Carried back and forth along the Camel Post route by ox-cart in 1906 when the camels were being tested.

Now officially moved to 9 - 13 November 2021

International Philatelic Exhibition
with former President Kgalema Motlanthe as Patron of the Exhibition

- A closer look at the 1981 Malachite Kingfisher Bird Stamp of Lesotho

DESSERT MAIL IN BECHUANALAND
The Mier Camel Post
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- October 2020 - Volume. 96 : 5. 962. 8th September
- December 2020 - Volume. 96 : 6. 963 10th November
- February 2021 - Volume. 97 : 1. 964. 12th January

Awards:
- Large Silver Hafnia 1994.
- Silver Bronze Pacific 1997.
- Vermeil APS Stampshow1999.
- Silver España’06, Literature Award 2006.
- Large Silver NZ Literature Exhibition 2007.
- Large Silver JAKARTA 2008.
- Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.
As the Covid-19 continues to keep most of us isolated, we are happy to report that the PFSA has adapted to change and seen a great deal of interest in our official website.

Progress is being made with more and more readers using the ‘publication’ tab to read The SA Philatelist. These are positive changes, and although there may be some that want progress a lot faster, adjusting does take time. Management meetings via ‘Zoom’ are becoming more the norm and if the ‘Virtual’ SAVPEX 2020 is anything to go by - South Africa attracts attention from across the globe.

Sadly, due to the world-wide restriction on air travel, as well as our local restriction on crossing provincial borders, the cancellation of ALGOAPEX, our Port Elizabeth National has been unavoidable. With permission granted by FIP, ‘The Cape Town International 2021’ has been sanctioned and moved its planned dates to 9 to 14 November 2021 where it will now run for five days, rather than the originally planned four days. Feedback from our regional Vice-Presidents indicates that Societies are using more creative ways to stay in touch with their members.

We continue to improve and tweak the PFSA website <www.sapa.africa> with new links to other like-minded sites. We are confident that the site is secure, operating with a security certificate (https://). Questions raised and debated regarding the website’s security ‘WALL’ are being addressed. We are in the process of implementing software to allow different levels of access. For example, the current editions of The SA Philatelist are available to be downloaded. In line with normal practice, we will soon introduce a $5 per annum subscription that will allow subscribers full access to the website to search all new and past issues of the SAP, as well as other research material. Please note that PFSA members will have this access automatically.

In summary, this will result in two portions of the website. The ‘Public’ section will provide information about what is happening today and the ‘Private’ section (behind the WALL) will be a digital library of collections, past publications and other records available for download by all subscribers and PFSA affiliates for interest and research purposes.

As members were informed, the 81 frame SAVPEX 2020 exhibits are available for viewing on the PFSA website under ‘Publications’. This virtual show was planned to run concurrently with the Bloemfontein Hobby X Expo on 22 August 2020 when the results would have been announced. Due to the Covid-19 this expo was cancelled. Exhibits were judged virtually by 25 National and International judges who did a sterling job having all the results available by end July. It was decided to make the results available on the website and we are thrilled to publish it in this issue. Please turn to the inside back page for a full listing as well as the encouraging words from the SAVPEX 2020 Jury Chairman, Emil M innaar RDPSA.

During this time, it is also important to mention the collaboration and support received for the archiving of our philatelic material, including the scanning of all previously published copies of The SA Philatelist, by the Librarian Department of the University of Pretoria. It was envisaged that the scans would be available by the end of May 2020, but this was harshly influenced by Covid-19 and the process will commence after the virus-related restrictions are lifted. Finally, the PFSA Facebook and Twitter pages have been generating much interest. This and numerous other Facebook pages have provided a communication medium for philatelists unable to attend stamp fairs and society meetings during Covid-19, and has broadened our scope to include collectors across the globe. South African interest sites are also available on our Facebook site and posts on these pages have catered for the full range of interests from beginners (what is this stamp?) to advanced analysis of philatelic material.

The face of our hobby is being forced to change, but most of the changes are progressive and serve to take us all to a better place in the future. Foundation has reviewed its support for local exhibitors to International Exhibitions by subsidising frame fees by 50% in respect of a single International Exhibitions by subsidising frame fees by 50% in respect of a single award or prize.

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Please Note: Annual subscription & circulation; Within South Africa, the subscription rate for 2020, for Society Members and ‘Direct’ subscribers, is R250.00 for a printed copy of each issue and R70.00 for an electronic copy. For SADC countries; the subscription is R700.00 per year. For International; 0 Verses R1,000.00 per year. These prices all include postage via airmail.

The 2020 rates are available on the PFSA official website www.sapa.africa. Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be addressed to the C O O , André du Plessis at andredupfs@ gmail.co.za Tel: +27 (0)83 399 1755

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Advertising: Rates available from the Advertising Manager, Box 131600, Benonry, 1504 or email the Production Editor:<janice@gdb.co.za>
AN UPDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION CAPE TOWN 2021
by Jannie Hofmeyr, The Royal of Cape Town

The Coronavirus pandemic has upended philatelic planning worldwide. Many shows have been cancelled or postponed. London 2020, one of the most prestigious shows in the world, has been moved to 2022. The steering committee for the Cape Town show was hoping that our relatively late date would make it possible for the show to go ahead as planned in March, but as the pandemic ground on it became clear that pushing for March would be very risky. So the committee decided to approach the FIP and ask for a postponement. Fortunately, there was an opening toward the end of the year; and so the new dates for Cape Town 2021 are 9-13 November.

On the one hand, it's a shame that we've had to postpone the show in this way. On the other, there is a lot of good news starting with the fact that we will now be able to hold the show over five days instead of four at no extra cost.

Setting aside the postponement, there have been many positive developments in relation to the show. By far the most important has been the decision by the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) to take on the show as a special project. A steering committee has been formed to act as a forum for coordinating government involvement with Cape Town 2021 planning. The committee is chaired by the Deputy DG for the DTPS, Mr Jabu Radebe; and it includes representatives from the Motlanthe Foundation, the original CT 2021 planning committee, the DTPS; and, in particular, postal services. Invitations to participate in the planning have been extended to the Departments of Basic Education and International Relations. Our planning for Cape Town 2021 is therefore continuing.

While it is exceptionally difficult to go forward with certainty, in particular in relation to commitments that require spending, both the original committee and the steering committee are moving forward on the basis that the show will go ahead.

At the moment, while many countries in Europe and Asia have got the pandemic under control, it has become endemic with the potential to flare up the moment that a country lets its guard down. And globally, the rate of new infections is still accelerating; so if anything, the global outlook is now worse than it was just two to three months ago. In our view, the world is going to have to wait for effective treatments and vaccines before anything like normal travel resumes. We are hoping however, that these will be available in time for the Cape Town show.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION
Cape Town 2021, 9-13 November

Website: www.capetown2021.org

For all those lockdowned people wishing their exhibits to get some air - the Essen international exhibition will take place on 6-9 May 2021 in Germany.

Foundation kindly announced that “an exhibitor will be subsidised by 50% of the frame fees in respect of a single show per year. Obviously the exhibitor is not obliged to accept the subsidy should the exhibitor be in a position to afford the fees themselves.”

PRESS RELEASE, 2020-07-28

Due to planning uncertainties because of Corona Pandemic, World Exhibition IBRA 2021 will be postponed.

This was decided by the Board of Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. (BDPh) during an extraordinary meeting together with members of the IBRA core team. “We sincerely regret this, but the planning uncertainties are too high”, BDPh President Alfred Schmidt said after the phone conference. The IBRA is now scheduled for 2023, talks with the Messe Essen have already started. At the moment BDPh prefers a new date in May 2023.

South African Commissioner

Francois Friend
082 554 8900
francois@softchem.co.za
Forgeries
There are a number of individuals who over the years have made copies of stamps, or copied postmarks to defraud either the Post Office service or collectors. Names such as Mirza Hadi, Fournier and Madame Joseph are well-known in southern Africa philately in this regard. An enquiry from Neil Donen triggered some research into a suspect first day cover of the South African 1935 Silver Jubilee (SJ) issue, shown as Fig.1 with permission of Nick Levinge.

Madame Joseph was the nom-de-plume for an unknown forger who was thought to be European and who operated from the mid-1930s until about 1960 for Gordon Rhodes, a London stamp dealer. Cancellers were produced for a number of countries amongst others for the 1935 SJ, including South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. Cecil Jones inherited the shop, and on his death the material passed onto George Santo. In the early 1990s after George’s death a number of dealers worked together to purchase all the cancellers and ancillary material and to donate them to the Royal Philatelic Society London. More than 400 cancellers were recorded, and a 1994 and later 2005 Madame Joseph Revisited illustrated compendium was produced by Brian Cartwright. Interestingly, no SJ FDC for South Africa was found amongst the material.

Neil came across the cover shown in Fig.1, and was curious about a FDC being sent from Jansenville to a London Stamp Dealer who had previously been a recipient of other Madame Joseph material. The canceller is identical to Putzel 6, which was recorded used from 1912 to 1953. Furthermore, the application of the canceller was done lightly and did not correspond with the firm impressions made at the post office in the 1930s. I wish to thank Neil for sharing this information with us. A request is for anyone who has FDC or cancellation on stamps of Jansenville 1 MAY 1935 to provide a scan.

SWA Aeradio Ohopoho

Further to the interesting discussion in the SAP June 2020 Phun Column, a further Aeradio office was discovered in South West Africa. A 1941 impression of a part telegraph form is shown in Fig.2, and it has been recorded used until 1955. Ohopoho/Ohopoho opened as a Telephone and Radio Telegraph office with temporary postal facilities in April 1939 (Putzel, 1991). Furthermore, it served as a stop on the First Airmail from Cape Town via Windhoek to Loanda in Angola in August 1939. Evidently there were subsequent flights which warranted the need for an aeradio. Windhoek also had a Radio office, and three date stamps have been recorded, seen used from 30.10.1948 to 4.1973 when it closed. It is not clear whether this office performed an aeradio function, especially during the early flights.

When was the earliest permit mail?
Prof David Allison has posed this further interesting question. Early bulk mail either had a stamp affixed, or an indicium imprinted. When was the earliest imprinted POSTAGE PAID (or similar wording) on envelopes or wrappers used? These would be the forerunners of current permit mail. Usually such material would have no date or markings and would thus not be kept.

Figure 3 shows two beautiful wrappers for ‘The Vacuum Magazine’ (width of 280 mm). Vacuum Oil was a forerunner of Mobil Oil, which more recently became Engen. These wrappers indicate the magazine number, Vol XI No. 2 and Vol 12 No. 2, but no date. In his research David found that the South African Public Library (as it was then called) in Cape Town had a run of the undated The Vacuum Magazine. Vol XI No. 2 contained a competition with 30 Sep 1935 as closing date. It follows that the magazine was posted prior to this date. It may be hypothesized that the volume related to year, and if this POSTAGE PAID format was used from the first volume, then the format would have started in 1925. At least we know that this format was used in 1935. Do any of our readers have confirmation of these dates, or earlier dates?

Dit bly verstommend om voortdurend nuwe inligting of navrae oor ons stokperdjie te kry. Die navraag oor die egtheid van ‘n 85 jaar oue stempel bewys weereens dat daar steeds uitdagings is. Die radiotelegraafkantoor het nou uitgekring na Suid-Wes Afrika, en maak die geskiedenis nog meer interessant. Die derde item in die rubriek is ‘n uitdaging om materiaal wat oor jare nie oopgemaak is nie weer op te soek. Ek wil ons lezers aanmoedig om te kyk hoe ons al die legkaart stukkies bymekaar kan bring met bydraes of kommentaar.
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COLLECTING BASICS

The ABC of stamps
by David Wigston, East Rand Philatelic Society

FIRST DAY COVERS (FDCs)

Definition
A First Day Cover (FDC) is a cover or postcard with a stamp cancelled on the first day that stamp could be used for postage.

History
First Day Covers are as old as stamps. The first FDC (Fig.1) is for the Penny Black which went on sale 1 May 1840, but was not valid for postage until 6 May 1840. However, covers are known with postmarks from 2 May 1840.

Fig.1: The first FDC for the day the Penny Black came into use on 6 May 1840 as indicated by the date stamp on the back. The date stamp has been enhanced for greater clarity.

FDCs, as collectable items started in the US during the 1920s with the use of special cachets. By the 1930s and 1940s specially printed illustrated covers were available for FDCs. These were often elementary, as in the example in Fig.2, produced by cachet maker John Sidenius.

Fig.2: An early 1930s example of a printed FDC, produced by entrepreneurs who specialised in making cachets.

It was only after World War II that the idea of producing FDCs emerged in the UK and Europe. In the UK, the first FDC produced by the Post Office was to mark the issuing of the Shakespeare Festival stamps, 23 April 1964 (Fig.3) together with a special first day cancellation. Up to this point, FDCs were produced by stamp dealers (Fig.4). This resulted in a large variety of FDCs for a single stamp issue.

Fig.3: The first FDC produced by the British Post Office was that for the Shakespeare Festival stamp issue, 23 April 1964.

Fig.4: FDC made by a stamp dealer to commemorate the issuing of the Shakespeare Festival stamps of April 1964. This cover was produced by Avon Philatelic Co, Ltd., located in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Entry of the Post Office into the FDC market in the mid-1960s led to the rapid disappearance of private FDC makers who could not compete on the same scale as the Post Office.
Parts of an FDC

A contemporary FDC consists of three elements, shown in Fig.5.

- **The stamp(s):** Most post offices promote new stamp issues by means of an FDC. The stamps applied often do not reflect the postal rate at that time making the item philatelic in nature.
- **The postmark:** Ideally the cancellation should just touch the stamp, linking it to the cover. These are usually pictorial and identify the place and date the stamp was issued. However, these are often applied to the covers weeks, or months, before the event.
- **The cachet:** This is an illustration which relates to the stamp and postmark and usually helps to tell the story of the cover. In the case of a cover lacking an illustration or pictorial postmark, it can be difficult to identify as an FDC as in the case of Fig.6. This means you do need to know the date of issue in order to identify it as an FDC. An added clue is that the franking of 15c exceeds the local postage of 2½c.

Addressed or not addressed

As early FDCs actually passed through the postal system they needed to be addressed. This changed as dealers would arrange for large quantities of FDCs to be processed by the Post Office and then returned directly to the dealer without entering the mail.

So started the trend for unaddressed FDCs. It's preferable that an FDC has been carried by the mail as this adds acceptability. But there is a risk factor that an FDC placed into the mail will not get the appropriate strike or could be damaged or simply never arrive.

Value of FDCs

Post-World War II there was a boom in stamp collecting based on the tangible investment opportunities the hobby offered. This led to the growth of an industry which grew steadily throughout the 1960s. This growth peaked during the 1980s when there was a strong demand for items like FDCs. The result was a stamp surplus with the promise that, one day, FDCs would be worth something. By the mid 1990s the bubble burst. Globally, the supply of FDCs exceeded demand and the value of FDCs plummeted. The decline continued well into the 2000s. As a generalisation, the FDC today is seen as a collectable rather than an investment. However, there is always an exception!

Exhibiting FDCs

FDCs are frowned upon in thematic exhibits at national level. The cachet, or illustration, has no standing at all. The cover can be windowed, showing just the stamp and the cancellation. But then the cancellation must correlate with the stamp.

---

**Comic Corner**

**Stamps that make you SMILE**

by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society and the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town

**Episode 59** Errors on Stamps...

‘MIXED CAR BRANDS’

The postal administration of Equatorial Guinea issued a beautiful block of four stamps with vintage cars from the 1930s. Only problem is that none of the captions agree with the vehicle depicted on the stamp. The Panhard is a MG and the Maybach is a Railton, the MG is the Panhard and the Railton is the Maybach. The mistake probably happened when the printing plate was put together without checking the car make on the original design...
BOOK REVIEW

THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE KARIBA DAM HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME
by Sean Burke <sean.burke_1@yahoo.com>
Rhodesian Study Circle

A long time ago I went as a child to the Kariba Dam. I even tried my hand at tiger fishing. Around this time, I remember well being collected by car from boarding school and taken up the strip road to Salisbury (now Harare) to see the Queen Mother as she glided past in what seemed a momentary kaleidoscope of feathers and pastels. She officially opened the Dam on 17 May, 1960. The dam is still the largest man-made dam by volume in the World.

On the 16 May, 2020, I attended a Zoom launch of Jono Waters’ book Kariba – Legacy of a Vision which celebrates this ever-present wonder (Fig.1).

Harare-based Waters writes: “To both Zambia and Zimbabwe, Kariba is more than just a dam. It is part of our psyche. Neither country can think of life without it and for many millions of tourists over the years it has produced many happy memories”.

It is a splendid book, beautifully illustrated. Philately even finds a place and a space: the 1960 Federation of Rhodesia Commemorative Issue features (Fig.2), so too, a splendid series of unadopted essays (Fig.3) from De La Rue & Co. (courtesy of Keith Harrop), and some more recent stamp issues featuring the dam (Fig.4).

Publisher details:
‘Kariba - Legacy of a Vision’. Jonathan Waters
Rhodesian Study Circle

More details from this link:
http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/kariba-legacy-of-a-vision-jonathan-waters/

Editorial Comment: We wondered why there were only four unadopted essays, but then remembered that De La Rue only printed these four values. The 3d and 6d were printed by Harrison and you can see the difference.
POSTAL HISTORY

‘Native Refugee Camps’*
IN THE TRANSVAAL AND THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY DURING THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer
RDPSA Pretoria Philatelic Society

“Following the British annexation of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony and the beginning of the guerilla war, the military administration was faced with two immediate problems concerning black refugees: firstly, to alleviate hardship and destitution among those Africans whose livelihood had been destroyed by military operations and secondly, to give protection to those communities in danger of suffering at the hands of the Boers for the assistance they had given to the Imperial forces”
(Source: Peter Warwick, Black People and the South African War: 1899-1902).

Introduction

Because of the virtual non-existence of philatelic material emerging from ‘Native Refugee Camps’ during the Anglo-Boer War, not much has been written about the subject until recently when Richard Stroud published his book in 2014 entitled The Postal History of the Burgher, Refugee and Concentration Camps of the Anglo-Boer War 1900 to 1903. In the chapter about Native Refugee Camps, he illustrates 14 items linked to post and correspondence emanating from this type of camp.

A postcard I obtained many years back with a ‘Native Refugee Camp Heidelberg’ rubber stamp on it, made me do some research on the subject (Fig.1). In his five volumes Die lotgevalle van die burgerlike bevolking gedurende die Anglo Boereoorlog Vol.V (The fortunes of the civil population during the Anglo-Boer War), published in 1990 by the State Archives, Dr Jan Ploeger, devotes a whole chapter to the Native Refugee Camps. These five volumes, contain excellent research on various aspects of the fortunes of the civilians during the war.

Since then, other research has also been done on the topic. For example, in his book Black People and the South African War, Peter Warwick mentions the emergence of the refugee problem during the Anglo-Boer War amongst Black people. Elizabeth van Heyningen also devotes a chapter in her book The Concentration Camps of the Anglo-Boer War - A Social History to the Black camp experience.

Little is known about the philatelic side of these camps, and very few examples of covers or letters from these camps have come to light. Censorship arrangements also applied to these camps as can be seen from some of the illustrated examples. It is hoped that this article will stimulate Anglo-Boer War collectors to come forward with more examples of cachets or censorship marks originating from these camps.

The purpose of this article is to give an overview of the circumstances surrounding the establishment of such camps in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony (ORC) and to list them. Examples of covers emanating from these camps will also be illustrated. Such camps also existed in the Cape and Natal.

* FOOTNOTE: The word ‘Native’ was used during the ABW to refer to black people in South Africa. After Unification in 1910 the same word was used when The South African Native National Congress (SANNC), later known as the African National Congress (ANC) was founded on 8 January 1912.

The Influence of the War on Black People

The Anglo-Boer War and its outcome not only had an influence on the white population, but a tremendously negative influence on the daily lives of the Black population in the country. Many workers had to leave the Witwatersrand area because of the closure of the mines.

More or less 6,000 Blacks were recruited to work for the Imperial Military Railways after they had gained control of the railway system in the country. Ploeger claims that out of a total of 15,000 Blacks who worked on the mines in the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR), between 8,000 and 10,000 were enlisted by the British Forces.

During December 1900, Lord Kitchener issued a memorandum whereby women and children were to be placed in camps. As far as the Black population was concerned, the memorandum said: “With regard to Natives it is not intended to clear …… locations, but only such and their stock as are on Boer farms. Every endeavour should be made, to cause as little loss as possible to the native removed, and to give them protection for any works undertaken, for which they will receive pay at Native rates.” Ploeger comes to the conclusion that although it is not said, the real intention of this ruling was to paralyse farm work and farm production. It was also a convenient source of labour for the British Forces.

At this stage there already existed three Native Labour Depots...
The establishment of camps for Black people in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colonies

According to Ploeger, the date of origin of many of the camps is unknown because of a lack of information. In his report about the activities of the Native Refugee Department for the period June 1901 to December 1902 Captain (and Brevet Major) H.G. Joly de Lotbinière states: “The necessity of forming Refugee Camps for Natives was not felt until June 1901 - some time after the work of clearing the civilised portion of the Colony of everything that might assist the burghers to prolong the war, had commenced. Besides the burghers’ families, their native servants and farm labourers, together with all stock, were brought in, but as the carrying capacity of the Military Transport was not great, the grain belonging to the natives had to be largely destroyed, and the natives allowed to retain a limited amount only. Refugees were deposited at those railway stations which were the basis of operation of the columns at this time.”

A camp of this nature already existed in the Transvaal at Nigel on 25 March 1901. This can be concluded from correspondence exchanged at that stage. According to Stroud the administration of the Native Refugee Camps was initially under control of the military authorities, and who used the superintendents of the camps set up to accommodate white refugees.

Warwick indicates that some refugees arrived with cattle and flocks of sheep and goats, and others came in a starving and destitute condition. In garrison towns, relief was occasionally dispensed through the offices of District Commissioners. However, when Chief Kekane from Hammanskraal requested permission to bring into Pretoria some 800 followers, mostly women and children whose menfolk were absent in

- in De Aar, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg. Black people were recruited for different sections of the army at these depots.

As far as cachets and censorship marks are concerned, one can accept that each camp had its own stamp or mark, used for administration purposes, as the examples of Heidelberg and Volksrust show (Fig.2).

The SA Philatelist, August 2020.
military employment, General J.G. Maxwell considered it undesirable that they would be given protection in the town (Fig.3).

On 15 June 1901 the Native Refugee Department was established in the Transvaal under the control of Brevet Major Joly de Lotbinière of the Royal Engineers (Fig.4), with its main task to supply workers to the British Army. All Transvaal camps were placed under his department's control at that stage (Fig.5). A month later his authority was extended to the ORC as well.

In the ORC, 12,043 refugees had been concentrated in eight separate camps by the end of April 1901, and by the beginning of June this number had risen to 20,590. The largest camps in the territory were situated at Brandfort, Edenburg, Heilbron, Kroonstad and Vredefort Road (Figs.6 - 10).

The Black refugee camps were situated along the railway lines to make it easy to transport members to where their labour was required during operations and for other routine tasks. Workers were paid 1s a day plus rations that was paid to refugees who accepted military employment. They were enlisted for three months to enable them to return at intervals to go and visit their families. There was also strict control over the movement of people in the camps and a pass was required to move out of the camps (Fig.11).

### Native Refugee Camps under control of the Transvaal administration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Camp</th>
<th>Number of Black People</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Vereeniging</td>
<td>2,427</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Meyerton</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Witkop</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Kliprivier</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Natalspruit</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Klipniersberg</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Boksburg</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Heidelberg</td>
<td>2,945</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Greylingstad</td>
<td>1,831</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Standerton</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Paardekop</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Bronkhorstspruit</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>82</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>16 Krugersdorp</td>
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<td>295</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Koekemoer and</td>
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### Native Refugee Camps under control of the Orange River Colony administration:

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### Conditions in the camps

Warwick points out that there can be little doubt about the neglect of some of the camps for Africans (Fig.12). At the camp in Heidelberg for example, refugees were reported to be subsisting only on the carcasses of diseased cattle and when two water carts were sent to the camp to improve the supply of water these were soon afterwards commandeered back again by the Army. As a result of this Africans were dying at a rate of about one a day.

Until recently, little had been known about the Black concentration camp in the Heidelberg district. The conditions...
Fig.8: Cover censored at Bloemfontein on 18 November 1901 and posted to ‘Jac(obus) Meintjies, Sup. N.R. Camp Houtenbek Siding Near Brandfort’ in the Orange River Colony.

They believed that under the British the racial order would change in South Africa and they were hoping that they would be supplied with land of their own. However, the British never envisaged independent Black farmers. For the British, their only value was their labour.

in the camps in Heidelberg and Greylingstad (Fig.13) improved after their management had been taken over by the Department of Native Refugees in June 1901. Blacks were employed by the army and private households. Some of them were self-sufficient, since they produced maize and other crops. The mortality rate in the black camp at Heidelberg was low, probably thanks to the good work of Stewart, the medical officer. Based on his research about Heidelberg during the Anglo-Boer War, WJ Pretorius pointed out that the average spending on rations per month in the Heidelberg Camp during the period November 1901 to April 1902 was £42, whilst the average spending per month in the Greylingstad Camp for the period November 1901 to April 1902 was £93. By May 1902 the Heidelberg Native Refugee Camp housed a total of 2,484 people whilst the Greylingstad Camp housed a total of 2,220 in July 1902. A total of 150 people died in the Heidelberg Camp from October 1901 and a total of 298 in the Greylingstad Camp from July 1901 onwards. (Figs.14 and 15).

By the close of 1901 the death rate among black refugees had reached alarming proportions. In all there were 14,154 recorded deaths in the camps, or more than one in ten of those assembled. Warwick pointed out that many deaths probably occurred within the camps that were never reported officially. Van Heyningen also stated that the alleviation of hardship in the African camps took second place to the improvement of conditions in those for whites.

She also pointed out that if repatriation from the camps was a bitter time for the Boers, it was far worse for the black camp inmates as they felt betrayed and their fleeting hope of independence snatched away.
Conclusion

The history of the black Native Refugee Camps forms part of the tragedy of the deaths of thousands of people in the concentration camps during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Although it is 120 years since the conflict ended, the tragedy of the camps is still relevant and deeply felt by both black and white in South Africa. The Anglo-Boer War claimed the lives of about 7,000 Boer and 22,000 Imperial troops but we will never know how many armed black participants perished in various actions. Although the recorded deaths of Black people in the camps stood at 14,154 - historians estimate that more than 20,000 Black people might have died.

Of the roughly 116,000 Boers housed in unsanitary and badly run white camps, some 28,000 died.

However, from a philatelic point of view the collecting of the postal history of the Native Refugee Camps remains important, and it is a great challenge to find these items which can be regarded as philatelic gems.

Acknowledgement

The author is also thankful to Captain Jacques de Vries from Pretoria and Ian Shapiro from London for their encouragement and assistance with the compilation of this article. All illustrated items unless otherwise indicated are from the author's collection: 'The Road to Democracy in South Africa up to 1994'

Bibliography

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On His Majesty’s Service.

On His Majesty’s Service.

Fig.12: A black family photographed in an unknown ‘Native Refugee Camp’ in front of a dilapidated tent. (Source: Fransjohan Pretorius, Verskroeide Aarde, p. 126).

Fig.13: An official cover posted from Greylingstad 7 APR 02 to Rhodesia with the endorsement from R.A. Swart, Supt. Native Refugee Camp Greylingstad, South Africa. Cover censored in Heidelberg and Johannesburg. The cover was underpaid and taxed on arrival.

Fig.14/15: Mr Hennie van Schalkwyk the former headmaster of the school in Greylingstad, who discovered the grave sites of the local Native Refugee Camp in 1999, with one of the learners at a tombstone with the date 1902 engraved on it. (Source: Hennie van Schalkwyk fotoversameling, Greylingstad).
Across the United States the ubiquitous blue mail boxes (Fig.1), known locally as collection boxes, are disappearing. Introduced way back in 1858, in 2016 there were about 153,000 mailboxes distributed across the country. Since then, 14,000 boxes have disappeared. As a cost saving measure (does that not sound familiar?) the United States Postal Service has been removing collection boxes which are under-used. The criterion for elimination is that the box receives an average of 25 pieces of mail per day, or lower.

However, the removal of little-used mail boxes has not been a smooth process. Boxes could only be removed after approval by Area management and public notification (Fig.2). An audit found that more than half the boxes had been removed without approval.

Fig.1: A traditional USPS blue mail collection box with a pull-down flap at the top for inserting mail items, including parcels.

Fig.2: A public notice regarding removal attached to a collection box.

The US Postal Service’s argument is that these barely used boxes are expensive to service and maintain. Just how successful this move has been is a moot point. Megan J. Brennan, the US Postmaster-General (postmistress-general? Postperson-general?) commented: “At a time when America needs the Postal Service more than ever, the reason we are so needed is having a devastating effect on our business. The sudden drop in mail volumes, our most profitable revenue stream, is steep and may never fully recover.”
THE 1981 MALACHITE KINGFISHER BIRD STAMP OF LESOTHO

On 20 April 1981, Lesotho issued a new definitive set of 14 stamps, with each one depicting a different bird. A common feature of the stamps was the imprint ’1981’, under the word Lesotho. The following year, on 14 January, this beautiful set was re-issued with the imprint ‘1982’. Other than the year, there were no other changes.

Both the 1981 and the 1982 issues were printed in sheets of 40 stamps by Format Security Printers, with the stamps having been designed by G. Vasarhelwyl. One of the stamps in the set is the 25s Malachite Kingfisher (Fig.1).

The First Day Cover

Due to the number of stamps in the set (14) and their size, the First Day Cover was split into two separate envelopes (Figs.2 & 3). The Malachite Kingfisher was the only image featured as part of the Official First Day Cover envelope, which reads ‘Birds Definitive 1981 Lesotho’. The postmark date of the First Day Cover is ’20 April 1981’. The imprint date ’1981’ appears in the centre bottom of all the stamps in the set, whether their format is horizontal or vertical.

The Malachite Kingfisher

Not surprisingly, the Malachite Kingfisher stamp has become the stand-out bird of the set, as by implication, the Official First Day Cover placed it in that position. The Malachite Kingfisher is found in Africa, south of the Sahara and its main habitat is located near ponds or slow moving water. The bird is renowned for its swift flight, especially when diving to catch its prey in the water.

The Imprints

Enlargements taken from the Malachite Kingfisher 25s stamp show the ’1981’ imprint (Fig.4) as well as the subsequent dating a year later of ’1982’ (Fig.5). The imprint is placed under the word ‘Lesotho’ on all 14 values of this set.

Imperforate Stamps

Between 1967 and 1989 Format International Security Printers Ltd, printed stamps for many of the nations in the British Commonwealth. One of the countries was Lesotho. When the company went into liquidation, the liquidators disposed of remaining stocks of stamps. Figure 6 is an imperforate pair of the 25s Malachite Kingfisher stamp.

The Surcharges

In 1986, some of these Lesotho bird stamps were overprinted with different values. The reason for the surcharging arose from the demand for certain values, whilst stocks of other values still existed. A 35s stamp was needed for overseas letters, hence the surcharging of the 25s Malachite...
Kingfisher (Fig.7). This occurred in September 1987 and both the sheets bearing the ‘1981’ and ‘1982’ imprints were surcharged. In 1988, the postal rate for countries in the African Postal Union was adjusted to 16s, which included letters to South Africa. With stocks still available of the 25s value, 16s was surcharged on it (Fig.15). This surcharging process continued until February 1988. As with all the surcharges, they were meant to replace the original value by having ‘double bars’ cancelling it, leaving the new value above the old obliterated one. Unfortunately, some errors were discovered. There were also differences with respect to the formation of the ‘S’ in ‘35s’ and finally, a variety appeared.

The Errors

• The inverted surcharge (Fig.8): It is believed that only one such sheet was discovered. The position of the surcharge indicates that the sheet went into the overprinting process the wrong way round.

• The double surcharge (Figs.9 and 10): The one stamp has the second overprint to the left of the correct overprint, while the other has the second overprint across the perforations.

• The missing surcharge (Fig.11): One stamp of the pair has no overprint, while the second has the overprint slightly displaced.

The ‘S’

There are three different formats, two of which appear on a single sheet (Fig.12). Here, the left stamp has a tiny ‘S’ while the right has a larger format ‘S’. This overprinting was done by Lesotho Ads in Maseru. Figure 13, has the ‘S’ in a large format, having been printed by a different company, namely Epic Printers, also in Maseru.

A Variety

The 35s was meant to replace the 25s in the surcharging process, covering the 25s in the format of double bars eliminating the old price. However, Fig.14 has the 35s positioned away from the 25s.

The 16s Surcharge (Fig.15)

This overprint was issued on 30 December 1987. Unlike the 35s on 25s, which was overprinted by Lesotho Ads, the surcharging of the 16s on 25s was done by Epic Printers. Although there do not appear to be any errors recorded of this stamp, there is a sheet where a major variety exists. The 16s is overprinted in the middle of the stamp and the bars do not cancel out anything. Hence, the original duty on the stamp remains intact.

The 35s on 16s on 25s (Fig.16)

It appears that the 16s had first been overprinted on the 25s in the correct position, as the 16s value clearly has the necessary bars cancelling out the 25s, in the position where they should be. However, the 35s cancels out partially the 16s, whilst leaving the value clearly visible of 35s. The imprint date on the stamp is ‘1981’ (original issue).

Conclusion: The Lesotho 1981 bird set can take its place as an educational, whilst at the same time attractive, field of philately. The stand-out stamp of the set is the Malachite Kingfisher, but it must be remembered that this individual stamp is only one of 14 birds in the set, each having its own philatelic story. It is a magnificent issue and a wonderful area of study due to the array of ‘happenings’ which took place.
During the five year period from 27 May 1977 the third definitive Protea series were issued. The printing was by rotogravure and lithography, both methods were used in order to be able to meet the quantity of each value required for the initial issue. This period saw the development of perforating methods used by the Government Printer largely brought on by the various problems experienced with the De La Rue Giori in-built perforator. Four different perforating appliances were used with two different perforating gauges namely 12.5x12.5 and 14x13.75.

Unfortunately it is not always possible to positively identify the different perforators used from examination of either a cylinder block or sheet. For example perforators were not always set up to perforate in the same way thus leaving one side margin imperforate or perforating all four sheet margins. At times the top and bottom margins were imperforated or either top or bottom imperforate and the other perforated. The Government Printer was only interested in producing a good product and left the student of the Proteas to worry about the type of perforator used.

The De La Rue Giori 841 Press with the in-built Perforator

This rotary perforator formed part of the De La Rue Giori press first commissioned in 1973. It was a continuous source of problems which in the end resulted in the use of external perforating appliances. Of the seventeen Protea values only nine were perforated on the in-built perforator to a gauge of 12.5x12.5.

The in-built perforator always left the top and bottom sheet margins imperforated apart from a single hole at the end of each vertical row of perforations. Both left and right sheet margins of both panes were always perforated.

A characteristic of this perforator was an additional perforation hole in the top and bottom margins over and above the single hole (Fig.1).

This beacon hole appeared on every fourth pane in any print run, however even for any reason, the press was stopped the system had to be resynchronised which could leave the beacon hole in a different position on the pane or even on a different pane.

The circumference of the rotogravure printing cylinder was 573.7992mm being half that of the perforating cylinder which was 1147.5984mm thus the rotogravure cylinder revolved twice for every revolution of the perforating cylinders. This is why the beacon hole was only present on every fourth pane printed. The purpose of the beacon hole was to facilitate the location of any bent or broken pin which otherwise would have been very difficult (Fig.2).

Since the perforating speed was about 400 sheets per hour the printing rate had to be slowed down in line with the perforator speed. In addition the perforator was subject to high wear rates and generally gave operating problems. In view of this it was not surprising that the Government Printer finally gave up and then only used external perforators.

It was indeed fortunate that the Government Printer had purchased external perforating appliances which could be utilised to ensure the supply of stamps. At this time there were seven such perforators, all of which were used at one time or another to perforate the Protea series stamps.

- Two Grover perforators purchased in 1959
- Two Walter Kroll perforators purchased in 1975
- One Walter Kroll perforator purchased in 1976
- Two Bickel perforators purchased in 1980

**Grover Perforator**

The Grover perforator was a flat bed two row or double comb perforator which perforated a single row of stamps on all sides as well as the vertical legs of the next row of stamps. Any perforation irregularity appeared on every alternate row of stamps (Fig.3).

When originally purchased the perforating gauge was 23.9083mm which meant that 48 rows of stamps were perforated on each revolution of the perforating cylinders. Each pane of stamps had ten rows and two blank margins making twelve rows in all, thus four panes were perforated per revolution of the perforating cylinders.

Since the perforating speed was about 400 sheets per hour the printing speed had to be slowed down in line with the perforator speed. In addition the perforator was subject to high wear rates and generally gave operating problems. In view of this it was not surprising that the Government Printer finally gave up and then only used external perforators.

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- Two Grover perforators purchased in 1959
- Two Walter Kroll perforators purchased in 1975
- One Walter Kroll perforator purchased in 1976
- Two Bickel perforators purchased in 1980

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**Revisiting the 3rd Definitive Perforators**

by M.J.H. Tonking

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14x13.75 which later was changed to 12.5x12.5 in conformity with the gauge of the in-built perforator. It was then changed back to 14x13.75 gauge, being first used to perforate the 20c dated 16 February 1978 at a time the in-built perforator was out of order. This change of gauge was prompted by the Post Office and Philatelic Services to allow for easier separation of the stamps.

In the first instance single punch holes were made once in the top and bottom sheet margins of the 'B' panes to align the sheets correctly on the perforator bed (Fig.4). For a number of reasons this did not work well, and it was not long before it was decided to revert to a feeding tray. About five sheets each made up of two panes were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of approximately 700 sheets per hour.

Normally both 'A' and 'B' panes had imperforated top and bottom margins with a single perforation hole at the ends of each vertical row which was similar to the in-built perforator without the beacon holes. Again, normally right and left margins of the 'A' pane and right margin of the 'B' pane were perforated with only the 'B' pane having an imperforated left margin. This was not always so as in some cases all four margins were perforated, for example the 10c issue 2 dated 27 October 1980 (Fig.5).

**Walter Kroll Perforator** (Fig.6)

Like the Grover this was a flat bed perforator which in the first instance was equipped with a single row comb (Fig.7). The operation was similar to the Grover except that the sheet travel direction was reversed. The gripper clamp screws had pins which left tiny holes in the left margin of the 'B' pane which, when present, can be used to identify this perforator (Fig.8).

Five sheets were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of 500 sheets per hour. This was slower than the Grover however the results were considered to be better. Wear rates of the pins and die were not high with about 40,000 sheets being perforated before replacement of the perforating heads was required.

The perforator was originally purchased with a 12.5x12.5 perforating head. It was first used to perforate the 9c issue 1 dated 25 May 1975. Generally this perforator perforated the right and left sheet margins leaving the top and bottom margins imperforated, except for a single hole at the ends of the vertical rows of perforations. A further twenty values were so perforated.

It is reported that on 25 July 1979 a new single row perforating head gauge 14x13.75 was made and used only once for perforating the 3c group 2 issue 1 dated 1 October 1979. It would appear that this was done to be in conformity with the Grover gauge 14x13.75 which was also used for the same issue.

On 9 August 1979 a new two row perforating head gauge 14x13.75 was introduced for the first time. This head was modified by the removal of the bottom row of horizontal pins so that it would not completely perforate two rows but act in exactly the same way as the Grover two row comb.
perforator. This was done to avoid the possibility of double strikes after every second row of stamps. It was used for the first time to perforate the 6c issue 2 dated 15 August 1979. All told, six more values were perforated with this perforator which normally perforated all four sheet margins.

**Bickel Perforator** (Fig.9).

By 1980 the Walter Kroll company had gone out of business so the Government Printer turned to E. Bickel of Heilbronn for the supply of two perforators which were installed in August 1980.

As a flat bed perforator the operation was very similar to both the Grover and Walter Kroll perforators however for the first time the motion was both mechanical and pneumatic. The Grover was purely mechanical and the Walter Kroll mechanical and hydraulic. As in the case of the Walter Kroll perforator the four to five sheets on the feed table were first pushed through below the raised perforator pins and then perforated as the table returned to its original position.

As far as can be ascertained the only Protea value to be perforated by the Bickel perforator gauge 14x13.75 was the 50c issue 2 dated 9 October 1980. In this case all four margins were perforated.
### RSA THIRD DEFINITIVE PROTEA SERIES

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**NOTES.** The 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c, 15c and 20c values were printed by Rotogravure with a common cylinder 722 printing ‘RSA’. The 6c, 7c, 9c, 25c, 30c, 50c, R1 and R2 values were printed by Lithography. With the exception of the R1and R2, these values used a common cylinder P1055 for printing ‘RSA’ only for the first printings.

**References and acknowledgements**
- Newsletters: RSA Stamp Study Group / SA Stamp Study Circle / SA Collectors Society.
In the far north west of British Bechuanaaland, a few kilometres from the border with German South West Africa, lay the village of Rietfontein. In 1894, a trader named Albert Jackson arrived in Rietfontein and started a private runner post to the nearest post office at Zwart Modder, some 190 kilometres distance by ‘road’ across the Kalahari Desert. Jackson was paid £50 a year for this service, which took between five and six days to complete. The service was relatively popular, although the weight of mail soon became too much for a ‘footpost’, and in August 1895, a formal post office was established in Rietfontein with Jackson as the first postmaster. For some mysterious reason, this post office was called Mier, named after a village located some thirty kilometres further north. Part of the Mier district is now located in Botswana.

The establishment of a formal post office was accompanied by a tender for the carriage of mail by an ox-drawn post-cart within four days, which was executed at a cost £800 per annum. The rugged terrain unfortunately made traditional post-cart carriage expensive and difficult to sustain. Against this background, it was decided to experiment with a postal service employing one-humped camels. The Postmaster-General of the Cape reported in 1899: “it was suggested that the camels belonging to the Government, kept at the Uitvlugt Forest Station, near Cape Town, might be used. Four camel cows were accordingly sent up during June last, with the driver who had been in charge of them at Uitvlugt. They commenced work in July and have proved a great success. The driver uses two on each trip, one to ride and the other to carry the mails, the others meanwhile resting. By this arrangement each couple get 14 days rest each month. The camels have not once been late, but generally do the journey some hours under the time formerly allowed to contractors, vis. 4 days each way. They feed on the grass and scrub along the road when at work, and are turned out to grass, when resting …” Financially, the experiment was a definite success, costing government £204 per annum (£120 for the driver and £84 for the herd).

The service was suspended during the Anglo-Boer War from 9 March to 18 May 1900 to prevent the camels being captured by raiding Boer commandos. By 1903, the Postmaster-General was able to report that the service “continues to give satisfaction. The herd now consists of one bull and four cows, the bull having been purchased through the Agricultural Department and added to the herd during the early part of the year. From the experience gained by this Department, there is little doubt that the camel is a most useful animal for transport purposes in certain districts where other means fail owing to the sandy nature of the soil, and it is interesting to note that the introduction of these animals into Rhodesia for riding and transport purposes also appears to have been a success, the Government of that country having procured 34 from India together with attendants.”

**REFERENCES**
- Cape of Good Hope, Reports of the Postmaster-General
- Catterall, J, Camels and Condensed Milk, Runner Post, Issue 18, p 322
EXHIBITION NEWS

It's Stampex, but not as you know it!

The Philatelic Traders’ Society are delighted to announce the launch of Virtual Stampex from 1-3 October. This is the world’s first 24-hour international online stamp show officially sponsored by Spink. To register for the event head to stampex.vfairs.com

Chairman and CEO of Spink Olivier D Stocker comments: 'We are delighted to be sponsoring the world’s first ever 24 hour virtual stamp show. At Spink we look to lead the way within philately and its digital development; this is an exciting initiative which we think will grow and develop the hobby’.

Buy, sell, learn, explore, network, showcase and enjoy a philatelic experience all from the comfort of your own home. Visitors will enter via an interactive lobby open 24 hours a day from 1-3 October 2020, connecting globally with Stampex stand holders, PTS Members, auction houses, philatelic societies, postal administrations, museums, experts and social influencers - completely free of charge.

We are delighted that so many people have already signed up including Doreen Royan & Associates Ltd specialists in fine postage stamps based in South Africa,

Doreen Royan comments: ‘Virtual Stampex is proof that this engaging, interesting and addictive hobby has the ability to continue to attract enthusiasts and collectors who will be able to participate from anywhere in the world. We are proud to be part of this exciting opportunity and look forward to offering the best rare and exclusive items from the stock of Doreen Royan and Associates’.

Visitors will be able to chat with their favourite philatelic brands via text, audio or video and then buy directly from online shops. They will also be able to take information away in their virtual briefcases. The lobby itself will be home to the auditorium, which will house the Stampex Talks, Court of Honour, Booth room and the Information Desk. Visitors can head to the information desk to download the Stampex guide as well as ask questions.

The Court of Honour will include a wonderful range of philatelic masterpieces from the Museum of Philately. Supported by Spink, the Stampex Talks scheduled is set to be announced in early August and include 10 free Stampex Talks including live Q&A from The Royal Philatelic Society, Karl Louis and more. Enter the booths and connect with brands from all over the world, bringing the kids so they can head to Stamp Active and drop past the Smiler Sheets booth, grab a PTS Handbook and more.

Excitingly the show is available worldwide on most devices including Apple, Android, PC & Mac.

So SAVE THE DATE 1-3rd October. Get ready to meet your friends at Virtual Stampex from the comfort of your own home. To register for the event head to stampex.vfairs.com or www.stampexinternational.co.uk

#stampex #spinkstampex

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The SA Philatelist, August 2020
Letters to Sir Rowland Hill
by Dr Rob McLennan-Smith, Highway Philatelic Society

Thomas Wight Hill, followed by his sons Rowland and Arthur, revolutionised the English educational system in the early 1800s with their Hazelwood School in Birmingham where they advocated nurture and reward instead of punishment which was the norm at the time. With the success of this method they moved to London and started the Bruce Castle School in Tottenham where Rowland was Headmaster from 1827 to 1839 when he was moved to Treasury to institute his postal reform ideas following his famous pamphlet of 1837 in which he detailed his plan. Arthur took over as headmaster until 1868 when his son Birbeck Hill succeeded him.

The postal system pre 1840 was very inefficient and expensive which limited its usage, but with the advent of postal reform and uniform penny postage developed by Rowland Hill and introduced on 6 May 1840, the volume of letters sent by post increased dramatically.

Rowland was a meticulous archiver of his correspondence and so much of this material has survived. He would number the letter received and write an annotation on it regarding the contents and his response to the sender.

Another of Arthur’s sons, Lewin, became the Assistant Post-Master General in the 1870s, working under Henry Fawcett. He was an ardent collector of letters and autographs, particularly relating to Rowland and the Post Office. Luckily much of this has survived and I have managed to collect a number of these.

In this series of articles, I detail some of letters and the famous Victorians who wrote them, including any philatelic reference through the years.

Arthur and Lewin are my antecedent maternal grandfathers.

Fig.2: (at right) Rowland Hill’s portrait in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

1. Charles Babbage - The ‘Father of the Computer’

Charles Babbage (26 December 1791 – 18 October 1871) was a genius of the Victorian era - a Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, politician, cryptographer,
his small bundle. I should wish to have a line stating the day
I may expect him.

The papers have informed us all of your recent marriage.
May you be blessed as I have been and may your fortitude
never be put to so severe a test as mine, which has almost
given way.

Believe me very faithfully yours

C. Babbage

Devonshire House

Monday night

Above - the transcription
of the contents which
details Charles wanting
to take his son Benjamin
Herschel out of school
for a few days prior to
his European trip.

Fig.6: pictured here,
Charles in later years.

Grief stricken, Charles Babbage left on a year long tour of
Europe in December 1827 and met up with leading scientists
there to discuss his ideas of an ‘analytical machine’. On his
return to England he was a changed man with his famous
spirit and good humour restored but he was never quite the
same and did not remarry.
The evolution of the Computer

He worked tirelessly on his machines from an early age and in 1822 invented his first ‘Difference Engine’ which produced mechanised arithmetic. It was 2.4m high, weighed 13,600kg and had 25,000 parts. This machine was never fully completed as he was drawing up plans for an improved version, the second Difference Engine, which he also did not complete due to funding problems and obstructions from other scientists, leaving it to be built from the plans more than a century later in 1989 by the Science Museum using tolerances that were achievable in the 19th Century. This Engine worked very well, returning calculations to 31 digits.

Fig.8: (above) The First Difference Engine appearing with Charles Babbage on the 1996 USA Computer Technology FDI and (at left) Fig.9: the 2007 Guinea-Bissau Great Inventors issue.

Babbage started working on a series of machines called ‘The Analytical Engines’ with the major innovation being that they were to be programmed using punched cards and had many features used in modern day computers. His associate, Ada Lovelace (Lord Byron’s daughter) developed the cards and is widely acknowledged as the world’s first Computer Programmer.

Once again these machines were continually being refined and the Analytical Engine was not completed by his death in 1871. Researchers in Britain started building this Engine in 2011 and hope to complete it for the 150th Anniversary of his death in 2021. It is expected to have a memory of 675 bytes and run at 7 Hz.

Fig.10: The Babbage Second Difference Engine on display in the Science Museum, London.

Charles Babbage declined both a knighthood and a baronetcy and in 1871 died from renal failure following a prolonged cystitis.

On a macabre final note, his son donated his father’s body to science and half of Babbage’s brain is preserved at the Hunterian Museum in the Royal College of Surgeons whilst the other half is on display in the Science Museum, both in London.

Fig.11: The 1999 Millennium commemorative cover of The Royal Institution, London on its 200th Anniversary showing an engraved portrait of Babbage in 1833, aged 42, when he was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University. He features on the 22d stamp and the 1 Crown coin.

Fig.12: The 2008 Malawi ‘Great Scientists’ issue featuring Charles Babbage and Michael Faraday.

Fig.13: A photo of the Babbage exhibit at the Science Museum.
LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

VISIT the https://www.sapafrica.fr/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1031691006915864/.

It is important to note that Societies are NOT having their regular meetings as previously listed during this time of lockdown, but they do welcome communication via phone and email - also see activities on the website

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Chairperson: Werner Barnard;
email: wernerbab@axxes.co.za
Secretary: Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353;
Email: philately@netpoint.co.za
Website: http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com
Contact the Secretary for further Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN
Email: royalphilict@gmail.com
President: Ida Potgieter; email: samizdat@telkomsa.net
cell: 074 333 4646
Email: samizdat@telkomsa.net
Secretary: Victor Millard
0828028882 or
email: millardvg@gmail.com
Website: https://www.rpsct.org/

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gawiehugo@gmail.com of
Riaan Craddock: 082 876 7608
n/u craffies@telkomsa.net

GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
President: Nick Zerbst 0836255804.
Secretary: Rob Sinclair-Black 044 8746337.
email: robrita@mweb.co.za

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the ‘Deep South’ of the Cape Peninsula.
President: Dave Young.
email: davesueyoung@gmail.com
Secretary: Volker Janssen.
Website: www.fhsps.info/FHPS

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY
President: Francois Friend,
082 554 8900, francoisg
softchem.co.za; or Vice President, David Brown 041 360 4025;
or Secretary / Treasurer Rodney Maclachlan 027 619 5409.
ALGOMAEX 2020 National Stamp Exhibition, Port Elizabeth
CANCELL

The SA Philatelist, 133

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL
• President: Zbigniew Kawecki,
082 968 6888
• Treasurer: Jeroen Wenthin,
082 33 97 588
• Secretary: Harold Deg.
084 464 717
Association email: KZNPabilitet@yahoo holistic.cc
’S’Stamp Exhibitions’ with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success...
‘All are welcome’

All future meetings will BE CONFIRMED after the lockdown is lifted

EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY
President: David Preston
082 7742090.
email: cpreste@telkomsa.net
Secretary: Carlos Da Fonseca
082 334 7603.

CASIP
CAPE SOCIETY FOR PALESTINE-ISRAEL PHILATELY
Contact for details: Aubrey Katze <akatze@mweb.co.za> +27 (21) 4615134
President of CASIP.

ZIMBABWE - BULAWAYO
Royal Philatelic Society of Zimbabwe
email: phil.soc.zim@gmail.com

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7; search for Edenvale Philatelic Society. Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY
President: Jimmy M Itchell; jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Hammerton
hampaul@ananzi.co.za

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374.
Chairman/Secretary/Walker, Tel: 011 472 1161
email: lanwaker@vodamail.co.za

OFFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Society meets every 4th Friday monthly, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein.
President: Dr Neil Cronjé and Vice president: Garry Osthoff email: oosthoff@ufs.ac.za

WITWATERSTAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY
P 0 Box 528, Florida Hills, 1716
The usual venue at the Country Club Johannesburg, Auckland Park is completely closed at this time during the lockdown; for info contact the President: Herbie Schaffer RDPSA 082 722 7604.
EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY
This study group is not meeting at this time please send all communication to haschaff@afrika.com

SANDTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY
The society has an active exchange packet circuit and members with a wide range of philatelic interests. For further information contact Chris Carey 083 6622150 / 011 673 2229 / ccarey@icon.co.za

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Monthly newsletter, active exchange section and loads of expertise on traditional philately and postmarks. President: André du Plessis.
andredup@singcom.co.za 083 399 1755.
Secretary: Alex Visser, alex.visser@up.ac.za
Esamk 36473, Menlo Park 0102; cell 082 922-2927

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING
VAN PRETORIA
Vergader elke 3de Saterdav van die maand om 10:00 by die NG Kerk Queenswood in Garretweg, Queenswood. Baie aktiewe groep wat gereeld bywoon. Nuusbrief ‘Die Postdruil’ verskyn maandeliks. Voorstuur is Petra Heath en Sekretaris is Herman van Niekerk. Kontak: armo@telkomsa.net

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER
Vibrant & active group – loads of expertise and lots of topical discussions. Group Leader: Helena Snyman. Helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za

DIE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING
President: Japie de Vos
082 767 5004 / 044 695 0705
epos: sanjari@mweb.co.za
Secretaris: Gerrie Conradi
082 952 6700
Tel / Faks 044 698 1074.
epos: gujcon@gmail.com

AFRIKAANS FILATELIEVERENIGING
Die Posboom, 255 Van Riebeeck Street, Pretoria East.
President: Michael Brimble
012 545 5766
epos: michael@theafrikaansschool.co.za
<br />

HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY DURBAN
German Restaurant open for lunch. The Committee encourages past and new visitors to join us and get involved in this wonderful social hobby of Kings.
President: Leigh Hen-Boisen, leigh.hh@gmail.com
Secretary: Bennet Edwards, edwards@WwWondine.co.za
Membership: Ben Chittenden, ben@natalaircon.co.za or Barry Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za
THE RESULTS: SAVPEX 2020

SOUTH AFRICAN VIRTUAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION - SAVPEX 2020

In January this year no one would have foreseen that Exhibitions both locally and Internationally would be either cancelled or post-poned. Clubs have ceased meetings, exchange books stopped circulating and with so much social distancing, contact with fellow philatelists has stopped.

With the temporary closure of postal services, it was fortuitous that at the last Federation Congress it was decided to offer The SA Philatelist in electronic format. The publication has been available on the Federation website now for a number of issues. Our South African Virtual Exhibition, BOFPEX 2016 to SAVPEX 2020, which is now in its fifth year, has to some degree overcome the absence of live exhibitions. This year we approached all FIP affiliated countries and received a total of 80 entries from 14 countries. The FIP members were also asked to nominate a juror to participate and as a result we have appointed 25 jurors from 12 different countries. Unfortunately, Australia and New Zealand, from which we received strong support in the past, have not participated. This may be due to the fact that their Federation has now also decided to host a Virtual One Frame Exhibition later this year.

With the advance in on-line video communication I believe that Societies, Auction houses and dealers will use this format going forward.

I wish to thank the Jurors for their time given, the exhibitors for their contribution and our secretary for his dedication to the success of this Exhibition.

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**Congratulations on Your Achievements 2021**

**The South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2021**

A one-frame exhibition, which takes place under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa in 2021. Entries close: 31st March 2021. Entries need to be scanned and uploaded to the jury chairperson by 30th April 2021. Judging will take place in June 2021 and the results will be posted on the Federation website [https://www.sapa.africa](https://www.sapa.africa) in July 2021. For more information: (IREX) and entry forms, contact: Joof van der Merwe < jnc1@vodamail.co.za > Emil Minnaar < emil@minnaar.org > visit the Federation website [https://www.sapa.africa](https://www.sapa.africa)
KAFFRARIA 1846-58
The Letters of Colour Sergeant Thomas Golding Serving with the Royal Warwicks and later the Cape Mounted Riflemen

The collection of soldier’s letters from Golding during his service time in British Kaffraria and giving a soldier’s view during the Frontier Wars at that time

TO BE OFFERED IN OCTOBER 2020

For further information please contact
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