e-Mail:  
timbartshe@aol.com](mailto:timbartshe@aol.com)

Bids accepted through October 15, 1999

751 lots of: stamps, literature, postal history/stationery, B-O-B Lot

Category Guide:

Anglo-Boer War: lots 1 - 22	New Republic: lots 312 - 333
Antarctic Expeditions: lots 23 - 91	Orange Free State: 334 - 359
Basutoland: lots 92 - 93	Rhodesia: lots 360 - 403
Bechuanaland Protectorate: lots 94 - 105	Rhodesia & Nyasaland: lots 404 - 405
Bophuthatswana: lots 106 - 110	Republic/South Africa: lots 406 - 529
Botswana: lots 111 - 136 British	Southern Rhodesia: lots 530 - 531
Bechuanalands: 137 - 138 Ciskei: lot 139	Stellaland: lots 532 - 538 South West
Cape of Good Hope: lots 140 - 220	Africa: lots 539 - 631 Swaziland: lots
Griqualand West: lots 221 - 222	632 - 641 Transkei: lots 642 - 643
Lesotho: lots 223 - 227 Literature: lots	Union/South Africa: lots 644 - 729
228 - 232 Malawi: lots 233 - 234	Venda: lot 730
Northern Rhodesia: lots 235 - 239	Zambia: lots 731 - 732 ZAR/
Namibia: lot 240 Natal: lots 241 - 311	Transvaal: lots 733 - 741
	Zululand: lots 742 - 751

**PLEASE REVIEW AUCTION GUIDELINES BEFORE BIDDING!**

Bids accepted by e-Mail GOOD LUCK!

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA**  
**AUCTION #11, 1999**  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE**

**CLAUSE 1**

- (a) This auction will be open for public bidding at the stated date and venue.
- (b) Mail bids will be accepted through 15 October, 1999.

**CLAUSE 2**

- (a) Each lot is subject to a reserve price imposed by the vendors.
- (b) Subject to (a) above, each lot will be sold to the highest bidder at one increment over the second highest bidder or reserve.
- (c) In the event of tie bids, the earliest bidder shall prevail.

**CLAUSE 3**

- (a) All lots will be mailed upon receipt of payment to Auction Manager.
- (b) The winning bidder shall remit in full within 14 days of invoicing with such payments being made in U.S. Dollar-denominated instruments (eg: checks, money orders, cashiers checks). Special arrangements to foreign bidders may be made with prior approval utilizing currencies. No credit cards are accepted. **All payments are to be made out the the**

**PSGSA.**

- (c) Each lot will remain the property of the vender until paid for in full, but shall be at the bidders risk from date of sale.
- (d) Failure to receive payment from bidder within a reasonable time (not to exceed 6 weeks for overseas bidders) will result in the lot to be offered to next highest bidder. Defaulting purchaser may be subject to punitive actions by the PSGSA through what ever means at its disposal.
- (e) PSGSA shall not be liable for any default of the purchaser or vender.
- (f) Purchaser agrees to reimburse PSGSA for any and all costs associated with the posting and insuring of lots won.

**CLAUSE 4**

- (a) All lots described are sold as genuine and in the general condition as stated, unless otherwise stated.
- (b) Any lot may be rejected and returned within seven (7) days or fourteen (14) days for overseas clients provided the purchaser indicates the lot is not as described or is not genuine; proof of the later is the responsibility of the purchaser and requires the opinion of an Expert Committee. Any lot returned must be in its original sales condition.
- (c) Expertization is the sole responsibility of purchaser. Notification of expertizing intent on any lot should be made at the time of bidding to allow for added time for lot return. Payment for any lot on extension shall still be due upon invoice. Purchasers returning lots for just cause will be reimbursed for expertizing fees.

**CLAUSE 5**

- (a) Buy bids will be at the descretion of the auctioneer.
- (b) Bidding increments will be as follows:

<b>BIDS</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>
UP TO \$25.00	\$1.00
\$25.00-\$50.00	\$2.00
\$50.00-\$100.00	\$5.00
\$100.00-\$200.00	\$10.00
\$200.00-\$500.00	\$25.00
OVER \$500.00	AUCTIONEER'S DESCRETION

To aid the bidder, the following are some of the abbreviations used in the descriptions of the lots: TB/L/R + top/bottom/left/right; EST = \$11.00/estimated value; \$15.00 an underlined and bold bid indicates the **MINIMUM** accepted bid (all bids below will not be accepted); NG/OG/POG = no gum/original gum/part original gum; \*\*/\*U = mint never hinged/unused/used; BONC/dcds/cds/ods = barred oval numeral cancel/double circle date stamp/ccircular date stamp/oval date stamp; catalogs used are as follows: SG/SC/H&GB&H/HIS/SACC/UHB = Stanley Gibbons/Scott/Higgen & Gage (postal stationary)/Barefoot & Hall (British revenues)/Hiscock (telegraphs)/South African Color Catalog/Union Handbook(details of Union of SA issues. Postmarks from the postal history items are refered to specific numbers mentioned in the following: Goldblatt for COGH, Hart, et al for Natal, Mathews for ZAR, Batten for OVS & Putzel for SWA & Southern Africa.

NOTE: Vendors generally request lots not go below some % of estimate, generally 60-75%. Please respect this as without vendors, there would be no auction

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of Greater South Africa and  
the British Empire, including:

Individual Books

Periodicals (including Society Journal runs)

Auction Catalogue runs

Name Sales

other Reference works

BOUGHT and