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

*JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR GREATER SOUTHERN AFRICA*

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

Volume XXXIII, Number 3, Whole Number 97

May - August 2020



Memorial stamp design to the victims of the South African War 1899-1902. Equally appropriate as a remembrance to those lost to the current pandemic

## **Highlights**

Bechuanaland Telephone  
Natal Used Zululand and Orange Free State  
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Apartheid and Post Office

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Botswana issued a set of 5 stamps on May 19, 2017 on the occasion of the 'Netball World Youth Cup' in Gaborone. Printed by Southern Colour Print.

### Front Illustration:

Unadapted stamp design by Franco Frescura for the 1999 South Africa issue commemorating the victims of the South African War, 1899-1902. It is equally appropriate as a remembrance to all those lost to the current pandemic.

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Vermeil at STAMPSHOW Richmond, VA 2017. Large Silver at WORLD STAMP SHOW NEW YORK 2016; Vermeil at CHICAGOPEX 2015: Silver at CHICAGOPEX 2014; Silver-Bronze at CHICAGOPEX 2013; Vermeil at STAMPSHOW 2013, Milwaukee; Large Silvers at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibitions 2012 & 2013; Vermeil at JO'BURG, 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 SESCOAL 95, CAPEX 96, WAPEX 93, and HAFNIA 94; Silver-Bronze at ESPAMER 96, SINGAPORE 95, and PHILAKOREA 94.

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## Editorial Notes

Our lives and our hobby have been turned upside down. Our beloved stamp shows have been cancelled or postponed and continues to be postponed, now until the fall and winter. Most likely we will be well into the new year before we will see changes toward something we can recognize as normality. But *nothing* is *not* so bad that it is *not* good for something. We are getting more time to work on our stamps and to write about them. The Editor has in fact seen what, compared to normal, can be described as a surge in manuscripts to Forerunners. We also have had to look into alternative ways to interact and connect to our follow collectors. The result is that social networks and internet meetings continues to pop-up. Thanks to a free software called **zoom** (or similar), we can now conduct meetings and presentations with 100-150 people were all can have a possibility to listen, be seen, and voice their opinions. The most recent of these that I can think about is a talk by Patrick Maselis on *Mail from Central Africa Before 1888. The case study of Belgian Congo*. This is scheduled in a couple of days and organized by APS. Anybody can participate in the event.

You are probably be aware that our membership schedule is about to change to the calender year. In order to fit the schedule of the Forerunners to the calender year, the current volume XXXIII will have four issues. No. 98 will appear during the fall or winter, No. 99 will be early May 2021, No. 100 will be early September, and No. 101 will close the year in late December.

Hopefully, I will not need to remind you that we is planning for something exceptional for No. 100. We have already obtained permission to expand the page numbers. Your assistance will be greatly needed to achieve this.

I hope that all members and their families continue to do well in these uncertain times.

Peter Thy

## PSGSA 2020 Auction

The next society auction is now in its final preparation stage. We expect it to be ready when this Forerunners reaches you. In the meantime, contact the auction manager by writing to rudolph912@gmail.com or to a new auction email PSGSAuction@gmail.com (note only ONE 'A') if you have any questions.

Moody Tidwell

## PSGSA Website

The webmaster is planning a complete reorganization of our website. Please contact him with your suggestions and offer your help with writing and stuff to place on the new site. Contact Clive Levinson, LevinsonClive@gmail.com.

Clive Levinson

The deadline for the next issue will be September 15, 2020. 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.



## Collapse of the Postal System as We Know It



Iceland's Posturinn has announced that the last Icelandic stamp will be issued by the end of this year. As soon as the current stock of old stamps is exhausted, letters from Iceland will no longer bear a stamp. The positive

part of this announcement is that Iceland will still have a postal service. How is it that Iceland cannot manage a stamp program, when other countries still is able and plan to do so? The Editor cannot avoid thinking with some alarm of Greenland and the Faroe Islands (a couple of his other childhood collections).

Deutsche Post DHL has announced that it will adopt an app whereby postal patrons can pay for mailing a letter and being issued a code to be written on the envelope in lieu of a stamp. The same way as already adopted by Post Nord (Denmark and Sweden).

But this is nothing compared to the horror felt from the frontal assaults on the USPS we now witness from the current administration and rumors that the USPS will run out of money and will have to file for bankruptcy well before the general electing in November. But more about this next time.

## Society Affairs

Forerunners is the official journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa and is published three times per year for the periods January-April, May-August, and September-December. Subscription to the Forerunners is included in the membership fees to the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa (PSGSA). The basic membership fee is US\$20 for the electronic version of the journal. The print version can be obtained by adding \$5 for USA mailing addresses, \$10 for Canada addresses, and \$15 for the rest of the world. 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 each year. A sample copy of Forerunners is available from the Editor for \$6 or may be downloaded at no cost together with application form from www.psgsa.org. 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. All membership fees and other payments should be mailed directly to the Treasurer. All communications about membership,

### Instructions for Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be sent directly to the Editor. Electronic versions of submissions are preferred either embedded in an email message, email attachments or on a CD. MS Word files are preferred. Tables in Excel or text format are preferred; avoid complex Word tables. Illustrations should be in color and scanned at least at 150 dpi and submitted in pdf, tiff, gif, or jpg formats. Illustrations should ideally not be embedded in manuscript files. Contact the Editor 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 still most welcome.

## President's Corner

Well as usual there is good news/bad news stories going around in case you have been literally holed up in a cave since our last visit this spring. The bad news: a "raging" pandemic has been circulated now around the world which has helped to take more than 100,000 fellow US Citizens and many many more around the world. We have seen lockdowns from Canada to the UK to our friends in South Africa. This lock down has virtually shut off any sort of organized philatelic event beginning right after March Party in Cleveland virtually through the end of the year. Not being able to go to a stamp show and view exhibits, visit our favorite dealers and have get-togethers with our friends and acquaintances has been a shock to our psyches. Trips cancelled, airline hot lines on hold for hours and missed vacations in conjunction with our dropped shows. I was on the jury for the Royal/Royale in New Brunswick for this month, leaving on the 16th of June. Just a few problems; getting across the border as a non-essential traveler (I love being call non-essential!) and the fact the show was cancelled!! We had plans to drive up from Boston and do a 2-week trip to visit the Maritime Provinces. Next time I suppose. Our show RMSS was cancelled as was anything that would bring together more than 2 people and their dogs! Even the APS show was not "immune" from COVID-19.

Further bad news, the much touted (by me anyway) IPEX 2021 (SA International), 17-20 March 2021, Cape Town has been cancelled for early next year. This is in conjunction with the other major show in South Africa, ALGOAPEX 2020, 14-17 October 2020, Port Elizabeth, their National show. Their lock down was actually worse than ours with the sale of liquor prohibited for some time until the production of at-home beer and other spirits got out of hand. The favorite source of sugar to make strong "ale" was pineapple which was in great demand and short of supply! Of course, here in the States liquor stores were considered essential along with marijuana outlets here in Colorado! Go figure!

The Good News in all of this? Well, on the sequestered side of the equation, staying home allowed us to spend time working on our collections/exhibits sorting those boxes of stuff that have been stored away for years, finding things that we had forgotten we even had. Even this sauropod (dinosaur for those of you from Pittsburg as Hugh Hewitt would say) has done something that he swore that he would never do. I was contacted by some acquaintances in South Africa and invited to join a group on Facebook and contribute in chats and postings of material from the Orange Free State and Transvaal. Seems like there are lots of people around the world from Australia and England as well as SA who have LOTS to say about this area, around 100 and counting. Candace did not see me come up for air for days! Hardly makes up for the last three months, but when life gives you lemons to suck on you just have to make lemonade!

The final GOOD NEWS is that next year will not be a total wash out. Take your eraser and eliminate the dates of 17-20 March and ink in the dates 9-13 November 2021 for the IPEX show in Cape Town. The details will be announced regarding the deadlines for exhibitors and other special events and tours, but that will give us more time to save up air fare and travel to this grand destination. November is also a beautiful time to be

in Cape Town, then again there are few times that are bad, other than a few showers. So, I hope this finds you all safe and healthy, not too much to the poorer with the stock market dive and the potential unemployment lines, and closer to those that you love and cherish. And don't forget that passion that we have for those little squares of paper that we got to play with while worrying about other things in life. Take care friends.

Tim Bartshe

## PSGSA WhatsApp Group

PSGSA has got its own WhatsApp group. The younger members will probably know how it functions. But just in case: it works on your cell phone and is an easy way to reach our membership (and everybody else who has signed up) with trivial questions and certainly also with complicated requests. Send your cell phone number to Moody Tidwell at rudolph912@gmail.com and follow his instructions.



## New Member

Welcome to

Dr. Anthony J. Howgrave-Graham  
Salisbury, Wiltshire, U.K.  
Southern Africa

## Mark Your Calendar

Several important stamp shows and exhibitions are fast approaching. It is now time for making a decision about to attend and to mark your calendar. **Lookout for cancellations because of the pandemic.**



### London 2020 Philatelic International

**Exhibition**, Business Design Centre, Islington, May 2-9, 2020. **The show was postponed to 19-26 February 2022.** **The literature competition is expected to be completed this year.**

**Great American Stamp Show**, Hartford, CT, August 20-23, 2020. American Philatelic Society and the Topical Association. **The show has been cancelled.**

**Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition 2021**, 17-20 March 2021, <https://capetown2021.org>. **Postponed to 9-13 November 2021.**

**International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately**. Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington DC, 13 November 2020. Go to [symposium@analyticalphilately.org](mailto:symposium@analyticalphilately.org). **Expected to be postponed.**

**SAVPEX 2020**. South African Virtual Philatelic One-Frame Exhibition, 22-23 August 2020. Hosted by the Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. On schedule to be the only exhibition this year.



## Closed Albums



### Johannes (Joh) Groenewald 1939 - 2020

Southern Africa philately suffered the loss of one of its true giants and one of its greatest students of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) with the passing of Joh Groenewald RDPSA.

Joh passed away at his home in George on 23 April 2020 at the age of 80 after battling pancreatic cancer.

Born in Pretoria, Joh was a journalist and instrumental in the establishment of the Pretoria Press Club (now the National Press Club). He was also an active member of the George Heritage Trust.

He focused on the war-time postal history of the two republics and formed an outstanding collection "Vryheidsoorlog: Boerepos". This was exhibited twice competitively and at the 1975 Paarl national exhibition it was awarded the State President's Trophy (grand-prix), the Postmaster General's Shield (best South African exhibit) and the Anglo-Boer War Cup. At the limited international exhibition DISA (Cape Town, 1979) it was awarded the grand-prix for Southern Africa Classes. The collection became public heritage in 1983 and may be viewed at the War Museum, Bloemfontein.

Apart from his collection at the War Museum, one of Joh's major philatelic legacies was the series of eight books which he mostly coauthored on the stamp issues of the Anglo-Boer War. These were published between 1999 and 2014 and represented original research of the stamps and their historical backgrounds: *Anglo Boer War Stamp Souvenirs* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald, 2014, 56 p.

*The Legacy of Lydenburg* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald, 2009, 78 p.

*Die Machadodorp-briefkaart van die Anglo-Boereoorlog* by Gerrit H Jonkers and Joh Groenewald, 2006, 56 p.

*Die Pietersburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boereoorlog* by Carel Breedt and Joh Groenewald, 2007, 109 p.

*The Pseudo-Siege of Schweizer-Reneke* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald, 2005, 63 p.

*The Riddle of Rustenburg* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald, 2007, 79 p.

*Die Vryburg-seëls van die Anglo-Boereoorlog* by Joh Groenewald, 2010, 90 p.

*The Wherewithal of Wolmaransstad* by Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald, 1999, 59 p.

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

African Foundation for many years.

A proponent of the Afrikaans language that often was his choice for publication of his works.

Our condolences go to his life partner and family.

Colin Fraser



Harry Birkhead and Joh Groenewald at the crest of the Long Tom Pass over the Mauchsberg above Lydenburg in July 2007

### Eddie Bridges 1953 - 2020

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of Eddie Bridges. Eddie had in 2012 moved to New York and had joined PSGSA. He was born in Cape Town, eldest of three boys. Eddie collected stamps from age 9 encouraged by Benji Joseph, a dealer in Johannesburg, and went on to become a lifelong philatelist and major expert on the Union of South Africa, especially the 1d ships.

He served his national service in South Africa and was a member of the South African rowing team. It was this fortitude he demonstrated again in his long battle with cancer where his courage and positivity shone through until treatments ran out.

After gaining a degree in history and another in engineering, he worked as an instrument engineer, ending up as global head of marketing. Whilst heading up a factory near Cambridge he became involved with the university and gained a PhD in history with a dissertation on the allied troop movements in Africa in WWII. He lived and worked in Germany before finally moving to the United States. He belonged to all the post-Union societies we can think of and won many awards. He was a member of the Royal, becoming a fellow, and was their American East Coast representative whilst he lived there. However, it was the South African Collectors Society that was his main love; he assumed the editorship of the *Springbok* in 2004 taking it into the modern era until his move to the US. Eddie was a great philatelist and a great friend who we mourn and will sadly miss.

(Based by an obituary in the *South African Philatelist* written by John Shaw and Tony Howgrave-Graham.)



# A Census of the Uses of the Natal 1879 Penny Postage Overprint: Use in Both Zululand and the Orange Free State

by Keith Klugman FRPSL

If I were to read an article with a premise that there was a Natal postage stamp used more often outside Natal than in Natal itself, I would be skeptical. This article makes that case.

1879 was a tumultuous year in southern Africa during which the Anglo Zulu War took place. Natal experienced a shortage of penny postage stamps that year and in February 1879, the local post office decided to overprint existing De La Rue designed and printed revenue stamps of the original Chalon design. In order to turn a 6d revenue stamp into a postage stamp it was necessary to overprint it with the one penny denomination and the word "POSTAGE". Fig.1 illustrates three blocks of four – a marginal plate proof of the revenue 6d; the largest recorded mint multiple of the 1d postage overprint and the largest recorded used multiple which is cancelled with the 1 numeral cancellation of Pietermaritzburg. The local overprint was sloppily applied such that it exists inverted; as a double overprint; a double overprint with one inverted and a quadruple overprint. It also exists with a missing "S" of "POSTAGE" from row 8 position 3. All of these varieties are more common used than mint, so they were widely used, but none of them are recorded used on cover, so they are not further discussed here.

these penny stamps to pay the packet postage to the UK. The letter is endorsed via Natal, but entered the mails in Utrecht, ZAR where the Natal stamps were left uncanceled. There is a Durban transit on May 1st but the postmaster cancelling the back of letters in transit from the ZAR to the UK, did not notice the fact that Natal stamps on the other side of the cover were in need of a cancellation. Nevertheless, the cover was accepted in Ireland as fully paid with a Limerick transit on June 13th and Ballingarry arrival on 14th May 1879.

The two unconfirmed uses of this stamp, also from Zululand are the addition of a single one penny stamp to an 1876 Natal 6d by Capt. Cramer – the additional penny stamp was not needed but is apparently tied. It is ex the John Robson Zululand sale sold by Christie's Robson Lowe on 8th June 1993, lot 537, and although illustrated (Fig 3), the black and white illustration cannot identify the stamp as the 1879 one penny overprint on the pink Chalon, or the 1877 similar overprint on violet 6d (SG92). Both stamps are cancelled with a Richmond "12" shield cancel on 28th March which would make this the earliest recorded use of this stamp if it is indeed the 1879 issue. The second cover is a soldier's letter, also franked either with the 1879 or 1877 penny



Fig 1. Natal De La Rue printed Chalons in blocks of four. Marginal plate proof of 6d revenue in pink; 1879 local one penny postage, largest recorded mint multiple; largest recorded used multiple cancelled "1"

This stamp is remarkably rare on cover. In my census to date I record only four covers definitely bearing this stamp, and two more possible uses. The definite uses are from Zululand during the Anglo Zulu War in April 1879 via the ZAR (1); from the OFS (2); and one local Natal use. The two possible uses are also both from British forces in Zululand, during the war.

The definite use from Zululand and largest franking of this stamp on cover, was sent via the ZAR. It is a cover ex the collection of the late Harry Birkhead, written in April 1979 by Capt. William Cox, to his father in Ireland, and is franked by six of

overprint from Private William Hay, also in Zululand and was cancelled with the Newcastle "20" on 9th April 1879 on entering Natal (Fig. 3). It was in the same Robson Zululand sale lot 599.

The only use of the 1879 overprint originating in Natal to pay the 1d local postage is illustrated in Fig. 4 – it is postmarked on 5th April 1879 and was mailed from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. It should be noted that the rarity of these stamps on cover may reflect their limited time of one month in use in Zululand and Natal from 28th March 1879 to 28th April 1879.



Fig. 2 Six pence packet letter from Zululand via ZAR and Natal to Ireland.



Fig 3. Officer's letter overpaid one penny (left) and soldier's letter both used from Zululand with 1877 or 1879 local penny overprinted Natal stamp

The most intriguing use of the 1879 penny overprint is on two covers from the same Caskey correspondence in Heilbron, OFS to Coleraine, Ireland. There are only three recorded combination uses of Natal and OFS stamps on cover during the brief period that the stamps of both countries were required to pay postage from the OFS abroad. Most of the mail went through the Cape with the addition of Cape Colony stamps, but 3 covers are recorded going over the Drakensburg mountains, into Natal and sent from there to Europe. One is to Germany from Harrismith in Jan 1880, (not illustrated as it is not franked with an 1879 penny overprint) and these two covers illustrated in Figs. 5,6. In both instances, the 6d packet postage from Natal is paid by a Natal 4d stamp plus two 1879 penny overprints. The stamps are cancelled in transit in Pietermaritzburg with the "1" cancel of the capital city. The OFS local postage to the border is paid with an OFS 4d stamp. It is interesting that these

stamps were used some 6 months later than the other recorded examples. It is possible that the stamps were kept from some considerable time by the sender before use, as earlier 1879 letters in this correspondence went via the Cape (Fig. 7).

In summary, there are four confirmed non-philatelic uses of the 1879 one penny local overprinted 6d pink revenue stamp on cover, three originating outside of Natal, in Zululand and the OFS, and two more unconfirmed covers that also originated in Zululand. This rare provisional on cover in terms of the surviving covers, had a very limited, but interesting use, reflecting the turbulence of 1879 – the Anglo Zulu War and the very rare use in combination with OFS stamps from the eastern OFS over the Drakensberg mountains into Natal.

The author can be reached by writing to [kklugma@emory.edu](mailto:kklugma@emory.edu)



Fig. 4. 1879 one penny postage overprint – the only recorded local use in Natal



Fig. 5. Heilbron 15th Oct 1879 (backstamp) via Pietermaritzburg on 20th October with Coleraine arrival on 1st December 1879. BPA cert 2006


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Fig. 6. Identical franking and routing to the cover above, but posted November 1879 transiting Pietermaritzburg on 10th November and arrival backstamp in Coleraine on 29th Dec 1879. Ex collection the late Danny Swart



Fig. 7. Caskey correspondence letters via Cape Colony in Feb and June 1879 (illustration thanks to Argyll Etkin Ltd.)



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# 1923 Map of Rhodesia Printed by Waterlow & Sons



Colour-printed, wood engraved map of Rhodesia, as administered by the British South Africa Company. Original size is 46 x 40 cm. It shows the country bisected by the Zambesi River into Northern & Southern Rhodesia, with the railways and the Company's mines given prominence. The map depicts very well the infrastructural development of the region at the end of WW1 and the year before the end of the BSAC, e.g. railways, telegraph lines, roads and some mines. The earlier names of the countries on the map and BSAC's claim of mineral rights to all of Rhodesia and some of the neighbouring territories are vivid reminders of the colonial past of these countries. This and other maps of the regions were produced by for the BSAC by Waterlow and Sons. The map was first published in 1913 (or 1910), in 1919 at the end of WW1, and this 1923 edition. The title of map was prescient of the end of the BSAC in 1924: earlier editions of the map included "Under the Administration of The British South Africa Company." Source: Paulus Swaen Gallery, <https://www.swaen.com/antique-map-of.php?id=29726>

# Francistown 59 Calling

by Peter Thy

P-516


A
5810

**POST OFFICE TELEPHONES—DITELEFONO TSA POSO**

Telephone No. 59  
 Numore ya Telefono Tati Co (Beenhall)

RECEIVED FROM Tati Co (Beenhall)  
 GO/AMOGETSWE GO

pounds 1 shillings 9 pence 5  
 diponto masheleng dipeni

IN PAYMENT OF:—  
 MO TUELONG YA:—

(1) Rental period .....	to			
Lobaka				
(2) Rental Supplementary				
Dikoketso				
(3) Removals .. .. .				
Dikhudso				
(4) Trunk Calls			1	9
Puo ya kgakala			5	
(5) Overseas Calls				
Puo ya Moseja				
(6) Farmline Rental				
Telefono ya polasi				
(7) Miscellaneous				
Dituelo tse dingwe			4	1
		<b>TOTAL</b>		
		<b>PALO YOTLHE</b>		1 13 6

Date Stamp

Setlanyo


  
 Postal Officer—Ra-poso

MAFEKING MAIL



This is a post office receipt for payment of telephone expenses by the Tati Company in Francistown holding phone no. 59. The payment was done at the Francistown Post Office on the 17th October, 1959. The total was 1£ 13 shilling and 6 pence. This covered trunk calls totalling 1£ 9 shilling and 5 pence and telephone rental of 4 shilling and 1 pence. It was probably either a monthly or quarterly payment.

Telephones were introduced in Rhodesia with the arrival of the railway and the first switchboard reached Bulawayo in 1899. The telephones, however, were late in arriving in Bechuanaland Protectorate. This happened first as local extensions from the South African system to Lobatsi and from Bulawayo down to Francistown. In 1959, the first direct connection between Francistown and Mafeking was established. Thus in 1959 the Tati Company and Francistown 59 could finally talk to their suppliers in Lobatsi and Mafeking as well as Bulawayo.

# Destinations of Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of African Countries

by John K. Courtis FRPSL

Country collectors are always on the lookout for covers with scarce destinations. Postal stationery wrapper collectors are no different often paying a premium for a destination perceived to be scarce. This perception is subjective and not based on empirical evidence. The purpose of this paper is to provide the evidence regarding the number of post office postal stationery wrappers that were sent from countries of Africa to other destinations. What constitutes a desirable destination may have its roots in the distance involved, complexity of the logistics in

There are 21 destination countries that each received only one wrapper from a country in Africa over a 17-year period. There are another seven countries that received two wrappers and six countries that received three. The evidence exists that these destination countries are uncommon, elusive and perhaps scarce. While the database is large and has been collected by hand systematically over a lengthy period, not all post office wrappers are sold via the internet. There may have been wrappers addressed to these 34 countries that were sold by dealers

## Destination Countries Ranked by Number of Wrappers Mailed from Countries and Postal Entities of Africa: Recorded September 2003 to April 2020

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Algeria	1	Vatican	1	Kenya	4	Madagascar	10
Brazil	1	Venezuela	1	Madeira	4	Uganda	10
Br North Borneo	1	West Indies	1	Reunion Is;	4	Sth West Africa	13
Bulgaria	1	Ascension Island	2	Russia	4	Australia	14
Cape Good Hope	1	Hong Kong	2	South Rhodesia	4	Vietnam	14
Ceylon	1	Hungary	2	Aden	5	Austria	18
Congo	1	Natal	2	Argentina	5	India	21
Curacao	1	Panama	2	Palestine	5	Belgium	30
Cyprus	1	Portugal	2	Spain	5	Holland	38
Czechoslovakia	1	Sudan	2	Syria	5	German East Afr	48
Dutch India	1	Denmark	3	Transvaal	5	Switzerland	65
Ireland	1	German SWA	3	Canada	6	USA	92
Japan	1	New Zealand	3	Finland	6	France	108
Malaya	1	Norway	3	Sweden	6	Great Britain	276
Montenegro	1	South Africa	3	Italy	7	Germany	439
St Vincent	1	Egypt	4	Mozambique	9		
Turkey	1	Indonesia	4	Chile	10		<b>1359</b>

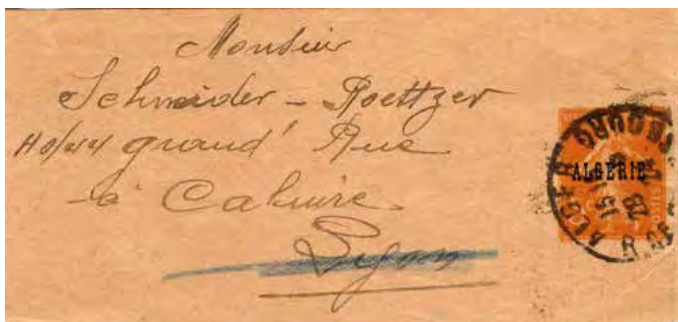
the mail delivery system, or the social and commercial connections. The author's database of images of worldwide wrappers is about 60,000, hand-collected daily since September 2003 and mostly from the internet.

The number of wrappers attributed to countries within Africa is 3,460 of which 1,359 or 39% were sent to other countries. An analysis showed they were sent by 20 countries and postal entities to 69 destination countries. Why is this important? Claims of elusive, scarce or rare destinations by sellers and exhibitors can be based on the evidence instead of opinion, belief and limited experience. An overview of destinations is shown first and the analysis then proceeds in alphabetical order of countries within the African continent that issued post office wrappers.

directly to known collectors or by traditional auction houses or elsewhere. Despite this caveat, the evidence is a credible start in assessing relative frequency of appearance of wrappers to different destinations. The European connection, for example, of its top six countries is 956 or 70% of the total. When USA is added, this rises to 77%. The remaining 62 countries account for 23% of destinations and in this relative sense, all of them are uncommon.

### Algeria

Of the 15 wrappers of Algeria in the database only two were to other country destinations, and both of these were to France.



Algeria destination: France



British Central Africa destination: London, England

**British Bechuanaland**

Most used copies were philatelically inspired by cover providers obtaining a postmark and adding an address to enhance legitimate postal use. Of the 40 copies, 19 were addressed to five other countries, the analysis marred by wrappers addressed to a cover provider in Germany. Any wrappers addressed locally to Vryburg should be examined carefully.

British Bechuanaland to other Countries: 19

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Great Britain	5	Russia	1	USA	3
Germany	9	Switzerland	1		19



British Bechuanaland destination: New York and England

**British East Africa**

Only five wrappers of 29 were sent to three other countries, the two to Great Britain are illustrated.

British East Africa to other Countries: 5

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Great Britain	2	Germany	2	India	1



British East Africa destination: England

**British Central Africa**

There was only one post office wrapper issued by British Central Africa. Of the 43 examples only eight were addressed to two country destinations: Great Britain (6) and India (2).

**British Morocco/Morocco Agencies**

Wrappers posted from British Morocco post offices accounted for 170 wrappers in the database and of these, 124 were mailed to 13 other countries. Germany tends to dominate a number of country profiles emphasising the commercial connection between it and these emerging African nations.

**British Morocco to other Countries: 124**

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Algeria	1	Gibraltar	8
Austria	1	Holland	2
Belgium	5	Hungary	1
Finland	1	Madeira	4
France	6	Switzerland	6
Great Britain	25	USA	13
Germany	51		124



British Morocco/Morocco Agencies destination: England

**British South Africa**

Of the 31 wrappers of British South Africa in the database there were 11 sent to five country destinations. Chile appears to be a scarce destination.

**British South Africa to other Countries: 11**

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Cape of Good Hope	1	Great Britain	4	USA	1
Chile	1	Germany	4		11



British South Africa destination: Cape Town and England



**Cape of Good Hope**

The Cape was populated by educated immigrants from Europe with family and business associates in their home countries. It is not surprising that there were 1,011 wrappers from the Cape of Good Hope of which 239 (24%) were addressed to 28 other country destinations.

**Cape of Good Hope to other Countries: 239**

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Ascension Isl	2	German SWA	2
Australia	5	Holland	5
Austria	3	Hungary	1
Belgium	1	Indonesia	1
Brazil	1	Montenegro	1
Bulgaria	1	Panama	2
Canada	2	SWA	1
Chile	1	Sth Rhodesia	2
Congo	1	Spain	2
Dutch Indies	1	Sweden	1
Finland	1	Switzerland	4
France	3	Uruguay	1
Great Britain	112	USA	14
Germany	67	West Indies	1



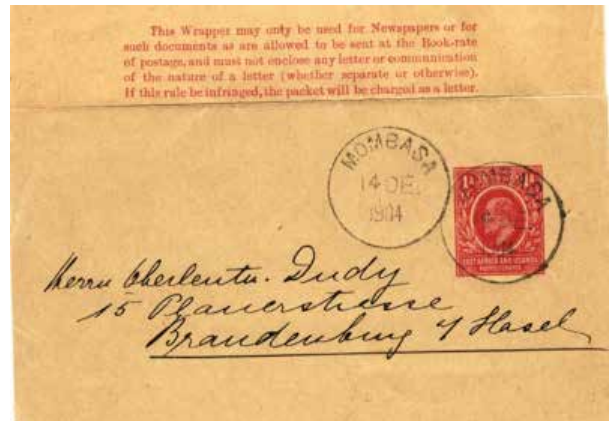
Cape of Good Hope destination: France

**East Africa & Uganda**

There were 32 wrappers in the database from East Africa and Uganda of which only six went to two other country destinations.

**British East Africa to other Countries: 5**

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Great Britain	2	Germany	2	India	1



East Africa destination: Germany

## Egypt

The database had 636 wrappers from Egypt. Of these 270 went to 28 other countries. European countries accounted for 120 of these or 44%. Of the remainder, single copies went to 13 countries of which Aden, British North Borneo, Cyprus, Japan, Uruguay and Vatican are likely prized uncommon destinations.

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Aden	1	Italy	6
Argentina	1	Japan	1
Australia	2	Palestine	5
Austria	5	Russia	3
Belgium	14	Spain	1
Br North Borneo	1	Sudan	2
Curacao	1	Sweden	4
Cyprus	1	Switzerland	36
Denmark	1	Syria	4
France	16	Turkey	1
Great Britain	10	Uruguay	1
Germany	29	USA	18
German SWA	1	Vatican	1
Holland	3	Venezuela	1



Egypt destination: Denmark

## Liberia

Of the 18 copies of Liberia's only post-office type, nine were shown to have five other country destinations, four of which received only one copy each.

### Liberia to other Countries: 9

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Finland	1	Germany	1	USA	1
France	1	Great Britain	5		9



Liberia destination: Germany

## Mauritius

Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean about 1,200 miles off the south-east coast of Africa. It is known for its sugar exports which would have resulted in a number of commercial connections. It is included here as part of the over-arching area of Africa. There were 304 wrappers in the database of which 185 were sent to 29 other countries.

### Mauritius to other Countries: 185

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Aden	3	Italy	1
Argentina	3	Madagascar	3
Australia	7	Malaya	1
Austria	2	Natal	2
Belgium	6	New Zealand	1
Canada	1	Nossi-Be	1
Ceylon	1	Reunion Isl	4
Chile	7	St Vincent	1
Denmark	1	South Africa	3
France	58	Switzerland	7
Great Britain	23	Transvaal	2
Germany	10	Uruguay	1
German East Af	1	USA	8
Hong Kong	2	Vietnam	14
India	11		185



Mauritius destination: Belgium

## Natal

Natal is also a country in South Africa with a large population of wrappers: 566. Of these, 142 were addressed to 17 other countries of which Germany and Great Britain dominate with 103 examples or 73%.

### Natal to other Countries: 142

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Argentina	1	Indonesia	1
Austria	3	Mozambique	2
Belgium	2	New Zealand	2
Canada	1	Spain	1
France	16	Sweden	1
Great Britain	30	Switzerland	2
Germany	73	Transvaal	1
German East Af	1	USA	2
Holland	3		142



Natal destination: New Zealand, private overprinting



Orange River Colony destination: Java (Indonesia)

**Sierra Leone**

There were 11 wrappers from Sierra Leone of which two were addressed to other countries - one each to Syria and USA.



Sierra Leone destination: USA

**Nyasaland Protectorate**

This is a simple country to report: only one used wrapper and this was addressed to Austria.



Nyasaland Protectorate destination: Austria

**Orange River Colony**

There were 60 wrappers in the database from Orange River Colony. Of these, 22 are addressed to seven other countries.

Orange River Colony to other Countries: 22

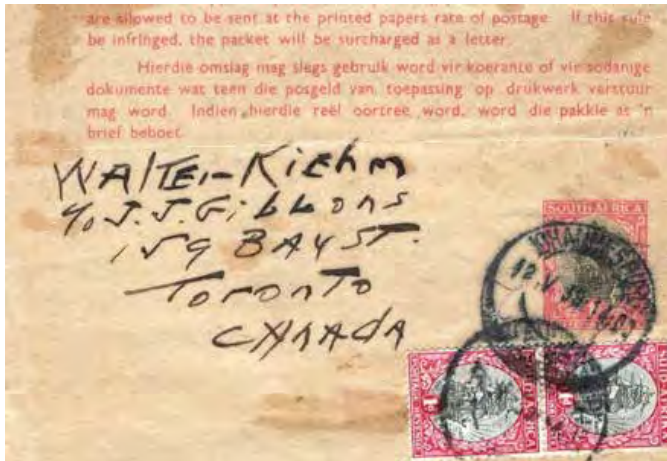
Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Great Britain	2	Norway	2
Germany	7	Transvaal	3
Holland	5	Uruguay	2
Indonesia	1		22

**South Africa**

Wrappers of South Africa commenced only after the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910. Prior to that, wrappers of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal and Orange River Colony issued their own postal stationery, including wrappers. South Africa had 133 wrappers in the database of which 86 were addressed to 15 other countries. The standout destination of this mix is Czechoslovakia. This is the only recorded incidence of a wrapper to this destination. Portugal and Chile are also uncommon destinations.

South Africa to other Countries: 86

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Belgium	1	Holland	8
Canada	2	India	2
Chile	1	Portugal	1
Czechoslovakia	1	South West Africa	12
Finland	2	South Rhodesia	2
France	3	Switzerland	4
Great Britain	12	USA	28
Germany	7		86



South Africa destination: Canada



Southern Rhodesia destination: England

South West Africa

While there are many extant mint copies of South West Africa, there were only six used examples of which two were addressed to one other country destination: Germany.



South West Africa destination: Germany

Sudan

There were 14 used copies of Sudan in the database of which 12 were mailed to four countries: four to Egypt, one to Finland, six to Germany and one to Ireland.



Sudan destination: Germany

Southern Rhodesia

Of the eight wrappers of Southern Rhodesia in the database two were addressed to England. However, they appear to have been philatelically inspired as the address to England is in the same hand, the addressee is the same and the SON postmark on both reads 30 AUG 69. Used wrappers of Southern Rhodesia are elusive.

Transvaal

Transvaal is another country with a population of the time made up essentially of Afrikaner, German and British migrants. Of the 213 wrappers in the database. 44 were sent to nine other countries of which (again) Germany and Great Britain account for 31 examples or 70%.

**Transvaal to other Countries: 44**

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Austria	1	Holland	7
Belgium	1	Indonesia	1
France	1	Mozambique	1
Great Britain	8	Switzerland	1
Germany	23		44



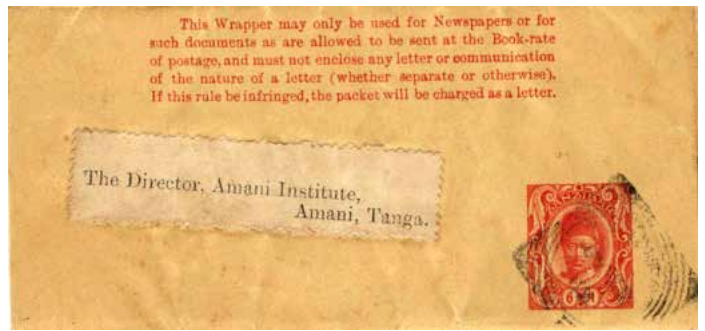
Transval destination Holland

**Zanzibar**

There were 280 wrappers of Zanzibar in the database of which 174 (62%) were mailed to 18 other country destinations. The German connection is evident with 94 examples (54%) to Germany and German East Africa. Six countries received only one each: Aden, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Spain and USA.

**Zanzibar to other Countries: 174**

Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Aden	1	Madagascar	7
Austria	2	Mozambique	6
Denmark	1	Norway	1
France	2	Portugal	1
Great Britain	31	Spain	1
Germany	48	Switzerland	3
German East Af	46	Uganda	10
Holland	5	USA	1
India	5		174
Kenya	4		



Zanzibar destination: German East Africa

**Summary**

Of a database of about 60,000 used worldwide post office wrappers, 3,460 wrappers can be attributed to 21 countries and postal entities in Africa. Of these, 39% or 1,359 were addressed to 69 other countries. In other words, the 21 countries analysed showed that almost 40% overall were sent to destinations outside of their own country. In order to provide empirical evidence that some of the destinations are uncommon, elusive and scarce, country destinations were ranked in ascending order according to the number of wrappers received from these 21 African nations and postal entities. It was shown that there were 34 countries with small numbers of incoming wrappers of no more than three in a 17-year period of data-collection. After European countries and the USA are put to one side, the remaining 62 countries account for 23% of destinations and in this relative sense, all of them are uncommon.

**Acknowledgement**

My thanks to Sheila Mackenzie for commenting and editing an earlier version.

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**COLLECTABLE POSTCARDS**

As a fund-raising endeavour for the 2021 International Exhibition, to be held in Cape Town, the next series of postcards have been prepared by the Organising Committee. The first of these sets was released in 2017. Official Postal Stationery showing a pre-printed 'Indica' of Standardised Postage. (Note: only 250 of these sets have been printed).

The postcards depict original artwork by Mrs. Julia Birkhead. This set of cards, sold in packs of 10 designs, are of indigenous birds. They were on sale at the East Rand 100 Exhibition held earlier in Benoni (4-7 September).

Now orders can be placed with Emil Minnaar by email: [Emil@Minnaar.org](mailto:Emil@Minnaar.org).

The selling price per pack is R200 plus R15 (local) and R65 (Foreign) postage and packaging.

CAPE TOWN  
 17-20 MARCH 2021  
 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Payment may be made by EFT to the account of: Philatelic Federation of South Africa. Standard Bank - Branch Code: 012442. Account number: 023 304 669 or to our PayPal account: [kiongcollector@gmail.com](mailto:kiongcollector@gmail.com)

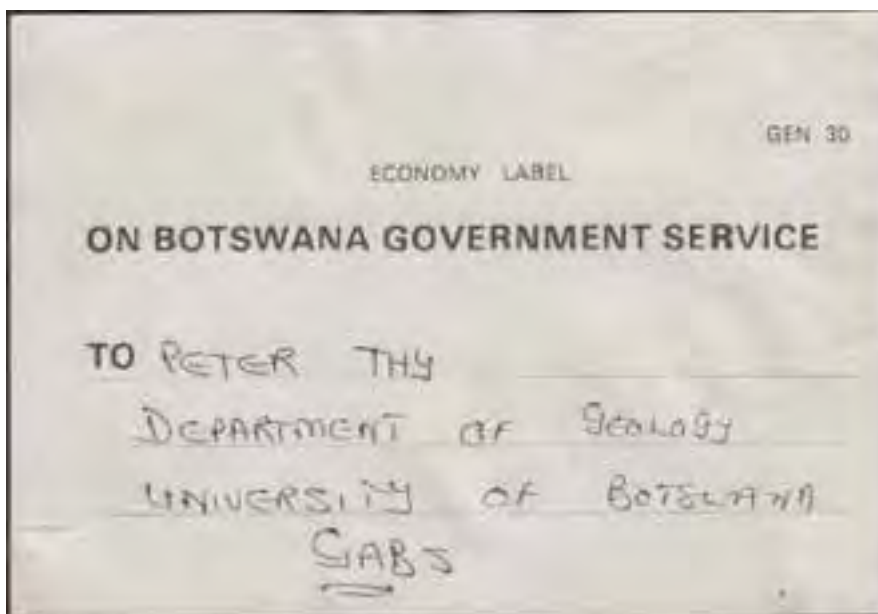
The original watercolours by this renowned artist, generously donated by her, were sold on auction at the East Rand 100 Exhibition.

# A Botswana Economy Label

by Gordon Smith

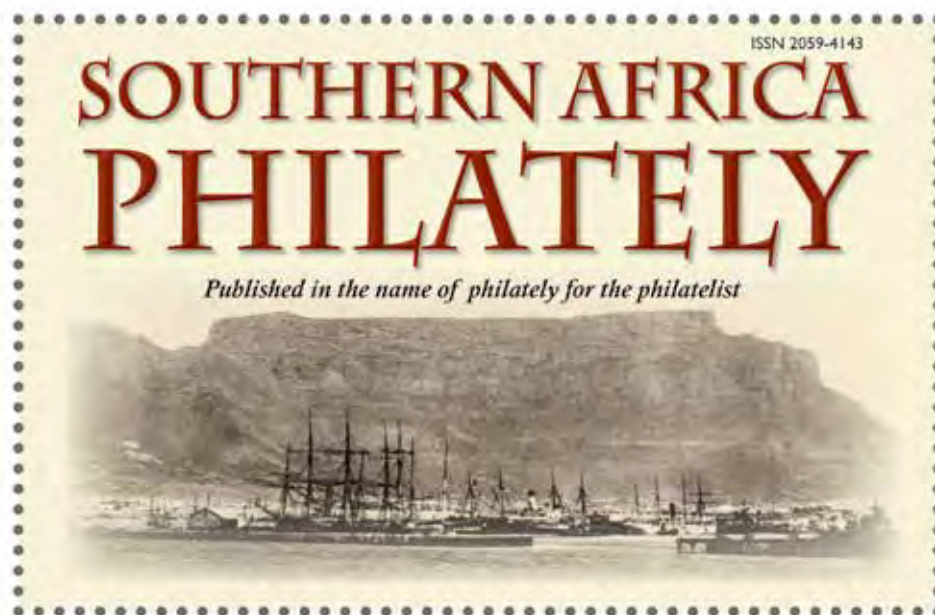
This is an interesting label using the term “On Botswana Government Service” This term is typically printed directly on envelopes used by Botswana government departments, but is accompanied by a hand stamp that provides the name and address of the department sending the item, the date and the words “Official Free” that allows the item to be sent through the mails free of charge (see “Botswana Government Printed Envelopes” in Forerunners #89).

Economy labels are typically used on covers that have been refolded and reused as a paper saving exercise, especially during times of war when there are strict rations on materials. Peter Thy received this item while he worked at the University of Botswana in the period 1989 to 1992 and suspects that it was originally on a packet from the Geological Survey Department. While Botswana was the third poorest country in the world when it achieved independence in 1966, by the early 1990’s it had one of the fastest growing economies in the world thanks to the discovery of very rich diamond deposit and careful management of this mineral wealth by the government. It is therefore interesting that in this time of relative plenty that the government would be re-using envelopes. However, this frugality, perhaps a holdover from the tighter economy only a few decades earlier, was still noticeable during the author’s stay in Botswana through the mid-1990’s until the early 2000’s.



The labelling of this item makes it clear that it is an economy label and the identification number “GEN 30” indicates that it was part of a system of serialized printing by the government. Given the term “GEN” in the serial number and the lack of any indications of a department, one could surmise that the label was a general one intended for use across all departments of government.

If anyone has further information on these types of labels, please contact the author, Gordon Smith at [gs@postalhistory.ca](mailto:gs@postalhistory.ca) or the editor.



[www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern\\_Africa\\_Philately.htm](http://www.southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm)

# Apartheid and the Post Office: Some Personal Notes

by Franco Frescura

On the morning of 21 March 1960 a group of supporters of the Pan African Congress gathered in Sharpeville, a segregated black residential suburb outside Vereeniging, to protest against the Apartheid government and the discriminatory laws which forced all black South Africans over the age of sixteen to carry a pass book, sometimes referred to colloquially as a “dompas”. The document was tied to the migrant labour system whereby only black workers with the necessary permits were allowed to reside in South Africa’s urban areas. Failure to immediately produce these papers upon request by a member of the South African Police rendered a black person liable to arrest, a summary trial the next day which seldom lasted longer than 60 seconds, and a six month stint of hard labour on a white-owned farm. White farmers relied upon this as a means of obtaining free labour and resorted to notoriously brutal methods to enforce this state of legalized slavery (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Artwork for cover of the Financial Mail, Johannesburg 1972, illustrating South Africa’s forced labour policies

Not unnaturally these laws were deeply resented by black South Africans and in 1960 both the ANC and the PAC initiated campaigns to protest against their implementation. At that stage the PAC was the leading voice of African political protest in the country. According to news reports, the gathering at Sharpeville was a good-natured, and even festive affair involving about 7000 to 10,000 persons, and after a few preliminary speeches, the crowd peacefully moved off to the local police station where, following established procedures, they planned

to burn their pass-books and offer themselves up for arrest by the police (Figure 2). In the process they hoped to use sheer numbers to overwhelm the police, judicial and prison systems, a procedure which echoed the strategies previously used by Mahatma Gandhi in India.



Figure 2. Black residents of Johannesburg burning their pass books, 1960

The SAP were not unprepared for this, and the initial contingent of 20 staff at the station was soon reinforced by the arrival of another 130 men and four Saracen personnel carriers. The police were armed, mostly with Lee-Enfield rifles and Sten submachine guns, while there is no evidence that any one in the crowd had anything other than stones to use as offensive weapons. At one stage, F-86 Sabre jets and Harvard Trainers flew over the crowd at a height of about 30m in an effort to scatter it, but this was met with derision by many protesters. At that stage matters began to grow tense, and when at about 13.00 police attempted to arrest a protester the crowd surged forward. It was at that stage that the shooting began.

It has never been fully established who gave the order for the police to fire upon the crowd. The SAP commanding officer, Lt-Colonel Pienaar, denied doing so and to this day this breakdown in discipline remains attributed to some inexperienced men who panicked in the melee. In the resultant mayhem 67 protesters were killed, including 8 women and 10 children, and 186 were wounded. Notably most people were shot in the back, indicating that they were attempting to flee the scene. Despite the emotions that must have arisen, at a national level the protest movement remained peaceful, and nine days later, on 30 March, between 15,000 and 30,000 persons gathered outside Cape Town and marched in a disciplined procession into the city centre (Figure 3). They dispersed peacefully near Parliament (Thompson, 1990:210).

Nonetheless South Africa's Nationalist Government soon moved against these protesters. On 30 March it mobilized all army reserves, declared a countrywide State of Emergency, banned all black and non-racial political movements, and detained more than 12,000 persons prominent in the anti-Apartheid movement, including at least 11,279 African, 98 whites, 90 Indian and 36 persons of mixed heritage. This set the scene for nearly 30 years of violent struggle and totalitarian oppression that were only brought to an end in 1990 with the lifting of all bans on proponents of a constitutional democracy and the release from jail, on 11 February, of Nelson Mandela.

Despite these bans, resistance against Apartheid continued unabated, and while the PAC and ANC got on with the more serious business of running an armed freedom struggle, internal



Figure 3. ANC supporters marching in Johannesburg, c1960

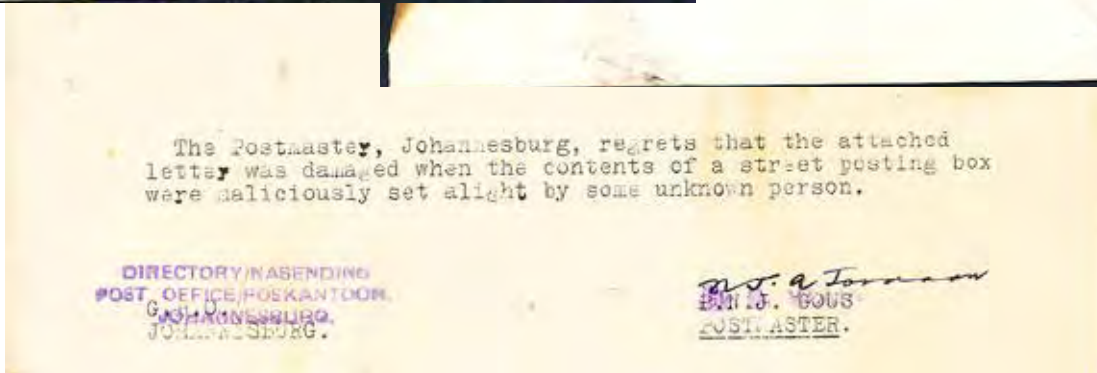


Figure 5. Letter damages in a post box from fire. Forwarded with explanation letter from the postmaster



Figure 4. Polystyrene statue, about 4 m high, erected by students at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1972, protesting Apartheid segregation

resistance in the major urban centers devolved into the hands of small informal groups, usually consisting of clerics and newly radicalized white, middle-class students (Figure 4). Their efforts at sabotage usually manifested themselves in any number of petty covert acts such as pamphleteering, exploding buckets full of ANC literature, the distribution of banned music and literature, and the propagation of slide shows, the equivalent of modern-day PowerPoint presentations. At one stage the Anglican Dean of Johannesburg was prosecuted by the State, in a much-publicised case, for suggesting to a group of elderly parishioners that computers might be sabotaged by placing magnets in their works, while at least one student newspaper editor was deported for publishing a lavatorial lampoon of Prime Minister Vorster. Their methods might have been naïve, but given the fact that sabotage in any form carried a minimum mandatory sentence of five years in jail, such people could hardly be faulted for their lack of courage.

Another such strategy was the setting alight of isolated suburban post boxes (Figure 5). Up to the early 1980s the South African Post Office was still using a system of small neighborhood posting boxes which, depending on their location, were emptied on a regular basis, usually once every two or three working days, excluding week-ends. The boxes were relatively small and normally could not hold more than a few dozen small DL-size letters, while their posting slot was not big enough to cater for a large A4 envelope. They were mounted on a tubular steel post and were usually located at the intersection of secondary suburban residential roads. Because they were usually located in poorly frequented areas with low levels of lighting, they became ideal targets for petty arsonists.

For its part the SA Post Office was determined to follow established postal procedures, and continued to deliver as many of the damaged items of mail as possible, forwarding the let-

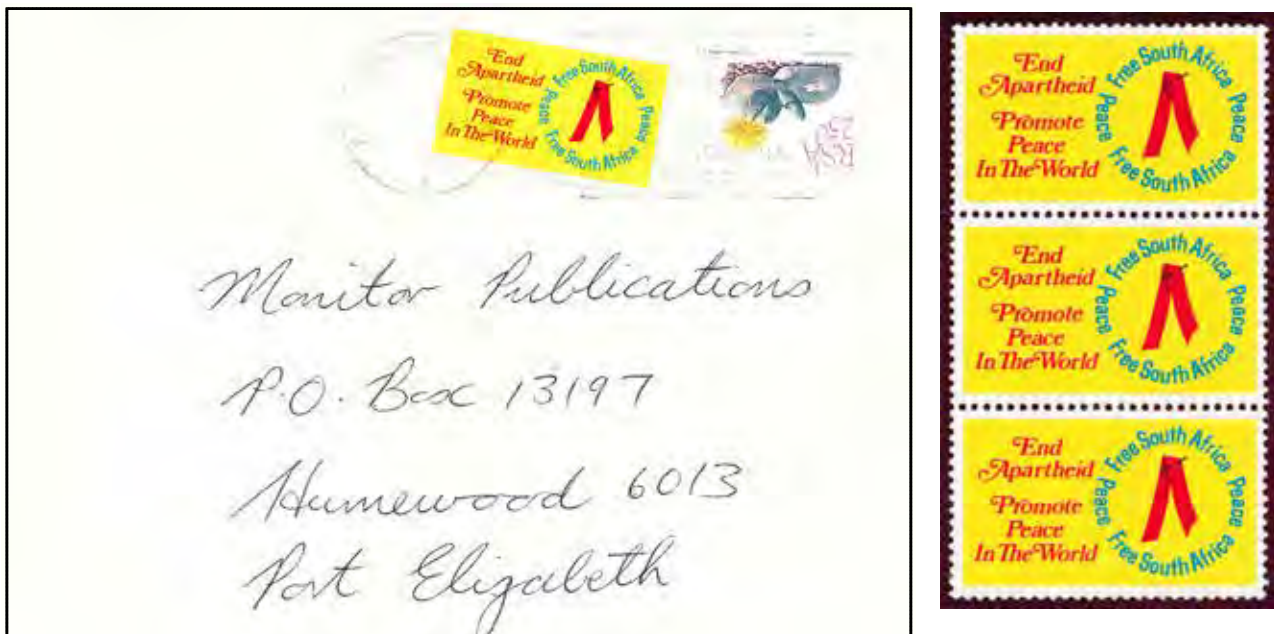


Figure 6. Label on cover and strip of three perforated labels, probably published by the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London in about 1986

ters to their recipients with an explanatory note. The item illustrated here was probably posted in Fairview, a white, working class residential suburb near central Johannesburg, on Tuesday 3 January 1961, the first working day of the New Year. The post box was probably set alight that night, and when the box was opened the next morning, the damage was discovered. The contents were then taken to the GPO in Jeppe Street where the individual letters were processed and a note appended to it to the effect that:

“The Postmaster, Johannesburg, regrets that the attached letter was damaged when the contents of a street posting box were maliciously set alight by some unknown person.”

The note was probably reproduced by means of a wax stencil run off on a Roneo machine, commonly in use at the time, as shown by the over-inking of the letter “r” in a couple of places where the typewriter key has torn the surface of the stencil. The note was then signed by NJA Jordaan, probably an official in the Distribution Branch of the GPO.

A second item was a stamp-like postal label, and was probably produced in the late 1980s by the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London (Figure 6). Its message urged in bold red letters on a yellow background to END APARTHEID, FREE SOUTH AFRICA, and PROMOTE WORLD PEACE. Although its somewhat “Brazilian” colours made it highly visible, the South African postal authorities do not seem to have been unduly concerned by its presence, and a number of letters bearing this label are known to have been safely delivered to South African destinations. The label is well produced and its comb perforations are indicative that it was probably printed by a professional stamp printing works. The recipient, in this case, was Monitor Publications, an organization run by the Human Rights Trust, in Port Elizabeth, who was well known in the Eastern Cape as an ANC support group.

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, the sender of the letter shown in Figure 7, was born in Graaff-Reinet on 5 December 1924. He attended the Methodist College at Healdtown, and Fort

Hare University College, where he read law, joining the ANC in 1948. He came to national prominence during the Campaign of Defiance organized by the ANC in 1952 but, propounding a strong Africanist agenda, he resigned from the organization in 1957 because of what he termed its “liberal-left multi-racialist” orientation. As a result he founded the Pan Africanist Congress, which excluded whites from its membership, and was elected its first President in 1959. In 1960 the PAC led a notional protest campaign against the country’s Apartheid pass laws, and although he was not present in Sharpeville at the time of the massacre, he was charged with “incitement” and sentenced to three years in jail. Having served this sentence, the South African Government passed a new law, commonly known as “the Sobukwe clause” which allowed for him to be detained indefinitely at the discretion of the Minister of Justice. He was sent to Robben Island where he was kept in solitary confinement and segregated from other political prisoners. In 1969 he was released and allowed to settle with his family, under house arrest, in Kimberley where, it was felt, his daily activities could best be monitored by the Security Police. He completed his law degree in 1975 but this remarkable man and committed leader of his people died soon thereafter of stomach cancer on 27 February 1978.

Because of the limitations placed upon his movements after 1960, precious little in the way of postal history attributable directly to Robert Sobukwe is known outside family records. This envelope, recovered from the offices of the Rev John Thorne, Secretary General of the SA Council of Churches for three months at the end of 1977, was posted from Kimberley on 14 November 1977. The envelope originates from RM Sobukwe, 24 Tyson Road, Kimberley and bears a violet hand-stamp to this effect on the back. The back of the envelope also shows signs of rough treatment, and was clearly opened in transit by the Security Police. There was no official censorship of mails at that time, but the South African security apparatus did not care to hide its presence from those it kept under surveillance. If



Figure 7. Letter mailed by Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe (see text for explanation)

anything it made its presence obvious as part of a policy of intimidation, and having opened the envelope, its agents revealed it by means of a piece of Scotch tape. Crude, but effective. The Council of Churches was banned by the Government soon afterwards so, presumably, all contact between it and Sobukwe would have ended as the security laws of the time specifically prohibited communications between persons and organizations placed under a banning order.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

The postal history of South Africa during the Apartheid era is a patchwork of events and materials which have yet to be put together into a cogent sequence. Some areas, such as the military incursion of South African troops into Angola, for example, are relatively well documented, but thanks to the research of a number of dedicated collectors, the picture presented by postal history during the Apartheid era often differs substantially from the dates and the sequence of events provided by official sources. For example, men serving in the SADF told stories of being encamped 15km from Luanda at the time when the SABC announced that South African troops had wholly withdrawn from Angola. We also know that sometimes dates and locations of field post offices were forged by the SADF to hide troop movements from the general public. Fortunately many philatelists had daughters with boyfriends in the army, and they often told a different story.

Similarly many documents necessary to the postal narrative were part of the Security Police's records, and despite an agreement reached at the CODESA negotiations that these would be kept intact and handed over to the new government after South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, we know that many of these files were destroyed, some selectively but most wholesale in fear of retribution and legal prosecution. Thus scraps of information such as those recorded in this small paper, supported by personal memories and oral histories become doubly important for historians seeking to document the social history of South Africa during those turbulent years. And the need for a more objective approach to South Africa's history is already being made apparent by the pronouncements of politicians and opportunists from all points of the political spectrum. Apartheid was a crime against humanity: most reasonable people are in agreement on that, but the true nature of this crime cannot be comprehended by future generations who have only been fed a diet of generalized and sanitized statements. The inhumanity of Apartheid lies in its detail, for only its detail can reveal how far this system affected the daily lives of ordinary people. And this, I firmly believe, is what postal history can do for us.

- OMER-COOPER, JD. 1987. History of Southern Africa. Heinemann: Portsmouth, New Hampshire.  
THOMPSON, Leonard. 1990. A History of South Africa. New Haven: Yale University Press.

## Forerunners Forum

### We got a Real Letter

Bill Brooks our founding father writes a real letter and sends his greetings to all members saying: "Dear Editor, I detest using snail mail. However, our e-mail is experiencing problems at the moment.

It is hard to believe that the last issue of Forerunners 1 produced was for our 10th anniversary issue in conjunction with our meeting at Pacific 97. I remember that I was able to convince several other British Africa specialty groups, e.g., East Africa Study Group, to submit an article for our double issue named "A Celebration of British Africa Philately."

Back in those days we had no shortage of articles, the largest issue having 64 pages. This was of course every Editor's dream. Of course back then we had upwards of 160 members, which created a large pool of potential authors. I did a lot of "arm twisting" and persisted in my messages of encouragement to get first time authors to contribute articles.

In the meantime, since then you have acquitted yourself well when you took over as Editor during the latter part of 1997. I love the use of color that you implemented as well as each issue's layout.

Now to a minor correction in the latest issue. Under "OFFICERS" on the first page, my entry as Founder should have been "Bill Brooks VI, 6871 Rains Place, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701, 909-561-6716, billpatti99@yahoo.com. Please correct accordingly for all future issues thank you.

I trust that you and all members are faring well during these difficult days."

*Bill*

### Exchange Journals

The society used to receive several journals in exchange for Forerunners. Today this practice has nearly become extinct with the technological developments and the raising postal rates. The journals that had accumulated with the Editor over the years have now been donated to good causes. A few have been given to members that responded to a past announcement in Forerunners. The remaining have been donated to philatelic libraries. The American Philatelic Research Library has received the Natal and Cape Philatelic Journal, the South West Africa Newsletter, and FVZA Bartolomeu Dias. The Western Philatelic Library in Redwood City of California (<https://www.fwpl.org>) has received the South African Philatelist and the Transvaal Journal. Please patronize these two (and many other) philatelic libraries if you are in need for information in these journals (and any other).

Forerunners is distributed in electronic format to all editors of southern Africa specialist societies known to us each time a new issue is available with the hope that we will in exchange receive a copy of their journal.

Some of the southern Africa Specialist societies, like the PSGSA, offer archival copies of their journals for a nominal price or free from their websites.

# For the Record

401. **Rand Stamps** (Paul van Zeyl) has introduced a new approach to his regular auctions by placing them on the on the web while at the same time maintaining their usual distribution of lists. Contact Paul Van Zeyl, paulvz@mweb.co.za to get on his mailing list.

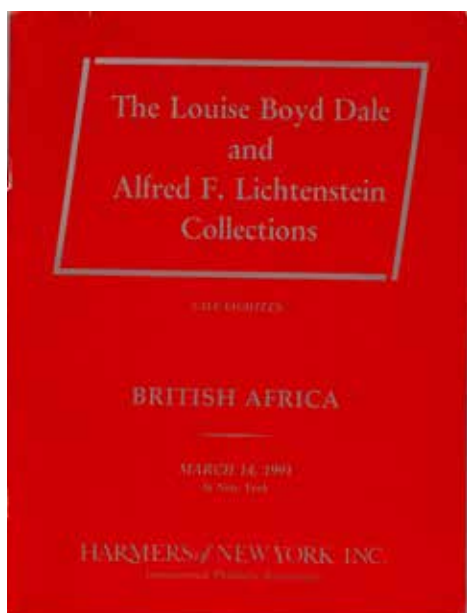
402. **South African Post Office** has release of an issue to honor the SA Social Security Agency in October 2019 and another issue with the stars of the southern skies (January 2020). The innovation of this latter is that the stars glow in the dark. A special issue is also release on the occasion of the inauguration of Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa as the president of South Africa (January 2020) and a woodpecker series has also been released (April 2020). Finally, and not the least, a set of stamps honoring what they call poets of words and sounds in January 2020. Included in the latter was **Hugh Masekela**. Visit sa.stamps@postoffice.co.za.



403. **Spink** has sold, by an auction conducted behind closed doors, the 'Libra' collection of the 1961 decimal surcharges of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Swaziland on May 13, 2020. Visit [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com).



404. **H.R. Harmer** has made available several digitized legacy auction catalogues of the past 80 years. An example is the **Dale/Lichtenstein sale 18 of British Africa from 1991**. Find this and many more by going to <https://issuu.com/hrharmer>.



405. **Rhodesian Study Circle** has started offering to members and non-members their special **memoirs** in pdf format at a large reduced price compared to the printed versions. Go to <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk> for an updated list.

406. The **Philatelic Federation of South Africa** is now on **Facebook**. You are invited to join the PFSA Facebook to follow conversations and share your collecting interest and knowledge. Visit and browse the page by clicking <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031691006915864/> and click the blue 'join group' button to become a member.

407. **Otto Peetoom** is accepting pre-orders for his book on the **Southern Rhodesia King George V Philately**. The content includes; early History, the lead up to Self Government, continued use of the BSAC Admirals, the 1924–35 stamp issues in depth, archival material and varieties, booklets, perfins, sample stamps, revenues, postal stationery, post offices, postal rates, early aviation, TPO's, and postal history. Price is £35+p&h. Contact Otto Peetoom to order your copy by writing to [ottopeetoom@btinternet.com](mailto:ottopeetoom@btinternet.com).

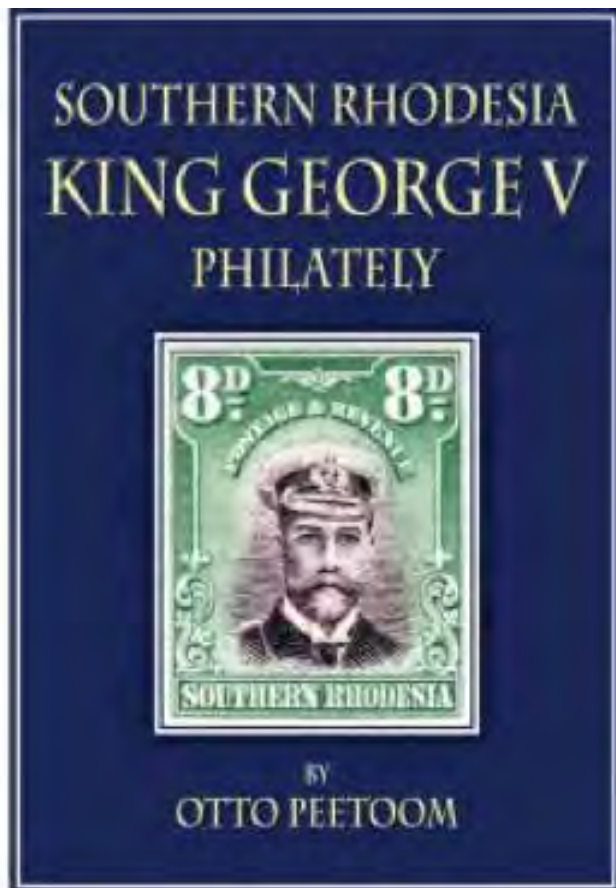
408. The **Rhodesian Study Circle** has announced the eminent release of their **Memoir No. 32**. It is 'McNeil's Giraffe: The African Sketches of a Scottish Postmaster' by **Anita**

**McCullough.** It is described as covering the quintessential North-Eastern Rhodesia back-story shedding light on the Edwardians of the Tanganyika Plateau by illustrating the postcards and photographs of Jim McNeil. Go to <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk> for the most recent information on availability.

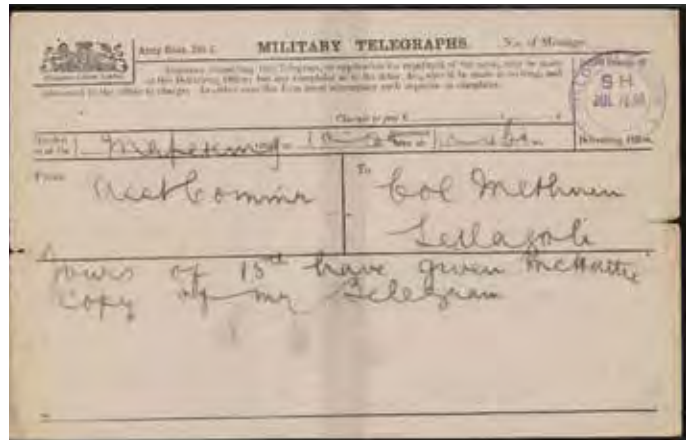
409. **Colin Hoffman** gave a display and presentation on 20 February 2020 at the **RPSL** on the stamps and postal history of 'Rhodesia 1890-1924.' Since presentations are commonly videotaped, it may still be on YouTube or the RPSL website if you look or ask around.



Richard Stock and Colin Hoffman at the RPSL after his display of Rhodesia.



410. The **Philatelic Federation of South Africa** announced a January 2020 publication of a book by **Derrick Byrom** on 'Zimbabwe Post Offices and Postmarks. The first decade.' The publication has been aborted due to financial constraints. No information is available as to a future publication date or an alternative 'publisher.'
411. **Gordon Smith** has reorganized his website devoted mostly to **Botswana postal history**. There are pages on most of the subjects Gordon has been written on in Forerunners. New subjects are registration labels, postal rates, and postal legislation. Go to <https://postalhistory.ca>.
412. The **Institute for Analytical Philately** has finally released the proceedings of their **third symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately**. Included are 10 articles based on their October 2017 symposium in London. Electronic copies can be downloaded from <http://analyticalphilately.org/>.
413. **Spink** will sell part XII of the **Lionhart Collection of British Empire** on July 15, 2020. Included is a fine selection of the Rhodesians. Go to [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com) for details.
414. **Spink** conducted their Philatelic Collectors auction in April 2020. Included were selections of **Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Natal, and Southern Rhodesia** among much more. Go to [www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com) for details.



Warren expedition telegram from Spink's April 2020 auction

415. **Feldman** conducted in April 2020 in Geneva a **British Empire** auction including the Tatiana Collection. Offered were a special large aero philatelic collection and a large Double Head Rhodesian selection. At the same day they also a special **Mauritius** auction also part of the Tatiana collection.
416. Several philatelic groups (APS, RSC, and CC) have started experimenting with online meetings. They use a free available meeting software called **Zoom**. It is easy to use and quite powerful. Look at the websites of these organizations for details. You will need to register and then when time is there to click on the link that they will send you. You can also use the same software to keep in touch with family and friends.



## Videos on YouTube from Milcopex 2019

Several presentations during Milcopex 2019 were taped and have been posted on YouTube. Included among these are several from the PanAfrican event organized by PSGSA.

“Postal History of Natal”: Keith Klugman, Saturday, September 21, 2019

“Christmas with a Non-Christmas Collector”: Richard Martorelli, Saturday, September 21, 2019

“Mastering Postal History: How to Read and Interpret a Cover”: Gary Loew. Saturday, September 21, 2019

“Create Your Own Specialized Numbering System for Difficult Countries”: Van Siegling, Friday, September 20, 2019

“Adventures in Expertizing”: Gary Loew, Friday, September 20, 2019

“Stamps... Who Needs Them”: Gordon Smith, Friday, September 20, 2019

“Polish Refugees in Africa World War II”: Regis Hoffman, Friday, September 20, 2019

“Solving the Mystery of Specimen Stamp Irregular Blocks”: Gary Loew, Friday, September 20, 2019

The presentations can still be enjoyed by going to <https://www.youtube.com> and search for Milcopex. Alternatively, there are direct links on <https://milcopex.org>.

## New Books

Halawi, M., 2019. *Echoes of Empire*. Sierra Leone Philatelic Legacy 1786-1980 (two volumes). Spink and BPA, London.  
Institute for Analytical Philately, 2020. *Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately* (edited by S. Smith and J.H. Barwis). Available as a fee download from <http://analyticalphilately.org/>.

## Bechuanaland & Botswana Dealer Stock

Longtime Botswana stamp dealer and philatelic activist Sheila Case has retired to Oregon and want to dispose of her dealer holdings of mostly very fine used stamps and a collection of valuable Bechuanaland postmarks. The stamp stock is perfect for a dealer while the postmarks may also be useful for an experienced collector. Contact Sheila by writing to [sheilacase23@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacase23@gmail.com) for further information.

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## Exchange Journals Received

South African Philatelist in electronic format only: February 2020 (Volume 96, No. 1, Whole No. 958), April 2020 (Volume 96, No. 2, Whole No. 959), and June 2020 (Volume 96, No. 3, Whole No. 960).

FVZA Bartolomeu Dias: January 2020 (Volume 32, Whole No. 125) and April 2020 (Volume 32, Whole No. 126).

The PSGSA exchanges printed journals with the Filatelistenvereniging Zuidelijk Afrika. We receive the South African Philatelist as an affiliated society of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in electronic format. Forerunners is exchanged as an electronic document to all southern African specialist societies known to us.



## 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 Editor's desk. If you find that some important articles are missing, please supply the relevant quotes.

- Barit, L., 2019. The 1984 Lesotho 30c butterfly stamp. *South African Philatelist* 95, 156-159.
- Brakspear, G., 2020. The chaos at Zimpost in 2019. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 126-129.
- Briscoe, A., 2020. An airgraph from Bulawayo. *South African Philatelist* 96, 91.
- Burke, S., 2020. Georges and Marguerite Reutter – early missionaries in Barotseland. *South African Philatelist* 96, 94-96.
- Burke, S., 2020. Paris Missionary Society in Barotseland. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 137-140.
- Burrett, R., 2020. The story of two Gatoomas: a forgotten history of philatelic significance. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 188-192.
- Cooksey, C. and de Bourbon, A., 2020. Quitrent in Rhodesia 1894-1934. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 204-211.
- Cooper, D., 2020. 1917 Rhodesia inverted penny surcharges. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 212-213.
- Cooper, D., 2020. Rhodesia UDI imperforate stamps/presentation cards. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 70-71.
- de Bourbon, A., 2020. Three interesting 'historical' revenue documents. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 106-109.
- de Bourbon, A., 2020. Zimbabwe airport departure tax/fee. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 54-55.
- Diesveld, J., Zuid-Afrikaanse burger censuurstempels tijdens de tweede Wereldoorlog (2). *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 125, 36-38.
- Farrell, M., 2020. The 1986-88 Lesotho surcharge stamps and errors – listing. *South African Philatelist* 96, 12-13. *South African Philatelist* 96, 94-96.
- Flanagan, P. and Burke, S., 2020. The story around an 1899 postal stationery card from Barotseland. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 193-194.
- Gardiner, C., 2020. UMCA postcards – series 1B. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 52-53.
- Gardner, C., 2020. UMCA postcards: series 3. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 220-221.
- Goulding, A., 2020. Overprint oddities, a sign of Zambia's postal woes? *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 104-105.
- Hoffman, C., 2020. Rhodesia 1890-1924. The postal history and stamps of the British South Africa Company. Display to the Royal Philatelic Society London 20 February 2020. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 90-99.
- Jørgensen, L., 2020. Een handleiding tot de correcte identificatie van de 6d wapenschilden van de eerste Zuid Afrikaanse Republic deel 3. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 125, 8-13.
- Kamffer, G. and Barnard, W., 2019. Revenue stamps of the Union of South Africa: assize/yk stamps. *South African Philatelist* 95, 160-164.
- Kamffer, G., 2020. The frontier wars in the Eastern Cape region with focus on the seventh (1846-1847) and eighth frontier wars (1850-1853). *South African Philatelist* 96, 83-87.
- Kamffer, G., 2020. The impact of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and its aftermath on the postal history of towns: a case study based on Standerton in the Transvaal. *South African Philatelist* 96, 14-17.
- Kamffer, G., 2020. The railway stations from Heidelberg, Transvaal to Standerton: a postal history perspective. *South African Philatelist* 96, 48-52.
- Kirkpatrick, A. and Spivack, D., 2020. In search of the "intruder" (Admiral issue). *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 180-86.
- Kirkpatrick, A., 2020. 1915 registered linen parcel tag with 2/6d die II plate 3 state 3 (SG unlisted); two strips of three and one block of the and four single copies. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 134-135.
- Klugman, K. and Porter, R., 2020. Natal: earliest recorded printed picture on Natal Postal Stationery. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 24, 27-37.
- Klugman, K., 2020. Natal: An Expanded Record of the Ede Correspondence from Sidmouth on the Union and Castle Steamship Lines via Cape Town to Newcastle, Natal and the Barberton Goldfields in the ZAR. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 24, 19-25.
- Klugman, K., 2020. Natal: census of 1896 Natal postage overprints to overseas destinations outside southern Africa. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 24, 38-65.
- Knip, E., 2020. Astrologie, astronomie en ruimtevaart in de filatelie van Zuidelijk Africa. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 126, 23-27.
- Ladd, M., 2020. The role of Chinde in the early mails of BCA and North-Eastern Rhodesia (NER). *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 198-200.
- Leefflang, B., 2020. Papierschaarste in Zuid Africa. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 125, 13-17.
- Matheson, I., 2019. Entertainments tax in South Africa. *South African Philatelist* 95, 179-181.
- Matheson, I., 2020. Entertainments tax in South Africa. Part 4. Transvaal. *South African Philatelist* 96, 18-20.
- Menuez, W., 2020. Rhodesia postal stationery revisited. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 40-51.
- Munez, W., 2020. Rhodesia stationery revisited. *Postal Stationery* 62, 72-84.
- Porter, R., 2020. Gold rush, sea mail and postal agreements. *South African Philatelist* 96, 64-67.
- Reah-Johnson, S. and Hensman, S., 2020. Preamble to the colours and printings of the Rhodesian Double Heads. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 112-126.
- Rose, A., 2020. A postie remembers. *South African Philatelist* 96, 88-90.
- Ross, S., 2020. African Lakes Corporation postcards. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 74-76.
- Solomon, S., 2020. Emil Carl Christiaan Tamsen. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 24, 17-18.
- Solomon, S., 2020. Zululand: three interesting items appearing at a recent Spink auction. *Cape and Natal Philatelic Journal* 24, 14-17.
- Sorour, V., 2019. RSA Protea series – how to identify the unidentified panes. *South African Philatelist* 95, 182-184.
- Sorour, V., 2020. Protea definitive series: the 'flying saucer' flaw. *South African Philatelist* 96, 68-69.
- Spivack, D. and Hoffman, C., 2020. The British South Africa Company, King George V admiral series. Rediscovering the origin of the portrait. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 141-149.
- Steyl, P., 2020. The postal road past Ruytersbosch. *South African Philatelist* 96, 22-23.
- Stolk, J., 2020. Midland spoorwegverbinding Port Elizabeth – Graaff Reinet 140 jaar (2). *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 125, 4-7.
- TBVC Study Group, 2019. Transkei – first definitive issue part three. *South African Philatelist* 95, 187-191.
- Toussaint, J., 2020. Een paradijs voor olifant en iederreen (9). *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 125, 32-35.
- Toussaint, J., 2020. Een paradijs voor olifant en iederreen (Slot). *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 126, 30-35.
- Trotter, B., 2020. The Warren Expedition. *London Philatelist* 129, 109-113.
- van der Vliet, O., 2020. Ervaar alle elementen uit de natuur! (1). *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 126, 8-12.
- van der Walt, G., 2019. Siekefondsseels van die eSuid-Afrikaanse-Spoorwee. *South African Philatelist* 95, 185-186.
- van der Walt, G., 2020. Railway pioneer regiment – hoe seldsaam is hierdie stempels? *South African Philatelist* 96, 31-32.
- Waters, J., 2020. Celebrating Kariba's Diamond Jubilee on 17 May, 2020. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 222-225.
- Wilson, A., 2020. The Oswald March legacy. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 60-67.
- Wingent, P., 2020. Northern Rhodesia to the Gold Coast by air mail in 1935. *Rhodesian Study Circle Journal* 70, 36-37.
- Zegerman, K., 2020. Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu. *FVZA Bartolomeu Dias* 32, Whole No. 126, 4-7.



## Society Publications

Hisey, Bob and Matheson, Ian, 2017. The "Officials" of South Africa. PDF on Memory Stick, \$30 pp.

Mordant, David, 2017. Barred Oval Numerical Cancellers of Cape of Good Hope 1863-1963. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob and Bartshe, Tim, 2003-9. Philately of the Orange Free State, Vol. 1. The Postage Stamps, 280 pages.

Vol. 2. The Telegraphs, 250 pages.

Vol. 3. Revenues and Postal Stationery, 205 pages.

CD version is now available at \$30 pp.

Forerunners on CD, Issues 1 to 81 (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. Can be downloaded from the Society website.

Hisey, Bob (compiler), 2006. Postal Office Names of Southern Africa According to Ralph Putzel (CD-ROM). \$15 pp.

To order contact David McNamee using the address given on page 1.

## The Market Place

**South Africa OFFICIALS.** Want to purchase/trade for stamps overprinted official/offisiel. Collections, accumulations, units or pairs, for studying purposes. The usual is as interesting as the spectacular. Can offer Union and RSA stamps and covers. Send scans and price to Roald Sand, Bygdoy alle 27B, 0262 Oslo, Norway. roald.sand2@getmail.no

**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.payne@gmail.com, or The Mill House, Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QE, 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.

**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 Schuylkill 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.

**Natal Postcards Wanted.** Used or unused picture postcards from 1906-1907 depicting scenes and events surrounding the Natal Native Rebellion. Contact David McNamee dmcnamee@aol.com.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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

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Rare 1894 cover from the Cordonia District of British Bechuanaland. It was mailed by a German soldier belonging to 'Schutztruppe' stationed in Keetmanshoop in the southern part of German South West Africa on the main rail line. The 'Schutztruppe' was a German occupation force of mounted infantry men. The sender was writing home to his father in Salder in Braunschweig. Keetmanshoop is located about 200 km due west of Rietfontain (or Mier) in British Bechuanaland. The postal agency of Zwart Modder where the letter was cancelled with BONC 394 and a CDC of SP 26 1894 was located much further down south in British Bechuanaland. The letter may have been posted at Mier and gone with the regular mail south via Bloemfontain to Zwart Modder, where it finally reached a postal establishment with cancellers. It further received in Upington marking on the reverse of SP 27 before continuing its journey through the Cape of Good Hope to Germany. From Württembergisches Auctionshaus sale May 16, 2020, lot 7502.

## Membership Application

*Membership includes a subscription to the Society's journal Forerunners. The membership fees are \$20 for an electronic version of Forerunners. To obtain also the print version add US\$5 to US mailing addresses, US\$10 to Canada addresses, and US\$15 to the rest of the world. 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, 15 Woodland Drive, 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 currency conversion fees.*

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