



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

Journal of The Pre-Union South Africa Study Group

4 **VOL. II NO. 3** -----**SEP-DEC 1988**

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From Your Editor... .

With this issue of our journal, we are

embarking upon our second full year as an

active philatelic organization. As our group prospers and develops over time, the impact of our growth on *Forerunners* will be significant. For example, on the cover of this issue, we now have a listing of officers and Resident Representatives. Yes, our **International Department has been developed which represents a significant milestone for us. Periodically, our Representatives will be writing about their efforts on behalf of PUSASG. It will be exciting to read about their endeavors.**

In this issue, we have three articles written by members who have submitted something for the first time - Ralph Myerson, Tim Bartshe and **Dave Wessely. This is a further demonstration of the vast amount of information and expertise that lies within the membership. Please take note of the response by Tim Bartshe to a previously published question in the *Question & Answer* column. Tim's effort shows the potential this section has for obtaining answers to some fairly difficult questions. The reader will find a variety of challenging questions in this newly expanded section.**

A little housekeeping note: The desktop computer program currently used to publish *Forerunners*, does not allow for the shifting of the left margin to accommodate the need for hole-punching. However, take heart. There is a very strong possibility that future issues will be published, using a different program which will allow margins to be adjusted. In addition, the final master of each issue will be produced on a laser printer which will yield significantly sharper images and **text.**

Of course, all of the above is determined, for the most part, by suggestions and constructive comments received from you - the reader. I look forward to your continuing guidance.

Individuals desiring membership and other information concerning *The Pre-Union South Africa Study Group*, should contact the Representative most convenient to them geographically.

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR BOARD -----



"Random Jottings From
The President".... Syl C.
Tully
Through the "Questions And
Answers" feature, I have
discovered that there is a

wealth of untapped information in the hands of our members. Since the primary objective of PUSASG is furthering our knowledge of South African philately, we should try to share that buried specialized knowledge. A good example is the article on Embossed Natal Reprints kindly provided by Tim Bartshe in reply to one of the questions printed in the previous issue. Not only does this article add a great deal of information on the embossed series, it also sheds light on a minor mystery regarding the two separate halfpenny 1895 provisionals of Natal, as well as providing an undated commentary on the ethics (or lack thereof) prevailing in African postal circles in the 19th Century.

It has long been known that the first halfpenny provisional of 1895 was principally swallowed up by the philatelic market of the time, necessitating the printing of a second provisional to satisfy postal needs. For many years after, whole sheets of the first provisional were available on the market. As late as 1983, I was able to obtain the right pane of a sheet of this printing.

Since the source of Tim Bartshe's article was the *South African Philatelist*, August, 1931, I wonder who else has old files from this publication, or other similar published material, tucked away in their private archives. A worthy project for our group would be a volunteer effort on the part of our membership to provide to our Archivist the references known to them.

If any one has a series of files of any particular publication and would be willing to pore through them, then provide a subject matter bibliography of their findings, it would be an excellent start toward a **reference** library of unparalleled value to the entire Study Group. (I have asked Tim to let us know what he has available.)



Facts, Figures & Other

Matters
Bill Brooks Secretary-
Treasurer

We are now commencing our second full year as a living, breathing, full-fledged philatelic organization. What once started as an idea shared by two collectors, has now become a Study Circle with over 30 members in five

countries. With this growth. we are quickly

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establishing ourselves as a viable organization of philatelists committed to enhancing our enjoyment and breadth of knowledge.

What is truly exciting for me is the mix of individuals in our group who hold active membership in a variety of other philatelic organizations. This fact should enhance our ability to share information of value to a broader range of the membership. In my mind, it is very difficult to study a single subject exclusively. To appreciate the postal history, including stamp-issuing policies of a particular country, colony, etc., it invariably becomes necessary to acquire knowledge about the impact of neighboring political states on postal issues and systems. An example of this would be in specializing in the Interprovisional Period.

Because of our growth, a need to have representatives as primary contact points for specific geographic areas developed. As time goes on, we can anticipate that other areas will be covered by members who desire to actively support their Study Group. And speaking of support, the role of the Resident Representative includes:

- Responding to inquiries about PUSASG membership by providing informational materials including an application.
- Fostering communications and meetings between members residing in their area.
- Dissemination of "press releases" to all philatelic publications, e.g., newsletters, journals, etc., published in their area.
- Periodically submitting short reports on **their activities on behalf of PUSASG, to be published in Forerunners' INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT section, e.g., members who have or will be exhibiting, awards received, press release results such as the number of inquiries about membership and so on.**

As we expand internationally, it becomes very clear that a Vice President/Communications would be a welcomed addition for: (1) communications to our Resident Representatives; (2) sending out of press releases; and (3) any other activities he/she feels would be to the benefit of PUSASG. Anyone interested in pursuing these activities on behalf of the Group, please contact your President, Syl Tully.

Concerning the proposed constitution and by-laws, 100% of the ballots cast were in favor. We now have our guiding principles and roadmap to assure continuity. My thanks to those of you who took the time to review the materials and vote..

The survey concerning how members mount their collections and which catalogues are used, yielded the following results:

Methods of mounting: Hagner stocksheets-4, stocksheets-2, Lighthouse-3, self-constructed albums-3, Vis-o-grip pages-2, Kabe album-1, Fleetwood lucidview pages-3.

Catalogues used: Stanley Gibbons-6, Scott-8, Rhodesian Specialized-3, Sherwood South Africa Revenue Specialized-2, Barefoot & Hall-1. -----



"From The Archives"
Tim Bartshe Director of Archives

"The Director of Archives"

rather an arcane title for a director to have. Based upon the by-laws, he is to "...maintain an association library of reference materials which will be made available to all members in good standing ... As part of this effort, he will develop a listing of materials available from individual members who are willing to place them on loan to other members." As this is the primary stated duty of the Director, I will deal with this project first.

For all of us who have metamorphosed into specialized creatures of our chosen area, as well as those who have not, the quest for knowledge on our subject is what really separates the . person who saves stamps "because they are pretty" from the philatelist. That knowledge can be gained from a variety of areas including, but not limited to:

(1) Association with local clubs or people who share your specific interests;
(2) *Linn's Stamp News* or other related periodicals:

(3) Specialized periodicals such *Forerunners*, *The American Philatelist*, etc.; or

(4) Special publications or monographs such as the Orange Free State Study Circle's *The Stamps of the Orange Free State*, a three volume work without which the serious FreeStater cannot live!

From the, last three categories, there is an abundance of material available for the beginner and the advanced collector to increase his enjoyment, as well • as his knowledge.

What I would like to request is for each member to send me a list of references that he or she might own or know of **which might relate to the area** of Southern Africa our Group promotes. From these lists I will be able to compile a bibliography of sorts which I will make available to the membership ; then based upon the **willingness** of the holder of the reference. library-like format for the check-out of same

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-can be implemented. Photocopied references could also be requested where it might be desired to keep a permanent copy of a part or the entire item; at a nominal fee of course.

Depending upon the response, I will follow up in the next issue with the details of where we go from here. It will be interesting to see how much material resides in the moldy bookshelves of our members. Sit down tonight and jot down what you have, and in the words of that famous American TV contest ad spokesman, Ed MacMahon, "Go on, send it in." -----



"From Your Program Chair"
Louise Van Ingen

We had a very nice letter from George van den Hurk,

who temporarily resides in Switzerland. One of his interests is in the SWA and Angola dispute, and he has a slide program of his exhibit of this material. If you would like to borrow his program, please contact George directly at Postfach 4833 CH-6304 Zug, Switzerland. He also wrote that he and his wife are considering coming over for our first meeting at STaMpsHOW '89 in Anaheim at the Disneyland Hotel. Naturally we are doing everything possible to encourage this visit by one of our members from afar.

Speaking of get-togethers, I will be hosting an informal meeting of members who reside in California and/or will be visiting the area on Sunday, September 11th. Morgan Farrell and Bill Brooks have confirmed that they will be attending. If any member would like to join us and share interests, this will be a nice opportunity to meet on a more personal level. Please write me at my address listed on the cover page, or call me at (714) 524-0809.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

" WELCOME ABOARD "



***Eric F. P. Burnett/Waterloo**

Ontario, Canada. Interests are CGH, Natal, Griqualand West, OFS, New Republic, Stellaland, Transvaal, the Rhodesias, Bechuanaland and Zululand; specialty is early Br. S. Africa Co. His affiliations include: Rhodesian Study Circle. RPS

of Canada and the American Philatelic Society.

***Henry G. Ibsen/Fair Oaks, California.** Interests include CGH, Griqualand West, Natal, OFS, New Republic, Stellaland, Transvaal, SWA, **RSA, the Rhodesias, Bechuanaland, Zululand, Swaziland and Basutoland**; specializations are revenues and stationery of all areas, railway stamps of the Rhodesias and South Africa, selected covers and postal cards of all areas. Affiliations include the American Philatelic Society, American Revenue Association, Germany Philatelic Society and Sacramento

Philatelic Society.

***R. Timothy Bartshe/Lakewood, Colorado.**

Interests include CGH, Griqualand West, Natal, OFS, New Republic, Stellaland, Transvaal, Zululand. Tim specializes in Pietersburg Issuesplate varieties on all values and printings, VRI overprints-OVS and pre-Union postmarks and postal history-OVS. Affiliations include the American Philatelic Society, OFS Study Circle and Transvaal Study Circle.

***Steve Wineteer/Omaha, Nebraska.** Interest areas are CGH, Griqualand West, Natal, OFS, New Republic, Stellaland and Transvaal. Affiliations include the American Philatelic Society, Ryukyuan Philatelic Society, American Society of Polar Philatelists, Scandinavian Collectors Club and the Plebiscite, Memel, Saar Study Group.

***T. George Gilinsky/Washington, D. C.** Interests include OFS with specializations in its stationery, revenues, covers and literature. His affiliation is with the American Philatelic Society.

***Arthur M. Neu/New York, New York.** Collecting areas are Griqualand West, OFS, Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Zululand with a specialization in numeral obliterators. Affiliations include OFS Study Circle and the International Society for Japanese Philately.

***Roy Setterfield/East Sussex, England.** Interests include Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Basutoland with specializations in BONCs and postmarks. Affiliations include Rhodesian Study Circle, Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society and the Postmark & Postal History Society of SA.

***W. Grutter/Cape Town, South Africa.** Collecting interests and specializations include CGH, OFS, SWA, Bechuanaland & Protectorate, Basutoland, maritime mail and postal stationery of CGH and Deutsche Seepost. Affiliations are Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town and SA Collector's Society of Great Britain.

***Edward M. Freeman/Orange Park, Florida.** Interests include CGH, Griqualand West, Natal, OFS, New Republic, Stellaland, Transvaal, SWA, RSA, the Rhodesias, Bechuanaland, Zululand, Swaziland and Basutoland. Specializes in Boer War Covers.

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



Syl C. Tully, founding member and acting President, is the Town Engineer for Hamden Connecticut. Syl was born on

March 9th, in San Jose, California and is married to Josephine. They have three children-Karen, Deborah and Ellen. Syl is the former Director of Public Works, Ponape, Micronesia and travelled extensively on both business and pleasure to at least 40 countries, most Pacific islands, Southern Africa, South America and Southeast

Asia. He has been an advisor to the Malaysian government. Other interests include lawn bowling, cultural anthropology of Pacific Islands -emphasis on local medicines and local sorcery and migration patterns. His primary collecting interests include: Rhodesian double head varieties, postmarks, telegraph and telephone stamps, postmarks of colonial Africa, specimen overprints of Crown Agents, OFS numeral obliterators and African Railway stamps. Syl's affiliations include RPS of London, Rhodesian Study Circle, OFS Study Circle and co-Founder of the Telegraph & Telephone Stamp Society.

***Louise Van Ingen**, Director/Programs, was born on June 28th in Santa Monica, California and has a son-David. Louise enjoys travelling to exhibitions-judging, exhibiting and giving programs. She has attended INTERPHIL '76, CAPEX '77, LONDON '80 and CAPEX '87. Louise lived in Holland for a while and speaks the language. Primarily, she likes meeting friends and people in general.

***William C. "Bill" Brooks, VI**, Founder, Secretary-Treasurer and *Forerunners* Editor, was born on February 10th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bill received his Master's degree in Social Work from San Diego State University and is with the City of Anaheim as a Management Analyst. He is married to Leila and has a daughter named Marcy, age 8. Bill's primary philatelic interests include the pre-Union period, British Carribean, Danzig, Bavaria and early U.S. Other interests include bridge, piano and travelling-England, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, W. Germany, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Greece Hawaii and the Caribbean Islands. Bill's affiliations include the American Philatelic Society, British Carribean Study Group and the Arrowhead Stamp Club (President).

***R. Timothy "Tim" Bartshe**, Director of Archives, was born on May 17th in Orange, California. He is married to Barbara and is an independent petroleum geologist. Tim has BS degrees in Mining and Geology Engineering and postgraduate work in Geology. His philatelic interests include OFS, the New Republic and Pietersburg issues. Tim's other hobbies include trout fishing, travel, gardening succulents, South African Boer history, natural history, astronomy, archeology and travel to South Africa (Johannesburg 100 Show), New Zealand, England and Ireland.

***Sidney Goldfield**, founding member, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 13th. Sid's occupation is social work. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Oklahoma. Sid's primary philatelic interests include Israel, RSA, SWA, Transvaal, OFS, New Republic and Stellaland. Other interests are numismatics, painting and travel-Israel, France, Scandinavia, Southern Europe and Ethiopia.

THE FORERUNNERS FORUM



"Questions & Answers"
By Syl C. Tully

With this issue, a new feature has been added to this section. Each question will be assigned a number. All questions which have not been answered, will continue to be listed under the heading "Unanswered Challenges For The Scholar". The advantage in this approach is that as membership grows, we will be eventually joined by someone who will be able to answer one or more of the questions listed.

Question #8: How can one differentiate the reprints and revenues of embossed Natal from the originals, in mint condition? (Syl Tully)

Answer: The following is a verbatim excerpt from *Album Weeds*, pages 73-75, copy of which was furnished by our Director/Archives, Tim Bartshe: "Issue of 1858. One penny, rose, buff, blue. The higher values of this set were, I believe, issued in June, 1857, but the id did not appear until 1858. I do not know why it was printed on paper of various colours; but possibly Messrs. Davis and Son, of Pietermaritzburg, had to use such paper as they had in stock. All the values, except the 3d are decidedly rare. I have not seen any forgeries of the higher values.

"Genuine. Embossed, on coloured wove paper. The paper is coloured right through. The 0 of ONE is a transverse oval; the N is 2 1/2 mm wide, and the lowest limb of the E is much longer than the top limb. The lowest limb of the E of PENNY is also much longer than the top limb, and the head of the Y is absurdly splayed out, so that it is nearly 3 mm wide from the outside of one arm to the outside of the other. The head of the T of NATAL is abnormally wide, measuring about 2 1/4 mm across. The orb on which the cross rests, at the top of the crown, is a transverse oval, wider than the width of the cross. Each side-arch of the crown is one single, embossed line, and from the edge of each of these arches project four pearls. These side-arches do not bend down to the centre of the circlet at the base of the crown, but they go down to the centre. The ornaments embossed along the top of the circlet, at the base of the crown, are indecipherable, except that they are not strawberry-leaves; the middle one, at the base of the v-shaped piece, looks like a small cross pattee. The circlet bears five jewels—a long, transverse diamond in the centre, a very small diamond on each side of this, and half of a large diamond at each outside edge. The cap, inside the side-arches, is embossed plain, without lines, except that the ornaments resting on the

circlet show ill front of the lower part of the

r--•

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cap.

In each corner of the stamp there is a four-petalled flower, each petal being plain and pointed, like a lance-head or a candle-flame. The side-frames are composed of interlacing semi-circular arches. There are seven complete semicircles down the left side of the stamp, and six down the right side. I have multiplied details as much as possible, for the reader will be very lucky if he possesses a specimen clear and perfect enough to show all the above details. As a matter of fact, the majority of used specimens show the word NATAL, and more or less of the crown, the rest being illegible.

"First Forgery. Embossed, on fairly stout, buff wove paper. The 0 of ONE is an upright oval, the N is only 2 mm wide, and the lowest limb of the E is hardly any longer than the top limb. In the word PENNY, the lowest limb of the E is, if anything, shorter than the top limb. The head of the Y is nicely shaped, the splay of the arms being only about 2 1/4 mm, instead of nearly 3 mm. The head of the T of NATAL is 2 mm across. The orb is a small circle, instead of a wide oval; it is decidedly narrower than the width of the cross above it. Each side-arch of the crown appears to be formed by two parallel, embossed lines; but closer examination shows that the outer line, in each case, is a row of nine pearls, all touching, and resting on the inner line of the arch. The ornaments along the top of the circlet are those of a marquis, i.e., three strawberry-leaves, alternating with two pearls. The circlet bears seven rather oval pearls, instead of the five diamonds. The part of the cap seen inside the left arch is embossed with oblique lines, running down from left to right; and the corresponding part in the right arch has similar, oblique lines, but running down from right to left. The ornament in each corner of the frame looks something like four strawberry-leaves, arranged in the form of a St. Andrew's cross. The left side-frame shows five complete, interlacing semi-circles, with parts of two others at the top end of the frame, and parts of two others at the bottom. The right-hand frame also shows five complete, interlacing semi-circles, with the parts of two others at the top end, and parts of two others at the bottom end.

"Second Forgery. Embossed, on very stout, pinkish-buff wove paper. The top inscription is entirely flattened out in my specimen so that I am unable to describe it. As far as I can make out, the top and bottom of the E of PENNY are of equal length, and the Y is not too widely splayed out, the spread of the arms not being more than 2 mm. The orb, in my specimen, is not visible. Each side-arch of the crown is composed of two parallel, embossed lines, and there are no pearls projecting from the arches. The inner ends of the arches bend down to join the circlet, near the centre; and where the

v-shaped central piece ought to be, there are three curved, horizontal lines. I have not been able to make out whether there are any ornaments along the top of the cirlet. The cirlet bears eight jewels, but I cannot see whether they are pearls, or stumpy diamonds. The ornaments in the corners of the stamp appear to be eight-pointed asterisks. The left side-frame shows seven complete, interlacing semi-circles, with parts of others at the ends, and the right side-frame shows the same number as the left.

"Third Forgery. Embossed, on very thick, hard, blue wove paper. The 0 of *ONE* is a circle, the N is very little more than 2 mm wide and the top and bottom of the *E* are of equal length. The top and bottom of the *E* of *PENNY* are also of equal length, and the arms of the Y are only about 2 mm across. The crown is very like that of the second forgery; the orb is not visible; each side-arch is formed by two lines, instead of one, and there are not pearls projecting from the arches. The said arches bend down to meet the cirlet, near its centre. There is not v-shaped piece in the centre, but only some curved, horizontal lines, as in the second forgery. There is some embossing along the top of the cirlet, but I cannot say what it is. There are seven jewels in the cirlet; they seem to be long and short diamonds alternately. The ornaments in the corners of the stamp are four-petalled flowers, like the genuine, except that there is a sunken line, by way of veining, right along the centre of each petal. In each side-frame, there are seven complete semi-circles, with parts of others, at the top and bottom of each.

"Postmarks. Genuine-1, First Forgery - Uncancelled, Second Forgery-10 and Third Forgery-41, but with thicker lines. NOTE: Amateurs are sometimes puzzled with stamps like the above, but embossed on paper which is coloured only on the surface, instead of all through, and usually perforated 12 1/2. These are fiscals."



UNANSWERED CHALLENGES FOR THE SCHOLAR

The following questions have been referred to the general

membership for solutions:

Question #6: "Why did the Cape of Good Hope use a triangular design for its early issues?"

Question #7: "Why did Natal use embossed stamps?"

Question #9: "The Provincial Issues are fully describe in Samuals, "Specimen Overprints of Crown Agents" as type 5A5. Bechuanaland Protectorate is not mentioned even though I have a copy of the 1902 1/2d green with a specimen overprint, similar ro stamps of Natal,

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etc., for presentation to the Empire Society in 1910, at the time of the formation of the Union. Could it have been part of the same presentation printing?"

FEATURE ARTICLES -----



Researching The Penny Ship
By Louise van Ingen

After several frustrating years of trying to get information by

correspondence, Klaas van Ingen and O. R. Sanford made a trip to South Africa, in 1979, to prove a theory about the first plate of the Ship Penny. Correspondence, in 1976, did finally bring them in contact with F. B. Reinder, Assistant director of Philatelic Services, who greeted them on their arrival in Pretoria.

Mr. Reinder placed, at their disposal for study, all of the available material. At that time, the Postal Museum was not completed, and the boxes were brought out of a storage area. The two men were given a room in which to work, photographic flood lights, xerox service and the cooperation of the entire staff. it was a researcher's paradise.

"A veritable goldmine of information was unearthed. After all of the years that people had stated that this material did not exist, it had finally been uncovered. The records discovered actually went back to the first years of the Union." (They had been told that the early material had been lost due to a bombing during World War II.)

By the time of this writing, the stacks of folders of correspondence and contracts, etc., and the printing plates wilt have been sorted and placed in the museum. Van Ingen and Sanford were primarily interested in the Ship Penny, but the information and plates of others issues was also included in this find. If you have need for information, you may find it is the Philatelic Museum in Pretoria, South Africa-right where it should be.

***The Ship Penny*, Klaas van Ingen and O. R. Sanford, Jr., published by The California Collectors Club, 1984.

Notes On The Bechuanaland Protectorate Overprints of 1897

By

David Wessely

Bechuanaland, as a stamp issuing entity, was not blessed with large sums of money to use as it provided its postal system. In its formative years, Bechuanaland is well recognized for its almost total use of overprinting the stamps of other countries.

However the name Bechuanaland actually refers to two different entities: British Bechuanaland-governed as a Crown Colony and the Bechuanaland Protectorate-governed as a protectorate. (Geographically adjacent, but two distinct land areas.)

British Bechuanaland was formed in 1885 and in November, 1895, was absorbed into the Cape of Good Hope and became one of the many extinct stamp issuing countries in philatelic history. However, its philatelic history did not stop in 1895 when its political history ceased! In late 1897, the post office of the Bechuanaland Protectorate was running short of halfpenny stamps and acquired a sufficient supply of the green halfpenny stamp from the Cape of Good Hope (Scott #42). Following precedent, they directed the stamps to be overprinted before their use in the Protectorate. Somehow the printing order became confused and the stamps were overprinted with the words "British Bechuanaland" in two lines. But this country did not even exist! The postal service administration of the Bechuanaland Protectorate used the stamps regardless of the name. If you look at a Scott catalogue you will note that this particular stamp is catalogued as Scott numbers 40 and 41 (because of two varieties of print spacing) and listed as the final stamp of British Bechuanaland. However, it more correctly should be listed as a stamp of the Protectorate.

The stamp in question is neither rare nor valuable; but how many other stamps do you know that were used by a country that show the name of a non-existing country and not its own? Incidentally, the Protectorate first issued stamps in 1886. Every single stamp was of the overprinted variety using British and the Cape of Good Hope stamps until 1932-a total of 46 years of "borrowing"!



Postal History & Non-Philatelic Literature

By

George van den Hurk

It may be useful to mention a few books which give one a better insight into the postal history of the Transvaal. I have selected a few works which are relevant to the first part of my collection dealing with the Witwatersrand during the period 1880-1899. Most books are still currently available from booksellers.

Sandeman, E.F., *Eight Months In An Ox-Wagon* 1975, Africana Reprint Library. This edition is a facsimile reprint and included a most useful map of the Transvaal of 1879 by F. Jeppe showing

postal routes and post offices. For the purpose of my collection it was important to note that before the discovery of the Main Gold Reef, Sterkfontein was an important Junction on the Witwatersrand. on Jeppe's map Sterkfontein is shown on the postal route from

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Potchefstroom to Pretoria and from the former to Rustenburg. From Rustenburg there was a further postal connection to the Western Transvaal serviced regularly by postal runners. The official Post Office numbers are shown on the map. The same numbers were used in the three-ring obliterations, enclosing numerals, introduced in 1874. Illustration 1 shows the use of this canceller with the number 26 on a combination cover from Sterkfontein to London in April 1880.

Another book dealing with the history of the Transvaal is by Bulpin, T. V., *Lost Trails Of The Transvaal*, 1983, Books of Africa. It recounts some amusing stories of conditions at the early post offices in the Transvaal and the fact that in 1887 the Johannesburg Post Office became the scene of the first strike when the Post Office staff stayed away in protest against the intolerable working conditions and delays in payment of their salaries.

The Jameson raid of 1895 is described in Fitzpatrick, J.P., *The Transvaal From Within*, 1899, William Heinemann. The author, later Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, is not an impartial historian and for a more balanced view of the period it is advisable to take note of the Dutch-Afrikaans version as presented for instance by Van Niekerk, L. E., *Kruger se Regterhand*, 1985, J.L. van Schaik. Hopefully, an English translation will still become available. Transvaal postcards of 1895 were used to illustrate scenes from the Jameson Raid. These so-called "Late Crisis" postcards illustrate five different scenes. From a different series by Sallo Epstein "Reminiscence of the 1895 Revolution" is shown in Illustration 2.

Also of great interest are those books published to commemorate the founding of towns. Some excellent ones are those published in respect of 70 years Johannesburg, compiled and edited by Smith, Anna H., *Pictorial History of Johannesburg, 1956*, Juta, and the work published in respect of Benoni, *Son Of My Sorrow*, 1968, Town Council of Benoni, from which the following excerpts are quoted:

"A little post office was situated in a wood-and-iron building on the northern side of the valley, sharing the premises with the drawing and sampling departments of the New Kleinfontein Mine. The building still stands on the Kleinfontein-Van Ryn road.

"Benoni was isolated especially in the earlier days of the settlement. Roads to other centres were **simply** tracks through the veld and were often dangerous. A coach service was started between Boksburg and Johannesburg in 1888, but this cost 75 cents each way and Benoni people had first to walk to Boksburg, a distance of some six miles.

Even when the "Rand Train-the railway between /Forerunners. Vol /1, No 3 - Sep/Dec '88 p8 Johannesburg and Springs-was built in 1891, the station to Benoni was Brakpan, five miles away. Communications improved when a halt siding (known as Kleinfontein Junction) was established on the Amin railway line in 1903, about one mile distant from the settlement."

Another interesting work is *The Garnett Collection*, a pictorial record of Johannesburg, published the *The Star* to commemorate the City's 80th year in 1966. It shows the scene at the laying of the foundation stone of the Rissik Street Post Office on January 26, 1897, and Park Station at around 1892 where the first Cape train arrived on September 13, 1892.

For the postal historian, the search for information and knowledge is a never ending process and often more important than acquiring the actual evidence for his collection.

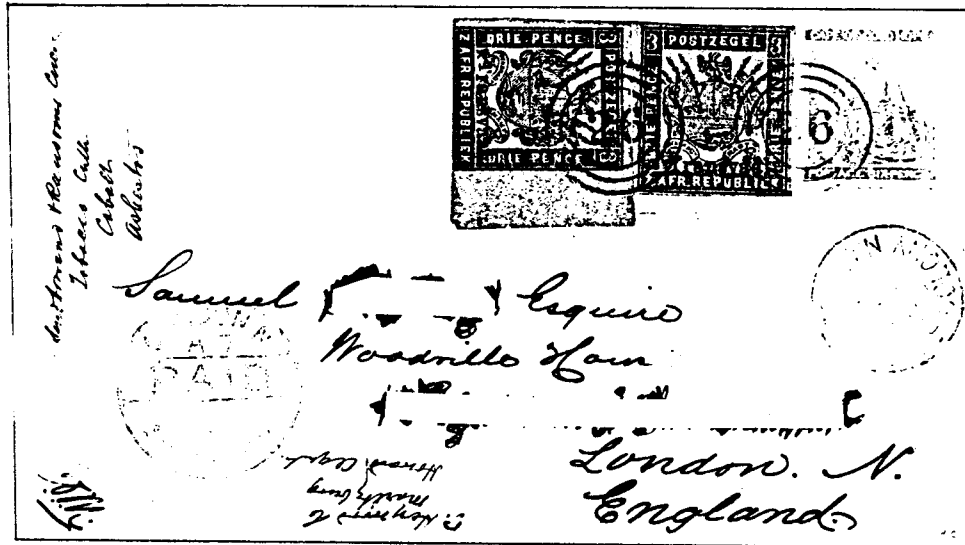


ILLUSTRATION 1

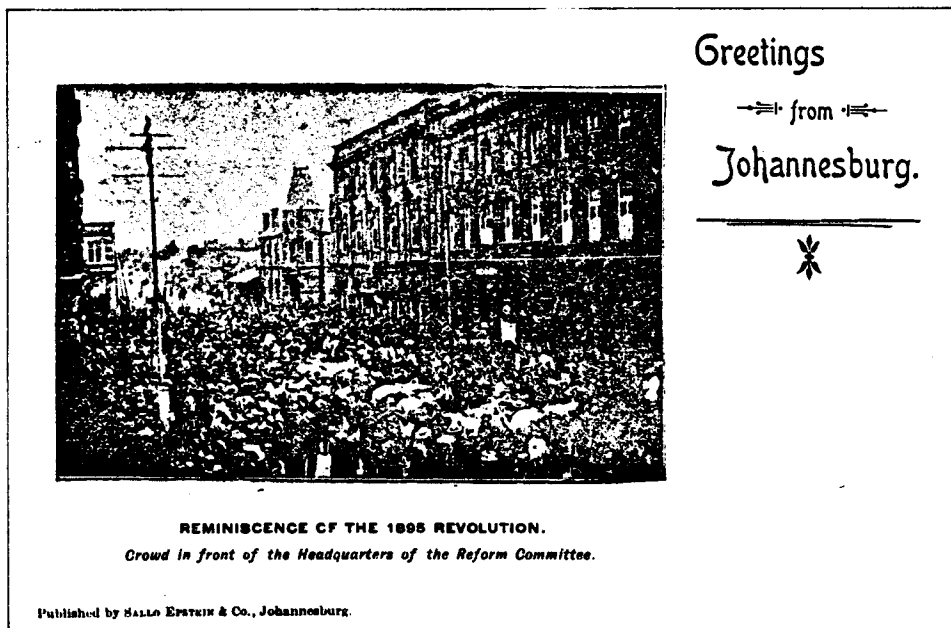
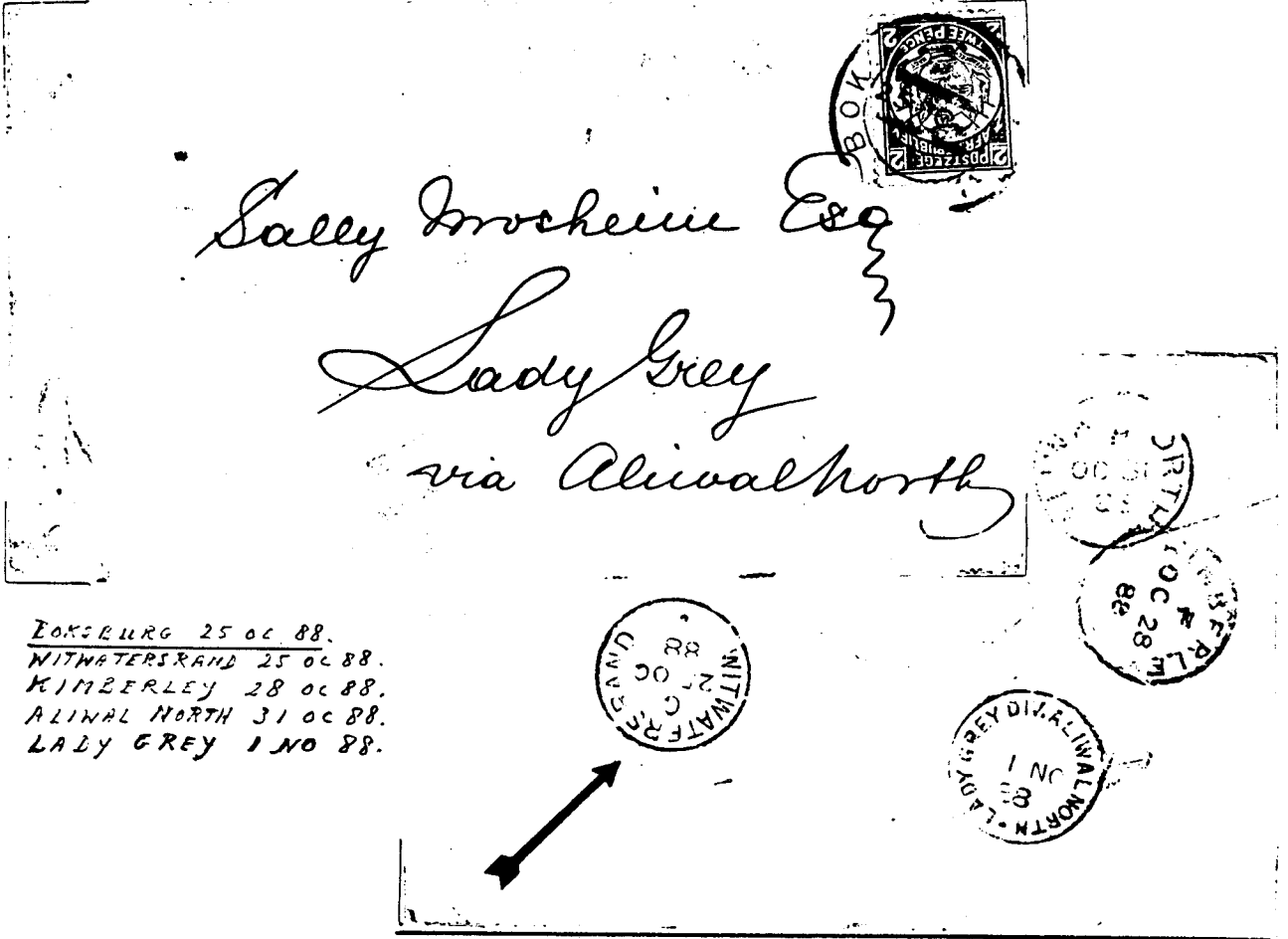


ILLUSTRATION 2

ILLUSTRATION 3

JOHANNESBURG - 1888.

LETTER FROM BOKSBURG 25 OC 1888 TO LADY GREY POSTMARKED IN TRANSIT WITH WITWATERSRAND SINGLE CIRCLE DATE STAMP OF 25 OC 88.



BOKSBURG 25 OC 88.
 WITWATERSRAND 25 OC 88.
 KIMBERLEY 28 OC 88.
 ALIWAL NORTH 31 OC 88.
 LADY GREY 1 NO 88.

THE JOHANNESBURG POST OFFICE IN OCTOBER, 1888.



The Free Slate: The Sixth Postage Setting

By

Tim Bartshe

Beginning on March 17, 1900, the British occupying forces set about overprinting the captured Republic issues to suit their own needs. Over a period of some 2 1/2 months all known stocks of the Orange Free State stamps had been overprinted V.R.I. (Victoria Regina Imperatrix). The postage settings alone numbered five and each has its own characteristic varieties agreed upon for the last twenty years. These stocks, along with the other provisionals printed on Cape Stamps, were used prior to the issuance of the definitive KEVII set.

For over sixty years there has been known to exist stamps which contained a thick "V" with level stops on the 2 1/2d on 3d provisional of 1892. As the thick "V" was not used in the First or Second Settings, the only settings which contained level stops, these items were branded forgeries. Subsequently, facts have come to light which have led the experts to accept the legitimacy of these items.

Based upon information discussed in the OFSSC Volume II, it is surmised that late in June, 1900, a new stock of 2 1/2d stamps were brought in for overprinting. All printing had been finished and the forms were in the process of being broken up. As there was an acute shortage of 2 1/2d stamps at the time, owing to the overseas letter rate being 2 1/2d, Major O' Meara, who was in charge of the task of producing postage for the new military government, may have felt it was necessary to set up a new form to overprint these new stocks of the scarce face value.

The worn condition of the type is typical of that found in the Fifth Setting and the level stops are of different sizes. The RPS has **agreed to its authenticity and has certified** a number of examples. One such example is shown in Figure 1. This example is a marginal pair, numbers 43-44, from a left pane. Another example presently being offered by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., in London, is the pair, numbers 29-30, from the Buckley collection. It has been stated that at least three panes were overprinted with approximately twenty-five examples reported.

The 6d carmine is also known to exist from the "Sixth Setting", but most have been labeled obvious forgeries due to the condition of the type used. I have in my collection two examples of the 6d carmine possibly attributable to this setting. One, Figure 2, is a pair used on piece, possibly numbers 43-44, with a clear P. O. BLOEMFONTEIN-O.R.C.-double circle dated 9-MAR-02. The second item, Figure 3, is a single with normal "V" and level stops but with the characteristic worn letters.

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It also is used with a partial Bloemfontein single circle strike; the date showing only SEP. The authenticity of these examples is in question, but certainly look similar to the 2 1/2d example. The OFSSC states that if the 6d carmine was printed with level stops and thick "V", it can only have been done with clandestine intent as the need for additional 6d stamps was nonexistent, being awash with hundreds of sheets of the 6d blue. Possibly a few panes or blocks were brought in at the same time the printing of the 2 1/2d was occurring and they were overprinted by favor.

It will be interesting to see if anyone else has any examples of either the 2 1/2d or the 6d from the Sixth Setting and how they might compare with these shown here. -----

The Boer War POW Camp At St. Helena

By

Ralph M. Myerson

The Battle of Paardeberg, which lasted for nine days in late February and early March, 1900, marked the first major British victory in the Boer War. With the strong support of the Canadian regiment, the British forced the surrender of General Cronje and his troops, including 2592 Transvaalers, 1327 "Free Staters" and approximately 300 others. The victory opened the way for the British occupation of Orange Free State. It also resulted in an emergent need to find secure locations for the confinement of over 4000 prisoners of war. St. Helena, the island British colony in the South Atlantic, was the first site to be chosen. (Subsequently, other camps were established in Cape of Good Hope, India, Ceylon and Bermuda.)

The British lost little time in arranging the transfer of the Boer POW's to St. Helena, On April 14, 1900, only six weeks after General Cronje's surrender, the first group of prisoners disembarked from the troopship "Milwaukee". The group included General Cronje and his wife.

The governor of the island, Robert A. Sterndale, had issued a proclamation advising the inhabitants of the island of the forthcoming arrival of the POW's and expressing his hope that they would "treat the Prisoners with that courtesy and consideration which should be extended to all men who have fought bravely..." (see NOTICE)

The first arrivals were sent to Deadwood Camp on the northern end of the island (upper arrow on map). Subsequently, Some " troublemakers" among this group were transferred to the Fort on High Knoll (middle arrow). A separate camp, known as Deadwood # 2 or "Peace Camp", was also set up for those prisoners who had expressed a desire to become British subjects. Broad Bottom Camp

Sixth Postage Setting

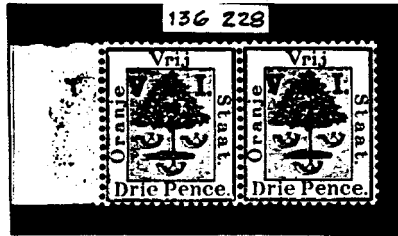


FIGURE 1.



FIGURE 2.



FIGURE 3.



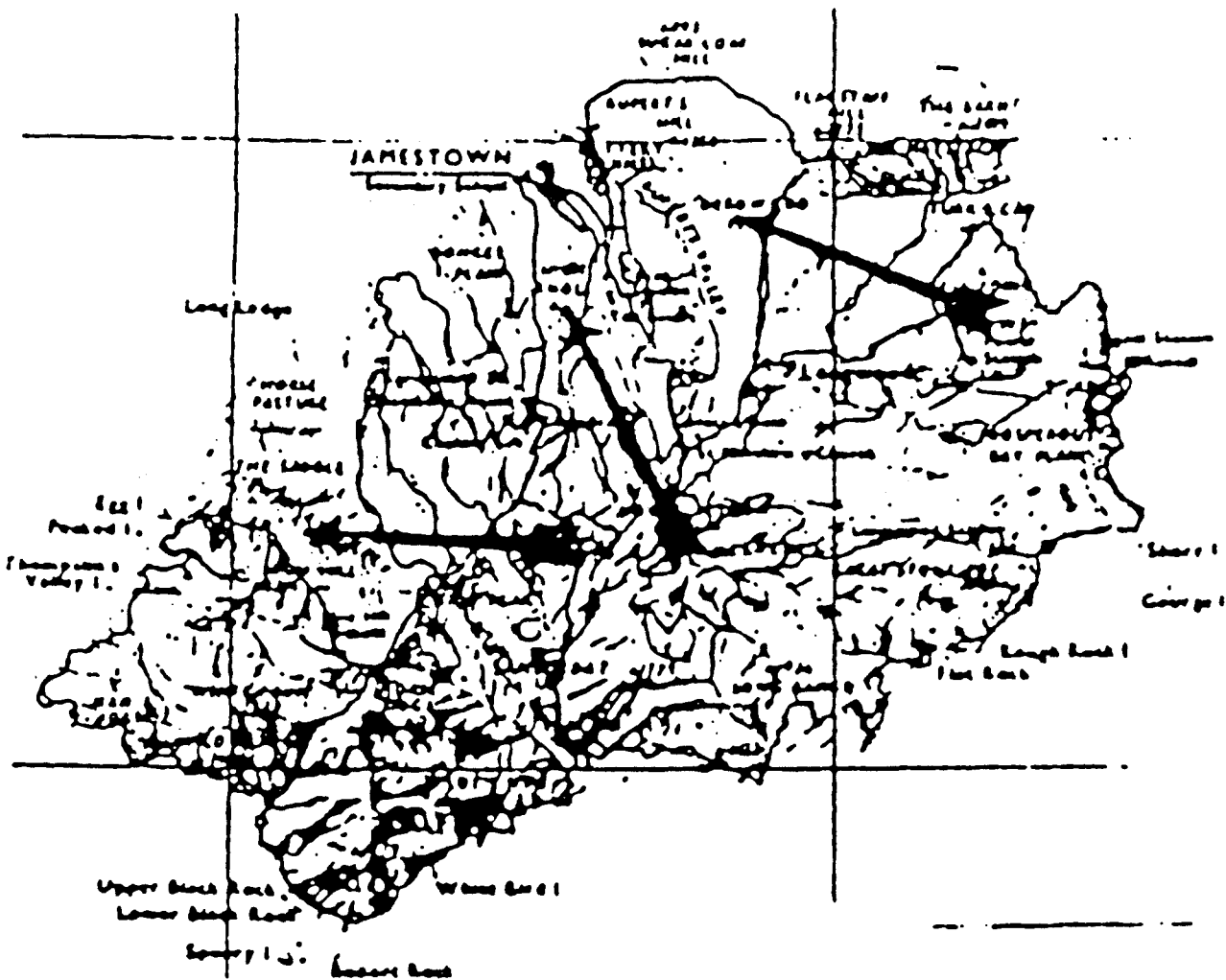
NOTICE

In a few days the transport
- Milwaukee - returned by R.M.A.
- Nider - will arrive with Prisoners
of War.

No unauthorized persons will be
allowed on the Wharf at the time
of disembarkation. The Police will
assist, as far as they can, the Military
acting under the orders of the
Officer Commanding the Troops in
keeping order.

His Excellency the Governor ex-
presses the hope that the inhabitants
will treat the Prisoners with that
courtesy and consideration which
should be extended to all men who
have fought bravely in what they
considered the cause of their
Country, and will help in removing
any unwelcome demonstrations which
individuals might exhibit.

MURT. W. BAUCK
For Colonial Secretary.



Prisoners of War Camps, St. Helena

lower arrow on the map, was established in January, 1901, and was used chiefly for prisoners from Orange Free State.

The accommodations for the prisoners were stark and primitive. They lived in huts made of various materials and measuring about 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 6 feet deep. The ground was rocky with little grass and completely devoid of trees. The officers, including General Cronje and his wife, fared considerably better. Food was simple but adequate, providing the bare essentials. Adequate medical care was provided.

The POW's had surprisingly good facilities for outgoing and incoming mail, and the philately of the St. Helena POW camp provides a fascinating story. Some aspects of this will be described in a future *Forerunners* article. -----

Embossed Natal Reprints*

By
Patrick Hamilton

(*Article first appeared in *The South African Philatelist*, August, 1931 and was provided by our Director/Archives, as a bit of interesting "hanky-panky" in postal history.)

"I am able to place on record certain facts in relation to the illegal reprinting of the first issues of the stamps of Natal which I feel sure will be of interest to collectors of that colony. It is, I think, generally known that there are three types of reprints, one on paper coloured on the surface only and having a white back; one paper coloured all through, but being brighter in tint than the originals, and one on paper identical in colour with the original issue. It is with these last that I have to deal, for in mint condition it is impossible to distinguish these from genuine originals.

"in 1873, the clerk to the Stamp Commissioners of Natal at Pietermaritzburg was exploring a loft in his offices which was used as a store room when he discovered the presses which had been used by Mssrs. P. Davis & Sons in printing the 1857-8 issue, together with several sheets of rose, green and blue paper, being the surplus stock handed over to the authorities by the embossers when the Perkins, Bacon stamps came out from England.

• Having the place practically to himself, the clerk seized the opportunity and made several sheets of the old stamps with the surplus paper, which when completed were identical with the originals. To further give these the label of authenticity, he took them to the Postmaster at Pietermaritzburg and, having handed them in, immediately purchased them back at face value over the post office counter.

• Unfortunately for him, however, the fraud was discovered, and both he and the postmaster

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-----found themselves up before the Commissioners and were severely reprimanded, the postmaster however, mitigating his part of the transaction by pleading that as the stamps were supplied him by an accredited official of the Stamp Office--from which supplies normally came--he was not to know that anything untoward was afoot. It will be seen, therefore, that these stamps are absolutely undecipherable from genuine originals, and no doubt many are reposing in collections today.

• Another fraud in connection with the presses deposited by Davis & Sons with the Commissioners was practised by this same clerk. The 3d rose was comparatively common in Natal, having been the rate of postage from Durban to Pietermaritzburg, and could be obtained in fair quantities in used condition at about 10s each. He obtained a number of these and damped them, then carefully ironing out the embossing, put them under the press and re-embossed them as 1d rose, which at that time were changing hands at about 2 pounds.

"Some twenty years latter, the same clerk was still employed by the Stamp Commissioners and in the early part of 1895 the supply of 1/2d stamps ran out in Pietermaritzburg, the fresh supplies coming from England still at sea. He pointed out to the Commissioners that there were in the store room some 80 (?800--Editor) sheets of the Gd violet of 1864 (SG #24) which had been withdrawn and served no useful purpose, suggesting that these be surcharged as a temporary measure to relieve the situation. This suggestion was carried out, but the clerk, eager to make money, obtained from the printers the date when the surcharged stamps should be ready and delivered to the postmaster. This date was the 12th March, 1895. Accordingly, on the morning of this day he and a number of his friends presented themselves at the post office and bought the entire stock between them, thus making an effective corner.

• Pietermaritzburg once again found itself without any 1/2d stamps, and the Commissioners were compelled to surcharge the current 1d rose--of which there were adequate stocks to prevent a corner being attempted--which was placed on the market on the 18th of March, six days later.

• The clerk and his friends made a handsome profit on their speculation, but his earlier illegal dealings with the stamps of the Colony were remembered and he was summarily dismissed.

"This, therefore, explains the mystery of two provisional issues in a week, the true facts of which I do not think are genuinely known."

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BITS AND PIECES

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Member T. P. McDermott writes that there was a "philatelic gems" article in the May 20th issue of Linns-Scott #180, CGH, Baden Powell issue. T.P. also indicates that he attends all of the New York City ASDA shows and would like to hear from members who might also be attending them. T.P.'s phone # is 914-948-8484

T.P. also passes on the following to those interested: The *South African Stamp Colour Catalogue* (SACC), 1986, 11th Edition is available for R19.50 from Lutz Heffermann, P.O. Box 567 Johannesburg 2000 RSA. The catalogue consists of about 200 (5 x 8") pages in very nice color.

New member Roy Setterfield, Co-founder and Secretary of the Bechuanalands & Botswana Society, sent the Editor the following excerpt from the first issue of their newsletter-*Runner Post*:

"It Could Happen To You"

I called in at the stamp shop and having bought my hundred hinges or whatever, the dealer asked--"Would you be interested in a collection of Bechuanaland that I've been asked to sell? Catalogue 400 pounds, selling at 60?" "No thanks, can't afford it." "Well have a look anyway." So I did. It was routine BB/BP/Botswanaaland. But, on the first page, next to a GUBULAWAYO cancellation, a nice clear 678 BONC caught my eye, next to the -- oh, wait a minute...GUBULAWAYO AU 21 88 BECHUANALAND It can't be--must be a forgery--might be worth risking 60 pounds for, can't lose much on that, and IF its genuine...?

"So the next day I trundled back to the shop with cheque-book. Well, genuine it was, a Royal certificate in due course. Then I revamped the rest of the collection and re-sold it at auction for--62 pounds! And unlike the last AU 21 88 sold at, what was it?--2300 pounds, it is available for anyone to see. Or even to purchase!

"And what a remarkable coincidence, that in an ordinary collections, apparently mounted in 1937, and with nothing else of note, these two stamps should be mounted side-by-side. As though they had just come off the same cover! Though this of course could not have happened as BONC 678 handstamp did not arrive in Bulawayo until after the 21st.

"Everyone dreams of that lucky find they hope will come, and almost unbelievably, it can still happen. In fact, another example of GUBULAWAYO AU 21 88 BECHUANALAND is now being investigated." (Roy eventually sold the stamp he discovered earlier for 1,000 pounds.

Advertising space is available on a per issue basis. Dealer and non-member ads cost \$7.50 on a single issue basis or \$20.00 per year for three issues. The basic ad size is 2"x3 1/2". Large ads will be charged for in proportion to the basic ad size. **Non-commercial ads are free to members. The Editor reserves the right to modify any ad to correct spelling, etc.**

-Bill Wallace is seeking anything unusual related to Rhodesia. He also has applications available for anyone interested in joining the Rhodesian Study Circle. Bill can be contacted by writing him at P. O. Box 16381, San Francisco, CA 94116. -----

-Ralph Myerson has a fairly large amount of postal stationery from OFS, Transvaal and Natal that is available for exchange or sale He says "Incidentally, thanks to PUSASG, I was able to sell some of my other postal stationery from CGH and Bechuanaland to Group members." Those interested should contact Ralph by writing him -at 310 Maplewood Ave. Merion Station, PA 19066. -----

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HAPPY FIRST
ANNIVERSARY!!

