



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

*JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA*

*Affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa*

Volume XXVIII, Number 1, Whole No. 80

July-October 2014



Commemorative miniature sheet issued in 1982 by Lesotho for the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scout movement.

## **Highlights**

- Athlete Who Disappeared
- Namibia's Caprivi Strip
- Favorite Air Letter Cards
- Tell Me What Do You Collect?
- Auction Feedback
- Future of Forerunners
- Pretoria 2014 STAMPSHOW
- Modern Forgery
- More About the 1 d. Ship Error

## **Publications of the PSGSA**

### **Philately of the Orange Free State by R.W. Hisey & R.T. Bartshe**

#### **Vol. 3. THE REVENUES AND POSTAL STATIONERY**

2009. A history and study of the revenues, military and police franks and postal stationery of the Orange Free State and its occupation. New updated treatment of the subject.

In full color, hardbound, 205 pages.

#### **Vol. 2. THE TELEGRAPHS**

2004. A history and study of the telegraph system and stamps of the Orange Free State and its occupation. The first comprehensive work on this subject. Vermeil at Stampshow 2004.

HH Pirie Prize for best literature in South Africa.

In full color, hardbound, 250 pages.

#### **Vol. 1. THE POSTAGE STAMPS**

2002. Covering the postage stamps of the Orange Free State and its occupation. The most thorough and modern work on this subject available. Gold Medal at Stampshow 2002. Large

Vermeils at FIP Espana 2004 and South African National Show 2002.

In full color, hardbound, 280 pages.

A combined CD version of the Orange Free State volumes is in preparation.

#### **REJECTED-ACCEPTED:**

##### **LIFE OF A BOTSWANA STAMP DESIGNER**

by P. Lodoen

Price \$25 in color print, \$10 CD-ROM, postage paid.

Download free as pdf file from Society website.

#### **FORERUNNERS ON CD**

Edited by R. W. Hisey

Issues #1 to the present issue (CD-ROM). \$30 plus \$5 s/h.

#### **POSTAL OFFICE NAMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

##### **ACCORDING TO RALPH PUTZEL**

Spreadsheet (Excel) and Database (Access) Compilation of Office Names

Compiled by R.W. Hisey

CD-ROM \$15 pp.

#### **EARLY POSTAL SERVICES OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**

by R. Taylor

Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

All publications payable by US or UK check (latter made out to R. W. Hisey), cash,  
or Paypal to [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com). Mail to David McNamee, 15 Woodland Dr., Alamo CA 94507, USA.



# The Philatelic Society For Greater Southern Africa

Founded 1987

## OFFICERS

### Founder

Bill Brooks, 7903 Elm Ave., Apt. 117, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730;  
billpatti99@sbcglobal.net

### President

Alan J. Hanks FRPSC, 34 Seaton Dr., Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2K1, Canada;  
alan.hanks@sympatico.ca

### Secretary-Treasurer

David McNamee, P.O. Box 37, Alamo CA 94507;  
dmcnamee@aol.com, tel. 1-925-934-3847

### Directors

Bob Hisey (Treasurer Emeritus and Publications), 7203 St. John's Place,  
University Park, FL 34201; bobhisey@comcast.net

Timothy Bartshe (Library and Archives and Convention Coordinator),  
13955 West 30th, Golden, CO 80401; timbartshe@aol.com

Jan Stolk (European Representative), Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele,  
Belgium; jan.stolk@telenet.be

Hans Ulrich Bantz (Southern Africa Representative); P.O. Box 6913,  
Westgate 1724, South Africa; ulib@mweb.co.za

### Speciality Editors

Hans Ulrich Bantz (South West Africa and Namibia), see address above

Timothy Bartshe (Boer Republics), see address above

Alan Hanks (Rhodesians), see address above

Kendall Sanford (Aerophilately), 613 Championship Drive, Oxford,  
CT 06478; kaerophil@gmail.com

Jan Stolk (Taxed Mail and Postal Stationery), see address above

Peter Thy (Bechuanalands), see address below

### Web Page Editor

Clive Levinson, 186-8120 No 2rd, Suite 812, Richmond, BC, V7C 5J8,  
Canada; clivel@bundu.com

### Society Auction Manager

Moody Tidwell, 912 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235,  
rudolph912@gmail.com

### Journal Editor

Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112; thy@kronestamps.dk

<http://www.psgsa.org>

Support Our Advertisers - They Support Our Journal.



Zimbabwe issued in 2012 a set of six stamps on the Life of Ants and Termites. The 30c stamp shows the Leaf Cutter Ant. Printed by Natprint, Harare in sheets of 50.

### Front Illustration:

Commemorative miniature sheet issued in 1982 together with five stamps by Lesotho for the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scout movement. One stamp together with the sheet were also produced in a booklet.

\*\*\***FORERUNNERS**

ISSN 1076-2612

Vol. XXVIII, Number 1, Whole No. 80, July-October 2014

Official Journal of the *Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa*

Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JOBURG, 2010; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2010, Richmond; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2009; Silver at STAMPSHOW 2007, Portland; Large Silver at WASHINGTON 2006; Vermeils in 2005 at STAMPSHOW and C7NPLE, Toronto; Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2005; Silver-Bronze at LONDON 2000; Silvers at JOPEX 99, STAMPSHOW 99, and COLOPEX 99; Silver-Bronze at PACIFIC 97; Vermeil/Certificate of Merit at OKPEX 96; Large Silver at New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition 96; Silvers at SESCAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

© The Authors and the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa, unless otherwise stated. Permission to reprint material appearing in this journal is subject to permission by the author(s). It is expected that proper credit is given to the author(s) and the Forerunners and that the Editor has been notified. The quoting in part of any material should be properly attributed to the author(s) and the Forerunners.

## Table of Contents

<b>Editorial Notes</b> .....	2
<b>President's Corner</b> .....	3
<b>Feature Articles</b>	
The Athlete Who Disappeared by John Woolard .....	6
The Caprivi Strip: Namibia's Strange Appendage by Uli Bantz .....	11
My Favorite Air Letter Cards by Peter Thy .....	18
So Tell Me, And What Do You Collect? by Franco Frescura .....	22
<b>Items of Interest</b>	
Auction Feedback .....	4
The Future of Forerunners .....	5
1887 British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Map .....	17
Rhodesian Rail Map .....	21
South Africa's National Exhibition STAMPSHOW 2014 Held in Pretoria by Uli Bantz .....	23
<b>Forerunners Forum</b>	
Questions, Comments, and Answers .....	24
BONC 669 or 699 on Jamaican Stamp .....	24
Manually Overprinted Stellaland Revenue Stamp .....	24
1d Ship Printing Error .....	24
No Rule Exhibiting .....	25
Modern South African Forgery .....	25
<b>For the Record</b> .....	26
New Books .....	26
Exchange Journals Received .....	26
Highlights From Journals and Newspapers .....	27
<b>Market Place</b> .....	28



## Editorial Notes

This issue of Forerunners is slightly delayed because of my 2-3 month long travel to Denmark. It is however my intent to have the next issue finished and distributed on time: that's with a deadline of 15 February 2016 and a mailed-out during the early March. This promise is however contingent the availability of sufficient material in Forerunners inbox; currently, as usual, empty.

This issue contains several articles that should interest many of our readers. John Woollard details a result of his 'compulsive quest' for interesting postal stationery. He is trying to explore the history of a seemingly innocent postcard from South Africa to the UK. He finally lost his track and now asks for help. The article by Uli Bantz on the strange Caprivi Zipfel (or strip) belonging to Namibia deals with a subject rarely covered in details. The article originally appeared in the SWA Newsletter, but Bantz was easy to convince to redo it for Forerunners.

In the past we have occasionally published fiction. This time Franco Frescura reminds us of how bad things can get if we do not explain to our spouse what we are doing when we do our stamp-thing. The ending of the story is truly scary.

Our auction manager is preparing another society auction in 2015. Although the format of the auction is not yet detailed, he would like to get your surplus better items as soon as possible (see note below and the auction feedback section on page 4).

In the recent issues, we have discussed the future of Forerunners. The possibility of only distributing our journal in an electronic format has been discussed. We received an overwhelming negative response to that idea (see page 5) and have decided to continue printing and distributing Forerunners on paper. To also please those (admittedly few) members that prefer an electronic copy, we will email an easy web link allowing the journal to be downloaded as a pdf copy. We hoping that this arrangement will satisfy most of our members. Depending of our financial situation and the developments in printing and mailing costs, we may have to review this decision on a regular basis.

Peter Thy

### Society Auction

An auction is being planned for early 2015. If you have any items you want included that can be valued in excess of \$25, please send them to the Society Auction Manager, Moody Tidwell, 912 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235, rudolph912@gmail.com.

The deadline for the next issue will be February 15, 2015. Please let the Editor have your contributions - small or large - as soon as possible.

Changes of address or email should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer David McNamee at dmcnamee@aol.com.  
Contact David McNamee if you wish to reach another member.



## 2014-2015 Society Dues

### Only \$25 or \$30

It is that time again! Time to renew your membership in PSGSA. Welcome to another year of great fellowship and our outstanding journal in full color, *Forerunners!*

If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in US currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." Paypal payments must be sent to "dmcnamee@aol.com" plus US\$1 extra to cover fees.

For some, it might be more advantageous to send in dues for two or more years to avoid the annual conversion hassle.

Payment by mail to:

David McNamee

P.O. Box 37

Alamo, CA 94507, USA

## Society Affairs

The Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods July/October, November/February, and March/June. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). Membership fees are US\$25 for USA mailing addresses and US\$30 for all other addresses. Those that join before July 1st will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1st. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$6. A sample issue can be freely downloaded together with application form from [psgsa.thestampweb.com](http://psgsa.thestampweb.com). Advertising rates can be found in the Market Place section. Payment options are (1) check drawn on a US bank and made payable to PSGSA, (2) US \$ or £ Sterling bank notes at the current exchange rates and mailed at the sender's own risk, or (3) PayPal plus \$1 fee to the Society Treasurer at [dmcnamee@aol.com](mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com). All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Secretary.

### Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board or directly to one of the Editors. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a floppy disk or CD. MS Word files are preferred. Avoid complex tables, unless in text format. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in pdf, tiff, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editors if you have any questions and your submission requires special attention. Needless to say, good old fashioned typed or hand written manuscripts and photocopies can still be submitted and are most welcome.

## President's Corner

Greetings from Ontario! I am sure that you have all seen the notice on page 54 of the last issue (#79) regarding the "Annual Article of Distinction Archive" maintained by the American Philatelic Society and the fact that the PSGSA will be awarding this to the best article in future volumes of "Forerunners". To accomplish this, an Awards Committee consisting of myself, David McNamee and Peter Thy was formed to agree on the best article in each of our journals that we can submit to the A.P.S. Peter has designed a very attractive Distinction Award Certificate and the APS has a form available to enter the name of the winning article.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the winning article for Volume XXVII is "The Cape Post Office 1795-1910: A Final Report" by Franco Frescura in #79. This report included much data on the cancellations used, with tables tabulating the periods of use in various offices. The committee agreed that a runner-up should be mentioned for "1927-29 Pretoria Typographed 1d Ship Pictorial (Imperforate on three or four sides)" by Otto Peetoom and an honorable mention for "Cancelled Stellaland Stamps" by Hennie Taljaard (both in #77).

"The Rhodesian Philatelist" is a journal started in July 1993 with issue No. 1, edited by Otto Peetoom of Ormskirk Stamps and the most recent issue (No. 35, August 2014) was of particular interest to me, as it contained information on Rhodesian Waterlow Sample Stamps with the title "Expanding our Knowledge." Most stamp collectors are aware of the fact that many stamp printers produced samples and proofs as part of the process of printing postage stamps under contract to various governments or other agencies. These were by way of illustrating to the customer what a production copy of the required design would look like and the possibility of suggesting changes.

Proofs and samples of many Rhodesian stamps were produced by Waterlow, from the start of printing for the B.S.A.C. and on up through Southern Rhodesia and many examples of these were placed in sample books with an S.T. No. printed above each stamp and examples of many of these were illustrated in the journal referred to above. They certainly made my mouth water, even though I already have some examples in my own collection!

Until next time...

Alan J. Hanks

### Annual Article of Distinction Award

The best article in Forerunners will in the future receive the "Article of Distinction Award." The next award will be for the current volume ending with No. 82 and will be announced in No. 83.

All feature and column articles of more than two printed pages will be eligible. The competition will be judged by an *ad hoc* committee presided by the Society President. The judgement of the committee will be final.

The winning article will also be eligible to be posted on the American Philatelic Society's 'Articles of Distinction Archive' ([www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction](http://www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction)).

## New Members

Welcome to

Dr. Jurgen Schraten (Frankfurt, Germany)  
Transvaal (First British Occupation), Union Pictorials, BSAC,  
Bechuanaland, and South Africa generally

George Willetts (Locust Valley, NY)  
Southern Africa, generally

Robert Leigh (Champaign IL)  
Main interest is Union of South Africa

## TBVC Studiegroep/Study Group

The Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei Study Group has started a comprehensive study of the stamp issues of the South Africa Homelands. TBVC stands for. So far 27 summaries of the stamp issues have been distributed:

- No. T1: Summary; 1963 Transkei Legislative Assembly; 1976 independence series (8 pages).
- No. T2: 1976-84 First definitive series (12 pages).
- No. T3: 1977 Transkei Airways; 1977 medical plants; 1977 Radio Transkei (8 pages).
- No. T4: 1977 Help of the blind; 1978 pipes, weaving, and wild fruits (9 pages).
- No. T5: 1978 Cripples; 1979 initiation, water resources (8 pages).
- No. T6: 1979 Year of the child (4 pages).
- No. T7: 1980 Fishing flies; 1980 Rotary International; 1980 cycads (9 pages).
- No. T8: 1981 Medical plants (4 pages).
- No. T9: 1980 Birds (4 pages).
- No. B1: Summary, 1977 independence issue (8 pages).
- No. B2: 1977 First definitive series (12 pages).
- No. B3: 1978 World hypertension month; Taung stone works; Wright brothers (8 pages).
- No. B4: 1978-9 First year independence; boxing; road safety (8 pages).
- No. B5: 1979 Sorghum beer, platinum, and agriculture (8 pages).
- No. B6: 1979 Year of the child (4 pages).
- No. B7: 1980 Anti-smoking; 1980 Mafeking (4 pages).
- No. B8: 1980 Birds (4 pages).
- No. B9: 1980 Edible wild fruits; World title fight; Tourism & Sun City (8 pages).
- No. B10: 1981 Year disabled (4 pages).
- No. V1: Summary; 1979 independence (4 pages).
- No. V2: 1979 First definitive series (7 pages).
- No. V3: 1980 Wood carvings; 1981 tea and sunbirds (8 pages).
- No. V4: 1981 Orchids; 1980 bananas (8 pages).
- No. V5: 1981 Sunbirds; Lakes Waterfalls (4 pages).
- No. C1: Summary; 1981 Independence (8 pages).
- No. C2: 1981-1991 definitive Birds (18 pages).
- No. C3: 1982 Cecilia Makiwane (4 pages).

Each stamp description gives a detailed summary of the philatelic knowledge as well as the special cancellations and covers. If your interest is the homelands, this is definitely something that you will want to see and a project you must get involved in. The group invites comments and input to the project. Contact Connie Liebenberg at [jacoli@mweb.co.za](mailto:jacoli@mweb.co.za) to get on the mailing list for the TBVC annexes and to offer your help. Visit <http://tbvcstudygroup.co.za/>.



## PSGSA Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 August 2014

INCOME STATEMENT	
Ordinary Income	
Donations	60.00
Forerunners Ads	200.00
Membership Dues	1,875.00
Total Ordinary Income	2,135.00
Expenses	
Bank Service Charges	7.24
Contributions to APS	50.00
Forerunners Publishing	979.69
Office Supplies	56.95
Postage	790.96
Total Ordinary Expense	1,884.84
Net Ordinary Income	250.16
Other Income	
Auction Sales	87.51
Books and CD Sales	80.00
Total Other Income	167.51
Net Income	417.67
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
Cash & Certificates	10,529.38
Total Assets	10,529.38
Liabilities and Equity	
Life Member Fund	2,400.00
Retained Earnings	7,711.71
Net Income	417.67
Total Liabilities & Equity	10,529.38

### Mark Your Calendar

Several important stampshows and exhibitions are fast approaching. It is now time for making a decision about to attend and to mark your calendar.

**AmeriStamp Expo 2015** in Riverside California, Feb. 13-15. APS's second largest show held every winter usually in January/February.

**LONDON 2015** on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the first postage stamps is an international exhibition in London 13-16 May 2015. Go to <http://www.london2015.net/welcome-to-london-2015/> for the details. The deadline for exhibiting has now been exceeded.

**Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2015** (May 15-17) is being planned to feature southern Africa with participations of nation-

al and international specialist societies. Updates when available will be posted on <http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com/> as well as in Forerunners.

**World Stamp Show NY 2016** is an international show to be staged in New York from May 28 to June 4, 2016. Go to <http://www.ny2016.org/> for all the details. The deadline for exhibiting has been exceeded.



### Auction Feedback

**Bas Payne** writes to offer feedback on the recent auction. He writes: From the buyer's point of view, it was great - the list was well-organised and included some interesting things. I was very happy with what I bought; there was one problem (the inverted watermark that wasn't), but accidents happen and it was dealt with quickly and well. My only suggestion for improvement is that it would help to include scans of more lots - in particular used stamps: I very rarely buy used stamps without having seen them.

The high proportion of unsold lots was probably disappointing to sellers. I don't think it can be because the estimates were too high - they seemed generally modest; or because the stamps were unwanted. So I'd guess it was because you aren't getting to enough buyers. My experience in running another postal auction (not stamps - but books about shells) is that it's important to become a regular event (the auction I run is annual, with the closing date always on 28 February so that people coming to the AGM can save postage by collecting their books at the meeting). It's also important to put the news around as widely as possible by announcements in other society journals, at meetings and by e-mails to members telling them about the auction and then reminding them about a week before the deadline. It would also probably help to bring the lots to a meeting for inspection - I'd guess that there would have been more bidders if Peter had brought the more portable lots to Leamington Spa. The auction I run has been going for four years; we now sell 30-50% of lots by number, and 50-70% by value (on estimate basis).

I don't agree with the comment that a paper catalogue is desirable. Most people now have web access and are comfortable with it, and non-webbers are disappearing; the prime advantages of a web catalogue are that it keeps costs right down, means that it's not prohibitive to include lots of illustrations, and that it's searchable.

I hope that you will consider selling unsold lots at a set reduced price - I do this in the auction I run, and we sell something like half the unsold lots that way. If you do, please let me know - I'm sure there are other lots that I would be interested in. I hope this is helpful.

## The Future of Forerunners

The last three issues have been distributed to all members as an email attachment to test an alternative way of publishing and distributing Forerunners. We have received quite a few comments concerning an electronic distribution and the discontinuation of the print version of Forerunners. The conclusion after this survey is that we will continue to print Forerunners and distribute it to members as long as financial possible. At the same time you will receive an email containing a link to an electronic version that can be downloaded for your own usage. Below is some of the received comment.

**Howard West** writes: The pdf version is good. It does save tremendous costs and work to get the journal out. My preference is for a paper copy in that I can read and peruse it at my leisure and do not have to be at my desk by the computer. There are benefits to storage space with the pdf, hoping no computer crash kills the hard drive. I have several thousand journals and other philatelic relate material that I have downloaded. So the crash worries me, but I try to copy onto another hard drive regularly. I can do either, but I do spend more time on the paper copy. That is my take on the pdf vs. paper issue.

**Bas Payne** writes: Many thanks for FR78, and congratulations again. I hope my comments on FR77 were taken as constructive comments, which is what was intended, rather than as criticism. In the same spirit, I'm delighted to see that the tables in FR78 are searchable. But the quality of illustrations is still rather variable - some pixellate much too quickly - to the extent, for instance, that the print on the left of the Mandela stamp on the front cover isn't legible. If illustrations are taken from web sources and can't be got any better way, this may be unavoidable; but if the material involved isn't difficult to find, authors should be expected to provide illustrations of reasonable quality. As regards scaling, if this is important, the safest way to deal with it is by including two scales in the relevant illustrations, one across the direction of scan and the other along the direction of scan.

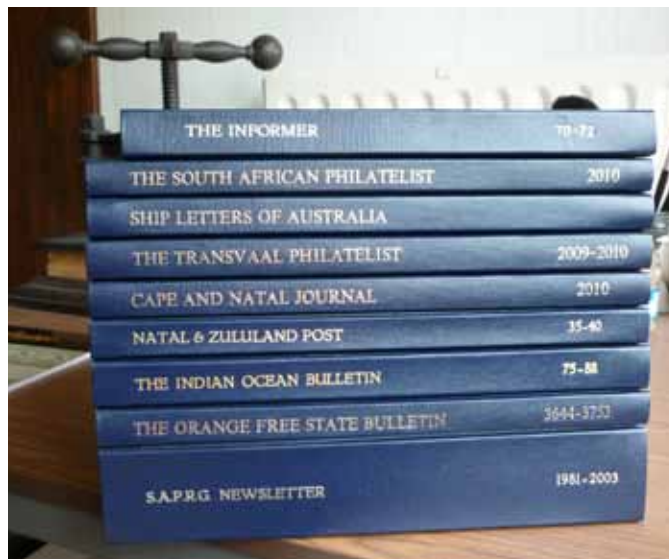
**Bram Leeftang** writes: Yesterday I received the electronic version of 'Forerunners' and today the printed version. I read your 'Editorial Notes' and I will respond to your request for letting you know which version I would prefer. I prefer the printed version. The following are my arguments for choosing the printed version: I bind all of the various journals into volumes for reference purposes. It is quite a job to print-out the electronic version into DOUBLE SIDED A4 sheets with my desk-top Canon printer. For binding purposes double sided printed pages is much to prefer as it reduces the volume by 50 %.

The printed Forerunner journals come folded into 4 pages and when the staples are removed the journals are easily bound into a single volume. To bind printed loose A4 size sheets (single or double sided) it's much more complicated. However, I am capable of doing that, with a special technique. The result is almost as good, but the flatness of the book when opened is not as good as with A3 folded sheets.

I appreciate that an electronic version has a number of advantages such as a 'search' function. An electronic index (updated/renewed each year) would work well when you wish to

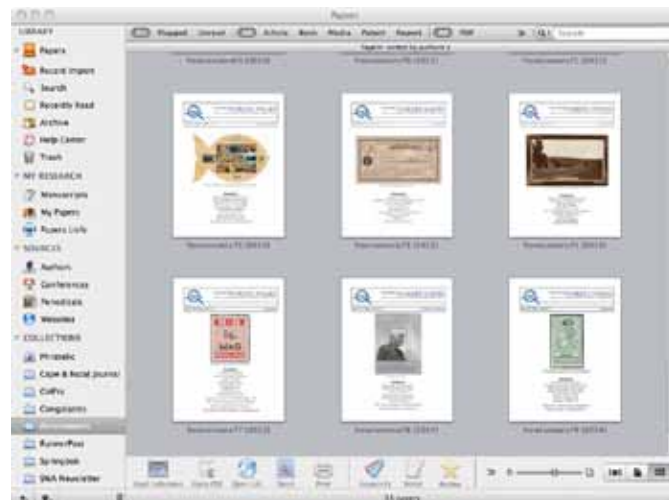
keep a printed version in your library.

Attached please find photos of some of my bound volumes. With reference to the flatness, I mail a photo of the OFS journal (A3 sized sheets).



To balance the discussion, the Editor shows how he organizes his electronic copies of Forerunners and other philatelic journals using an inexpensive software program called 'Papers' that organizes the journals and provides an easy search mechanism.

Thanks to all that took the time to comment.



# The Athlete Who Disappeared

by John Woollard



Figure 1. Message side of postcard

In a compulsive quest for interesting postal stationery, I acquired the picture postcard reproduced (Figures 1 and 2), with a nice coloured photograph of Eckstein's Building, Johannesburg, and a slew of postmarks on the back, including three from the Paddington office. Exploring this has kept me busy for a surprising number of hours, taught me some interesting history, and unearthed a small mystery which I hope some reader may be able to help me solve.

First the bald facts. The card underwent quite some travels, being sent from Johannesburg on 16th May 1909 to a Vincent Duncker Esq., c/o R. Walker Esq., 4 London Wall Bldgs, London, E.C., England. I am cautiously suggesting that this was when the first Paddington cancel was applied: "Paddington-W — 95 — / 6. pm/ JU 5/ 09", although I freely admit that I would have expected that a different office would have first received the card on arrival in London. Be that as it may, it translates into a mere three weeks for the journey: not too bad, don't you think? However, evidently neither gentleman was at the address specified, so the card was forwarded to 22 Delamere Crescent, Paddington, W. This perhaps was when the second Paddington cancellation was applied, "Paddington-W /12.15 am/ JU 7/ 09".

However, it seems that both men had by then moved again, but this time without leaving any forwarding address, because on the card there is the annotation in deep purple pencil "neither names known 2nd address" with illegible initials. So the card

went back into the system when it received, I suppose, the third Paddington cancellation: "Paddington-W 58/ 12.30 pm/ JU 8/ 09". Then it was handily started on its way back to South Africa, receiving first a frank "Returned Letter Office- London/ B/ JU 9/ 09". The journey back to the Transvaal took about six weeks, judging from the cancellation reading "Returned Letter Office ■ Johannesburg/ 22 JUL A 09". Since the sender gave his return address as "c/o B & D, Box 4402, Joh'burg", he presumably picked it up later that month. I have yet to unearth the full name of the company 'B & D'.

The principal message was scrawled almost illegibly and in two parts:

*"May you retain your honours*

*Good luck*

*M. Slegmann (?? or Stegmann or ??)"*

Then possibly in a different hand: "Dear Vin. don't forget the post cards you promised. I shall be glad to receive a few ask Reggie if he will be good enough to send me a few" [followed by an illegible initial]. At the top, but almost totally obliterated by the postmarks, something else was written, beginning "S. A. ...".

Evidently the few words of encouragement never reached the recipient; and one wonders if the promise to send postcards was forgotten too.

But that sorry situation got me wondering: who were these two gentlemen who disappeared from London, as in a Sherlock

Holmes tale? And what was going on that someone needed to ‘retain their honours’? So the hunt was started. I reckoned that the name ‘Vincent Duncker’ was unusual enough to track down fairly easily, and was thrilled to get a surprising answer from the internet. It turned out that at the time Vincent Duncker was one of the world’s top athletes, a sprinter and a hurdler ... and all of a sudden I could then decipher the obliterated portion at the very top of the card: it read, I then realised, “*S. A. Hurdler*”!

Thus I learned that John Vincent (Vincenz) Andrew De Villiers Duncker<sup>1</sup> was born in Wepener, Orange Free State, on 9th November 1884. He was the younger son of a German, C. F Düncker, who had emigrated to the South Africa in 1880 where he had married an Afrikaner lady (presumably from a De Villiers family), who also bore him another son, Edgar, and a daughter (name unknown). After ten years of residence in Africa, Duncker senior lost his German citizenship. During the Boer War, the Dunckers were involved on the Boer side – indeed, son Edgar as an eighteen-year old joined Jan Smuts’ commando in the section under Deneys Reitz, and later served as a scout during which time he killed a number of the enemy. He was an enthusiastic combatant<sup>2</sup>, escaping capture thrice, and receiving various wounds. General Smuts must have appreciated his fervour, for he helped him avoid a murder charge for one of those deaths<sup>3</sup>. At the end of hostilities, the two boys were enrolled in St Andrews College, in Grahamstown, from July to December 1902: they must have found this an ‘interesting’ experience, being thrust into a community composed largely of former enemies! In fact during this time Edgar’s wounds still needed dressing daily<sup>4</sup>. In early 1903 the whole family returned to Germany, to Dresden, where they were all granted citizenship. Edgar intended joining the German army for a year, while Vincent studied Electrical Engineering at the Technical University of Mittweida as well as joining a couple of sports clubs. He was soon competing successfully in various events, and winning national championships for Germany. Thus in 1905, he won the 100 m sprint with a world record time of 10.8 sec<sup>5</sup>, as well as the 110 m hurdles; then in 1906/7 he won both the 100 m and 400 m races and again the 110 m hurdles. To add to that, he represented Germany in the First Intercalated Olympics of 1906, held in Athens 22nd April to 2nd May, where he won the bronze medal in the 110 m hurdles<sup>6</sup>.

In 1907, Vincent, Edgar, and their parents returned to South Africa, where Vincent began competing for that nation – although it seems he still was legally a German. In 1908, he won the championship in the British Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) 110 yards hurdles event (Figure 3)<sup>7</sup>, and was entered for the 1908 Olympics on the South African team, but a severe attack of rheumatism prevented his participation<sup>8</sup>. However, in 1909 he was competing again at the British AAA championships, and that is where this card comes in!

But before continuing that tale, let me return to the gentleman with whom Vincent was staying. I thought that tracking him down would be more difficult – after all, Walker is by no means an uncommon name. But guess what? There was another South African athlete called exactly Reginald or Reggie Walker.



Figure 2. Picture side of postcard

Reginald Edgar Walker<sup>9</sup> was born on 16th March 1889 in Durban, the son of Samuel Ogden Walker who had emigrated from Manchester. Reggie grew up in the Greyville and Stamford Hill areas of Durban, close to the (South African) Lords cricket grounds, and attended the Boys Model School where he was keen on athletics. Thus he would run from his home to sports practices at the track and in 1907, at the age of eighteen, he joined the Albion Harriers Club<sup>10</sup>. That year he entered the South African Championships in Durban, although he was still very much a novice: in fact he initially turned up in ordinary plimsolls, but was sent back and managed to borrow a pair of spiked shoes. Moreover, if it had not been for help from one of the officials, he would not even have competed, because he had not noticed changes published in the newspaper for the scheduled heat times. Despite this, on 2nd July he became the 1907 South African 100 m Champion, which brought him at once to public attention. He was in due course nominated to represent South Africa in the 100 m sprint at the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, but was not among the big favourites, being considered too young and inexperienced. In fact, he even had



Figure 3. 1908 British AAA 110 yards hurdles

trouble getting to England, as he lacked the necessary finances, until an Irish-born Natal sportswriter, Jim Wallace, who had seen him run in Durban, collected funds to support Walker's travel. Arriving three weeks in advance of the games, Reggie picked up valuable hints from American James Rector on how to start a sprint, and got other coaching help from well-known plumber-turned-coach Sam Wisdom (not Sam Mussabini as is sometimes reported<sup>11</sup>). In the qualifying heats, several of the famous athletes did not make it through to the final, but Reggie did. His first round was a relatively easy victory run in 11.0 seconds. In the second round, he edged out William W. May of the United States while tying the Olympic record of 10.8 seconds, which qualified him for the final, held on 22nd July. There his competition included James Rector of the United States, who had equaled the Olympic Record in both of the qualifier rounds. But in the final, Reggie beat Rector by about a foot and half, to take home the gold, leaving Rector with silver and a Canadian Robert (Bobby) Kerr with bronze. His unexpected success was hugely popular with the British public (Figure 4)<sup>12</sup> and he was even given an audience with HM Queen Alexandra. He stayed on in Britain for some months, entering a number of races, in one of which he ran the 100 yards in an astonishing 9.6 seconds – but the course was sloping downwards and the wind was behind him! He did not get back to South Africa until December.

Reggie Walker continued to exploit his athletic prowess, and became a professional in mid-1910. His professed reason for this was the feeling that he should make use of the 'wonderful speed' he possessed to assist him into some 'kind of business' before it was too late, reckoning that if he had not turned professional he would have retired from athletics altogether. However,

at a highly promoted event in South Africa in December 1910 he lagged, then stumbled and strained a groin muscle, which incapacitated him for months. After his recovery, he continued winning races and breaking records for the next few years, but despite various invitations to run in both the USA and Australia, he never set foot in either place.

In 1914 Reggie enlisted in the South African Infantry, and served in German South-West Africa [Namibia], before finally being shipped to Europe in 1917 to fight in the trenches. By then he was a Lance-Corporal, and while in England still found time to enter sprints, but without success. He also married a Maisie Minnie Hill in Woking where he had been training<sup>13</sup> .... maybe the huge casualty rate made marriage seem important, even if it was not likely to last long. As if to emphasize this, six days after the ceremony he was off to France, and once there, succumbed to 'trench foot', for which he was hospitalized then evacuated to England. Given the carnage of WWI, that probably saved his life. I have not found any record of what Reggie did immediately after the war nor what happened to Maisie, but in 1926 he married Sarah Anne Lynch (née Worsley) in the Salford Registry Office. Maybe Maisie had died or been divorced? At that time he was listed as a Shipping Clerk, whilst Sarah Anne was a widow whose first husband Ernest Lynch had perished in the trenches in 1917. Eventually Reggie took his family back to Durban where he coached South African athletes and was often spotted, smoking heavily, on the sidelines. After the death of Sarah Anne, he lived with his stepson William his wife Alma for a while, then moved to a one-room apartment in the Riviera Hotel in Durban. Following several years of ill health he died of tuberculosis in King George V Hospital in Durban on 5th



Figure 4. Photo of Walker being held aloft

November 1951, at the age of 62. As of 2012, Reggie Walker is still the youngest winner of the Olympic 100 metres, at an age of 19 years and 128 days.

So back to the undelivered postcard. In fact the South Africa Amateur Athletic Association and Cycling Association (SAAA & CA) had sponsored both Duncker and Walker on a tour of Europe in 1909, during which time they competed in what was effectively the 1909 British National Championships, the AAA Games held at Stamford Bridge in London. They left South Africa in late April on the 'Armadale Castle', and were in excellent spirits, for Reggie had done so well the previous year, and Vincent had achieved a world record of 57.2 seconds in the 440 yards hurdles in Johannesburg that March [although it is prior to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) ratification of world records]<sup>14</sup>. Once in England they were naturally lodging together, for, despite the sponsorship, their finances were probably still modest. In fact even for the Olympic Games prior to 1906 there was no "athletes' village", so competitors had to lodge in hotels and boarding houses, hence I doubt there were any better arrangements made for the AAA Games. It was presumably a matter of finding your own digs as best you could. One supposes that the first place was unsatisfactory, so they moved to Paddington, and then made another move without leaving a forwarding address. So it seems this card was from a good friend intent on encouraging Vincent prior to his competing in those games of 1909, and, reaching there in early June, it had arrived in good time for this too.

We can even extract a little of the flavour of the event from an article in the Otago Daily Times (New Zealand) from 15th July 1909<sup>15</sup>:

"The Olympic Champion, R. E. Walker, arrived at Southampton 22nd May, accompanied by Vincent Duncker, the AAA hurdle champion, and R. Lynch, of the Natal AAA. Interviewed by Sporting Life, Walker said 'I am back in Old England again to carry the South African colours to the front of the AAA championships .... Here Duncker joined in '...I, too, mean to show something. I never got fit last year. I want to get some practice at the meetings before the championships .... I am after the Hurdle Championship, and a championship record...' Duncker weighs 12st 8lb, as before, although one would hardly credit him with that in mufti".

In this article, both runners made quite a few other comments about training and the style of other athletes. Duncker was concerned about variation in the running of the hurdles, saying "... I am sure your system of owing spoils a hurdler.... If I cannot get 120 yards racing, I shall have to confine myself to training, for I do not intend to run 140 yards or thereabouts."

The competition took place in Stamford Bridge on Saturday 3rd July, with an outcome described by an article in the Wanganui Herald (New Zealand) of 18th August 1909 as follows<sup>16</sup>: "In the history of the AAA championships, there has never been such sweeping change of titles, for at Stamford Bridge on Saturday only E. R. Voigt, Noakes and Horgan retained their honours .... In the [110 m] hurdles, Duncker, the South African, was easily beaten, both A. H. Healey of Alnwick who is also a member of the Blackheath Harriers, and K. Powell, the Cantab, beating him."

Duncker was 3rd at 15.2 secs. So sadly, Vincent did not convincingly "retain his honours" in this event: maybe the errant words of encouragement would have been enough to have al-

tered the outcome? Perhaps the constant shifting of accommodation sapped his efforts? On the other hand, Reggie's ambition to show-case South Africa was satisfied, with a win in the 100 yards sprint at 10 seconds, ahead of Cartmell and Kerr.

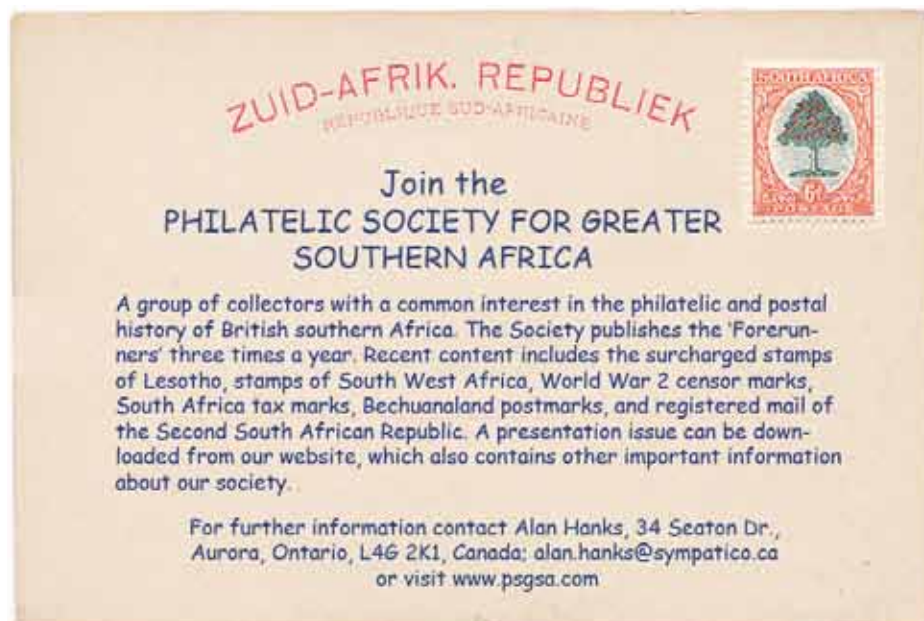
And this is where my little mystery begins, for I can find no record of Vincent participating in any event after that date, let alone winning any race. In fact, at this point he almost vanishes off stage: there is a letter of 1911 to the Mittweida University from his father saying that Vincent was working well as an electrical engineer in a gold mine, but not saying which one. And after that ....? It is not known if he fought in WWI, although he did marry a Johanna Grill at some unspecified time, but they divorced in 1919 without having had any children<sup>17</sup>. I can find no record of what his career was like, where exactly he worked, where he lived, nor even when he died ... although it is said that it was in South Africa. By 1910 he would have been over twenty-five, so maybe he felt that he was already at the top of his career, and that it would only go downhill from then on, but that seems rather pessimistic, and hardly a reason for vanishing. I have tried to winkle out a few more details from various Dunckers living in South Africa, but no-one seems to know anything, and so far, at any rate, none admit to being related to him.

So here is where you come in: if any reader can provide even a snippet of further information on Vincent Duncker I should be thrilled.

#### References

1. Klaus Amrhein, *Biographisches Handbuch zur Geschichte der deutschen Leichtathletik 1898-2013*, German Athletic Federation, Darmstadt, 2013.
2. <http://streamsandforests.wordpress.com/transvaal-citizen/> (Accessed 16 June 2014).
3. K. W. Hancock & J. van der Poel (editors), *Selections from the Smuts Papers*, Vol II, Cambridge University Press, 2007, p 31.
4. Personal information from Archivist at St Andrew's College: received July 2014.
5. <http://trackfield.brinkster.net/RecProgression.asp?RecCode=WR&EventCode=MA1&P=F> (accessed 2nd June 2014).
6. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sprint\\_hurdles\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sprint_hurdles_at_the_Olympics) (Accessed 2nd June 2014).
7. Photo of Duncker hurdling: <http://www.elatleta.com/foro/showthread.php?115970-Fotos-atletismo-cl%C3%A1sico/page311908>. "El sudafricano (con licencia alemana) Vincent Duncker ganó el título de la AAA inglesa batiendo a los británicos y a varios de los mejores americanos pero se lesionó y no pudo ir a los JJ.OO." (accessed 11th June 2014).
8. <http://archive.today/ZZ6Sh> (accessed 2nd June 2014).
9. [http://bygonesandbyways.blogspot.ca/2012\\_07\\_01\\_archive.html](http://bygonesandbyways.blogspot.ca/2012_07_01_archive.html) (accessed 2nd June 2014).
10. I have extracted much of the information on Reggie Walker from this source: Deborah Marie Pitchford, *Making the Transition: Empire, Amateurism and Reggie Walker, the 'Little Natalian' Sprinter*, MA thesis for Manchester Metropolitan University, 1913 Available on-line at: [http://www.e-space.mmu.ac.uk/e-space/bitstream/2173/314035/2/Pitchford\\_Final\\_Thesis\\_2014.pdf](http://www.e-space.mmu.ac.uk/e-space/bitstream/2173/314035/2/Pitchford_Final_Thesis_2014.pdf).
11. For example: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reggie\\_Walker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reggie_Walker) (accessed 18th June 2014).
12. Photo of Walker being held aloft: <http://www.anorak.co.uk/273477/keyposts/london-olympics-1908-in-photos-whenbritain-cheated-america.html/?pid=36702> (accessed 9th June 2014).
13. *The Rhodesia Herald*, "Sprinter Married in England", 12 October 1917, page 19.
14. <http://www.sports-reference.com/olympics/athletes/du/vincent-duncker-1.html> (accessed 12th June 2014).
15. <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=ODT19090715.2.84.3&e=-----10--1----0-->; page 10 (accessed 16th June 2014).
16. <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=WH19090818.2.98&e=-----10--1----0-->; page 7 (accessed 16th June 2014).
17. <https://sites.google.com/site/hirstkinsmanfamily/wilson-gjesdal> (accessed 15th August 2014).

The author can be reached by writing to  
john.woollard@concordia.ab.ca



# The Caprivi Strip: Namibia's Strange Appendage

by Uli Bantz



Fig. 1: SWA stamp SCOTT No. 557 issued in 1986

## INTRODUCTION

This article provides background information that was triggered by a question posted by a member. He enquired on the postal history within and around the Caprivi Strip, Namibia's strange appendage that forms a 450 km long and nowhere wider than 64 km corridor between Botswana to the south and Angola and Zambia to the north. (Fig. 1).

## HISTORIC EVENTS

On July 1, 1890 the Governments of Great Britain and Germany agreed to exchange certain territories, whereby Germany obtained the North Sea island of HELIGOLAND and Queen Victoria's interests in ZANZIBAR. In addition a piece of no-man's-land was allotted to Germany that became known as the Caprivi Zipfel (or Strip). The name stems from a derisive remark by Bismarck about this 'acquisition' by his successor, the then Chancellor of Germany, Graf Leo von Caprivi, 1831-1899.

The idea was to give Germany access to the Zambezi River, thus hoping to link German South West Africa (now Namibia) with German East Africa (now Tanzania). The up-to-then un-

determined true position of the Victoria Falls further East and down the Zambezi River frustrated this German dream. Few individuals in this part of Africa, especially the native population, were aware of the agreement. Ill-informed politicians in Europe created thus a wedge between the British Bechuanaland Protectorate and North Western Rhodesia, in those days controlled by the British South Africa Company (BSAC). Almost twenty years passed before the German Colonial Office in Berlin woke up and instructed the Governor in Windhoek, Bruno von Schuckmann, to send an occupation force to the Caprivi Zipfel.

## TERRITORY

The Caprivi falls within an extension of the Barotse or Zambezi Floodplain, one of Africa's great wetlands. This is a flat area, about 1000 m above sea level within the tropical climate zone with high rainfalls and sweltering heat during December to March. There are few inhabitants in this area but plenty of African wildlife (Fig. 2), including mosquitos (see below Lt. O'Sullivan's graphic description).

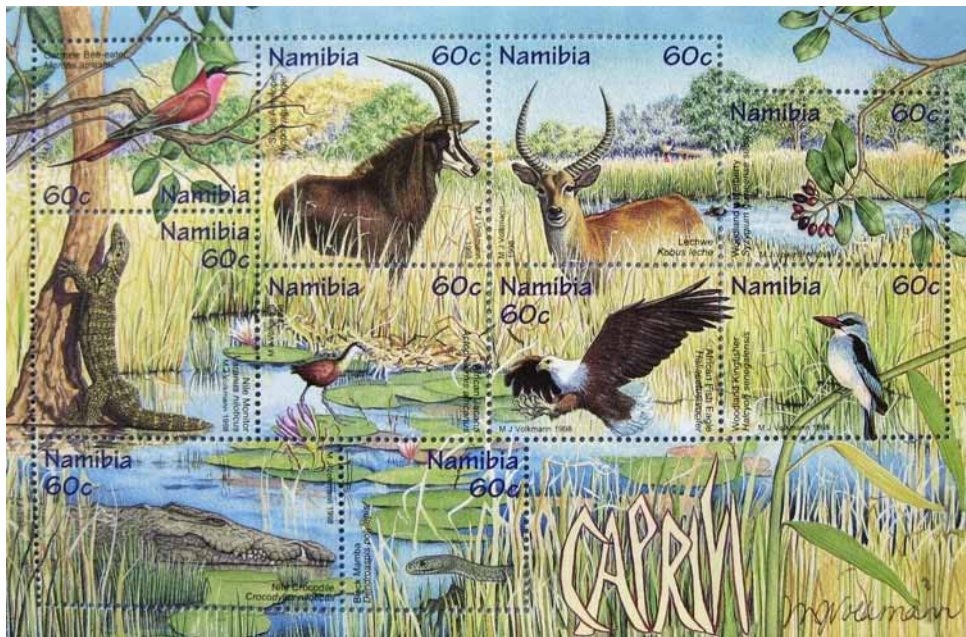


Fig. 2: Namibia SCOTT No. 917, issued 1998

The special cover (Fig. 3) issued on 1985-03-05 commemorates the “Opening of the Overland telephone line that connects Katima Mulilo, the capital of the Caprivi Strip, with Rundu and from there with the Rest of the World. This line stretches over a distance of 522 km (324 miles) and attests to the remoteness of the area.

#### OCCUPATION

During October 1908, Governor von Schuckmann ordered Captain Kurt Streitwolf – then the Chief of the Military District of Gobabis - to demonstrate German presence in the Caprivi Strip. He and three other soldiers of the Schutztruppe (colonial armed force) mounted their horses and travelled, accompanied by 14 Herero and one ox-wagon from Gobabis crossing the Kalahari to ‘occupy’ the Caprivi Strip.

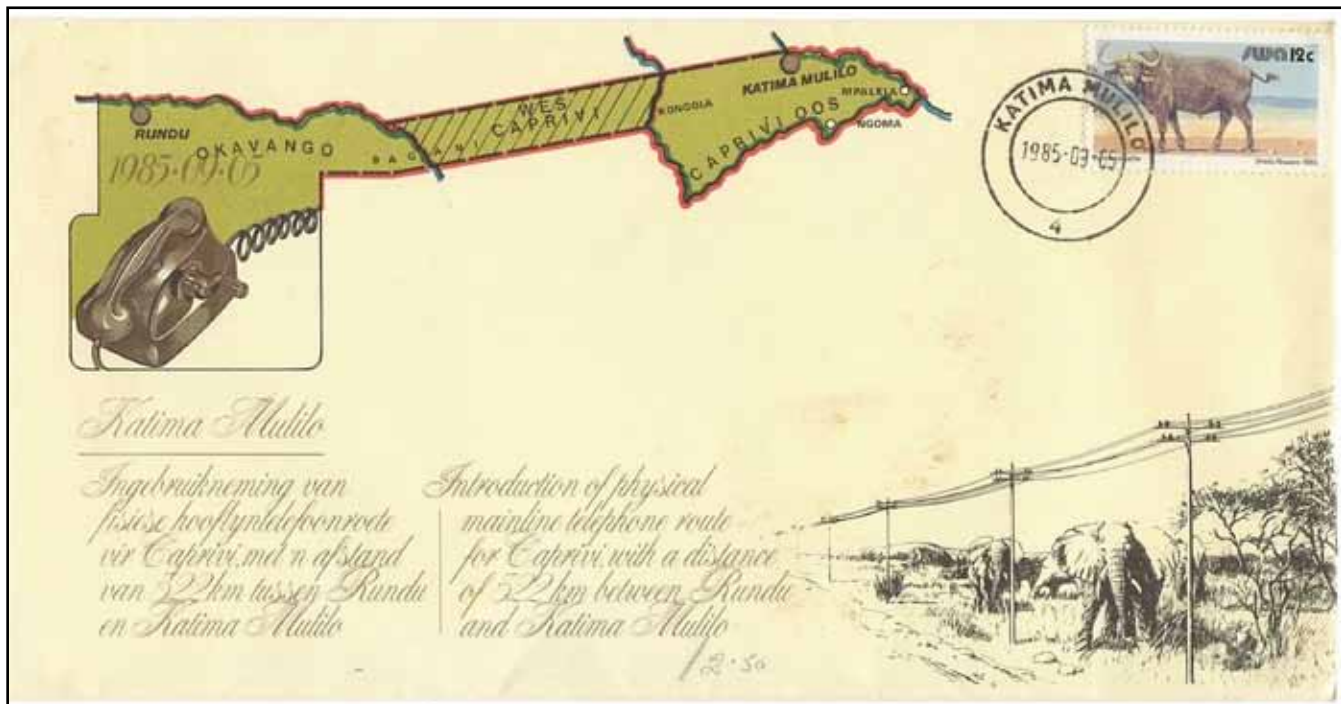


Fig. 3: The Event Cover issued on 1985-03-05

#### NORTHERN RHODESIA

In order that this subject may be more clearly understood we will first deal with **North West Rhodesia**, the old kingdom of Barotseland. About 1890 there were some ten whites in this territory, which was over 200,000 square miles in area. The first mail route north of Bulawayo was opened in 1897 to Livingstone and Kalomo. From these settlements a runner-service went north-west to Lealui (the first capital, sometimes spelt Mongualelui) with a branch track to Mankoya. A northerly service ran through Namwala, Mumbwa to Kasempa, where the road forked to the north-west to Mwinilunga and north to Solwezi. Prior to building of the railway north of the Zambesi River which was commenced in 1904, all mail was carried by runners.

Also in the late nineties, the Great North Road was opened up with a runner service and this travelled from Kalomo through Mazabuka, Lusaka and Broken Hill to Ndola. At Lusaka and at Broken Hill, there were branches which led to N.E. Rhodesia, the first via Petauke to Fort Jameson and the second via Mkushi to Serenje and Mpika (see N.E. Rhodesia).

All early covers are of great interest and one of the great charms of the postal history of Central Africa is the fact that one can study it on stamps which were current when people who are still living (and who often have lively memories of their early adventures in these parts) used them on their correspondence home.

Fig. 4: From page 140 of Robson Lowe (1949)

Now let us unfold our own story that started with an email that read: "As there were no postal facilities in the Caprivi area during the German time, mail was posted at Sesheke (Mwandi) and perhaps also collected from there. With Sesheke is meant 'Old'-Sesheke, opposite Schuckmannsburg." I noticed on South African documents the address "Katima Mulilo / P. Bag Sesheke". This Sesheke cannot be the 'Old'- Sesheke opposite Schuckmannsburg."

Research on the then and now of the localities mentioned in this email showed that there was once an 'Old' and there is now a 'New' Sesheke.

*Old Sesheke:* The first known European to visit Sesheke (Mwandi) was Livingstone. His diary entry for Nov. 19, 1853 mentions his stay at Sesheke. In 1878 Francois Coillard of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society visited Sesheke in August, but left suffering from fever. The next missionary visitor was Fred Arnot in 1882 who stayed in Sesheke till the first permanent European residents arrived at Sesheke on Aug. 9, 1884. On Sept. 11, 1885 the Sesheke Mission Station was established. In 1896 Rev Louis Jalla became Head of the Station, and remained there until 1923. He was a witness to all the events happening between Streitwolf's arrival and the end of the German activities. Auctions offer now and then mail from these French missionaries. (See internet under "Postal history of Victoria Falls".)

Today's Sesheke, or as it is now called, Mwandi is a traditional Mission Station comprising of a church, hospital and school. The station serves the local Lozi population of about 7000 souls. It lies about 120 km to the west of Zambian town Livingstone. (Internet reference: the blogspots by Ida and Keith Waddel at Mwandi are a worthwhile read).

*Schuckmannsburg,* is a village in the Caprivi Strip in north-eastern Namibia with a population of about 800 at present. It lies at the far eastern end of the Caprivi Strip, about 1 km south of the Zambezi River and about 65 km east of Katima Mulilo, which is today the region's administrative seat, a role taken over from Schuckmannsburg in 1935. The 'founder' of Schuckmannsburg, Captain Kurt Streitwolf, named the settlement after the Governor von Schuckmann on Feb. 7, 1909 when Imperial Germany took physically 'ownership' of this remote area. Schuckmannsburg's location was chosen because it was

directly opposite Mwandi (Sesheke) then a North Rhodesian settlement administered by the British South Africa Company and had some infrastructure such as a post office and a hospital. Robson Lowe (1949) (Fig. 4) describes on page 140 the state of affairs at the times of Captain Streitwolf. A mere handful of items, mainly BSAC postal stationery cards, survive that were posted by German Schuckmannsburg residents at Sesheke to Windhoek and elsewhere.

The Imperial Resident (Kaiserlicher Resident) Streitwolf went to work, put up buildings, mapped the area, and created an administrative structure based on the political systems of the local people. His successor in 1911, Victor von Frankenberg und Proschlitz, surrendered in late September 1914 Schuckmannsburg without a fight to a detachment of the British South Africa Police, supported by a unit of the Northern Rhodesia Police (NRP). Captain Eason became the new administrator on the UK's behalf. Lieutenant O'Sullivan of the NRP wrote "that the Caprivi had the largest, most vindictive, and venomous mosquitoes he had seen ... in the wet season it is a swamp and unhealthy; in the dry weather the heat is terrific, whilst the sand is deep and uncomfortable to walk in." German rule ended in Southwest Africa when the Schutztruppe surrendered to the invading South African forces on July 9, 1915. Germany lost its colonies after WW I by the Treaty of Versailles and South Africa was granted a Mandate over South West Africa in 1922.

South Africa tried to govern the region from Schuckmannsburg, but decided to abandon the place because of the annual heavy flooding of the area and shifted the administration to Pretoria. Schuckmannsburg finally lost its importance when on 28 January 1935, Katima Mulilo was made the administrative centre of the Caprivi Strip. There was no building material in Katima Mulilo. Not a single solid building, only a missionary school existed there at that time and the Barotse Flood Plain has no rocks that could be used for building purposes, only sand and clay. The buildings in Schuckmannsburg were taken apart and the 'German' bricks were reused for Katima Mulilo. Schuckmannsburg consists nowadays of native huts and shacks. The only unharmed relic of German colonial times is a little brick house built in 1909. On August 9, 2013 the Namibian Government renamed Schuckmannsburg to Luhonono after a

tree (*Terminalia sericea*) prominent in the area with the intent to eradicate German colonial memories and history.

*New Sesheke* lies in Zambia on the northern bank of the Zambezi River which here changes its course from north-east to more or less due east and forms from this point the Namibia–Zambia border. The Katima Mulilo bridge, completed in May 2004, spans the river and connects Sesheke with Katima Mulilo. The tarred road from Sesheke to Livingstone and Victoria Falls 200 km east was upgraded in 2004. The new bridge and the road were the last missing link in the so-called “Trans Caprivi Corridor”. This 2500 km long road connects the Zambian Copperbelt all the way with Namibia’s deep-water port Walvis Bay.

*Katima Mulilo* is the capital of Namibia’s Zambezi Region. It is sometimes shortened to just “Katima”. Rundu is the nearest town in Namibia, about 500 km away.

The administrative centre of the Caprivi Strip was moved from Schuckmannsburg (since 2013 Luhonono) to Katima Mulilo on January 28, 1935. This date is taken as the founding day

of Katima. Without any infrastructure and difficult lines of communication it was a challenge to administer the Caprivi Strip from Katima Mulilo. Hence, the South African administration decided after the trial period of four years to shift the regional office back to Pretoria. The opening of the Katima Mulilo Airport in 1965 made the town more accessible. Mail of the few residents was carried to and from Pretoria by air on a weekly basis.

As a result of the easier access, more white persons came and Katima Mulilo became a segregated town in 1965. Blacks were forced to live in the Ngweze Township and the central part of Katima Mulilo became the residential area for Whites only. The town had then only 575 inhabitants. Since the opening of the bridge across the Zambezi River, Katima Mulilo has become a Namibian boom town having now a population of 28000.

Reisner (1975, page 99; see Fig. 5) describes the situation between July 1, 1968, the opening day of the Katima Mulilo post office and June 5, 1978 when the administration of this office was finally taken over by South West Africa.

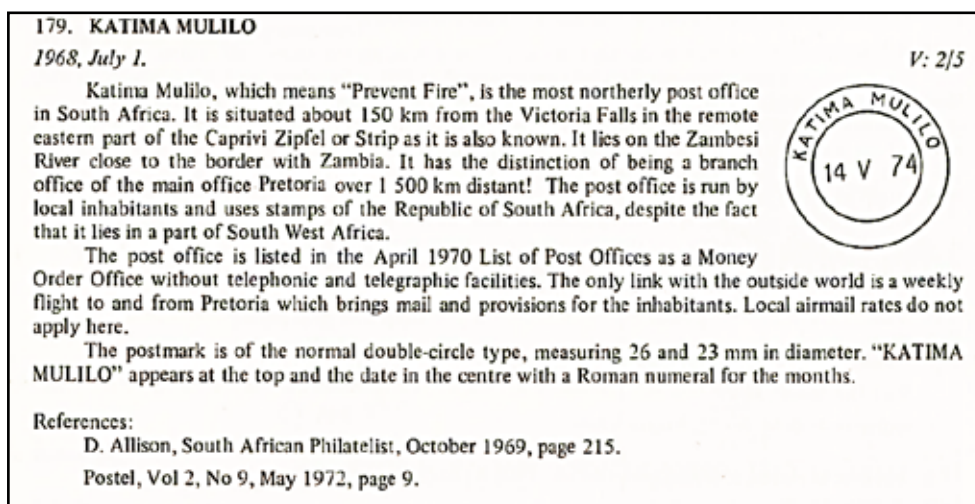


Fig. 5: Entry on page 99 of Reisner (1975)

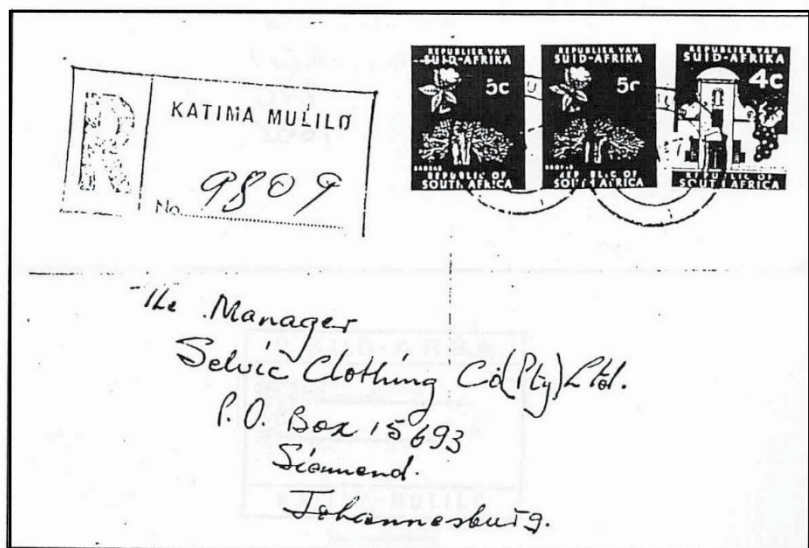


Fig. 6: Fig. 49 in van den Hurk (1980)

Fig. 6 shows a registered cover [Fig. 49 in van den Hurk (1980)] mailed on June 6, 1971. The South African stamps paid for the 4 cent inland letter rate and for the 10 cent registration fee. No surcharge for airmail was levied. South African stamps were replaced by South West African stamps when South West Africa was put in charge of the Katima post office.

From 1971 onwards, sleepy Katima Mulilo became an important military base during South Africa’s so-called “Border War”. ‘On Active Service’ and civilian mail was either flown to Pretoria during this now historic struggle that lasted from 1975 till 1988 or transported by road to Rundu or Grootfontein where it entered the normal postal channels. Two examples follow: Fig 7 (van den Hurk’s Fig. 50) shows that this cover to Johannesburg was flown to Pretoria. It was released at

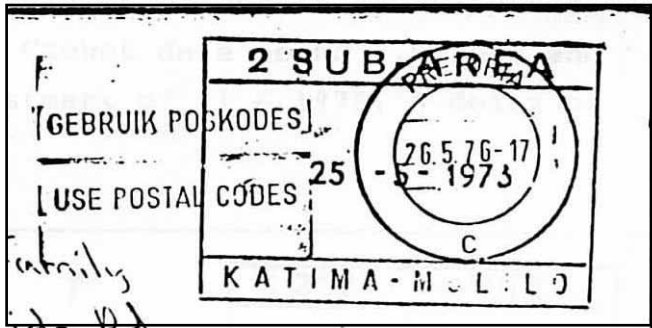


Fig. 7: Fig. 50 in van den Hurk (1980)

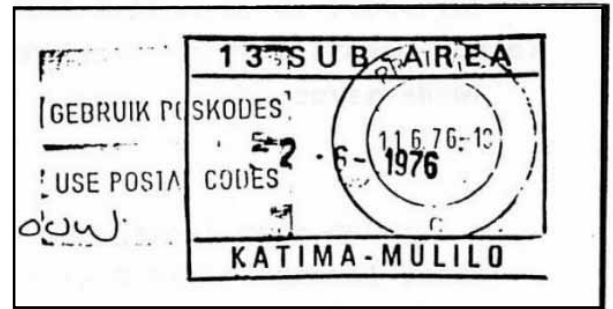


Fig. 8. Fig. 51a in van den Hurk' (1980)



Fig.9: Part of civilian cover Katima Mulilo 16 XI 78

Katima on 25-5-1976 and processed at Pretoria on 26-5-1976, one day later.

Fig. 8 (van den Hurk's Fig. 51a) shows part of a cover also addressed to Johannesburg that must have taken the overland route via Rundu or Grootfontein. It was posted at Katima on 2-6-1976 and received a Pretoria transit postmark on 11.6.1976, nine days later.

Each of the following covers from the author's collection has its own story to tell:

a) Fig. 9: A civilian cover Katima Mulilo 16 XI 78 posted three weeks after a SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) missile attack from Zambian soil, on Katima Mulilo on August 23, 1978, leaving 10 South African soldiers dead and ten wounded. The cover was franked (not shown) with a 5 cent SWA "Universal Suffrage stamp

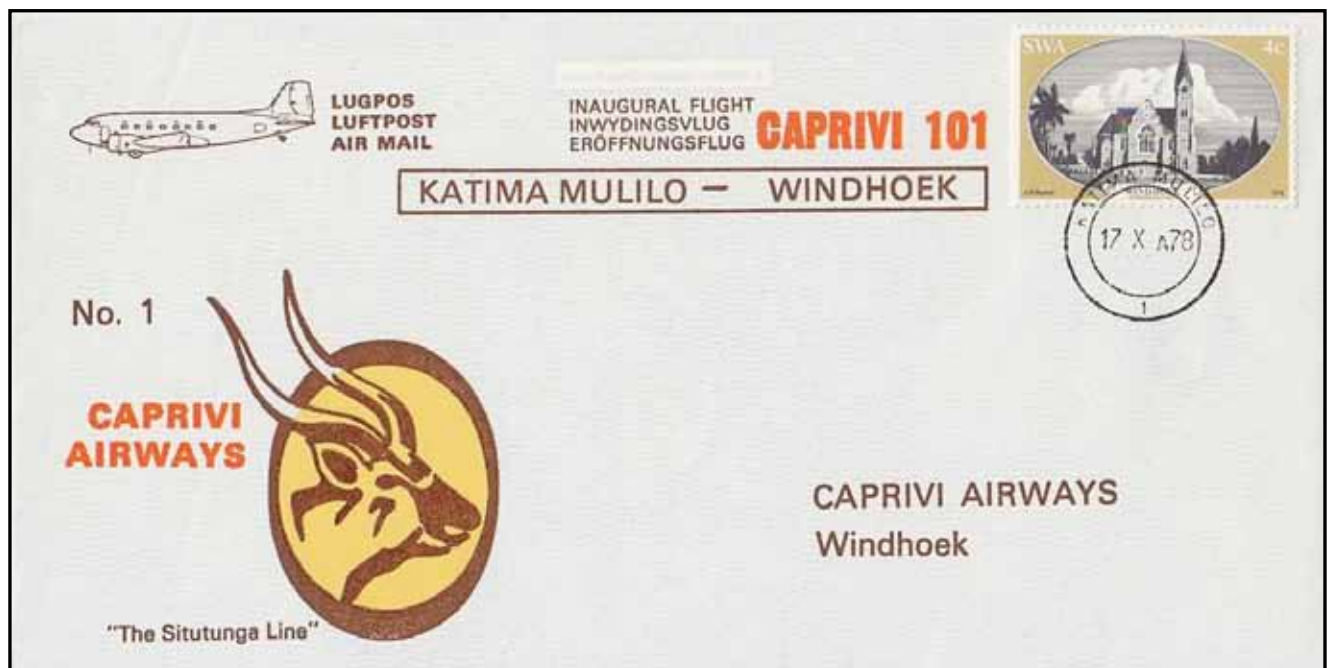


Fig.10: CAPRIVI AIRWAYS cover

(SCOTT 424a) promoting the first multi-racial 1978 Legislative Election held in South West Africa between 4 and 8 December 1978.

b) Fig. 10: This cover commemorates the first return flight of the short-lived CAPRIVI AIRWAYS air company from Katima Mulilo to Windhoek.

c) Fig. 11: A Silozi speaker sent this cover from Katima Mulilo (26 XI 81) to the 'Lozi Service' of the South African Broadcasting Corporation's head quarter in Johannesburg.

d) Fig. 12: Registered cover Ngweze 1989-09-04 to Marshalltown (a suburb of Johannesburg) 19 IX 1989, 10 days in transit. Ngweze is now a suburb of Katima Mulilo and was once the "Black" township of Katima

Mulilo. The Katima Mulilo Post Office in the previously 'White' area was downgraded to a branch office of the Ngweze Post Office after this office opened on January 20, 1987. The franking is correct: internal small letter rate 18 cent plus registration fee: R1.00.

This concludes the brief look into the history and postal history of this enigmatic region. The next article will deal with the native tribes of the area, Native Tax stamps and a document mentioned in the email quoted above.

Sources

Bruchmann R.D.K. (1997): Schuckmannsburg, Kuiseb-Verlag, Windhoek, ISBN 99916-703-7-8.

Fisch, M. (1999): The Caprivi Strip during the German colonial period, 1890 to 1914.

Reisner, H. O. (1975): The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets & Covers of South Africa – 1892-1975.

Van den Hurk, G. (1990): Border Mail – Postal History and Markings of the War in Angola and along the Namibian Border 1975-1976.

The article was first published in the South West Africa newsletter (whole no. 396, June 2014) and appears here with amendments. Uli. Bantz is the President of South West Africa Stamp Study Group. He can be reached by writing to ulib@mweb.co.za.

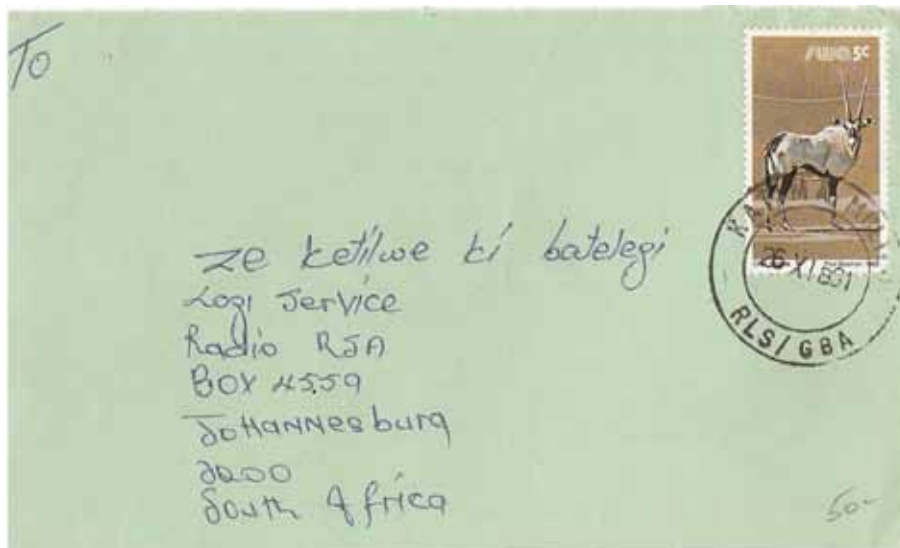


Fig. 11: Civilian cover Katima Mulilo 26 XI 81



Fig. 12: Registered cover Ngweze 1989-09-04 to Marshalltown 19 IX 1989



# My Favorite Air Letter Cards

by Peter Thy

These are some of my most favorite items of postal stationery. They are all in the form of South African active service or air mail letter cards with or without overprinting, but all used in the High Commission Territories to or from soldiers serving in World War II or shortly thereafter. Some are worn and dirty beyond description. But they are favored not only because they are extremely rare, but mostly because they also tell good stories.

South African Active Service and Air Mail Letter Cards were authorized from 1941 in Basutoland and Bechuanaland for transmission to members of the military units in East and North Africa (the African Pioneer Corps). Subsequently, they were also allowed to be used to the Middle East and Italy as the war developed. The cards were intended for correspondence principally to soldiers serving in the British African Pioneer Corps. However, these units were served only by British field post offices and were not issued these cards. It is interesting that the cards were not initially intended for use by soldiers serving in the High Commission Territories.

The first is an active service letter card used in Serowe (20 SEP 44) in Bechuanaland to a soldier serving in the African Pioneer Corps of the Central Mediterranean Forces. Received by British FPO 385 after about 25 transit days (15 OC 44). It is addressed to a pioneer of the 1981 Bechuana Company at that time serving in Italy. It contains a short business message signed by Tshekedi Khama, chief of the Ngwato.

The second is also an active service letter card, but now used from Bokong (12 JAN 45) in Basutoland to a soldier serving in the Middle East Forces. Basuto Coy 1949 was one of the last companies to arrive in the Middle East. When the card reached the soldier he was likely on guard duty around Beirut in Lebanon.

The preservation of these active letter sheets is generally poor. The reason is clear. They survived the war in a combat uniform pocket or backpack as treasured messages from loved ones and were often read. Despite being worn, soiled, and rodent and termite decimated, they survived repatriation and the return to village life. At a later point in history, they ended up in collector hands, probably after the death of the recipient.

The third sheet is an air mail card overprinted for use in Bechuanaland. It was in September 1947 written in Serowe by a repatriated sergeant, Molwa Sekgoma, to a friend that he had met during the war in Italy. He tells about life in Bechuanaland, being married, resistance against South African takeover of Bechuanaland, stamps he had collected, and other subjects that one would expect to be telling a good friend. Such contacts were unheard of before the war. The war and the experiences abroad was an important factor in changing colonial life and shaping the future. Everything that the colonial administrations had feared the most had become reality.

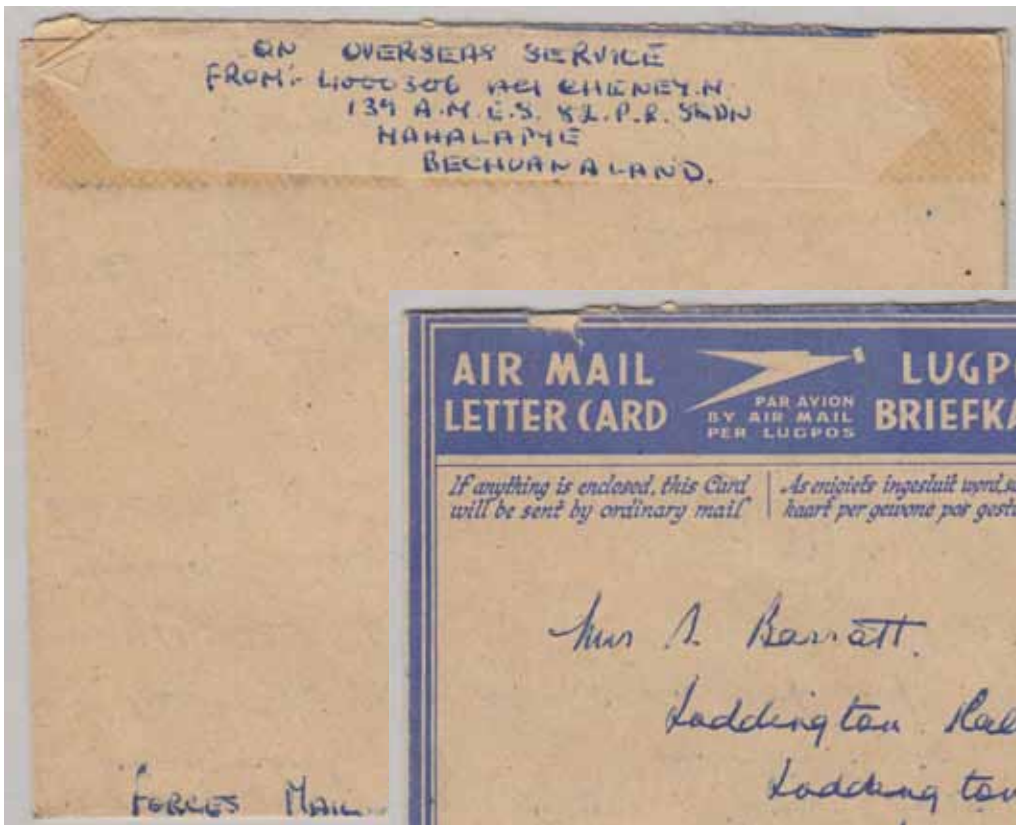
The final sheet is also an airmail letter overprinted for use in Bechuanaland. It was used in Mahalapye on August 13, 1948,





over three years after the war ended, by a British soldier to a Mrs. A. Barratt, Loddington Hall, Loddington, near Kettering, Northamps, England. The sender gives his return address as 4000306 ACI Cheney, M., 139 A.M.E.S. 83 P.R. SQDN, c/o

Post Office Mahalapye, Bechuanaland. In addition the sheet is endorsed on the reverse by 'On Overseas Service' and 'Forces Mail by Air (the latter only partially seen on the illustration).'



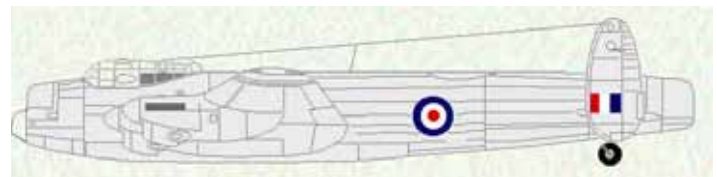
The abbreviations are A.M.E.S. for Air Ministry Experimental Station and P.R. SQDN for Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron.



No. 82 Squadron was a Royal Air Force squadron that was last disbanded in 1963. It served at times as a bomber unit, a reconnaissance unit, and as an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile unit. On 1st October 1946, the squadron was reformed to undertake aerial surveys of Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia. The squadron moved to Kenya in October 1947. Thus in 1948, the squadron was stationed in Kenya doing aerial surveys (aerial photos and mapping). The writer belonging to this unit writes: "As you can see by my address I have moved once again. Came down yesterday by ... from .... It was a pleasant journey, and although I didn't see the falls, I at least had a look at the Zambesi. We are living under canvas here, and quite comfortable. They are big marquees, and there are few of

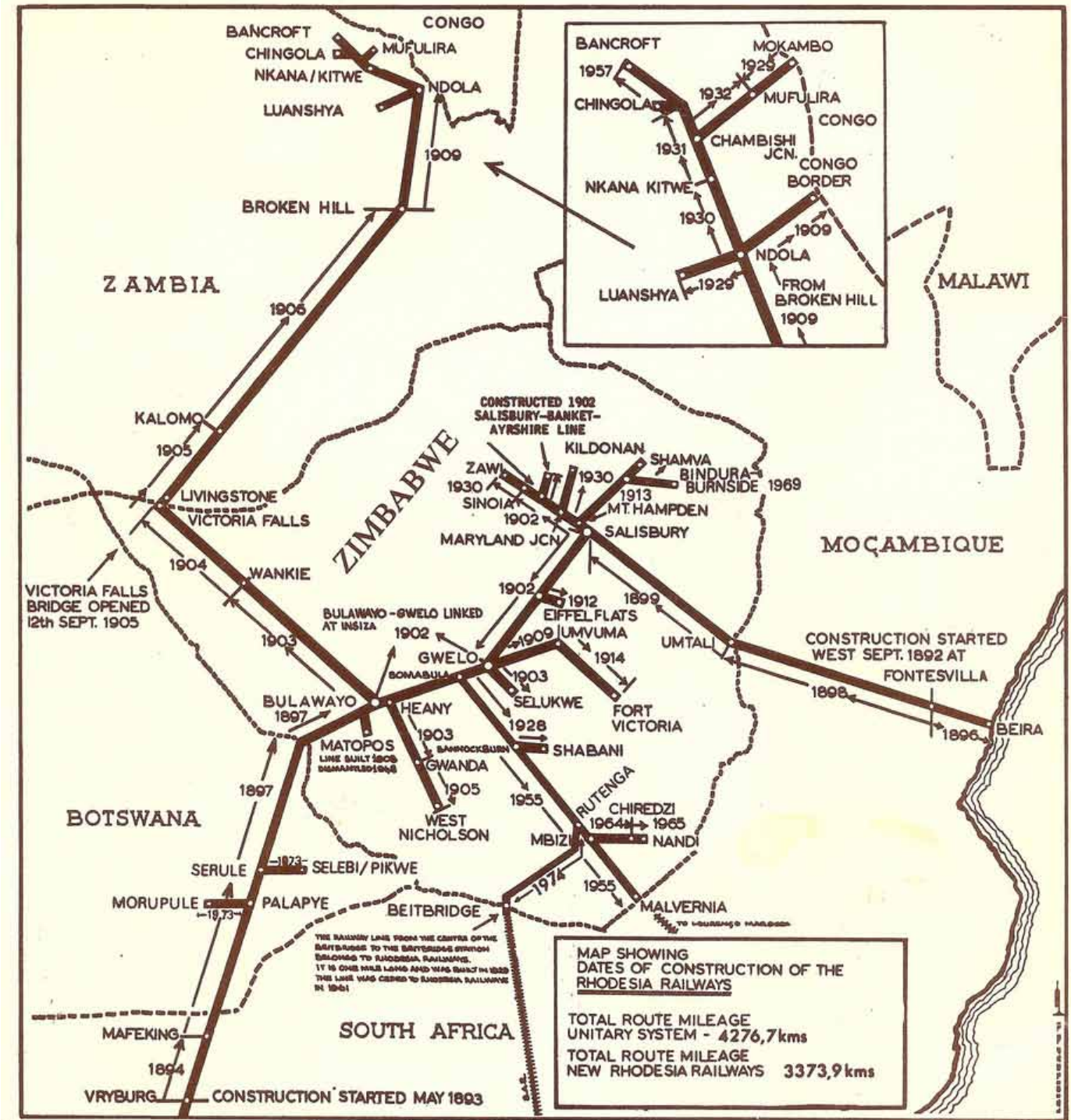
us to each. We have our meals in the hotel here" He then goes on to describe the heat, the cold, the dust and the general misery, and finally promises to send more stamps when he gets his pay.

The conclusion is that part of the 83 P.R. Squadron was relocated to Malahapye in August 1948. The military personnel was serviced by the local post office and thus had access to Bechuanaland stamps and stationery. The air letter sheet was accepted at the forces rate of 3d paid by the imprinted stamp. At the same time the civilian rate to England was 6d. Letter sheets used in Bechuanaland at the military rate is extremely rare, for the simple reason that only few military personnel served in Bechuanaland during the war and shortly thereafter.



Spitfire and Lancaster aircrafts were used by the survey.

# Rhodesian Rail Map



Northern Rhodesian rail stamps with station codes



## So Tell Me, And What Do You Collect?

by Franco Frescura

It wasn't long after we'd had our second child, Susan, that Mike staggered into our home with a bundle of books and boxes. It was his stamp collection, he explained, which his mother had lovingly stashed for him these past seven years. Apparently the old hag thought that her "little boy" needed a hobby to keep him interested (read "busy") while his wife did her "little house on the prairie" thing.

Now, the thought of being married to a philatelist (as apparently stamp collectors call themselves!) did not bother me particularly. After all, my dad had been one ever since old Auntie Mabel had fallen off a bus (more likely off the back of a beer wagon, dad used to mutter) and my brother Joseph, in his more juvenile days, had put together a collection of art stamps which the whole family knew was full of naked women with generously-proportioned, well, you know whats.

However neither my mom nor any of my four sisters had ever got the bug. Stamp collecting, you could say, was tolerated in our household as a quirky "man's thing", like rugby songs, or pretending to be Sylvester Stallone on Saturday nights. Needless to say, none of us women liked to hear all 36 verses of "Eskimo Nell", nor were we overly impressed by a latter-day Rudolph Valentino on steroids.

So, what did the love-of-my-life think he was doing all-of-a-sardine, bringing this stuff into our nest? I couldn't have felt more betrayed had he bought home Randy Maud, the barmaid from the Pig-and-Hound. The one they called "the mattress". Not once during our admittedly brief courtship had he so much as mentioned stamps. Gum was something the kids chewed; I was the only one in the house to own a pair of tweezers, and the only thing that was unhinged was our neighbour Fred, who used to talk to the fire hydrant. I won't tell you what went through my head the first time someone spoke of "unmounted mint", and quite frankly "Penny Blacks" sounded like a neo-Nazi term for our less affluent citizens.

Anyway, it was in the seventh year or our blessed wedlock that Mike rediscovered an aptitude for "stamping". At first he used to sit in our lounge, looking at catalogues and muttering gleefully to himself. I did pick up some interest at one stage when he showed me a stamp he said was worth R100, but when I suggested that he sell it to pay for the nappy service, his face went a funny shade of puce, so I dropped the subject altogether.

Next, Mike joined up with a philatelic society that used to meet once a month in the Scout hall down the road. That was fine by me, because it got him out of the house once in a while, and gave me the chance to have a quiet evening on my own. Besides, his pals seemed to be harmless enough and, unlike his old rugby mates, did not measure their virility by their capacity to swill beer.

I began to get worried when I came home one evening, and found him in the lounge addressing our two Spaniels. He was practicing his Presidential acceptance speech for later that evening, he said. What presidency, I wanted to know? Well, his stamp brothers had decided that it was his turn to chair their meetings, and oh, by the way, would I mind presenting the prizes at the Annual General Meeting?

Well, that was the start to one of the most, shall we say, unusual periods of my life. Sure, handing out prizes at the AGM was easy. I just smiled sweetly and thought of how Germaine Greer would have handled it. Strangely enough, I soon discovered the "open sesame" of philately. "So tell me, and what do you collect?" I would murmur demurely to some old geezer, and wait for the floodgates to open. It never failed, and over the years I have patiently heard out long stories about cow's eyes, plaited coils, missing balls and inverted everythings. A veritable Kama Sutra, if you are that way minded! The only person who didn't fall for it was an Italian professor, who told me his collection was too boring for words, and why didn't we talk about me instead. Nice line. Nearly worked too!

Well, it's now nearly thirty years since Mikey owned up to his obsession, and I am still no nearer to understanding it. He's also no nearer to selling any of his collections to pay for the grocery bills. I did have a freak-out a few years back, when I discovered that he had embezzled most of our savings, which were going towards a second honeymoon in Florence, to pay for a small piece of buff-coloured paper that he needed to complete his Swazi collection. It comes with a "royal" certificate, he assured me, which is hardly credible given the fact that Her Royal Nibs is too busy posing for stamps of her own to care about such things.

You can imagine my further amazement when I discovered the money had been paid into the bank account of some guy in London with the unlikely name of Gibbon. I mean, why not try Lord Gnome, or Toad, of Toad Hall, next time! So, when I accidentally uncovered his piece of larceny I blew the proverbial gasket, and family life only returned to normal when Mike finally relented and got us the VW station wagon I needed to ferry our daughter to hockey practice. I also went to Florence with my best friend, Anna.

At one stage I did try to compromise and, very briefly, did the collecting thing. I had discovered in the loft a hoard of old postcards belonging to great-grandma Gertie. They were all of the pretty, hand-tinted kind that you could buy for a penny at the turn of the last century, and after I had put them into a photograph album they made a rather fine show. Mike was interested to begin with, until he discovered that they never went through the mail. Then he kinda' sniffed, and went back to measuring perforations. So that was that.

Perhaps one of these days I will tell him about another relation, great-great-uncle Hendrik, who used to run guns to the Matabele, and got killed when a Hottentot hit him on the head with a knobkerrie. In the same trunk there was a bundle of his letters to Marika du Toit, whom he never married, on account

of the Hottentot, which have all sorts of funny little triangular stamps on the corners. Maybe I'll just soak them off, and give them to him, one by one, as birthday gifts. There should be enough there for the next twenty years ....

## South Africa's National Exhibition STAMPSHOW 2014 Held in Pretoria

by Uli Bantz



South Africa's National Stamp Exhibition, StampShow 2014, was staged from 8 to 11 October 2014 at the Rautenbach Hall of the University of Pretoria under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa and organized by the Pretoria Philatelic Society and assisted by the Afrikaanse Filatelievereeniging Pretoria. The organising committee led by Prof. Alex Visser did sterling work and

the StampShow 2014 proved to be popular by several measures. It was over-subscribed, attracting 305 frames of competitive exhibits and some 95 frames of "no rules" exhibits. This new segment enabled non-Society collectors to display what they collect without critique or judging, the objective simply being to show fellow collectors and the public, what can be collected, thus serving as a means of sharing common joys in our hobby and to encourage newcomers.

There were 18 "Open Class" exhibits, followed by 13 'Traditional' exhibits, then 9 each of 'Postal History' and 'One-Frame' exhibits led the 71 competitive exhibits. The Thematics, Revenue and Postal Stationery classes had 7 combined entries, followed by Literature's and Airmail's 4 entries each. The judges awarded 7 Large Gold and 9 Gold medals. Five Large Gold and two Gold entries dealt with themes from those parts of Africa covered by FORERUNNERS. The Grand Prix for the best exhibit on show was awarded to Mr. JPD Flanagan (RDPSA) - "The Southern Rhodesia 1924 George V definitive issue".

The South African Post Office hosted members of various Southern African Postal Administrations thus offering an opportunity to acquire modern and thematic material.

A total of 17 dealers were present, amongst them Argyll Etkins, David Morrison and Spinks from the UK.

A major highlight was the on-site Stephan Welz auction on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Show's official opening took place on Wednesday, Oct. 8, followed by a cheese and wine function.

On Thursday morning the "People of the Post Office" issue for the World Post Day was launched by the Post Office. This launch saw also a group of cyclists taking off and carrying covers to Namibia. On Saturday, South Africa's National Stamp Day was celebrated at the Show. Special date stamps

were available during the week for a) the Stampshow itself, b) for the new 'People of the Post Office' issue, and c) for the International Stamp Day on Oct. 9, the founding day of the UPU in Berne / Switzerland in 1874.

On Friday, Oct. 10, the 76. Congress of Federation took place in the Senate Hall of the University of Pretoria.

The event went smooth under the able guidance of the Federation's President Prof. Alex Visser, and was finished in five hours at 15h00 sharp.

Highlights of Congress were: the election of Dr Neil Cronjé and Mr Herwig Kussing to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa (RDPSA). The Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medallion was awarded to Mr Mike Tonking for his outstanding research of the Union of South Africa and SWA, for his articles in the SA Philatelist and the Springbok and for his ready willingness to share his knowledge.

On Saturday members of Thematics; Postmark and Postal History Society; South West Africa Stamp Study Group; Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, Transvaal Study Circle; OFS Study Circle and the Afrikaanse Filatelistiese Vereeniging all met. Concerns and common points of discussion were what to do about declining membership, how to handle rising cost and how to attract the 'Youth'. On Saturday morning a useful Jury critique session was also held to assist exhibitors.

The Organisers wish to recognise and specially thank the sponsors and supporters, namely the University of Pretoria for the venue, the SA Post Office, the South African Philatelic Dealers Association (SAPDA) and their attending members, and in particular the anchor sponsors Stephan Welz, Spinks and Argyll Etkin who ensured that the event could be held.

General information on StampShow 2014 is available on [www.philatelysa.co.za](http://www.philatelysa.co.za). A brochure detailing exhibits and containing an excellent article on Nelson Mandela was available free of charge to all attendees and exhibitors.

The next National Exhibition will be in Cape Town in October 2015. The incoming PFSA President is Mr. Keith Braddock of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town and the incoming Deputy President is Steve van den Hurk, President of SAPDA.



# Forerunners Forum

## Questions, Comments, and Answers

**BONC 669 or 699 on Jamaican stamp.** Sam Cutler has emailed to ask about an unusual cancellation on a Jamaican stamp. "I recently acquired a Jamaican stamp that was issued in 1891 which was in use more than 10 years. This 2 1/2d stamp, the international letter rate at the time, bears a numerical obliterator that is not listed in my 1979 edition of "Numeral Cancellations of The British Empire," by Heins. The numeral is either 669 or 699, depending on which end is up, but neither number was identified by Heins. The numbers are within heavy bars above and below, and the bars have triangles atop and below - all in a symmetrical vertical format. There is no trace of a Jamaican marking on the stamp, so I conjecture that the marking was applied at its destination or in transit.

I suspect that it is a Cape of Good Hope or Bechuanaland marking because of Heins's identification of other numerals close to 669 or 699, and am wondering if someone in the PSGSA can identify the COLONY and the TOWN for this marking." Reply to samcutler8630@gmail.com and the Editor.

**Answer:** *BONCs 669 or 699 was, according to Frescura and Nethersole (1991), allocated to Sandpits in Bechuanaland (Survey Camp), although with considerable uncertainty. This was a short lived agency (1895-6) with few if any documented uses of the BONC. Thus Sandpits is a very unlikely place for a Jamaican letter to show up - if indeed Sandpits ever existed. Anybody got a better answer?*

**Manually Overprinted Stellaland Revenue Stamp:** This 1 shilling revenue stamp has manual overprinting for British Bechuanaland. It is dated 22/2/1886 consistent with the formation of the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland in 1885 and the knowledge the Stellaland stamps was used in the Colony for some time thereafter. These types of overprinting is occasionally seen. But the question is if anybody have seen them on documents or can provide evidence if the overprinting was authorized by the new Colony?



**1 d. Ship Printing Error.** Bas Payne writes about the items shown on the back page of FR #79: Hope I'm not misunderstanding something in being bemused by what looks like a slightly surprising error in the description of 1d rarities on the back cover. Describing a strip of five stamps with missing frames and part frames on some stamps in the first paragraph, it says that "the interruption is proved by the fact that the portions of the first and last stamp are both in English whereas normally the last stamp would be in Afrikaans." But as the strip is five stamps long, surely you'd expect the same language on the first and fifth stamps; and the frame print interruption is four stamps long (three and two halves), not three (as stated earlier). Or have I got something wrong?

**Steven Baker** replies: Bas Payne is saying that there were three blanks and two halves so top half English, followed by three blanks, Afrikaans, English, Afrikaans and the final bottom half English. Correct by the way I understand it. The interruption missed two Afrikaans and one English [middle stamp] frames and resumed with the lower half of the interrupted stamp, English. What you and I said was that if it was a paper intrusion or over-clean of the Doctor Blade it would have been Afrikaans. This is incorrect because the fourth stamp would still have been English.

The likelihood of it being either a paper adherence or over-clean leaving the two halves perfectly matched is highly unlikely and that is why I'm certain it is a "turn off".

Maybe I'm missing something, but that is what I will change the reference to. I'm grateful that any mistakes that occur are pointed out so accuracy is maintained and corrections can be made before the edition is published. I thank Sebastian for his correction.

Can anybody add to this interesting discussion?

Block advertised earlier this year for sale Stanley Gibbons. It starts and stops with an English inscribed stamp.



**No Rule Exhibiting.** A letter from the SAPDA states in part: On behalf of SAPDA (South African Philatelic Dealers Association), and with the blessing of the 2014 Organising Committee of the National Exhibition to be held at Rautenbach Hall, Pretoria University from Oct 8th to Oct 11th, there will be a supplementary No Rules Exhibition totaling 100 frames.

It was felt that a lot of our collectors do not exhibit for a variety of reasons, ranging from not being members of clubs, not wanting to conform to what they see as exacting standards or being afraid that their efforts may be scorned by judges.

Hence the term 'No Rules.' You can now exhibit whatever you want, however you want. There is no judging or derogatory comments, in fact the whole idea is to encourage exhibitors. The only stipulation is that 1 frame takes 16 x A4 sized pages, and that all frames must be filled to the maximum of 16 pages.

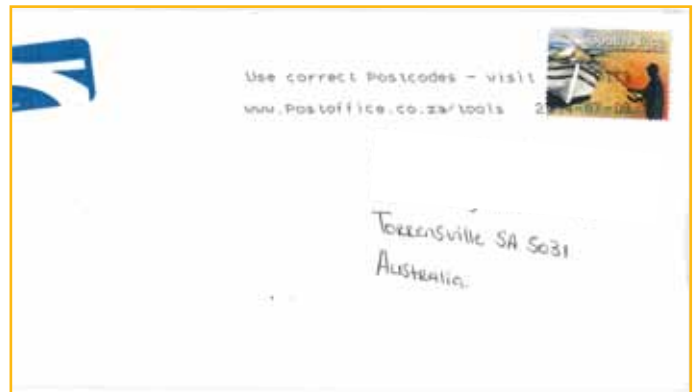
The cost of 1 frame is R50, which is basically to cover the transportation and erection of the frames. As we would like the maximum number of different exhibitors to participate, and the widest range of subjects, we are limiting any entry to 5 frames per person. Therefore you could have 1 entry of 5 frames, or 5 entries of 1 frame each.

**Modern South African forgery.** Gary Brown shows a modern South African forgery produced with a scanner, a color laser printer, and printed on self adhesive paper. One can see the shadow of the paper where it has been cut around the stamp image. The stamp is definitely on thin self-adhesive paper. I peeled the corner up to make sure.

The issue was one of 10 different stamps commemorating 'The life of Fisher Folk.' The stamps were all different making up one sheet within a die cut shape of a fish. Issued only on

gummed paper. Issued on 19 February 2012. It was as far as I know never issued on self-adhesive paper.

Attached is a chopped scan of the stamp with part cancel and the stamp as issued. The forged stamp was used to pay the airmail letter rate from Wits on 2014-07-08 to Australia.



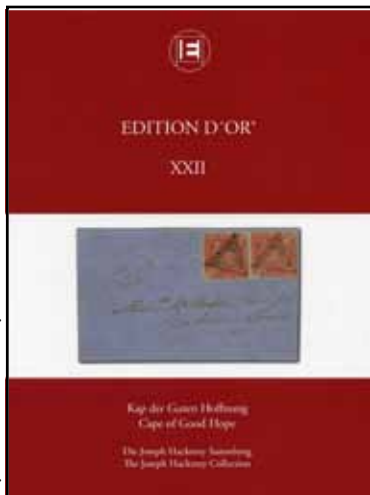
Part of the cover with the recipient covered.



FDC "People of the Post Office" issued on "World Post Day" during the STAMSHOW 2014. The denomination R10.00 does not cover any current postal rate and can only be used for franking in combination with other stamps.

## For the Record

233. **Edition d'Or** is a series of prestigious collections awarded with International Large Gold Medals or the elusive Grand Prix. The publishers are Corinphila Switzerland and Heinrich-Köhler Germany. Volume 22 of the series is **Joseph Hackmey's** collection of the various issues, printings, colors and papers of 'Cape triangulars'



from the first issue of 1853 to the last printing from badly worn steel plates by the printer De La Rue in June 1864. A total of 172 pages, of which 143 are full-color plates showing pages from the collection, hardbound with dust jacket, bilingual in English and German (€69).

234. The **G.B. Overprints Society** has announced the publication of two volumes: 'Overprinted British Airletters' and 'Overprinted British Postal Stationery' written by **John Gledhill**. The volumes (122 and 504 pages, respectively) are in full color and are expected during the winter 2014-15. Contact the author to reserve your copies by writing to [jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk](mailto:jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk).
235. The updated version of **Forerunners presentation issue (2013)** are now available for download from <http://www.psgsa.org/index.html>. The presentation issue will be ideal for sending to friend interested in collecting southern Africa stamps and postal history. Also available is an updated flyer that can be printed and distributed at local club meetings or stamp shows.
236. **James Bendon** is preparing an update of his book on the **UPU Specimen Stamps** from 1988, now to be including postal stationery. The text is nearly complete, but he still needs illustrations and information on the UPU specimen cancellations from several areas, including Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and Swaziland. Bendon can be reached by writing to [james@jamesbendon.com](mailto:james@jamesbendon.com).
237. **Franco Frescura** has received the **best article of the volume award** for his article on the Cape cancellers. The award is being given each year by the PSGSA for the best article in Forerunners. The article is posted on <http://stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction>.
238. The **History of Philatelic Color Guides** has been published as a Special Edition to **The Rhodesian Philatelist** (October 2014). The author as well as the publisher is **Otto Peetoom**. It can be obtained for a nominal price by writing to Peetoom at [ottopeetoom@btinternet.com](mailto:ottopeetoom@btinternet.com).

239. **Peter van der Molen** has been awarded the **Crawford Medal for 2014** by the Royal Philatelic Society of London for his book on **Swaziland Philately**. The first printing of the book was fast sold out, but has now been reprinted and is still available from the Royal Philatelic Society of London.



van der Molen donates and signs his book to the National Library of South Africa.

240. **Robert Johnson** has been invited to sign the Great Britain's **Roll of Distinguished Philatelists**. Johnson has been involved in all aspects of philately with collections ranging from the British Charge and Accountancy Marks to French Congo Postal History. He is currently collecting and researching the **Postal History of the Cape of Good Hope**.



## New Books

- Reah-Johnson, S., 2014. A Study of the Colours and Printings of the Rhodesian Bi-coloured Admirals. Rhodesian Study Circle Handbook Memoir 29. Available for the RSC by writing to Keith Harrop at [keithharrop@hartfieldtableware.co.uk](mailto:keithharrop@hartfieldtableware.co.uk). Price is £20 plus p+p.

## Exchange Journals Received

- The Springbok: no longer received.  
 South African Philatelist: no longer received.  
 South West Africa Newsletter: Nos. 396 (June 2014), 397 (July 2014), 398 (August 2014), 399 (September 2014), and 400 (October 2014).  
 FVZA Bartholomeu Dias: Nos. 103 (September 2014) and 104 (November 2014).  
 Magnify (Royal Society Zimbabwe): Whole No. 309 (July 2014).  
 Transvaal Philatelist: Volume 49, No. 2 (July 2014).

We only receive print journals from the Transvaal Study Circle and Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. The Forerunners are now only exchanged in electronic format.

## Highlights From Journals and Newsletters

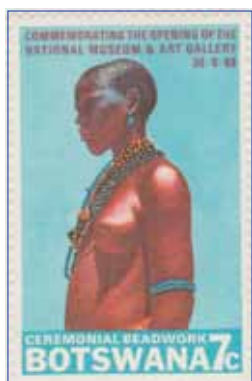
This regular column lists some of the more important articles on Southern Africa Philately and postal history that recently have appeared in other journals. It is based on our exchange journals as well as on those that by other means end up on the Editors desk. If you find that some are missing, please supply the relevant quotes.

- Adema K., 2014. The VOC handstamp used at Cape of Good Hope. *London Philatelist* 123, 222-243.
- Belfield, T., 2014. The Tanganyika flotilla 1915-16. *London Philatelist* 123, 376-379.
- Donen, N. and Harrop, K., 2014. Lusaka 1935: FDC and FFC covers. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 158-162.
- Donen, N. and Harrop, K., 2014. Umтали-Salisbury first flight 5 October 1935 – interesting observations. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 163-167.
- Drysdall, A.R., 2014. Stencil-cuts and overprints of the CSAR. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, October 2014, 70-75.
- Gledhill, J., 2013. Overprinted postal orders for a short lived country (Malawi, Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia). *Postal Order News Whole No.* 113, 19-20.
- Gledhill, J., 2013. Where did all the £5 overprints go? (postal orders). *Postal Order News Whole No.* 113, 19-20.
- Gledhill, J., 2014. GB postal orders: the ‘jumbo’ overprints. *Postal Order News Whole No.* 114, 4-11.
- Gledhill, J., 2014. South Africa different overprint on recent auction items (postal orders). *Postal Order News Whole No.* 114, 14.
- Gledhill, J., 2014. Zambia overprinted postal order. *Postal Order News Whole No.* 114, 13.
- Hill, M., 2014. Postal slogans: Southern Rhodesia/Rhodesia/Zimbabwe 1927-1982. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 115-116.

- Hoffman, C., 2014. Rhodesia: the Waterlow £2 of 1897 – a new Waterlow plate, or the reuse of the old Bradbury plate? *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 170-172.
- Johnson, R., 2014. CGH: advertised and unclaimed – the returned letter office and the general delivery and postal restante counters – questions. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, 266-270.
- Johnson, R., 2014. CGH: ship letter rates compared with Imperial Penny Postage and UPU rates 1899 and 1902. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, 271-272.
- Koster, J., 2014. Harrison essays. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No.* 103, 7.
- Koster, J., 2014. Mohale’s Hoek. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No.* 104, 20-23.
- Krip, E., 2014. De geschiedenis van transport in Zimbabwe. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No.* 104, 6-7.
- Leeftland, B., 2014. Heinrich Egersdörfer. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No.* 103, 8-9.
- Lyerla, T.A., 2014. Scanning for stamp shades. *American Philatelist July* 2014, 666-670.
- Moffat, C. Some experiences of Malawi Post Office. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 125-127.
- Peetoom, O., 2014. The history of philatelic colour guides – a review. *Rhodesian Philatelist, Special Edition No. 1*, October 2014, 18 pp.
- Reah-Johnson, S., 2014. The monocoloured Rhodesia Admirals 1913-24 (1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d values). *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 117-121.
- Reah-Johnson, S., 2014. The printings and colours of the 1 1/2d Rhodesia Admiral. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 173-1180.
- Reah-Johnson, S., 2014. The printings and colours of the 2 1/2d Rhodesia Admiral. *Journal Rhodesian Study Circle* 64, 122-124.
- Solomon, S., 2014. Carl Behrens and the Natal Land and Colonisation Company. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, 256-265.
- Solomon, S., 2014. Eliza and Leyland Feilden – early correspondence and history – Part 1. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, 248-255.
- Solomon, S., 2014. The mysterious appearance of Perkins, Bacon bromides in September 2013. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, 234-246.
- Solomon, S., 2014. Zululand: specimen and other stamps on sheet. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, 281-282.
- Thy, P., 2014. CGH Postmaster-General’s Reports [continued]. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 18, Appendix 2, 288-305.
- Thy, P., 2014. Medals of honour to Batswana soldiers serving in the African Pioneer Corps during the Second World War. *Runner Post Whole No.* 88, 2190-2191.
- Thy, P., 2014. The rest of the Bechuanaland Post Office. An exhibit by Peter Thy. *Runner Post Whole No.* 88, 2195-2226.
- Vliet, van der, O., 2014. Consulaatzegels van Zuid Afrika. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias Whole No.* 104, 4-5.
- Woolgar, J., 2014. Stamp dealers (6) – Wm. Schreiber and the South African Stamp Company. *Transvaal Philatelist Whole No.* 188, 42-43.

# BOTSWANA

Add this beauty and all Botswana postage stamps to your collection



Payment at half Scott, accepted in dollars, pounds or pula

## Botswana Postage Stamps 1966 to 2012

Unmounted mint or fine used, priced at half Scott, postpaid, on approval if you like

Peter Lodoen

2625 13th Ave SE, St Cloud MN 56304  
320 339 1496 peterlodoen@gmail.com

## Society Publications

- Hisey and Bartshe, 2003. *Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1, The Postage Stamps*. Hardbound, 280 pages. Sold Out.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2004. *Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 2, The Telegraphs*. Hardbound, 250 pages. Sold Out.
- Hisey and Bartshe, 2009. *Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 3*. Hardbound, 205 pages. Sold Out.
- CD version of the Orange Free State Volumes is in preparation.*

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 75 (CD-ROM). \$30 plus \$5 s/h. Taylor, Robert. Early Postal Services of the Cape of Good Hope PSGSA Exhibit Series (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.  
Lodoen, Peter. Accepted - Rejected: Life of a Botswana Stamp Designer. \$25 full color print, \$10 on CD-ROM. Postage paid.  
Hisey, B. (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.  
To order contact David McNamee at the addresses given on page 1.

## The Market Place

**Union machine and parcel postmarks.** Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations. Please contact Bas Payne on bas.payne@gmail.com, or The Mill House, Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QE, UK.”

**Union pictorials 1926-1940.** Wanted by specialist collector. Single items, collections, or unsorted bulk accumulations including singles. Please contact Bas Payne on bas@paynes.demon.co.uk, or Saltbox Barn, Edney's Lane, Denmead, Waterlooville, PO7 6JL, UK.

**Cape of Good Hope.** I buy postal history material, specially the period 1652 - 1853. Please send scan or photocopy with price. Johnny Barth, Nivavaenge 25, DK 2990 Niva, Denmark. E-mail: barth@post3.tele.dk.

**SA Homelands used.** Seeking postally used stamps and covers (larger lots with duplication OK). Have used Homelands and GB, Commonwealth (Australia, NZ, others) to trade. Send description/scan/price to Chris Oberholster, 2013 Yancy Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022; pangolin100@aol.com.

**Bophuthatswana used.** Wish to trade for used in/off cover, including revenues and postal stationery. Have all Homelands used, some mint and older general worldwide to trade. Write Will Ross, 4120 Schuyllkill Dr., Calabasas, CA 91302.

**South West Africa postal stationery.** I am seeking pre-1969 items. Please send offer to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

**Mafeking siege “blueprint” covers.** Want to purchase or trade for covers with Mafeking siege “blueprint” stamps. Send photocopies or scans, prices, or trade want list to Frederick Lawrence, 658 W. Douglas Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233-3219; ieconsulting@cox.net

**South African postage due covers.** Looking for postage due mail from and to South Africa, all periods welcome. Please send offers to Jan Stolk, Waterhoenlaan 24, B-9120 Melsele, Belgium; janstolk@belgacom.net.

**Bechuanaland and Botswana postal stationery.** Used, stamped and unstamped, stationery from any territory and any period needed for collection and exhibit. Send offer to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95617-3112 or email thy@kronestamps.dk.

**GSWA, OFS postal stationery & the Cape of Good Hope pre-stamp period** are my interests. Philatelists wishing to correspond and exchange information / material can write to me at: Hennie

Taljaard, P O Box 816, Ceres, 6835, RSA or stadsbeplanner@ananzi.co.za.

**Zimbabwe Covers between 2008 (Jan 1) and 2009 (Apr).** Bob Hisey at bobhisey@comcast.net.

**Perfins Wanted.** I buy/trade for perfins of Cape, Natal, Transvaal, ORC, and South Africa. Especially interested in on cover examples, but will give generous return for any loose stamps. Write or email with trade/sale proposal. Robert Weeden, 1446 Grenac Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709 or email weeden@mosquitonet.com.

**Botswana Meter Marks:** interested in all eras. For trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gordon.smith@ns.sympatico.ca

**Botswana and Bechuanaland Official Free Marks:** interested in trade or purchase. Contact Gordon Smith, 11 Elliot St., Dartmouth NS, CANADA B2Y 2X6; gordon.smith@ns.sympatico.ca

**Numerical Cancellers (BONCs)** used in Southern Africa sought by collector. Contact me for wantlist or let me know what you can offer. Werner Seeba, In Den Wannenaekern 14, D-70374 Stuttgart 50, Germany.

**Airmails from SA to South America.** Wanted airmail covers from SA to South or central America between 1932 and 1952. Send scan or photocopy with price to Hugh Amoore, (9 Bishoplea Road, Claremont, South Africa, 7708); email to: hugh.amoore@uct.ac.za).

**Swaziland Picture Postcards Wanted.** Please send scan to Peter van der Molen at molens@pixie.co.za

Send request for your free non-dealer membership ad to the Editor. Multiple ads per issue per member are admitted as long as space is available. Ads will run for several issues unless specified otherwise. Limits of 40 words plus name and postal and email addresses.

## Commercial Ad Rate Schedule

Premium positions:

1/1 page inside front cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.

1/1 page inside back cover single issue \$50, annual \$120, two years \$200.

1/1 page outside back cover single issue \$60, annual \$150, two years \$280.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

Non-premium positions:

1/1 page: single issue \$40, annual \$95, two years \$170.

1/2 page: single issue \$20, annual \$60, two years \$100.

Contact the Editor for smaller ad sizes.

All advertisers who reserve a full page ad for one year or longer will receive full membership to the PSGSA. Contact the Society Treasurer or Editor for any special requirements and for booking your premium spaces. All payment should be addressed to the Treasurer. The Editor will assist with ad designs if required.

## Expertization of World Classics



# Sismondo

## EXPERTS

[www.sismondostamps.com](http://www.sismondostamps.com)  
[sismondo@dreamscape.com](mailto:sismondo@dreamscape.com)

**Reliable, Competitively Priced & FAST!**

**Estimated Turnaround Time: 2-3 WEEKS!**

*Photo Certificates with  
Detailed, Accurate, and Complete Descriptions*

*If you have stamps which require certification, mail them today!*

**Liane & Sergio Sismondo**

**Philatelic Experts**

10035 Destiny USA Drive

Syracuse, New York 13290-0001

ASDA\* NSDA \* PTS \* CSDA

## Membership Application

*Membership fees are \$25 to US mailing addresses and \$30 for all other addresses. Membership includes a subscription to the Society's journal Forerunners. Those that join before July 1 will receive the complete back issues for that year. Thereafter annual renewals occur in August and are due by September 1. If sending in dues by mail, please provide funds in US\$ either in currency or a check on a USA bank account made out to "PSGSA." Mail all payments to David McNamee, PSGSA Treasurer, P.O. Box 37, Alamo, CA 94507 USA. Paypal to "dmcnamee@aol.com" is also acceptable, but please add US\$ 1 extra to cover part of the PayPal fees we must pay to use the service. For some overseas members, it might be more advantageous to send in dues for two or more years to avoid the annual conversion fees.*

Name:

Address:

Email address:

APS No:

Collecting interests and Comments:

